

Calendar No. 279

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1657****[Report No. 118–135]**

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

 IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 17, 2023

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

DECEMBER 12, 2023

Reported by Mr. MANCHIN, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to La Paz County, Arizona, 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 “La Paz County Solar
5 Energy and Job Creation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means La
4 Paz County, Arizona.

5 (2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”
6 means the approximately ~~4,800~~ 3,400 acres of land
7 managed by the Bureau of Land Management and
8 designated as “Federal Land To Be Conveyed” on
9 the map.

10 ~~(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map~~
11 ~~prepared by the Bureau of Land Management enti-~~
12 ~~ttled “La Paz County Land Conveyance Map” and~~
13 ~~dated September 1, 2020.~~

14 (3) MAP.—*The term “map” means the map enti-*
15 *ttled “BLM Arizona—La Paz County Land Convey-*
16 *ance Map, Bureau of Land Management—Colorado*
17 *River District, Yuma Field Office” and dated June*
18 *29, 2023.*

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

21 **SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the planning re-
23 quirement of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land
24 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712,
25 1713) and in accordance with this section and other appli-
26 cable law, as soon as practicable after receiving a request

1 from the County to convey the Federal land, the Secretary
2 shall convey the Federal land to the County.

3 (b) RESTRICTIONS ON CONVEYANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The conveyance under sub-
5 section (a) shall be subject to—

6 (A) valid existing rights; and

7 (B) such terms and conditions as the Sec-
8 retary determines to be necessary.

9 (2) EXCLUSION.—The Secretary shall exclude
10 from the conveyance under subsection (a) any Fed-
11 eral land that contains significant cultural, environ-
12 mental, wildlife, or recreational resources.

13 (c) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The con-
14 veyance under subsection (a) shall be for the fair market
15 value of the Federal land to be conveyed, as determined—

16 (1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy
17 and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et
18 seq.); and

19 (2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in
20 accordance with—

21 (A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for
22 Federal Land Acquisitions; and

23 (B) the Uniform Standards of Professional
24 Appraisal Practice.

1 (d) PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ARTI-
2 FACTS.—As a condition of the conveyance under sub-
3 section (a), the County shall, and as a condition of any
4 subsequent conveyance, any subsequent owner shall—

5 (1) make good faith efforts to avoid disturbing
6 Tribal artifacts;

7 (2) minimize impacts on Tribal artifacts if the
8 artifacts are disturbed;

9 (3) coordinate with the Colorado River Indian
10 Tribes Tribal Historic Preservation Office to identify
11 artifacts of cultural and historic significance; and

12 (4) allow Tribal representatives to rebury un-
13 earthed artifacts at or near where the artifacts were
14 discovered.

15 (e) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The map shall be on file and
17 available for public inspection in the appropriate of-
18 fices of the Bureau of Land Management.

19 (2) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the
20 County may, by mutual agreement—

21 (A) make minor boundary adjustments to
22 the Federal land to be conveyed under sub-
23 section (a); and

1 (B) correct any minor errors in the map,
2 an acreage estimate, or the description of the
3 Federal land.

4 (f) WITHDRAWAL.—The Federal land is withdrawn
5 from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws
6 of the United States.

7 (g) COSTS.—As a condition of the conveyance of the
8 Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall pay—

9 (1) an amount equal to the appraised value de-
10 termined in accordance with subsection (c)(2); and

11 (2) all costs related to the conveyance, including
12 all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative
13 costs associated with the conveyance of the Federal
14 land to the County under subsection (a).

15 (h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The pro-
16 ceeds from the sale of land under this section shall be—

17 (1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Ac-
18 count established by section 206(a) of the Federal
19 Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C.
20 2305(a)); and

21 (2) used in accordance with that Act (43 U.S.C.
22 2301 et seq.).

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