



TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM



MIDDLETOWN RANCHERIA OF POMO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND RESILIENCY PROJECT

Project Manager: **Michael Shaver**

Award Amount: **\$215,443**

Middletown Rancheria has seen the dramatic impacts of climate change, from recent droughts to the 2015 Valley Fire that left the community devastated. In 2019, the Kincadee fire again caused regional evacuations and severe damage to PG&E electricity transmission equipment, resulting in significant regional power outages. Subsequent power outages required to upgrade regional transmission equipment have negatively impacted the tribal enterprises, operations, and residents.

Energy planning is an important factor in the continued resilience and capacity building inherent to Tribal Sovereignty. Building capacity by creating baseline documents will allow for enhanced program development, planning and implementation by the Tribe. This project funds necessary energy planning and includes essential analysis of current hazards and climate change vulnerabilities of the Tribe's energy infrastructure and use.

The project will deliver detailed planning specific to on-the-ground projects that the Tribe can execute immediately (through conservation) and, with additional financial and design support (through available federal or other funding) to execute large scale energy production projects, if appropriate. The project's goals include:

- Enhance the Tribe's energy independence and resiliency by building Tribal capacity to ensure the community's energy needs are met.
- Enhance economic capacity and support community growth through energy conservation, and on-site energy development; and expand alternative Economic Development opportunities that are currently available to the Tribe.
- Build climate change resilience through identifying vulnerabilities and conducting adaptation planning to minimize, and where possible, mitigate climate change impacts related environmental hazards that have the potential to impact the community's energy supply.