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## Final Technical Report Cover Page

**Recipient Organization:** Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians

**Project Title:** Community Center and Administration Solar PV Project

**Date of Report:** 9/17/25

**Award Number:** DE-IE0000154

**Total Project Costs:** \$406,373.31

**DOE Share:** \$202,744

**Recipient Cost Share:** \$203,629.31

**Project Manager:** Ambrosia Rico, COO, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians,  
arico@paskenta.org

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# Table of Contents

1.0	Executive Summary .....	1
2.0	Background.....	1
3.0	Project Objectives.....	1
4.0	Description of Activities Performed .....	2
5.0	Conclusions and Recommendations .....	2
6.0	Lessons Learned .....	4

## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Tribe installed two (2) roof mounted solar PV systems with a total production of approximately 146 kW on the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians' Community Center in Corning, CA. One of the two solar PV arrays provided 90% of the Community Center's energy, while the second array provided nearly 100% of the adjacent administration building's energy.

## 2.0 Background

The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians (Paskenta) had prioritized energy planning since 2018. The Tribe had engaged experienced consultants to work collaboratively to develop three reports, which defined Paskenta's current energy landscape, future goals, project alternatives, and organizational alternatives for the Tribe to achieve its goals. The reports were as follows:

- Baseline Electric Report
- Comprehensive Solar Development Plan
- Tribal Utility Feasibility Study

Through the above-mentioned reports, Paskenta's Energy Team and Leadership had developed a clear understanding of where the Tribe was today and what it wanted to achieve in the future as it related to energy. Specifically, the Tribe had the following key energy objectives:

1. Enhanced sovereignty and self-determination: PG&E's recent power shutdowns have highlighted the need to reduce reliance on the large investor-owned utility and increase the Tribe's sovereignty and self-determination.
2. Reduced electricity costs: The Tribe hoped to reduce energy bills as they impacted on the profitability of the Tribe's business and monthly budgets of Tribal Members.
3. Supported economic development – Paskenta became a more attractive location for new businesses as it was able to self-supply power and control the electric rates offered to new businesses.
4. Enhanced sustainability: With extreme weather events becoming more common in the State, an objective was to enhance sustainability to reduce both the Tribe's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and their environmental footprint.
5. Aligned energy decisions with Tribal values: Paskenta shifted the energy decision-making paradigm. Rather than purchase all its electricity from a large utility, Paskenta was in the driver's seat for energy decisions. By taking control of energy supply and decision-making, the Tribe aligned decisions with its unique culture, values, and priorities.

## 3.0 Project Objectives

The project was estimated to reduce electrical costs for each facility by 90% and collectively save approximately \$60,000 annually. The project aligned energy decisions with Tribal values, such as promoting sustainability and a

healthier environment. The Tribe's immediate vision was to reduce operating costs to create and expand Community Programs.

The Tribe also envisioned future energy independence via the formation of a Tribal utility and the installation of a 30 MW solar PV array. A project such as this would have been more complex and required more planning and creative solutions. The Community Center and Administration Building Solar PV Project was a critical stepping stone for the Tribe to establish a good learning environment for the Tribal Council, Tribal Administrative staff, and Tribal membership in planning for its larger vision and future solar energy goals.

Using funding from a California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) grant that covered half of the cost, the Tribe recently completed the installation of roof mounted solar arrays on 3 of the Tribal Clinic Buildings in Corning, CA.

## **4.0 Description of Activities Performed**

### **Task 1.0: Project Negotiation and Finalize Agreements**

- **Subtask 1.1. Project Negotiation and Finalize Agreements:** The Public Works Manager, CFO, and Chairman worked with DOE personnel to complete DOE funding agreements.

### **Task 2.0: Project Implementation**

- **Subtask 2.1. System Design and Site Preparation:** The solar vendor completed the final design and drawings and structural assessment, secured permits, and applied to the incumbent utility for net-metering connection.
- **Subtask 2.2. Solar PV Installation:** The solar vendor completed the installation and commissioning of the roof-mounted solar PV systems.

### **Task 3.0: Performance Verification & Final Reporting**

- **Subtask 3.1. Performance Verification & Final Reporting:** The Public Works Manager will complete the 12-month verification of performance of the project and submit required final reports to DOE.

## **5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

This project already provided significant financial savings for the Tribe and was instrumental in advancing our path toward energy independence. It proved to be a great success. The Tribe remained committed to achieving 100% coverage of our energy costs through sustainable solutions.



See table below for production and savings:

<b>Community Center &amp; Administrative Building Combined</b>			
<b>Month</b>	<b>Production (kWh)</b>	<b>Use (kWh)</b>	<b>Savings \$</b>
Jul-24	32,801	22,818	10,409
Aug-24	25,216	23,374	9,832
Sep-24	21,331	5,240	5,372
Oct-24	13,160	6,241	6,279
Nov-24	8,396	7,153	6,375
Dec-24	6,312	28,942	7,475
Jan-25	9,738	26,557	9,102
Feb-25	9,434	20,954	8,595
Mar-25	14,428	7,552	7,492
Apr-25	24,904	3,719	7,472
May-25	29,571	-4,930	-18,141
Jun-25	30,607	-7,420	10,424
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22,5899</b>	<b>14,0201</b>	<b>70,686</b>

*\* May 2025 reflects net energy metering (NEM) true-up*

## **6.0 Lessons Learned**

The collaboration and consistent communication between the solar vendor project managers and the Tribe were instrumental in allowing this project to move forward smoothly. We encountered a slight delay with the switch from PGE, but it was nothing significant.

This project has already reduced our electricity bills, allowing us to redirect savings to other priorities. It will also reduce our reliance on PG&E and will protect us from energy price fluctuations. The Tribe appreciates the funding assistance provided which was instrumental in making this project possible.