

Calendar No. 31

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 277

[Report No. 118–2]

To take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Mr. PADILLA introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

MARCH 21, 2023

Reported by Mr. SCHATZ, without amendment

A BILL

To take certain land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pala Band of Mission
5 Indians Land Transfer Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND INTO TRUST FOR THE PALA**
2 **BAND OF MISSION INDIANS.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of the Interior.

6 (2) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Pala
7 Band of Mission Indians.

8 (b) TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION.—

9 (1) TRANSFER OF LAND INTO TRUST.—If, not
10 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
11 this Act, the Tribe transfers title to the land re-
12 ferred to in subsection (c) to the United States, the
13 Secretary, not later than 180 days after the date of
14 that transfer, shall take that land into trust for the
15 benefit of the Tribe.

16 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The land taken into
17 trust under paragraph (1) shall be part of the Pala
18 Indian Reservation and administered in accordance
19 with the laws and regulations generally applicable to
20 land held in trust by the United States for an Indian
21 Tribe.

22 (c) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in
23 subsection (b)(1) is the approximately 721.12 acres of
24 land located in San Diego County, California, generally
25 depicted as “Gregory Canyon Property Boundary” on the

1 map entitled “Pala Gregory Canyon Property Boundary
2 and Parcels” and dated May 12, 2020.

3 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion—

5 (1) enlarges, impairs, or otherwise affects any
6 right or claim of the Tribe to any land or interest
7 in land that is in existence before the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act;

9 (2) affects any water right of the Tribe in exist-
10 ence before the date of enactment of this Act; or

11 (3) terminates or limits any access in any way
12 to any right-of-way or right-of-use issued, granted,
13 or permitted before the date of enactment of this
14 Act.

15 (e) RESTRICTED USE OF TRANSFERRED LANDS.—
16 The Tribe may not conduct, on the land taken into trust
17 under subsection (b)(1), gaming activities—

18 (1) as a matter of claimed inherent authority;
19 or

20 (2) under any Federal law, including the Indian
21 Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)
22 and regulations promulgated by the Secretary or the
23 National Indian Gaming Commission under that
24 Act.

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