

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 423

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Received

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND IN TRUST FOR THE PALA BAND**
5 **OF MISSION INDIANS.**

6 (a) TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION.—

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

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

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

1 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
2 shall—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives February 6,
2023.

Attest: **CHERYL L. JOHNSON,**
Clerk.