



## **H.R. 1975, Pala Band of Mission Indians Land Transfer Act**

H.R. 1975 would place approximately 721 acres of land located in San Diego County, California, into trust for the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act would be prohibited on the lands placed into trust.

### Background

The Pala Band of Mission Indians tribe is located in Pala, California, on a reservation totaling approximately 12,000 acres. The tribal economy is largely supported by agricultural enterprises and it also operates a 4,000 square-foot class III casino and resort.

In the early 1990s, San Diego County, California voters approved a plan to establish the Gregory Canyon landfill project on a 1,700-acre parcel of land along State Route 76, west of the Pala Band's reservation. The project experienced local opposition and the original owner of the property filed for bankruptcy in 2014. The successor development company sold a portion of the land to the Pala tribe in 2016 for \$13 million dollars for the purposes of cultural preservation. The tribe is now requesting to have that land placed into trust to be part of their reservation.

The Committee favorably reported H.R. 1975 by Unanimous Consent on October 13, 2021.

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