



SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS

San Jacinto, CA

Soboba History



EST. JUNE 19, 1883

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians is one of the federally recognized bands of Luiseño Indians in Southern California.

Established by Executive Order on June 19th, 1883. The Soboba Indian Reservation is nestled in the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains



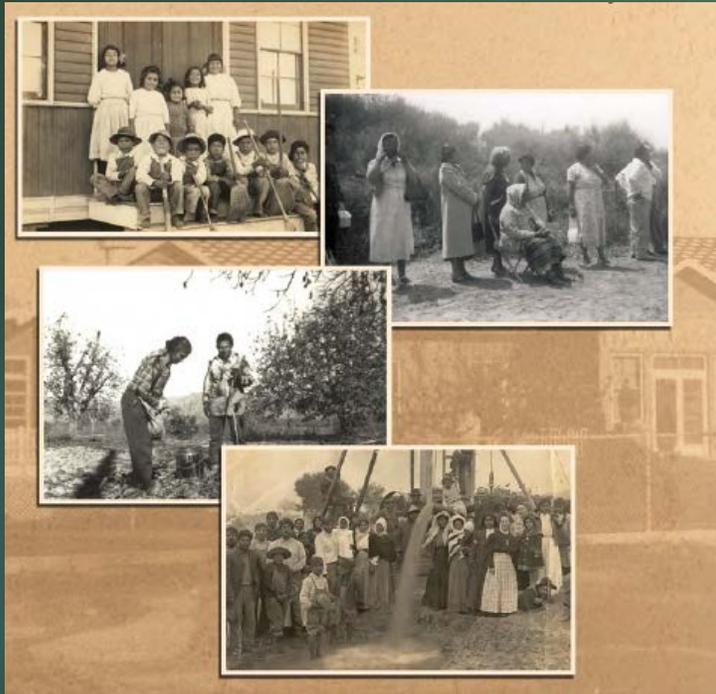
Payómkawichum
"People of the West"

Soboba History

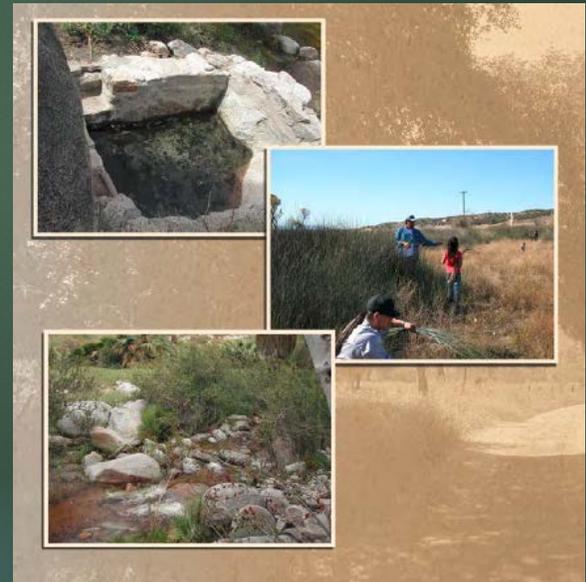


- ▶ Tribe consisting of 1,320 members
- ▶ Tribal members of Cahuilla and Luiseño Ancestry
- ▶ 7,891 acres of land including newly acquired lands

Soboba Today



- ▶ Multiple Departments and Entities
 - ▶ Tribal Administration
 - ▶ Parks & Recreation
 - ▶ Public Works
 - ▶ Soboba Casino
 - ▶ Country Club at Soboba Springs
 - ▶ Noli Indian School
 - ▶ Soboba Preschool



Master Planning & Sustainability



- ▶ Land
 - ▶ Land Planning & Development
 - ▶ Schools
 - ▶ Hydrology & Flood Control
- ▶ Renewables & Sustainability
 - ▶ Wastewater Treatment For Irrigation Of Golf Course
 - ▶ Solar Energy

Solar Energy

- ▶ Feasibility Study conducted by Optimum Group
- ▶ Pre-Development & Development
- ▶ Feasibility study determined that the average for a two year study was a total of 15,613,000 kilowatt-hours or 15.613 megawatt hours
- ▶ Concluded that a 1.0 MW ac (VNEM) facility would serve planning areas A,B, and D. Serving a total of 14 separate meters

Solar Feasibility Study

- ▶ Carry out geographical research & analysis
- ▶ Perform site evaluation
- ▶ Conduct preliminary research on available solar programs
- ▶ Perform economic analysis
- ▶ Propose strategy

Approach & Decision



- ▶ Various studies were conducted by the Tribe and Optimum Group, including environmental assessment and constraints report, geo-technical studies, etc.
- ▶ Grants Coordinator was able to secure DOE grant in the amount of \$1 million dollars
- ▶ The Tribe allocated \$5 million overall for the purpose of solar project development for three separate projects on the Reservation

Case Studies

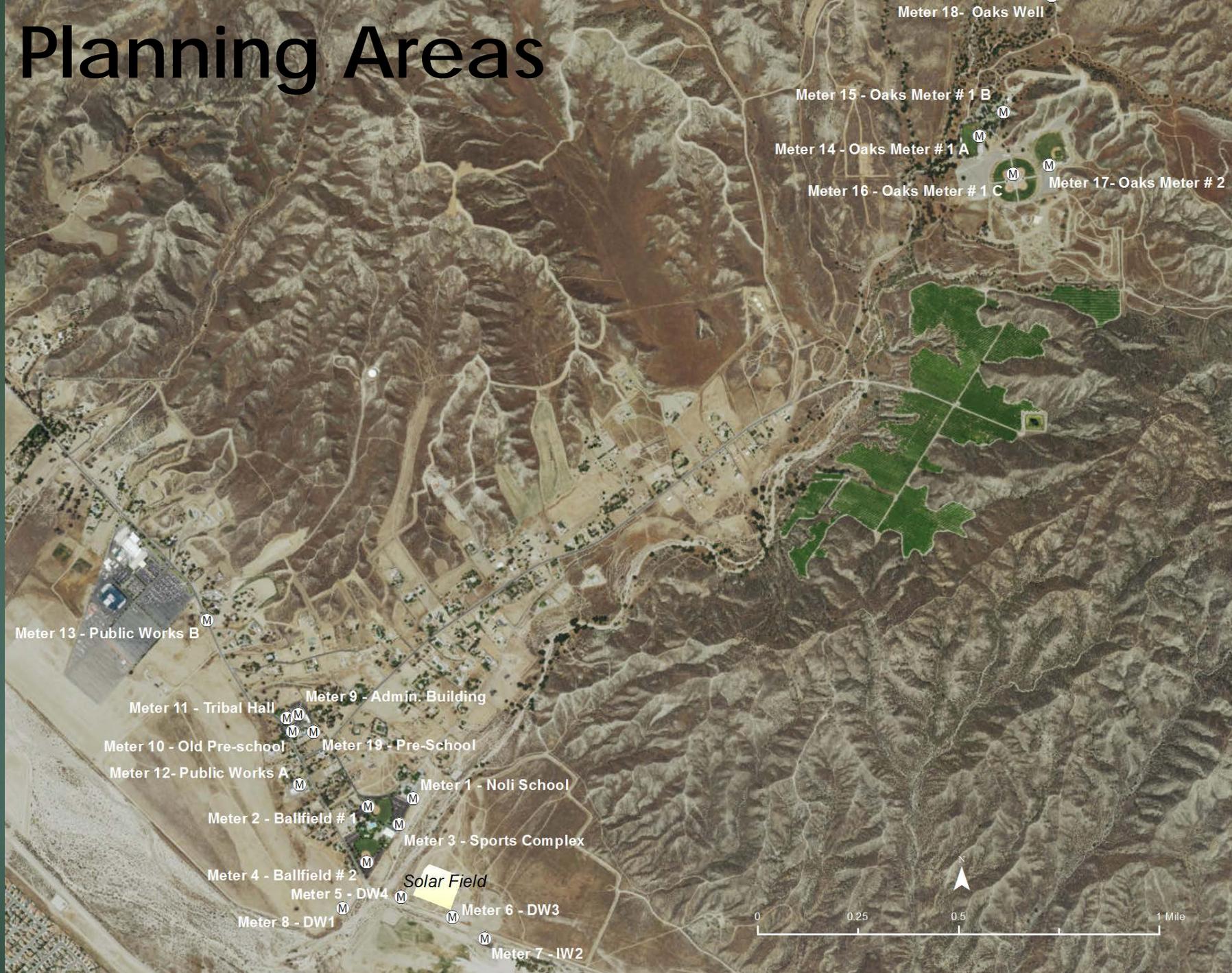


- ▶ Tribe hired legal counsel for guidance specifically on solar project
- ▶ Legal counsel had experience working with another tribe that had successfully incentivized tax credits for an outside investor in a Partnership Flip scenario
- ▶ Through his research, legal counsel identified other options for tax credits
- ▶ After a very long review process, it was concluded that ITC would not be feasible

ROI & Benefits

- ▶ Initial solar project is projected to save \$6.2 million over the life of the system
- ▶ Project is expected to generate a rate of 14% of return
- ▶ This particular project would benefit the Tribe in various ways such as:
 - ▶ Providing economic opportunities
 - ▶ Provide a more sustainable source of energy
 - ▶ Allow for more tribal control of resources
 - ▶ Provide training opportunities for tribal members and staff

Planning Areas



Solar Programs & Regulations

- ▶ Net Energy Metering (NEM)
- ▶ Virtual Net Energy Metering (VNEM)
 - ▶ Unique program to California and some other States
- ▶ Re-MAT PPA with Edison
- ▶ Soboba leadership chose to pursue the Virtual Net Energy Metering option: this allowed the Tribe to generate solar energy and obtain a generation credit at retail value. This option allowed for more than one meter to be allocated to the 1MW facility.

Strategy

Step 1 – Immediate Opportunity

- ▶ Administrative System – 1.257 MW DC (1 MW ac) VNEM for planning areas A,B & D

RFP Process

- ▶ Successfully Completed RFP Process
 - ▶ 2 CFR 200 / Soboba Procurement Policies
 - ▶ Received 6 Proposals
 - ▶ Wide pricing gap (\$2M – \$3M)

Implementation



- ▶ EPC Contract Equipment Specifications
 - ▶ Warranties
 - ▶ Payment Schedules
- ▶ Interconnection Agreement/Aggregate Net Energy Metering (NEM)
 - ▶ Southern California Edison
 - ▶ Easements
 - ▶ Cost of Grid Upgrades/Connection
 - ▶ Rule 21/Renewable Energy Tariff

Grant and Financing Process



- ▶ Grant Agreement Negotiations
- ▶ Environmental Clearance (NEPA)
- ▶ Budget Justification
- ▶ Federal ITC Consideration
 - ▶ Multiple Offers
 - ▶ Risk/Reward Considerations
 - ▶ Grant/ITC Complications

Experiences & Lessons Learned

- ▶ Environmental Assessment is not required for the grant, however, it makes the process easier for the NEPA compliance requirements through DOE
- ▶ Interconnection agreement with Southern California Edison is extremely complex, time consuming, and costly
- ▶ Over a month after project construction complete before PTO was granted
- ▶ Customizing system to match tribal needs (security systems)
- ▶ Southern Edison initially limited the Tribe stating whole reservation was one parcel – Tribe reached out to the California Public Utilities Commission

Phase I – 1MW AC Completed & Operational













Phase II – in the process

- ▶ Funding through DOE was secured in the amount of \$500,000 for an additional 1 mw facility
- ▶ This will be used to offset costs associated with the Tribe's golf club operation

Questions & Contacts

- ▶ Michael Castello, Tribal Administrator, mcastello@soboba-nsn.gov
- ▶ Deborah DeForge, Grants Coordinator, ddeforge@soboba-nsn.gov
- ▶ Steven Estrada, Environmental Manager, sestrada@soboba-nsn.gov