

NOTICE OF FINDING

Floodplain Approval
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Community Sewer Conversion Project
CA17-E61

The Band is seeking federal funding assistance from the Department of Health and Human Services – Indian Health Service (IHS) to construct new wastewater facilities. The IHS completed the 8-step Decision Document as required by Executive Order 11988 *Floodplain Management*.

The Proposed Action is the construction of new facilities which include gravity pipelines, lift stations, force mains and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). These facilities would replace existing septic systems within 5,450 acres of three districts (Districts A, B, and C) of the Band's Reservation Area, inclusive of a 325-acre portion of land northwest of District B. The proposed action area includes a portion of the Moosa Canyon Subwatershed within the larger Lower San Luis Rey River Watershed. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), which was developed in partnership with the County of San Diego shows that Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) delineated within or near the proposed action area include:

1) Zone AE - floodplain limits resulting from the 1% annual chance event (aka 100-year storm). Zone AE floodplains are computationally derived and result in the determination of specific Base Flood Elevations.

2) Zone AO - area of shallow, or unconfined flows and generally considered to be less than 3' depth.

3) Zone X (shaded) - area of moderate potential flood risk, or the floodplain limits associated with the 0.2% annual chance event (aka 500-year storm).

4) Regulatory Floodway - the regulatory floodway is the portion of Zone AE that is restricted from development due to increased risk. It is characterized by deep and swiftly flowing water. Floodways are computationally derived through an encroachment analysis and are the primary tool used by most member communities to apply flood risk to the land planning process.

The proposed project area is within the FEMA Zone A(E), Area of High-Risk Flood Hazard. The proposed action is located on the Band's Reservation and is not subject to any state or local floodplain ordinances.

Alternatives were investigated through the 8-step process. Those alternatives included No Action (1) and the Construction of Project Features within Floodplain with Mitigative Measures and Alternative Locations for Project Features Located in Regulatory Floodway (2).

Alternative 2 Construction of Project Features within Floodplain with Mitigative Measures and Alternative Locations for Project Features Located in Regulatory Floodway would implement acceptable mitigation measures for constructing the proposed action with minimal impacts to the floodplain and was therefore approved by the HHS Real Property Official on December 9, 2024, for implementation.