

PMC-ND

(1.08.09.13)

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
NEPA DETERMINATION**



RECIPIENT: San Pasqual Band of Indians

STATE: CA

PROJECT TITLE : San Diego Tribal Energy Collaborative

Funding Opportunity Announcement Number	Procurement Instrument Number	NEPA Control Number	CID Number
DE-FOA- 0001390	DE-IE0000043	GFO-0000043-001	

Based on my review of the information concerning the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (authorized under DOE Order 451.1A), I have made the following determination:

CX, EA, EIS APPENDIX AND NUMBER:

Description:

- A9 Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination** Information gathering (including, but not limited to, literature surveys, inventories, site visits, and audits), data analysis (including, but not limited to, computer modeling), document preparation (including, but not limited to, conceptual design, feasibility studies, and analytical energy supply and demand studies), and information dissemination (including, but not limited to, document publication and distribution, and classroom training and informational programs), but not including site characterization or environmental monitoring. (See also B3.1 of appendix B to this subpart.)
- A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations** Technical advice and planning assistance to international, national, state, and local organizations.
- B5.16 Solar photovoltaic systems** The installation, modification, operation, and removal of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, and mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences), or if located on land, generally comprising less than 10 acres within a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as local land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and would incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.

Rationale for determination:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is proposing to provide federal funding to the San Pasqual Band of Indians to deploy clean energy systems in order to achieve the long-term goals of energy self-sufficiency, environmental protection, and better lives for the partners of the San Diego Tribal Energy Collaborative through a partnership with GRID Alternatives. San Pasqual Band of Indians propose to install approximately 40 grid-tied, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems for low-income families and one more each at the San Pasqual Education facility and the La Jolla tribal Multi-Purpose center located on the San Pasqual, La Jolla, and Mesa Grande reservations. These systems would provide at least 170 kW rated capacity of clean renewable energy and would displace at least 50% of total kBtu of electricity usage. Additionally, this installation project would provide hands-on solar installation training to at least 20 Tribal community volunteers and job trainees.

Associated activities would include the design, installation, and activation of 42 roof-top or ground-mount solar PV systems on homes and buildings located on the three participating reservations. The systems would use a combination of roof-top PV panels and ground-mounted panels that would be installed on Tribal homes throughout the reservations, as well as two tribal facilities. The scope of work includes site preparation, equipment installation, system testing, and inspection by a third-party inspector, system activation, troubleshooting, and final activation as well as any electrical system upgrades required to accommodate the new PV systems.

Every home or building with a roof capable of supporting a PV system would have a rooftop system installed. Homes/buildings that have roofs that are in poor condition or cannot support the weight of a PV system would have ground-mounted PV systems installed in their back or side yards or elsewhere on their property. These ground-mounted systems would require approximately 8 to 16 post holes to be dug in order to mount and secure the system into the ground. No other ground disturbance would be necessary and only slight modifications (installation of conduit and wiring) to the electrical systems of these homes/buildings would be made in order to facilitate tie-in to the existing electrical grid. Due to the previously disturbed nature of these installation sites, the lack of suitable habitat for threatened or endangered species, and the small footprint of the proposed activities no impact to sensitive resources

is anticipated.

No change in the use, mission or operation of existing facilities would arise out of this effort. No permits or licenses would be required to perform and complete the construction of the PV systems. Once installation is complete, a third-party electrician would be required to inspect the work performed by GRID Alternatives to verify that all electrical codes were met. Then the San Pasqual Environmental Department would submit a "Permission to Operate" request to the San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE) net metering department. This request must be granted and documented before the system can be turned on.

GRID Alternatives is responsible for providing all the necessary written policies, training, and personal protective equipment to achieve maximum safety during the installation process. Non-hazardous waste, consisting of packaging, wire and conduit scraps would be generated. Recyclable materials would be recycled, and the remainder would be disposed of through normal waste streams.

Based on the information above, DOE has determined that this project is consistent with actions outlined in DOE categorical exclusions A9 "Information gathering, analysis, and dissemination", A11 "Technical advice and assistance to organizations" and B5.16 "Solar photovoltaic systems" and is therefore categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA PROVISION

DOE has made a final NEPA determination for this award

Insert the following language in the award:

If the Recipient intends to make changes to the scope or objective of this project, the Recipient is required to contact the Project Officer, identified in Block 15 of the Assistance Agreement before proceeding. The Recipient must receive notification of approval from the DOE Contracting Officer prior to commencing with work beyond that currently approved. If the Recipient moves forward with activities that are not authorized for Federal funding by the DOE Contracting Officer in advance of a final NEPA decision, the Recipient is doing so at risk of not receiving Federal funding and such costs may not be recognized as allowable cost share.

Note to Specialist :

Office of Indian Energy

This determination does not require a tailored NEPA provision.

Review completed by Rebecca McCord, 06/1/2016

SIGNATURE OF THIS MEMORANDUM CONSTITUTES A RECORD OF THIS DECISION.

NEPA Compliance Officer Signature:



Kristin Kerwin
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date:

6/6/2016

FIELD OFFICE MANAGER DETERMINATION

Field Office Manager review required

NCO REQUESTS THE FIELD OFFICE MANAGER REVIEW FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

- Proposed action fits within a categorical exclusion but involves a high profile or controversial issue that warrants Field Office Manager's attention.
- Proposed action falls within an EA or EIS category and therefore requires Field Office Manager's review and determination.

BASED ON MY REVIEW I CONCUR WITH THE DETERMINATION OF THE NCO :

Field Office Manager's Signature:

Field Office Manager

Date:
