

**NEPA Determination for the
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
Application submitted by the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians of CA
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy**

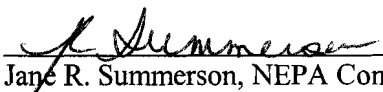
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, appropriates funding for the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue/award formula-based grants to states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. DOE's authorization for this program is set forth in Title V, Subtitle E, of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. This CX determination is applicable to DOE elements reviewing and awarding formula-based and competitive grants under the EECBG Program, and includes, but is not limited to, EECBG Program activities under the purview of DOE-HQ Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, DOE Golden Field Office, and the DOE Oak Ridge Office. Development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies would be conducted by various states, U.S. territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes.

The proposed action would involve the development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy. The tribe would partner with the Denver, CO based tribal not-for-profits, Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) and iCAST (International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology), and National Energy Services Company (NESCO) to develop the strategy. The strategy would analyze potential ways to become a net-zero energy use community and to reduce the amount of energy required for homes, buildings, and transportation. Some potential methods to achieve these goals outlined in the strategy would be: the development of alternative energy sources, weatherization of buildings, retrofitting homes, and innovative transportation strategies.

The application submitted and the technical review for this proposal do not reveal any extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts, or to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts, and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211. The proposed development and implementation of energy efficiency and conservation strategies and training activities funded by this grant would not result in an adverse effect to historic properties included or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), would not impact sensitive resources [e.g., threatened and endangered (T/E) species, wetlands and floodplains].

A1, A9, and A11 are the applicable CXs that cover the proposed action in the DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix A.

Based on my review of the above description, I have determined that the above actions are categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation. The DOE Contracting Officer Representative is responsible for oversight of the application of this determination.


Jane R. Summerson, NEPA Compliance Officer

10/13/09
Date