

Preliminary Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Special Flood Hazard Area

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Community Sewer Conversion

To: All interested Agencies, The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, The Bureau of Indian Affairs, FEMA Region 9, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that **The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Indian Health Service (IHS)** has conducted an evaluation as required by the Indian Health Service Environmental Review Manual; the United States Department of Health and Human Services General Administration Manual Part 30 (HHS GAM-30); and Executive Order 11988, 11990, and 13690 to determine the potential affect that the implementation of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Community Sewer Conversion (Proposed Action) in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment.

The San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (Band) is proposing the construction of new wastewater facilities. These new facilities include gravity pipelines, lift stations, force mains and a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). These facilities would replace existing wastewater infrastructure 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. Infrastructure would occur throughout 5,450 acres of the Band’s Reservation area. Each district would include the following improvements:

District A:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Gravity pipelines
- Lift stations
- Force mains

District B

- Gravity pipelines
- Lift stations
- Force mains

District C

- Gravity pipelines
- Lift stations
- Force mains

Additional Land Area

- Gravity pipelines
- Lift stations
- Force mains

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has mapped a portion of the study area (a portion of District A) as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). This area consists of flood zone designations AE and AO, these zones indicate an established regulatory floodway. Mapped SFHA’s can be seen in Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panels 0828G and 0829G. The Proposed

Action involves the improvement of the sewer system for three districts of the Band Reservation Area (District A, B, and C). As such the construction of new wastewater facilities necessitates improvements within the floodplain in order to fully reach the Band's community. Exclusion of the floodplain area would create unequitable utility availability and exclude a portion of the Band's community. The Proposed Action would comprise approximately 5,400 square feet (approx. 0.12 acres) of floodplains.

The proposed project is located at Assessor Parcel Numbers 18906025; 18918114; 77189170; 18917105; 19003109; 19017101; 19017202; 19004002; 18918051; 18919109; 18918115; 18908027; and 18906024 in the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians Reservation in the County of San Diego.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared pursuant to the requirements of Section (§) 102(2)(c) of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 United States Code [USC] 4321-4370h). The IHS is the lead federal agency to ensure compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action. This EA follows the guidelines and organizational structure recommended in Indian Health Service Environmental Review Manual, the United States Department of Health and Human Services General Administration Manual Part 30 (HHS GAM-30), Executive Order 11988 and 11990. The EA includes a discussion of any potential environmental effects which could be generated by the Proposed Action and determines whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement would be required. The EA also includes mitigation measures intended to minimize any potential substantial impacts.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Indian Health Service at the following address on or before **May 14, 2024**:

Indian Health Service
Attention: Julia Majkrzak, P.E., Field Engineer
1320 W Valley Parkway, Suite 309
Escondido, CA 92029

Comments may also be submitted via email to Julia.Majkrzak@IHS.gov.

Date: April 22, 2024

Attachments:
Exhibit A: District Locations

Exhibit A District Locations

