



**CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION**



**California Energy Commission
February 12, 2025 Business Meeting
Backup Materials for The Picayune Rancheria of The Chukchansi Indians (PRCI)**

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: 25-212-08h

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

RESOLUTION: The Picayune Rancheria of The Chukchansi Indians (PRCI)

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-24-016 with the PRCI for a \$75,000 grant. This agreement will develop a Climate Change Assessment Plan to identify basic policies, requirements, responsibilities and duties that apply to the PRCI's natural resources such as traditional food plants and trees currently being impacted by climate change through consultation with tribal elders and field data gathering in Madera County; 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:

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-24-016

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: The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians
2. Federal ID Number: 77-0162118

D. Title of Project

The Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Climate Change Assessment Plan

E. Term and Amount

1. Start Date: 2/14/2025
2. End Date: 7/31/2026
3. Amount: \$75,000

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:

THE PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF THE CHUKCHANSI INDIANS (PRCI). Proposed resolution approving agreement TCA-24-016 with the PRCI for a \$75,000 grant, and adopting staff's recommendation that this action is exempt from CEQA. This agreement will develop a Climate Change Assessment Plan to identify basic policies, requirements, responsibilities and duties that apply to the PRCI's natural resources such as traditional food plants and trees currently being impacted by climate change through consultation with tribal elders and field data gathering in Madera County. (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: N/A

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: None

CCR section number: None

Categorical Exemption?

Yes

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: Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306

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.

Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are exempt from CEQA. This project involves research, data gathering, resource evaluation and paper studies for a Climate Change Assessment Plan. All of these activities fit within Section 15306.

This project is covered by the Common Sense Exemption under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 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 will occur on tribal lands held in trust by the United States. 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 tribal trust lands.

This project consists of development of a Climate Change Assessment Plan to identify basic policies, requirements, responsibilities and duties that apply to the PRCI’s natural resources such as traditional food plants and trees currently being impacted by climate change through consultation with tribal elders and field data gathering. Project activities do not include burning or any other activity that may have an impact to land off of tribal trust lands.



Because the proposed project does not provide for any physical changes outside of the PRCI's tribal trust lands, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed project may have a significant effect on environment within the jurisdiction of the State of California. Based on all these factors, the proposed project meets the CEQA "common sense" exemption. This project is also exempt under Section 15306.

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
No subcontractors to report	\$ 0	\$ 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	\$75,000

TOTAL Amount: \$75,000

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: Sharol McDade

Address: 49260 Chapel Hill Drive P.O. Box 2226

City, State, Zip: Oakhurst CA, 93644

Phone: 559-421-1435

E-Mail: smcdade@chukchansi-nsn.gov

2. Recipient's Project Manager

Name: Christina C. Mokhtarzadeh

Address: 49260 Chapel Hill Drive P.O. Box 2226



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

City, State, Zip: Oakhurst CA, 93644

Phone: 559-412-5590

E-Mail: cmokhtarzadeh@chukchansi-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	No

Approved By

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

Agreement Manager: Myoung-Ae Jones

Approval Date: 1/8/2025

Cultural Resources Unit Supervisor: Gabriel Roark

Approval Date: 01/08/2025

Office Manager: 24

Approval Date: 01/09/2025

Deputy Director: Dian Vorters

Approval Date: 01/13/2025

EXHIBIT A

Scope of Work

Name of Recipient: The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians

Project Title: The Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians Climate Change Assessment Plan

Overview:

The Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians (PRCI) is located in Madera County, California, in the foothills below the Yosemite Valley. Over the past several years the community has been impacted by weather-related distress that heightened the need to protect the PRCI's natural resources and also to maintain cultural benefits of these resources.

The purpose of this project is to inventory and monitor PRCI's natural resources to protect these natural and cultural assets. This project will:

- develop basic policies, requirements, responsibilities, and duties that apply to the PRCI's natural resources
- develop a Climate Change Assessment Plan to serve as a guide for current and future efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change
- build climate change resilience for the community

Tasks	Activities	Timetable in months	Product(s)/ Deliverable(s)
Task 1. Set up Climate Change Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assemble Project Team• Identify staff duties• Initial meeting with the California Energy Commission (CEC) staff and seek out technical assistance for performing work.	March 1, 2025 through April 1, 2025	Email to Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) documenting the team, including outside agency to participate or offer technical assistance Meeting summary
Task 2. Research Historical Events in the Region	Research past climate activities and document changing patterns in the region and correlate these changes to the natural environmental changes in the area. Research involves review and documentation of historical data basis with federal, state, county public files and data basis, as well as	April 1, 2025, through October 1, 2025	Report by email documenting current findings to Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) in bimonthly status updates

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

	discussions with climate professionals. To understand relationship with the Rancheria's natural resources.		
Task 3. Identify Endangered Species	Through observation and walk throughs, evaluate native flora and fauna in the region, identify invasive species and culturally important species. Document findings. Staff will inventory existing species on the rancheria as to condition, quantity of species, identification of invasive species. Condition of environment. i.e. anticipated seasonal changes necessary to support habitat.	April 1, 2025, through October 1, 2025	Report by email documenting current findings to CAM in bimonthly status updates
Task 4. Conduct Interviews with the Local Tribal Elders	Interview and document native techniques for using the Tribe's natural resources; techniques to manage these resources including cultural burning; identify necessary species used for implementing the Tribe's cultural and ceremonial way of life.	April 1, 2025, through January 1, 2026	Report by email documenting findings to CAM in bimonthly status updates
Task 5. Attend Meetings and Trainings for Climate Change	Attend Climate Change-related trainings including cultural burning and participate in meetings to develop outside methodologies for dealing with the changing environment.	April 1, 2025, through April 1, 2026	Report by email documenting findings to CAM in bimonthly status updates
Task 6. Develop Strategic Plan	Research, document, and develop recommendations for dealing with the effect of the changing climate as well as to develop strategies to protect the natural resources for the Tribe to maintain its cultural ways of life. PRCI will develop a plan for traditional ecological knowledge of native species used by the tribe on their lands and develop	April 1, 2025, through April 1, 2026	Report by email documenting findings to CAM in bimonthly status updates

EXHIBIT A Scope of Work

	recommendations for sustainable harvesting practices.		
Task 7. Administrative Tasks	<p>Final Meeting to discuss project/lessons learned/what next</p> <p>Document research findings and incorporate them into the Climate Assessment Plan (CAP)</p> <p>Bimonthly status updates</p> <p>Bimonthly status calls with CEC</p> <p>Quarterly Invoicing</p>	<p>March 3, 2026</p> <p>February 28, 2026</p> <p>May 1, 2026</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Meeting Summary</p> <p>Draft CAP (draft final report)</p> <p>Final CAP (final report)</p> <p>Bimonthly status report email to CAM</p> <p>Call summary email to CAM</p> <p>Invoice submission</p>