

## Chapter 2. Reservation Profile

*B1. Does the plan include a description of the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the tribal planning area? [44 CFR § 201.7(c)(2)(i)]*

*a. Does the plan include a description of the tribal planning area?*

### 2.1 Introduction and Location

The Pala Reservation is located in northern San Diego County adjacent to California State Highway 76, roughly 30 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. Established in the early 1900s, the reservation covers an area of 16,077 acres, this includes 13,104 acres held in trust, 29.95 acres of tribal fee land within the Reservation boundary, and 2,944 acres of tribal fee land outside of the Reservation boundary. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) under the direction of the Department of the Interior holds the land in trust. The Pala Reservation sits next to the Palomar Mountain range that runs along 5,000 square miles of California desert. The figure below shows the location of the reservation in San Diego County.

The reservation lies within an alluvial valley surrounded by steep granite mountains and is divided into two areas by the San Luis Rey River; these are referred to as the north side and the south side. The north side contains most of the homes and development; however, there are also approximately 100 homes and structures south of the river. Elevations range from approximately 340 feet above mean sea level (MSL) at the valley floor to approximately 1,750 feet above MSL in the northern and southern mountainous areas, with most residential, agricultural and industrial activities occurring in the lower elevations of the reservation. Adjacent to the reservation is the Cleveland National Forest to the north and east and private agricultural lands to the south and west. Figure 3 shows the boundary of the Pala Reservation.

# Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians



Figure 2. Reservation Location in San Diego County.

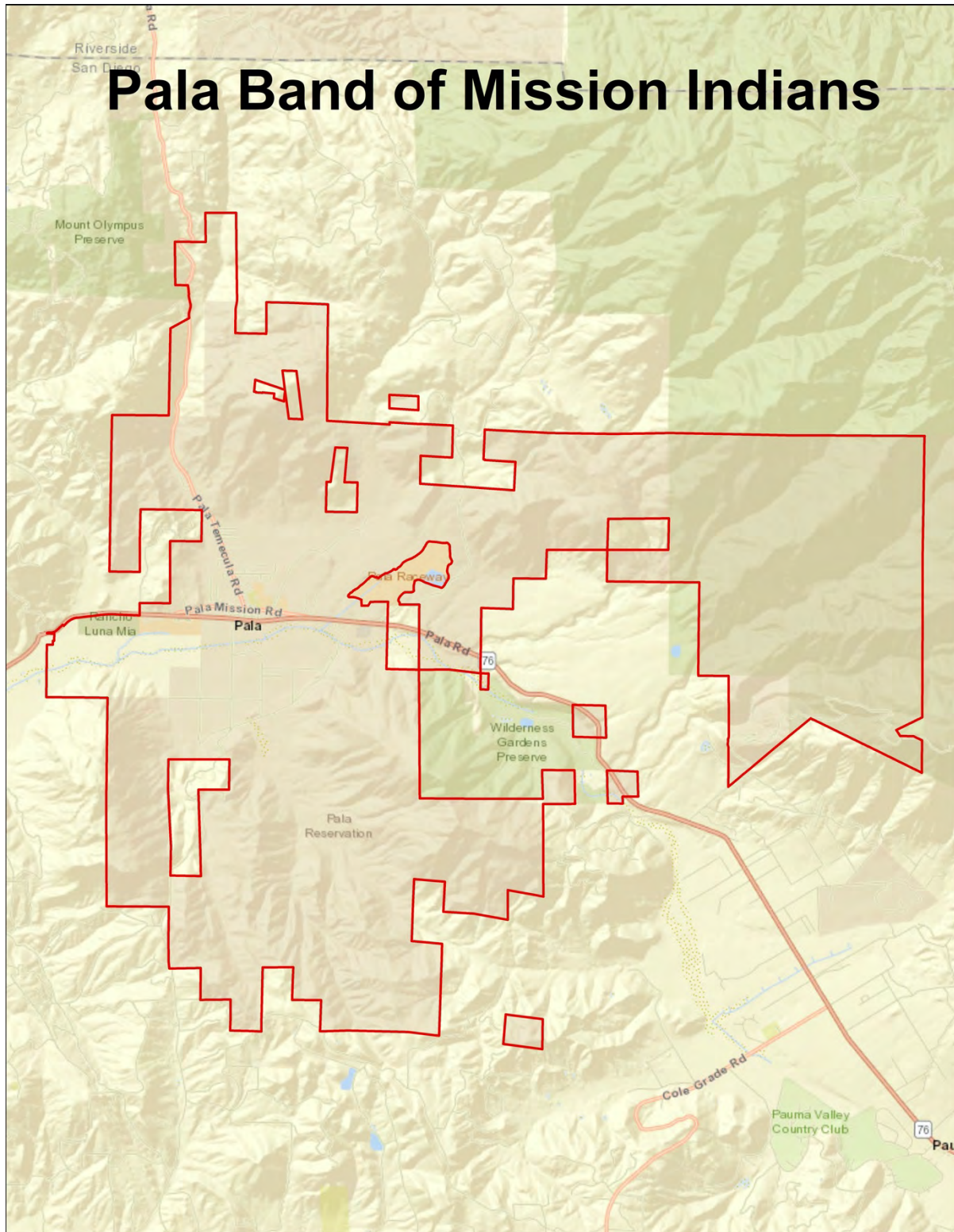


Figure 3. Boundary of Pala Reservation.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

The reservation is located seven miles from US Highway 15, which is a major commuter corridor between San Diego County and Riverside County. Traffic volumes on US Highway 15 include trucks and cars. California State Highway 76 crosses the reservation from east to west. Residents and visitors to the Pala Casino Spa and Resort as well as commuters and some larger vehicles use this road. The volume of traffic on Highway 15 has skyrocketed in the last five years and commuters now use Highway 76 to avoid Highway 15 by cutting through on Pala Mission Road to Pala Temecula Road to get to the Temecula and Murietta areas. Highway 76 is the primary road used to enter or exit the reservation, while the other main road used is Pala Temecula Road. San Diego County, with partial funding from the Tribe, installed several culverts along this road to avoid flooding which has closed the road in the past.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) added the Pala Rey Youth Camp to the Pala Reservation boundary, making that a total of four in-trust properties. The Pala Rey Youth Camp is located directly southwest of Rancho Luna Mia and is 367 acres. Figure 1 (shown in the previous chapter) shows the locations of all new structures, businesses, and infrastructure.

### 2.2 Tribal History

The Cupeños were one of the smallest Native American tribes in Southern California, probably never numbering more than 1000. They once occupied a territory 10 square miles in diameter in a mountainous region at the headwaters of the San Luis Rey River in the valley of San Jose de Valle.

Many of the Pala Indians trace their heritage back to Cupa. Before 1810 the Cupeños had very little contact with outsiders. The land they had lived on for countless generations, including the medicinal hot springs and the village called Cupa, now is controlled and used to the exclusion of the Cupeños by Americans who displaced them. As the Spanish, Mexicans, and later the American trailblazers, grew in number in the region, the Cupeños began to work in serf-like relations to the newcomers.

Discontent quickly spread among the Cupeños. The pioneers who trekked west through the southern route did so on a trail that ran directly through the Cupeños territory. To add insult to injury, American officials in San Diego concluded that a reasonable source of revenue would be taxation upon the Indians of the backcountry. The Cupeños were assessed a \$600 tax that the villagers only paid with great resentment.

By the late 1800s, the hot sulfur springs found on the Cupa territories were becoming very popular and attracting visitors from Los Angeles and San Diego. The popularity of the destination and the growing California population began the events, which ultimately led to the expulsion of the Cupeños from their homeland.

Four years after California became a state, a land survey commission was formed, and cattleman Juan Jose Warner claimed 47,500 acres of what is now Warner Springs, which makes up the majority of the Cupeños homeland. Former California Governor John Downey later purchased the property in 1880. Downey then filed a lawsuit—later pursued by his heirs after his death—claiming title to the land and



## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

demanding eviction of the Cupeños from the property. The Cupeños argued before the courts that Mexican law, as well as the peace treaty that ended the war between Mexico and the United States, ensured Indian rights and precluded the hostile takeover of their land. Their argument was unsuccessful; the California courts agreed with Downey, and in 1901 the United States Supreme Court affirmed the judgment ordering removal of the Indians.



Figure 4 Cupeño at Cupa 1902.<sup>6</sup>

President Rutherford Hayes, prompted by the Supreme Court holding, declared the Indians “trespassers” and ordered the tribe relocated to Pala, California, just beyond the Palomar Mountains where a 10,000-acre reservation had been established. Pala was a Luiseno reservation then, not Cupa. This act marked the first time in U.S. history that two distinct Indian tribes were herded together in one reservation.

On the morning of May 12, 1903, Indian Bureau agent James Jenkins arrived with 44 armed teamsters to carry out the eviction. Rosinda Nolasquez, the last survivor of the expulsion, later testified “many carts stood there by the doors. People came from LaMesa, from Santa Ysabel, from Wilakal, from San Ignacio, to see their relatives. They cried a lot. And they just threw our belongings, our clothes, into carts.” The 40-mile journey from Cupa to Pala took three days. The Cupeños call it their “Trail of Tears.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.palatribe.com/media/gallery/Cupeno%20at%20Cupa.jpg/view>

<sup>7</sup> Accessed September 10, 2015 from <http://www.palatribe.com/about/the-history>

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

Today, the Cupa and the Luiseno live together quite harmoniously. They consider themselves one people—the Pala. In fact, by the early 1970s fewer than 150 people claimed Cupa ethnicity. But those who trace their roots to Cupa take time each year to observe the expulsion of 1903 and to honor those who sacrificed so much to live in peace. As part of the annual Cupa Day Celebration on the first Saturday of May, members of the tribe take the journey back to Warner Springs where a resort surrounds the springs where their ancestors stayed warm. There they form a circle and offer prayers to the sacred directions—east, south, west and north. They pray to the mother earth and father sky, giving thanks for the survival of their people. However, to enjoy the springs as their ancestors did, they must reserve a room in the resort.

### 2.3 Demographics and Housing

The Pala Band of Mission Indians has 1392 living Tribal members, 674 are of voting age and approximately 700 Tribal members live on the Reservation. The remaining members live throughout the United States. There are approximately 1288 people both Tribal and non-tribal living on the Reservation.

### 2.4 Tribal Government

The Pala Band of Mission Indians is governed by an Executive Committee composed of six members elected by the General Council, which includes all qualified voters 18 years and older.

Elections are held every 2 years in November. The Tribe is governed by a constitution adopted by the Tribe in November 1994 and certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Pacific Region in 1997 retroactive to 1994. The Executive Committee members set the agenda, allocate the annual budget, and set public policy for the tribe.

Current Executive Committee members are:

1. Tribal Chairman — Robert Smith
2. Vice Chairman — Anthony Ravago
3. Secretary — Theresa Villa
4. Treasurer — Theresa J. Nieto
5. Council Member — Bradley Guachino
6. Council Member - Sheila Lopez

### 2.5 Climate

The Climate within the Pala Reservation is generally characterized by moist, mild winters and dry, warm summers, also known as ‘Mediterranean summers.’ Annual precipitation within the Pala Valley averages to about 12 inches a year, and between 25 to 45 inches in the Agua Tibia Mountains. Roughly 75% of the annual precipitation falls within the Basin between December and March.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

Temperatures in the Pala Valley are relatively moderate, ranging from an average of 60 degrees Fahrenheit during the winter months to an average of 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer. The average annual rainfall for the Pala area is approximately 18 inches with the wettest month being January.

### 2.6 Geologic and Hydrologic Settings

The Pala Reservation is located in San Diego County, within the center portion of the Pala Groundwater Basin. The Pala Groundwater Basin is one of four groundwater basins that form the San Luis Rey River/Watershed. The Pala Basin is characterized as an alluvial groundwater basin, with a ground surface elevation between 300 – 600 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The basin is bordered by steep mountains to the north and south, with a peak elevation of 1,750 feet MSL. The mountains bordering to the north include: the Monserate Mountains, Tourmaline Mountains, and the Agua Tibia Mountains. The mountains bordering to the south include: the Lancaster Mountains, Weaver Mountains, and Pala Mountains. The typical elevation within the Pala Basin decreases from the east to the west. The Pala Reservation is located in the Pala Basin, it is approximately 12,000 acres. The Reservation includes 85.96% undeveloped land, 6.63% agricultural land, 3.86% residential land, 2.24% industrial land, .86% public facilities and utilities, and .45% parks and recreation space.

The reservation incorporates portions of the San Luis Rey River Valley, the intersecting tributary valleys of Marion Canyon, Magee Creek, Trujillo Creek, Pala Creek, Castro Canyon Creek, Agua Tibia Creek, Frey Creek and Gomez Creek and surrounding mountainous terrain. The Bubble-Up Creek is on the South Side of the Reservation.

The ephemeral San Luis Rey River flows generally to the west through the reservation from where it enters at the east-central boundary to where it exits at the west-central boundary. Several ephemeral tributary creeks drain south and southwestward into this river, and one ephemeral creek drains north from Pala Mountain to the river.

The San Luis Rey River valley receives approximately 12 inches of precipitation yearly (Rand Allen, written communication, 8/24/94), while the Agua Tibia Mountain mass receives 25 to 40 inches of precipitation per year. Runoff from the mountain watershed that percolates into the alluvium is the chief source of groundwater in the valleys near Pala (Jahns and Wright, 1951).

The unconsolidated Quaternary deposits compose the groundwater reservoir from which the principal water supply of the area is pumped. Preferential groundwater movement occurs through the coarsest, most permeable alluvial deposits. It is likely that the coarsest alluvial deposits (i.e., sand, gravel, cobbles and boulders) that contain the least amount of fine-grained sediments (i.e., silt and clay) occur within the active river channels at depths below the present river channels.

The alluvial aquifer is recharged by direct infiltration of rain that falls onto the basin floor, infiltration of surface flows along creeks, infiltration of surface runoff from tributary canyons following storms, and

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

deep percolation of irrigation water and domestic wastewater. In general, recharge from infiltration and surface water flow is greatest along reaches of the active river and creek channels where the surface sediments are most permeable. Recharge also occurs in the Pala Basin as underflow through the alluvial aquifer. Some recharge may occur from granite bedrock that underlies the valley; however, the amount of recharge from this source is insignificant.

The faults on the reservation may act as groundwater barriers and may control the occurrence of springs. In addition, a downstream constriction of the San Luis Rey River Valley at Monserate Narrows may act to slightly mound groundwater at the west end of the reservation.

The San Luis Rey River Watershed is divided into 3 Hydrologic Areas (Ha's): the Warner Valley Area (HA 3.3) to the east (where the San Luis Rey River headwaters are), the Monserate Area (HA 3.2) in the middle, and the Mission or Lower San Luis Area (HA 3.1) to the west. The Pala Groundwater Basin is located in the apex of the San Luis Rey Valley arc, in the Monserate hydraulic section. The Pala Basin is about 5 miles long, and the width ranges between 0.5 miles and 2 miles (Komex, 2005). The Pala Groundwater Basin is made up of alluvial deposits of sand, gravel, boulders, silt and clay. The mountains to the north and south of the Pala Basin are made up of sedimentary rocks, igneous and metamorphic rocks (Springer & Anderson, 1999). The alluvial deposits in the Pala Basin are thicker in the east, thinning out as the groundwater flows west; the hydraulic gradient is also greater in the eastern portion of the Pala Basin.

The Henshaw Dam, built in 1922 by a local water district, is at the headwaters of the San Luis Rey River. There is a diversion approximately 7 miles east of the Henshaw Dam, which diverts the majority of the river's flow into the Escondido Canal and the City of Escondido for their drinking water (City of Oceanside, 2008). The San Luis Rey River was reported to be a perennially flowing river, before Henshaw Dam and the Escondido Canal Diversion were built.

Groundwater flow within the Pala Basin enters from the Pauma Basin to the east and flows out to the west. The Basin is recharged in part from the subsurface flow of the San Luis Rey River, where it enters the Pala Basin from the Pauma Basin/Narrows. It is also recharged from surface runoff from the mountains and creeks to the north and south of the Pala Valley, from agricultural irrigation runoff, and precipitation. The San Luis Rey River is classified as intermittent along the Pala/Pauma Basin, and typically regains surface flows at Couser Canyon Creek, east of Pala (City of Oceanside, 2008).

### *2.6.1 Water*

Groundwater on the reservation provides the primary source for domestic, agricultural, industrial and commercial water needs. The Pala Band of Mission Indians has two public water systems separated by the San Luis Rey River. The reservation has a total of ten public drinking water wells, with an additional three more wells scheduled to go online by the end of 2021.



## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

The Pala Environmental Department monitors water quality on the reservation, including surface water quality and groundwater depth. It is essential to recognize that the tribe does not receive U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding to monitor drinking water quality. All drinking water is monitored for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The north and south sides of the reservation, divided by the San Luis Rey River, have completely separate water systems. In addition, the sewer system is limited to the north side, while the homes on the south side rely on septic systems. The tribe intends to build a bridge across the river on Lilac Extension Road that would have the capability of carrying sewer and water pipes so that the two systems may be joined.

Surface waters within the Reservation portion of the Pala Basin, are mostly non-perennial (intermittent or ephemeral), occurring during and right after storm events. The San Luis Rey River flows intermittently through the center of the Pala Basin from east to west, where it eventually discharges into the Pacific Ocean; intermittent/ephemeral creeks flow down from the mountains bordering the basin to the north and south, down into the San Luis Rey River / Pala Valley Floor.

The major tributary creeks that run down the Monserate, Tourmaline, and Agua Tibia Mountains, south towards the San Luis Rey River, are Marion Canyon Creek, Magee Creek, Castro Canyon Creek, Trujillo Creek, Pala Creek, and Gomez Creek. Most of these would be classified closer to ephemeral than intermittent creeks. The Major Tributary is Pala Creek: This creek drains the west side of Cleveland National Forest and the eastern side of Mount Olympus, along the northern edge of the watershed. This creek is classified as somewhere between intermittent and ephemeral.

The major tributary creek that runs down the Lancaster, Weaver, and Pala Mountains, north towards the San Luis Rey River, is the Bubble-Up Creek/Spring, which is a perennially flowing creek.

The predominant surface water source in the Pala Basin is the (intermittent) San Luis Rey River (SLR River), which runs from east to west through the Pala Valley. This river used to be perennial, until it was diverted upstream in the early 1900's, into the Escondido Canal. Flow in the San Luis Rey River is connected to releases from a reservoir 24 miles upstream, at Lake Henshaw.

### 2.6.1.1 Surface Waters

Surface waters within the Reservation portion of the Pala Basin, are mostly non-perennial (intermittent or ephemeral), occurring during and right after storm events. The San Luis Rey River flows intermittently through the center of the Pala Basin from East to West, where it eventually discharges into the Pacific Ocean; intermittent/ephemeral creeks flow down from the mountains bordering the basin to the north and south, down into the San Luis Rey River / Pala Valley Floor.

The major tributary creeks that run down the Monserate, Tourmaline, and Agua Tibia Mountains, south towards the San Luis Rey River, are Marion Canyon Creek, Magee Creek, Castro Canyon Creek, Trujillo Creek, Pala Creek, and Gomez Creek. Most of these would be classified closer to ephemeral than

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

intermittent creeks. The Major Tributary is Pala Creek: This creek drains the west side of Cleveland National Forest and the eastern side of Mount Olympus, along the northern edge of the watershed. This creek is classified as somewhere between intermittent and ephemeral.

The major tributary creek that runs down the Lancaster, Weaver, and Pala Mountains, north towards the San Luis Rey River, is the Bubble-Up Creek/Spring, which is a perennially flowing creek.

The predominant surface water source in the Pala Basin is the (intermittent) San Luis Rey River (SLR River), which runs from east to west through the Pala Valley. This river used to be perennial, until it was diverted upstream in the early 1900's, into the Escondido Canal. Flow in the SLR River is connected to releases from a reservoir 24 miles upstream, at Lake Henshaw.

Surface water bodies within the reservation consist of the San Luis Rey River, Pala Trujillo, Magee, Agua Tibia and Frey Creeks and creeks within the Castro and Marion Canyons. All these water bodies are ephemeral. Three natural springs also exist on the reservation, at least two of which are perennial during non-drought years.

The San Luis Rey River originates eleven miles upstream of the reservation and drains a 260 square mile area. Appendix B shows the San Luis Rey River Watershed with the Pala Reservation boundaries indicated. Flow in the river is regulated in part by Lake Henshaw, a reservoir twenty-four miles upstream of the reservation that is managed by the Vista Irrigation district. In addition, there are seven tributary creeks, which contribute flow to the San Luis Rey River upstream of the reservation. Surface flow only occurs in the tributary creeks and canyons during and shortly after major precipitation events.

### 2.6.1.2 San Luis Rey River

The Tribe is one of five tribes included in Public Law 100-675, the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, signed on November 1988 by President Reagan. As a result of the settlement, the San Luis Rey Water Authority was established to fulfill the obligations of the Authority and obtain all agreements as set forth in the Act.

The San Luis Rey River originates at the crest of the coast range in northern San Diego County. It flows approximately sixteen miles to the Henshaw Dam and Lake Henshaw. The Henshaw Dam regulates flow in the San Luis Rey River. The presence of stream flow in the riverbed depends on local runoff and releases from Henshaw Dam. Records of stream gauging stations on the San Luis Rey River and its tributaries collected over a limited number of years indicate that in dry years, stream flow either diminishes or ceases.

Downstream of the Escondido Canal, river flow generally occurs only when the Escondido Canal is shut down or when the flow exceeds its capacity, such as after a large rainfall event. The San Luis Rey River is on the 2002 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for chloride (urban runoff, storm drains, unknown point and nonpoint sources) and total dissolved solids (agricultural

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

runoff, industrial point sources, urban runoff, surface mining, flow regulation/modification, golf courses, unknown point and nonpoint sources, natural sources).

The San Luis Rey River is also on the Proposed Watch List by the U.S. EPA Region 9 for calcium, eutrophication, magnesium, and phosphorous. These impairments threaten the beneficial uses of warm water habitat, wildlife habitat, and preservation of rare, threatened or endangered species, agriculture and land uses.

### 2.6.1.3 Drinking Water Standards

The Pala Tribe has achieved status as a state under the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and, as such, is not required to meet the drinking water standards set by the State of California. It must meet, however, the federal standards set by the U.S. EPA. The Tribe may designate standards more stringent than those of the EPA.

Groundwater in most of San Diego County is under the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (the Board). The Board is a regional representative of the State of California Regional Water Quality Board (SWQCB). As the Pala Tribe has achieved status as a state under the requirements of the CWA, the tribe is not required to meet the standards set by the Board. The Board has developed groundwater quality objectives for each of the groundwater basins in San Diego County. They are published in the Water Quality Control Plan, San Diego Basin (Basin Plan).

The Basin Plan would allow for measurable degradation of groundwater in the Pala Basin to permit continued agricultural land use. Point sources, however, would be controlled to achieve effluent quality correspondent to the tabulated numerical values. In future years, demineralization may be used to treat groundwater to the desired quality prior to use.

The Pala Groundwater Basin is an unconfined alluvial basin bounded to the north by the Monserate, Tourmaline and Agua Tibia Mountains, and to the south by the Lancaster, Weaver and Pala Mountains (Springer & Anderson, 1999). The Pala aquifer is made up of alluvial fan deposits and younger alluvium, on average between 300 to 400 feet (Komex, 2005); the mountain boundaries to the north and south are made up of impervious igneous and metamorphic rocks. The basin is constricted to the east by the Pauma Narrows, and to the west by the Monserate Narrows. The hydraulic gradient within the Pala Basin ranges from 750 to 1,000 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup>, and 20 to 100 gpd/ft<sup>2</sup> for the alluvial fan deposits adjacent to the mountains; the hydraulic gradient is estimated based on pumping tests, well capacity data, and well driller's logs (Moreland, 1974). Groundwater flow within the Pala Basin flows east to west. Groundwater elevations typically range from about 10 to 80 feet bgs (Komex, 2005). The Pala Groundwater Basin is recharged through many different ways, including subsurface inflow from the San Luis Rey River, and direct infiltration from mountain runoff, precipitation, and irrigation return flow.

The Tribe will adopt all Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) at the volunteer level. That way they hold themselves accountable. The Tribe cannot adopt the regulations without approval by the

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

executive committee or the general council. The California Department of Water Resources describes the SGMA as a requirement for governments and water agencies to “halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans.”<sup>8</sup>

### 2.7 Land Use

Land use within the Pala Reservation ranges from intensive/extensive agriculture, pastureland, past extractive industries (i.e.: sand, gravel, mineral mining), parks, residential/urban, open space, and commercial (gaming operations). Maps of the Land Use within the Pala Reservation are available in the *Pala Groundwater Study Report—Pala Groundwater Basin* (Komex, 2005), and the *Pala Basin Preliminary Groundwater Model* (Springer & Anderson, Inc., 1999).

The reservation has four types of land designation described in the table below. The location of each of these is shown in Figure 5.

*Table 4. Land Types Defined.*

<b>Land Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Tribal Trust Land</b>	Tribal Trust Land is held in trust by the Department of the Interior for the benefit of the Tribe or individual Tribal members.
<b>Allotted Land</b>	Allotted Land is federal land, which has been set aside for the exclusive use of an Indian who is called the allottee. The allottee has the right to live on, use and profit from the allotment, but the federal government owns the land and holds it in trust.
<b>Tribal Fee Land</b>	Tribal Fee Land is land that is no longer held in trust; it is “land that is held in fee simple and not in trust.”
<b>Non-Tribal Fee Land</b>	Non-Tribal Fee Land is Reservation land no longer in trust or subject to restriction.

<sup>8</sup> <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

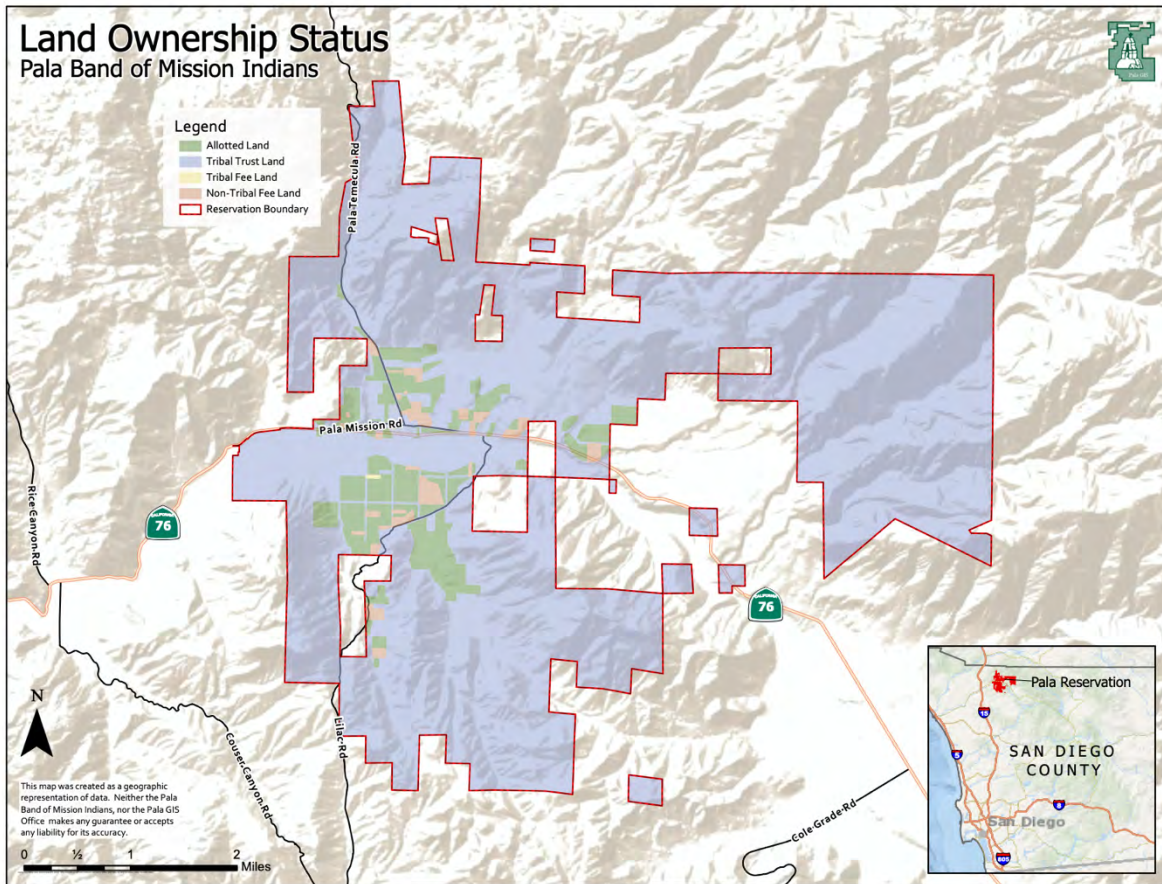


Figure 5. Land Ownership Status.

There are ten classifications of building on the Pala Reservation:

1. Wood Frame
2. Wood Frame / Stucco
3. Aluminum / Stucco
4. Concrete / Steel
5. ICF / Steel
6. Adobe Masonry
7. Concrete Masonry
8. Mobile
9. Metal Out-Building
10. Brick Masonry

Twenty-one percent of the residential buildings on the reservation are considered old and were built prior to 1970. Thirty-five percent of the buildings were built between 1970 and 1990 and thirty-five



## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

percent have been built since 1990. The newer buildings are the least vulnerable to hazards. The oldest buildings are a risk to the reservation and may need to be updated in order to withstand earthquakes, high winds, fire and flooding. Figure 6 shows the different neighborhood developments on the reservation.

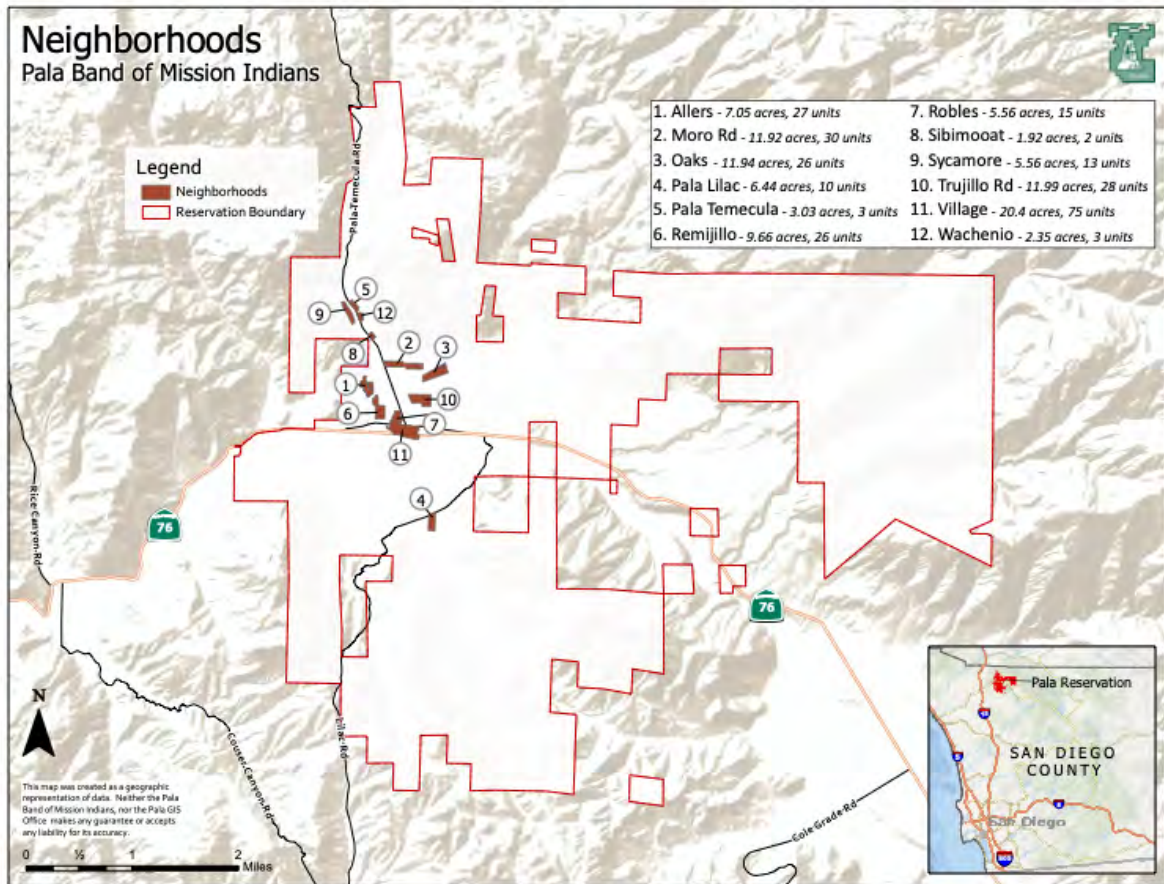


Figure 6. Neighborhoods on the Reservation.

### 2.7.1 Culturally Sensitive Areas

The Pala Band of Mission Indians has several culturally sensitive sites including cemeteries and the Mission San Antonio de Pala. The Tribe considers these sites critical but chooses not to share their locations in a public document.

### 2.7.2 Development Trends

Since the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan, the Tribe has opened the Pala Casino RV Resort and added three floors to the Casino Parking Structure. In addition, the Pala Casino expanded their pools and spa. The

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

Tribe upgraded multiple pieces of utility infrastructure including a new drinking water system. There is a new building at the Shooting Range, and the Tribe now maintains the Raceway, the Shooting Range and several vineyards. The Tribe maintains a waiting list of Tribal members who wish to have homes on the Reservation and the next planned neighborhood is located at the corner of Nejo Road and Jackson Circle. The Pala Housing Department is building a new 5400 square foot office building and training center, adjacent to the Utilities Department.

### 2.8 Tribal Economy

The primary income source for the Tribe is the Pala Casino Resort & Spa. The success of this business has enabled the Tribe to maintain infrastructure on the Reservation, to build homes and to provide for their members. In addition to the Pala Casino the Tribe recently opened the ten-acre Pala Casino RV Resort. They also maintain a Mini Mart and Gas Station adjacent to the Casino. Other businesses on the Reservation include the Pala Skatepark, Pala Fitness Center, Pala Shooting Range, Pala Rey Youth Camp, Rancho Luna Mia for animal husbandry, and seven agricultural entities. The agricultural entities are:

1. Catalina Fields (alfalfa)
1. Avocado Groves (avocados)
2. Duker Grove (oranges)
3. McCament Grove (oranges)
4. Robert's Ranch (oranges)
5. Pala Vineyard (grapes)
6. Pala Gateway (oranges)

All of these facilities are considered critical to the Tribe and Pala Casino properties are detailed below.



*Figure 7. Pala Shooting Range.*

#### 2.8.1 Pala Casino Resort & Spa

The Pala Casino Resort & Spa represents the main source of income to the Tribe and is absolutely vital to the continued function and improvement of the community's infrastructure and services. The facility consists of 2000 slot machines, 87 table games, 10 restaurants, a day spa, 4 entertainment venues (including a 2000 seat Events Center,) as well as a hotel with 508 rooms and 82 suites. With its considerable space and supply, this facility has the capacity to shelter its staff and visitors in place and also accommodate additional emergency response personnel and possibly community residence. While its situation along the banks of the San Luis Rey River offers a picturesque setting for guests, the Tribe also realizes it subjects the site to an increased risk to flood hazards. Therefore, considerable efforts have been taken to mitigate risk to the structure and its guests including extensive riprap and floodwalls along its perimeter and a paved road in the rear for emergency vehicles and crews. Also, Casino staff is well trained on emergency procedures and undergo regular drills and the Pala Fire Department trains

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

regularly for all types of response scenarios to the facility and is well equipped to handle emergencies there. Additionally, the structures themselves were engineered and constructed to meet and exceed all Federal and State building codes.



*Figure 8. Pala Casino.*

### *2.8.2 Pala Casino Warehouse*

Located approximately a mile down the highway east of the Casino, the structure considerably increases the storage space for necessary supplies for the Casino/Hotel/ and Resort including blankets, spare parts and equipment, building and repair materials, and more. This facility is highly important to the Casino's continuous function and contains millions of dollars in supplies and equipment.

### *2.8.3 Pala Casino RV Park*

The Pala Casino RV Park includes 10 acres and 100 full-service sites with grass lawns and picnic tables. It is located adjacent to the Pala Casino. The RV Park is the most recent expansion to the Pala Casino.

### *2.8.4 Pala Mini Mart and Gas Station*

Managed and operated by Casino Staff, this facility provides fuel as well as a variety of foodstuffs and supplies to the community, hotel guests, and through traffic along Highway 76 and is an important revenue generator for the Tribe. Outfitted with twenty fueling stations offering both regular and diesel,



## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

the gas station is highly frequented by area commuters and is the sole fuel provider on the Reservation. It has high-speed pumps that are ideal for the big rigs and fire apparatus that regularly fill up at the facility.

### 2.9 Tribal Facilities

The Pala Band of Mission Indians maintain a number of Tribal Facilities. These include the large Pala Administration Center and the soon to-be-built Pala Housing Department Facility. In addition, they have recreation facilities, education facilities, social service facilities and religious facilities. All of these are considered critical facilities and the most significant of them are detailed below.

#### 2.9.1 Pala Administration Center

As the headquarters for Tribal business on the Reservation, the two-story Pala Administration Building houses offices for the Executive Committee Members, Business Office, Financial Department, IT Department and data servers, GIS Department, Environmental Department, Housing Department, Senior Services Department and a Wells Fargo Branch. The facility also has an assembly room for events and General Council meetings, a conference room; a commercial sized kitchen which prepares meals daily for purchase as well as delivery to senior citizens on the Reservation; an employee break room, a first-aid room, and an elevator. With its large general assembly area and commercial kitchen, this facility is an ideal location to house members from the community in the event of an evacuation or major disaster.



*Figure 9. Pala Administration Center Fountain.*

#### 2.9.2 KOPA Rez Radio Station

Comprised of a 100-foot antenna and a small studio located behind the Administration Building, this facility represents a successfully implemented mitigation strategy from the Tribe's 2009 FEMA approved Mitigation Plan. Broadcasting at 100 watts, the station was established with the primary mission of providing important information to community residents during a disaster. Completely owned and operated by the Tribe under a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license, the station employs a fulltime Radio Station Manager and an Assistant Manager, operates continuously, and airs a wide variety of programming from news and weather, interviews, original talk shows, guest interviews, and

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

syndicated network programs. In addition to its traditional radio broadcast signal, the station also offers numerous alternative methods for listeners including live streaming on iHeartRadio.

### *2.9.3 Pala Postal Annex*

As a large portion of the Tribe's residences do not receive mail directly to their home address, the Tribe runs a United States Postal Service (USPS) approved postal annex on the reservation. Currently operating out of a double wide mobile structure, this facility houses approximately 300 personal mailboxes (PMBs) and employees a fulltime postmaster and several assistants who daily received from and deliver mail to a nearby United States Post Office in neighboring Temecula, CA. In addition to the operation of the PMBs, the Postal staff also hand delivers the bulk of the Tribe's official mail to the numerous department locations on the reservation. The Tribe has plans to replace the current postal annex facility with a more permanent structure in the near future. As in all new construction carried out by the Tribe, the new facility will be built to meet or exceed all local building codes.

### *2.9.4 Vivian Banks Charter School*

Contracted through the Bonsall Union Elementary School District and located on the Mission grounds, this K-5 school provides elementary school education to most of the children living in the Pala area. Though not directly affiliated with the Tribe, the Pala Band initially lobbied to locate it on the Reservation and has since made large donations to the organization. Over 100 students are currently enrolled at the school, which has a total of eight classrooms, an administrative office, and a cafeteria area - all contained within the adobe structures on the mission grounds. Though the school is housed in structures fashioned in the same style as the building's original to the Mission, they have undergone major retrofitting to be suitable for use as an education facility. The Tribe takes the safety and welfare of the young students enrolled here very seriously and is dedicated to safeguarding them from the risks posed by natural disasters.

### *2.9.5 Pala Learning Center*

This facility consists of a library containing over 6000 books and other media as well as a computer lab available to all members of the community for education and personal growth. The Learning Center offers numerous educational programs such as after school tutoring, adult education, GED programs, literary programs etc. This facility provides a valued service to the community and it is important to the Tribe to ensure its continued operation.

### *2.9.6 Pala Child Care Center*

Open to the public and accepting children based on a daily fee this facility offers a valuable service to the community by giving older children a place to go before and after school and younger children a place to go while their parents are at work. Facility staff engages the children with creative projects



## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

while teaching them social and vocabulary skills to complement their public educations. Due to the precious nature of its daily occupants, the Tribe places great importance is in protecting the structure and those inside. Like those facilities previously mentioned, this structure is no exception to the high engineering and building standards that were employed in its construction.

### *2.9.7 Pala Youth Center*

Located next door to the Learning Center, this facility was operated by the County of San Diego Boys and Girls Club for a number of years before the Tribe took over its operation; continuing to offer after school activities and education for youths in the community. The Youth Center building has a spacious common area, which could be used as a small evacuation center in a disaster situation.

### *2.9.8 Tribal Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Tribal Digital Village (TDV) Facility*

Consisting of over 10 mobile structures, this facility houses two programs operated by the Southern California Tribal Chairmen’s Association (SCTCA) including: Tribal Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF) – which provides a number of services to help low income households on the reservation – and Tribal Digital Village (TDV) – which operates and maintains the Reservation’s sole broadband wireless network making internet access to most homes in the community possible. Due to the valuable services these programs provide to the community, and because without the TDV infrastructure email and internet service to the majority of the Reservation would be lost, the Tribe is dedicated to protecting this vital facility.

### *2.9.9 Mission San Antonio de Pala*



*Figure 10. Mission San Antonio de Pala.*

Founded in 1816 as an Asistencia to the San Luis Rey Mission in Oceanside, this religious site represents the sole remaining mission-related facility still operating as a church serving a Native American population. The mission grounds contain a historic bell tower (rebuilt in 1916 after the original was destroyed in a flood,) cemetery (with gravesites dating back to the early 1800’s), and chapel in addition to housing for church staff. Due to its historic significance and the spiritual services it provides to many in the community,

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

the Tribe is dedicated to protecting and preserving the site.

### *2.9.10 San Juan Diego Center*

Situated on the grounds of the Mission San Antonio de Pala, the center was opened by the San Diego Diocese in 2004 to better serve the growing parish at the Mission. An important religious center for many Pala area residents, the facility serves as a destination for a wide range of spiritual events in addition to a weekly mass. Over 20,000 square feet in size, the center could be a vital place to house displaced persons in the event of a disaster.

### *2.9.11 Pala Fitness Center*

The Pala Fitness Center has over eighteen cardio machines, free weights, men’s and women’s locker rooms and an indoor basketball/volleyball court. The Facility, which is located directly adjacent to the Administration building, is open to Tribal Members and the public and promotes an active and healthy lifestyle. By charging a monthly membership fee the Fitness Center is able to generate revenue and offset operational costs. Nutritional workshops, youth basketball leagues, men and women’s softball leagues, personal training and senior oriented exercise classes for an additional fee are also offered by the facility. Like the Administration Building, this facility was engineered and constructed to meet and exceed Federal and State building standards and withstand a significant earthquake event. With a large indoor gym area, the fitness center is another ideal location to house displaced persons during a disaster.

## 2.10 First Responder Facilities

There is a presence of first responders on the Pala Band of Mission Indians Reservation. They occupy a fire station, emergency operations center/training center, and tribal law enforcement station. These critical facilities are detailed below.

### *2.10.1 Pala Fire Station*

Opening in 2008, the Pala Fire Station is a two story 23,000 square foot state of



*Figure 11. Pala Fire Station.*

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

the art facility complete with administration offices, a 19-room sleeping quarters, six-bay apparatus garage, and a HAZMAT wash down area. Situated to the rear of the facility is a four-story training Burn Tower which can simulate firefighting conditions for both gas (clean propane) and regular class-A fires. Centrally located on the Reservation, the facility greatly increases the capability of the Pala Fire Department to effectively respond to and manage emergencies in the community and surrounding areas.

Built with a combination of insulated concrete forms (ICF) and steel construction, the Pala Fire Station was designed to meet or exceed all California and Federal building codes and withstand significant flood, fire, or earthquake events. Also, while the site was initially within the FEMA delineated 100-year floodplain; the elevation of the building pad was raised significantly to a level exceeding the recommendations of the consulting hydraulic engineers. In an effort to further minimize the risk of hazards to the site, mitigation strategies were employed such as: completion of an environmental assessment prior to building, careful design and installation of storm water control measures including storm drains, and installation of smoke and fire detectors.

### *2.10.2 Emergency Operations Center & Training Center*

Also located on the Fire Station grounds this facility can comfortably seat up to 50 students with laptop plug in access for each desk. Equipped with a ceiling mounted projector, retractable video screen, white boards, VCR, DVD, TV, microphone, easel pads, and PA system the facility offers a comfortable modern training space for use by all Tribal Departments. Additionally, the center is periodically rented out to the public bringing in revenue to the Tribe. While the training center provides the Tribe with an educational facility for workshops, seminars, and other learning activities, it can also serve as a Regional Emergency Operations Center to the North San Diego County area with the ability to utilize over 40 telephones in the event of a disaster. In fact, the facility was used for this purpose when it was utilized as a multi-jurisdictional command center during a wildfire incident that occurred on the Reservation in 2011.

Additionally, the center is periodically rented out to the public, bringing in revenue to the Tribe. While the training center provides the Tribe with an educational facility for workshops, seminars, and other learning activities, the facility can also serve as a Regional Emergency Operations Center to the North San Diego County area with the ability to utilize over 40 telephones in the event of a disaster.

### *2.10.3 Pala Tribal Law Enforcement (TLE) Station*

Pala Tribal Law Enforcement (TLE) is the Tribe's security agency and, though they are not academy trained peace officers, it's personnel undergo security guard training and work hand in hand with the San Diego Sherriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, and other local agencies to respond to incidents on the reservation as well as uphold the Tribe's peace and security ordinances. Should a disaster occur on the reservation, TLE employees will be instrumental in emergency and evacuation operations in the

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

community. Located on Pala Temecula Road near the intersection of Pala Mission Road, the TLE station is comprised of several offices and a radio dispatch facility.

### 2.11 Reservation Utilities and Infrastructure

The utilities and infrastructure named below are considered critical facilities to the Reservation.

#### *2.11.1 Pala Tribal Yard*

This facility houses three separate Tribal departments on the same premises including: Maintenance (maintain the Tribe's facility grounds and parks,) Fleet Maintenance (repairs and maintains vehicles and equipment owned by the Tribe,) and Tribal Services (perform weekly trash and recycling pickups and do minor repair and up-keep projects – such as debris removal - on the reservation) which together play a vital role in the Tribe's daily operation and will be critical in recovery efforts in the event of a disaster. The Yard is comprised of a number of metal structures including a vehicle repair shop, two workshops, a storage building and several offices. A variety of other equipment is stored on the premises as well such as backhoes, dozers, and other heavy equipment.

#### *2.11.2 Cell/Communications Tower*

Located behind the TLE office on Pala Temecula Road and comprised of a 50-foot cell tower and several smaller structures, this facility is a critical communications site for the Reservation. In addition to handling the majority of cellular telephone traffic in the community, it also contains vital broadband infrastructure, which makes high-speed internet (essential to Tribal business functions) possible.

#### *2.11.3 Transfer Station*

Operated by the Pala Environmental Department, the Pala Transfer Station offers a variety of services to the Tribe and surrounding communities including: trash disposal; green waste disposal and composting; household hazardous waste storage and disposal, State certified buy back of CRV (California Redemption Value) aluminum, glass, and plastic; as well as electronic waste, battery, used oil (State certified,) tire, paper, and cardboard recycling. Additionally, transfer station staff is tasked with collecting all recyclable items from Pala Casino and work closely with the resort's "Green Team" to increase recycling efforts at the location. The facility operates a green waste shredder, recyclables bailer, one forklift, and two vehicles. By charging competitive rates for its disposal and recycling services the Tribe is able to bring in an income from the facility. In an effort retrofit the previously used six-acre industrial site and the existing ten thousand square foot metal building, the Pala Environmental Department worked closely with the Business Office as well as with various contractors to bring the site to code and mitigate hazards. Examples of mitigation strategies employed include the reinforcement of the footings of the preexisting structure with rebar and concrete and the installation of storm water retention basins. With a long-term goal of disaster preparedness, Transfer Station employees are required to attend a 40-hour

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) course to learn how to respond to hazardous waste incidents that may occur at the facility.

### *2.11.4 Pala Utilities Department*

This Tribal department is responsible for all new construction relating to the Tribes water and sewer systems as well as the daily operation, maintenance, and repair of all existing lines and infrastructure. Should a disaster occur, Utility Department personnel play a key role by responding to damaged infrastructure and performing emergency repairs to help restore operation of the Tribe's critical infrastructure. Located directly adjacent to the Tribal Yard, the Utilities Department facility is comprised of two structures housing several offices and a maintenance shop. Several pieces of heavy equipment are also kept on the premises.

### *2.11.5 Pala Wastewater Treatment Plant and Lift Stations*

Built and beginning operation in 2009, this state-of-the-art facility's SBR technology employs a tertiary treatment method which separates out all solids, removes virtually all nitrates from the remaining water and disinfects it to a point where it can be discharged back into streams or even used as irrigation for landscaping. The remaining solid waste material is then treated as a hazardous material and stored on site until it is removed in a safe and appropriate manner. Once taken off the site, the material is then taken to a specialized facility where it can be further treated and even repurposed in the form of soil fertilizer. The wastewater treatment plant is the key component of sewage disposal on the reservation, is critical to the health and safety of the community and offers the further benefits of protecting and preserving the environment as well as further helping to safeguard vital resources against drought.

Three lift stations on the Reservation:

1. Allers Lift Station
2. Casino Lift Station
3. Fire Station Lift Station

#### *2.11.5.1 Allers Sewer Lift Station*

This facility is a small pump located on Nejo Rd next to the Allers Subdivision which provides permanent pressure in the sewer main servicing the development in order to force sewage up elevation across Pala creek so that it can then continue on under the force of gravity to ultimately discharge into the wastewater treatment plant. If this facility were to be damaged or destroyed it would leave a total of 21 homes without working sewage thereby significantly impacting the quality of life for the families that live there. To help mitigate risk, the facility was built to the highest standards to withstand significant earthquake and flooding events and also has a permanent backup generator installed to insure continuous operation in the event of a power outage.



# Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

## 2.11.5.2 Casino Sewer Lift Station

Located on the northeast corner of Pala Mission Road and Highway 76, this facility forces sewage from the Casino Resort upgrade to the Village Lift Station. Without this facility, sewer removal services to the Casino, Hotel, Spa, and numerous homes on Portillo Road and the western half of Pala Mission Road would not be possible. Therefore, the same measures as previously described were put into place to mitigate risk to the structure.

## 2.11.5.3 Fire Station Sewer Lift Station

This facility sits on the Fire Station grounds and uses the same size pump as the Allers Lift Station to force sewage from the Fire Department upgrade across Highway 76 to the Village Sewer Lift Station where it is then pushed under pressure the remaining distance to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. As a compromise to this facility would render the sewage service to the Fire Station inoperable, high standards were also used in its construction including the installation of a permanent emergency backup generator. The Tribe has 4/9 split ISO Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating. This rating contributes directly to home insurance savings of approximately 30%.

## 2.11.6 Water Tanks

The Tribe has 6 water tanks:

1. Northwest Tank #3
2. Northeast Tank #2
3. Northeast Tank #1
4. Southside Tank #3
5. Southside Tank #2
6. Raceway

The Northeast Water Tanks #1 and #2 are situated on the same site in the north part of the Reservation (shown in the figure above). These two tanks are vital for providing pressure to the North Water System and have a combined capacity of

1,250,000 gallons. The loss of these tanks would not only severely impact water service to most of the residences on the Reservation (including the Casino) it could cause catastrophic flooding to a significant portion of the community. With this in mind, both structures were engineered to withstand a significant earthquake event as well as other risks such as fire and flood.



Figure 12. Water Tanks.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

### 2.11.6.1 Northwest Water Tank

Located just west of the Casino and North East Tanks along Pala Temecula Road, this facility has a total storage capacity of 16,000 gallons and is also an important component for providing static pressure to the North Water System. A loss to this facility would significantly impact water distribution on the North side of the Reservation and would cause numerous residences to lose water service and could also cause severe flooding to the community. The facility was therefore engineered to the same high standards as the other two tanks mentioned.

### 2.11.6.2 Southside Water Tanks

Located on the same site on the South side of the Reservation, these two tanks provide 100% of the static water pressure to the South Water System. A loss to these structures would incapacitate this water system leaving all residences (and fire hydrants) on this part of the Reservation without running water. As mentioned with the other tanks, severe flooding would also most likely occur if the structures were compromised.

### 2.11.6.4 North Water System Wells

The tribe has thirteen wells, they are listed below:

1. Oak Lilac Well
2. Casino Well #1
3. Casino Well #2
4. Highway Well
5. Vista Well (north)
6. Vineyard Well (Raceway)
7. Riverbed East Well
8. Riverbed West Well
9. Valenzuela Well
10. Catalina Well
11. Trujillo Creek Well
12. Lilac West Well
13. Lilac East Well

The reservation has a total of ten public drinking water wells, with an additional three scheduled to go online in 2021. Comprised of the Casino Well #1, Casino Well #2, Fire Station Well, Highway Well, Oaks Lilac Well, Trujillo Well, Catalina Well, and Vista Well, the public drinking water wells that supply the Reservation's domestic water system are each vital component to its infrastructure. As one hundred percent of the water on the Reservation is supplied by wells, a loss of any one of them would significantly impact the system. Each well house and pumping structure has been engineered and built to strict construction standards to withstand earthquakes and other disasters.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Pala Band of Mission Indians

### 2.11.6.5 South Water System Wells

Water sources for the South Side of the Reservation include the Lilac Wells and the Riverbed Well. As with the North System, a loss to one of these wells on the South Side would be a serious blow to its water delivery capability. These facilities were constructed to the same strict standards as those in the North.

### 2.11.7 Oaks Booster Station

This facility, which consists of a large water pump, housed in a steel reinforced cinderblock structure helps to significantly boost the water pressure at the Oaks housing development to a usable range. This allows for homes to in the development to get water at a reasonable pressure and keep fire hydrants charged within a safe range. A loss to this facility would be quite detrimental to the neighborhood. The structure was built to withstand a range of disasters including a significant earthquake.

## 2.12 Regional Resources

### 2.12.1 Gas and Electric

Because there are no gas utility lines to the area, the entire reservation is fueled by propane. As a result, there are a number of propane tanks on the reservation. Included in the propane tank feature class are only the larger capacity tanks. The three 30,000 capacity tanks to the east belong to Fallbrook Propane, the company that supplies all the propane on the reservation. That site is their storage area. The two 30,000 capacity tanks to west are the storage tanks that supply the Pala Casino Resort Spa, while the two 1,150 capacity tanks supply the Admin Building, Gym, and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The consultants have been assured by Fallbrook propane that all their tanks are very safe and have numerous safeguards that exceed code.

### 2.12.2 Hospitals

Temecula Valley Hospital is located at 31700 Temecula Parkway, Temecula, CA. It is the closest hospital to the Pala Reservation.

### 2.12.3 California Highway Patrol

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) patrols and responds to road related incidents on Route 76 and Pala Temecula Road through the Pala Reservation. The CHP collaborates with the Pala Fire Department, Pala Casino security and Pala Tribal Enforcement.