

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1975

[Report No. 117-]

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2021

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

OCTOBER --, 2021

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND IN TRUST FOR THE PALA BAND**
7 **OF MISSION INDIANS.**

8 (a) TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION.—

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

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

22 (b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in
23 subsection (a)(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 titled “Pala Gregory Canyon Property Boundary and
2 Parcels”.

3 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
4 shall—

5 (1) enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any
6 right or claim of the Tribe to any land or interest
7 in land that is in existence before the date of the en-
8 actment of this Act;

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

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

16 (d) RESTRICTED USE OF TRANSFERRED LANDS.—
17 The Tribe may not conduct, on the land taken into trust
18 for the Tribe pursuant to this Act, gaming activities—

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

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

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

2 (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
3 the Secretary of the Interior.

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