



## **FEMA APPROVES PALA BAND'S MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

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**PALA, CALIFORNIA** –On September 4, 2009, FEMA officially approved the Pala Band of Mission Indian's updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

FEMA commended the Pala Band, in their approval letter, for their “thorough update planning process, risk assessment and the clear direction that this Plan gives for long-term planning to reduce the impacts of future disasters.”

“A great deal of work went into this Plan to ensure the Pala Reservation will be better protected and the surrounding community kept safer in the event of a natural disaster,” said Pala Tribal Chairman Robert Smith.

The updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the highest risk hazards to the Reservation such as flood, earthquake, landslide and wildfire. The plan includes strategies to reduce the impact of these natural hazards. With the guidance of the Pala Emergency Response Committee (PERC), the Tribe has already implemented mitigation strategies such as paving the road behind the Pala Casino which allows access to emergency vehicles, completing construction of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant, and submitting street and fire hydrant data to the San Diego County Operational Area NorthZone GIS.

According to Federal regulations, and as stated by FEMA, the approved “plan ensures the Pala Band of Mission Indians' continued eligibility for the next five years for project grants under FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs.”

FEMA approves tribal mitigation plans for a period of five years. Prior to September, 2014, the Pala Band of Mission Indians will update their plan again.

The PERC, which consists of the Tribal Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Pala Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, Security Chief, Security Officer/County Clerk, Business Manager, Environmental Director, GIS Specialist, Casino Director of Guest Safety and Surveillance, and Casino Director of Risk Management, worked in conjunction with Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC to develop the updated Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Pala Band of Mission Indians consists of 1,117 members with 650 living on the reservation along the Palomar Mountain range, located along 5,000 square miles of California's desert and approximately 30 miles northeast of San Diego on Interstate 15.

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