



**CALIFORNIA  
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**California Energy Commission  
February 12, 2025 Business Meeting  
Backup Materials for Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians**

The following backup materials for the above-referenced agenda item are available in this PDF packet as listed below:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Grant Request Form
3. Scope of Work

**[PROPOSED]**

**RESOLUTION NO: 25-212-08g**

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**STATE ENERGY RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians**

**RESOLVED**, that the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) adopts the staff CEQA findings contained in the Agreement or Amendment Request Form (as applicable); and

**RESOLVED**, that the CEC approves agreement TCA-24-015 with Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians for a \$200,000 grant. This agreement seeks to address aspects of climate change impacting Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians through data collection, removal of invasive species threatening culturally important native plants, and reintroduction of culturally important native plant species in Imperial and Riverside Counties; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Executive Director or their designee shall execute the same on behalf of the CEC.

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on February 12, 2025.

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Dated:

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Kristine Banaag  
Secretariat



## GRANT REQUEST FORM (GRF)

### A. New Agreement Number

**IMPORTANT:** New Agreement # to be completed by Contracts, Grants, and Loans Office.

**New Agreement Number:** TCA-24-015

### B. Division Information

1. Division Name: Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection
2. Agreement Manager: Myoung-Ae Jones
3. MS-: 40
4. Phone Number: 279-226-1091

### C. Recipient's Information

1. Recipient's Legal Name: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (TMDCI)
2. Federal ID Number: 95-3772517

### D. Title of Project

TMDCI Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation: Invasive Species Management

### E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 2/14/2025
2. End Date: 3/31/2026
3. Amount: \$200,000

### F. Business Meeting Information

1. Are the ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director? No
2. The Proposed Business Meeting Date: 02-12-25
3. Consent or Discussion? Discussion
4. Business Meeting Presenter Name: Myoung-Ae Jones
5. Time Needed for Business Meeting: 5 minutes.
6. The email subscription topic: Climate Change; Tribal

#### **Agenda Item Subject and Description:**

TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS. Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-015 with Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians for a \$200,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement seeks to address aspects of climate change impacting Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians through data collection, removal of invasive species threatening culturally important native plants, and reintroduction of culturally important native plant species in Imperial and Riverside Counties. (STEP funding) Contact: Myoung-Ae Jones (Staff presentation: 5 minutes)

### G. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

#### **1. Is Agreement considered a "Project" under CEQA?**

Yes

If yes, skip to question 2.

If no, complete the following (PRC 21065 and 14 CCR 15378) and explain why Agreement is not considered a "Project":



Agreement will not cause direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because: If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA skip to question 2. Otherwise, provide explanation.

**2. If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA answer the following questions.**

a) Agreement **IS** exempt?

Yes

Statutory Exemption?

No

If yes, list PRC and/or CCR section number(s) and separate each with a comma. If no, enter "None" and go to the next question.

PRC section number: PRC section number 1, PRC section number 2. Or, "None"

CCR section number: CCR section number 1, CCR section number 2. Or, "None"

Categorical Exemption?

No

If yes, list CCR section number(s) and separate each with a comma. If no, enter "None" and go to the next question.

CCR section number: None

Common Sense Exemption? 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3)

Yes

If yes, explain reason why Agreement is exempt under the above section. If no, enter "Not applicable" and go to the next section.

This project is covered by the Common Sense Exemption under 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) which provides that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

The project consists of identifying invasive plants (tamarisk) and their locations within the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation using drone technology and integrating them into a geographic information system. The invasive plants will then be removed via manual and mechanical means that will not result in the taking of endangered, rare, or threatened plant or animal species or significant erosion and sedimentation of surface waters. Project activities do not include burning or any other activity that may have an impact to land off of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation.

In order for the CEC to comply with CEQA, the CEC must evaluate any impacts to land within the jurisdiction of the State of California, which is therefore limited to potential impacts of the project off of Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation. This project is exempt under the "common sense" CEQA exemption because the proposed project will not:

- Construct on or alter any land subject to the jurisdiction of the State of California;
- Impact local air quality;



- Use groundwater resources or otherwise impact any water resources that might be subject to jurisdiction of the State of California;
- Build additional transportation infrastructure;
- Increase vehicle miles traveled;
- Increase ambient noise beyond the existing activities; or
- Degrade the visual character or quality of views, including those of scenic resources or objects of aesthetic significance on land subject to the jurisdiction of the State of California.

Because the proposed project does not provide for any physical changes outside of Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment within the jurisdiction of the State of California. Based on all these factors, the proposed project meets the CEQA “common sense” exemption.

The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; does not involve any cumulative impacts of successive projects of the same type in the same place that might be considered significant; does not involve unusual circumstances that might have a significant effect on the environment; will not result in damage to scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway; the project site is not included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5; and the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. Therefore, none of the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2 apply to this project and this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

b) Agreement **IS NOT** exempt.

**IMPORTANT:** consult with the legal office to determine next steps.

No

If yes, answer yes or no to all that applies. If no, list all as “no” and “None” as “yes”.

Additional Documents	Applies
Initial Study	No
Negative Declaration	No
Mitigated Negative Declaration	No
Environmental Impact Report	No
Statement of Overriding Considerations	No
None	Yes



**H. Is this project considered "Infrastructure"?**

No

**I. Subcontractors**

List all Subcontractors listed in the Budget (s) (major and minor). Insert additional rows if needed. If no subcontractors to report, enter "No subcontractors to report" and "0" to funds. **Delete** any unused rows from the table

Subcontractor Legal Company Name	CEC Funds	Match Funds
TBD vegetation removal company	\$ 48,000	\$0

**J. Vendors and Sellers for Equipment and Materials/Miscellaneous**

List all Vendors and Sellers listed in Budget(s) for Equipment and Materials/Miscellaneous. Insert additional rows if needed. If no vendors or sellers to report, enter "No vendors or sellers to report" and "0" to funds. **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Vendor/Seller Legal Company Name	CEC Funds	Match Funds
No vendors or sellers to report	\$0	\$0

**K. Key Partners**

List all key partner(s). Insert additional rows if needed. If no key partners to report, enter "No key partners to report." **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Key Partner Legal Company Name
No key partners to report

**L. Budget Information**

Include all budget information. Insert additional rows if needed. If no budget information to report, enter "N/A" for "Not Applicable" and "0" to Amount. **Delete** any unused rows from the table.

Funding Source	Funding Year of Appropriation	Budget List Number	Amount
General Fund	2021	701.105	\$200,000

**TOTAL Amount: \$200,000**

R&D Program Area: STEP General

Explanation for "Other" selection: Not applicable

Reimbursement Contract #: Not applicable

Federal Agreement #: Not applicable

**M. Recipient's Contact Information**



**1. Recipient's Administrator/Officer**

Name: Ryan Swier

Address: 66-725 Martinez Road

City, State, Zip: Thermal, CA 92274

Phone: 760-397-0300

E-Mail: Rswier@tmdci-nsn.gov

**2. Recipient's Project Manager**

Name: William Jeide

Address: 66-725 Martinez Road

City, State, Zip: Thermal, CA 92274

Phone: 760-397-0300

E-Mail: Wjeide@tmdci-nsn.gov

**N. Selection Process Used**

There are three types of selection process. List the one used for this GRF.

Selection Process	Additional Information
Competitive Solicitation #	GFO-23-701r2
First Come First Served Solicitation #	Not applicable
Other	Not applicable

**O. Attached Items**

1. List all items that should be attached to this GRF by entering "Yes" or "No".

Item Number	Item Name	Attached
1	Exhibit A, Scope of Work/Schedule	Yes
2	Exhibit B, Budget Detail	Yes
3	CEC 105, Questionnaire for Identifying Conflicts	Yes
4	Recipient Resolution	No
5	Awardee CEQA Documentation	Yes

**Approved By**

Individuals who approve this form must enter their full name and approval date in the MS Word version.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Grant Request Form  
CEC-270 (Revised 01/2024)

**Agreement Manager:** Myoung-Ae Jones

**Approval Date:** 12/30/24

**Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor:** Gabriel Roark

**Approval Date:** 12/31/24

**Office Manager:** Brett Fooks

**Approval Date:** 12/31/24

**Deputy Director:** Dian Vorters

**Approval Date:** 12/31/24



## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

<https://www.safecu.org/>

**Name of Applicant:** Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

**Proposal Title:** TMDCI Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation: Invasive Species Management

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
<b>Task 1.</b> Mapping of invasive species intrusion on native plant habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of drone for overhead images and remote location invasive species (tamarisk) monitoring and mapping</li> <li>Purchase drone photo stitching software</li> <li>Staff drone &amp; GIS training and certification</li> <li>Create GIS maps using drone data</li> <li>In field data collection: on foot and using drone</li> </ul>	3/01/2025-1/31/2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go through internal procurement process to purchase drone software 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Take free virtual or online GIS and drone-specific training courses, practice in field 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Go through procurement process to purchase drone and all needed accessories 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Collect in field and drone data of invasive species (tamarisk) and native species. Collect data monthly. Before and after treatment of area 5/01/2025-1/31/2026</li> <li>Create and map using GIS of invasive species (tamarisk) throughout the Torres Martinez Reservation 5/01/2025-1/31/2026</li> </ul>	Proof of purchase. Training certificates if applicable. Progress and final maps submitted on reporting dates. Submit monitoring schedule and dates of data collection. Submit aerial pictures using drone. Update all deliverables as available on reporting dates.
<b>Task 2.</b> Eradication of invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase of skid steer attachments</li> <li>Staff will work to manually and mechanically</li> </ul>	3/01/2025- 7/01/2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go through internal procurement process to purchase skid steer attachments, to be used for invasive species removal (tamarisk) 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> </ul>	Proof of purchase. Before and after aerial pictures of areas where invasive species were removed. Update all deliverables as available on reporting dates. Submit maintenance schedule for areas with tamarisk, where it has

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

	<p>remove invasives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff will note and collect data on locations where tamarisk is located, where it is removed, and where it comes back to keep a maintenance schedule after grant period is over and fully eradicate said invasive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Torres Martinez Natural Resources Department staff will work in field to manually and mechanically remove tamarisk 4/01/2025-1/01/2026</li> <li>Collect in field data using drone to show where tamarisk is located, where it was removed, and where it comes back to be on track with maintenance to fully eradicate it 5/01/2025-1/31/2026</li> </ul>	<p>been removed, and where it is coming back.</p>
<p><b>Task 3.</b> Reintroduction of native species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchase irrigation supplies</li> <li>Seed gathering/native seed bank creation</li> <li>Contract out local conservation organization to reintroduce native vegetation to areas cleared of invasives</li> </ul>	<p>3/01/2025-01/31/2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Go through internal process for procurement of supplies like irrigation supplies 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Go through internal process to contract local conservation organization to revegetate areas where tamarisk was removed 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Department staff will start seed collecting and save seeds to start for revegetation after invasive species removal 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Department will start seeds for native plants, trees, and shrubs 5/01/2025-6/01/2025</li> </ul>	<p>Proof of purchase, seed starting progress photos, in field aerial planting photos. List of seeds collected, and locations of seeds collected. List of plants grown for revegetation. Map of planting and irrigation layout. Submit proof of contract and data on work completed in the timeframe the conservation organization assists with revegetation efforts. Update all deliverables as available on reporting dates.</p>

## EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up dates for local conservation organization to come out to the Reservation and work on manual planting of native plants in cleared areas 4/01/2025-6/30/2025</li> <li>Local conservation organization will plant out/ revegetate 7/01/2025-8/01/2025</li> </ul>	
<b>Task 4.</b> Administrative tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bimonthly Status Report</li> <li>Quarterly Invoicing</li> <li>Final Report</li> <li>Quarterly Status Updates to Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator, Grants via email</li> <li>Coordination with corresponding departments-tribal roads (heavy equipment)</li> <li>Submit timesheets on a weekly basis</li> <li>Keep a working log of budget, and activity progress or completion</li> </ul>	<p>3/01/2025-1/31/2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management will complete bimonthly status reports 4/01/2025, 6/01/2025, 8/01/2025, 10/01/2025, 12/01/2025, 1/31/2026</li> <li>Management will work with tribal finance department to complete quarterly invoicing 5/01/2025, 8/01/2025, 11/01/2025, 1/31/2025</li> <li>Management will submit quarterly status reports to Tribal Council, Tribal Administrator, and Grants 5/01/2025, 8/01/2025, 11/01/2025, 1/31/2026</li> <li>Management will coordinate with tribal roads department for use of heavy machinery to remove tamarisk 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Management will submit timesheets weekly 3/01/2025-1/31/2026</li> <li>Management will create a monitoring and maintenance schedule 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li> <li>Management will work on data consolidation to create GIS map 3/01/2025-1/31/2026</li> </ul>	<p>Email a summary every two months to the Commission Agreement Manager and schedule a follow up call to discuss project status updates. Invoicing on a quarterly basis to allow for prompt reimbursement of projects costs. Internal submission of timesheets, quarterly reports. Submit monitoring and maintenance schedules. Update all deliverables as available on reporting dates.</p> <p>Draft Final Report Final Report</p>

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Scope of Work**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create Monitoring Schedule for in field and drone data collection</li><li>• Create Maintenance schedules for invasive species areas being cleared</li><li>• Download and upload all drone data to GIS, create GIS map</li><li>• Complete all NEPA/ CEQA</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management will complete NEPA/ CEQA requirements 3/01/2025-5/01/2025</li></ul>	
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