

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 423

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 20, 2023

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF LAND IN TRUST FOR THE PALA BAND**  
7 **OF MISSION INDIANS.**

8 (a) TRANSFER AND ADMINISTRATION.—

9 (1) TRANSFER OF LANDS INTO TRUST.—If, not  
10 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment

1 of this Act, the Tribe transfers title to the land re-  
2 ferred to in subsection (b) to the United States, the  
3 Secretary, not later than 180 days after such trans-  
4 fer, shall take that land into trust for the benefit of  
5 the Tribe.

6 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The land transferred  
7 under paragraph (1) shall be part of the Pala Indian  
8 Reservation and administered in accordance with the  
9 laws and regulations generally applicable to land  
10 held in trust by the United States for an Indian  
11 Tribe.

12 (b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land referred to in  
13 subsection (a)(1) is the approximately 721.12 acres of  
14 land located in San Diego County, California, generally  
15 depicted as “Gregory Canyon Property Boundary” on the  
16 map titled “Pala Gregory Canyon Property Boundary and  
17 Parcels”.

18 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
19 shall—

20 (1) enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any  
21 right or claim of the Tribe to any land or interest  
22 in land that is in existence before the date of the en-  
23 actment of this Act;

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

4           (3) terminate or limit any access in any way to  
5       any right-of-way or right-of-use issued, granted, or  
6       permitted before the date of the enactment of this  
7       Act.

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

11           (1) as a matter of claimed inherent authority;  
12      or

13           (2) under any Federal law, including the Indian  
14      Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.)  
15      and regulations promulgated by the Secretary or the  
16      National Indian Gaming Commission under that  
17      Act.

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

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

21           (2) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Pala  
22      Band of Mission Indians.

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