

# AMIHA Newsletter

May 2021  
Volume 4 Issue 2



## Need Assistance to Pay Your House Payment?

AMIHA has funding to assist household's that need assistance to make their house payments. This funding was granted by the **California Coalition of Rural Housing-Rural Rental Housing Emergency Assistance Program (CCRH-RRHEAP)**. To be eligible for these funds, **AMIHA participants** must be at **80% Area Median Income** or below. We encourage all participants to apply even if you think you may be over income.

The amount of assistance available depends on your level of income. Funding will be distributed on a **first come first serve** basis. To apply please complete an application, you may download one on the web site [www.amiha.org](http://www.amiha.org) or contact Abriana Soto, Housing Administrator at 951-760-7390 ext. 3 or email [asoto@amiha.org](mailto:asoto@amiha.org).

To review job postings, visit our website at [www.amiha.org](http://www.amiha.org)

# We Are Hiring

## Join Our Team

### Positions Available

- Grants Manager Specialist
- Grants Manager Clerk
- Construction Supervisor
- Project Coordinator I



Apply Today – Send Resume and Cover letter to Debbie Skallerud at [dskallerud@amiha.org](mailto:dskallerud@amiha.org) or call 951-760-7390 ext. 113

# AMIHA Board of Commissioners

AMIHA is governed by an eight-member board of commissioners elected from AMIHA's consortium tribes. Commissioners are appointed by their tribe and serve 4-year terms or as determined by their tribe.

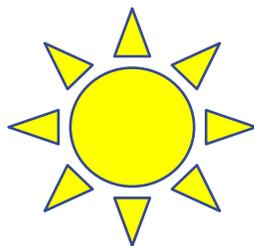
A Chairperson is elected every 2 years and presides at all meetings of the Board of Commissioners. The Chairperson shall generally sign all deeds, other such instruments made by the Authority, and all other administrative documents.

The commissioners meet once a month to discuss various housing topics. Their main goals focus on clarifying the organization vision and mission, developing, and approving long-range and strategic plans for the organization, overseeing the effectiveness of program services, ensuring financial solvency and adequate resources for the organization, preserving the integrity and independence of the entity, enhancing, and protecting the public image of the organization.

Most recently, the commissioners have appointed a new Chairman, Tim Bactad, representing the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

Our newest commissioner is Antonia Venegas, a member of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians.

Welcome and congrats to both.



## MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide safe, affordable, and decent housing for Indian people residing on the reservations that incorporates traditional concepts and values. To seek out and effectively administer innovative programs to maintain the existing housing stock and to create new housing opportunities for the residents we serve.*

## All Mission Indian Housing Authority (AMIHA)

27368 Via Industria, Suite 113  
Temecula, CA 92590  
951-760-7390 Office  
951-760-7394 Fax

[www.amiha.org](http://www.amiha.org)

AMIHA is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for the following fourteen (14) Southern California Indian Tribes:

<b>Agua Caliente</b>	<b>Pechanga</b>
<b>Cabazon</b>	<b>Santa Rosa</b>
<b>Cahuilla</b>	<b>Santa Ynez</b>
<b>Jamul</b>	<b>Soboba</b>
<b>La Jolla</b>	<b>Torres-Martinez</b>
<b>Morongo</b>	<b>Twenty-Nine Palms</b>
<b>Pauma</b>	<b>Viejas</b>

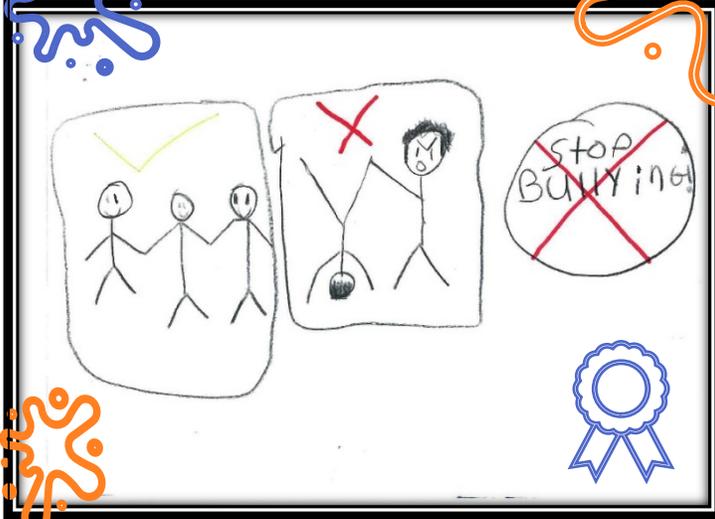
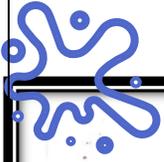
AMIHA provides differing types of services to these tribes based on their housing needs and direction from tribal leaderships. AMIHA was founded in 1970 with the purpose of providing affordable, low-income housing to tribal members. AMIHA serves 14 reservations in 3 counties. With over 50 years of experience working with multiple Indian Tribes on construction and rehabilitation of low-income housing. AMIHA is one of only three Indian Housing Authorities in the State of California that represents multiple Tribes. To date, AMIHA has built more than 1,000 housing units in San Diego, Riverside, and San Barbara counties.

# Congrats to the 2021 AMERIND Poster Contest Winners!



#StopBullying

#WearaMask



[Isaiah Perez, Santa Rosa Tribe, Grades- K-3](#)



[Raina Sandoval, Viejas Tribe, Grades- 4-6](#)

## Care Packages Delivered

Over the last six months, AMIHA has been working to help prevent the spread of COVID19 during the pandemic by providing care packages to families. Personal Protective Equipment and home cleaning products were delivered to Pauma and Santa Rosa Indian reservations. The packages included HVAC Return Air Filters, Septic System Treatment, Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Anti-Septic Wipes, and activity books for children and adults. To ensure you receive the correct products, you may receive a call requesting the size of your return air filter. Be on the lookout for John Osuna, Housing Manager dressed in scrubs and masked, delivering supplies to help you and your family remain safely in your homes during the COVID19 pandemic.



## AMIHA Supports Apprenticeships

AMIHA is working with Electrical Training Institute (ETI) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) to provide our consortium of tribes in San Diego County with minor electrical repairs, free of charge for homes on the reservation. The Women's Committee of IBEW Local 569, United Sparkies, will be providing the repairs. ETI and IBEW have offered to dedicate a few hours of their day to perform these repairs. They came up with this idea as an opportunity to give back and outreach for their apprenticeship at the same time. We have started with Pauma Indian Reservation for this project.



# Maintaining Your Home This Spring

## Microwave Cleaning

### How to Clean the Inside of a Microwave

The mixture of splatters and smells can leave your microwave looking, well, rough. To target your microwave's interior – turntable included – follow this step-by-step:

- Combine 1 cup water and lemon, lime or orange slices (squeeze juice from the fruit slices into the water) into a microwave-safe bowl. If you have white or apple cider vinegar on hand, combine a few tablespoons and 1 cup water into a microwave-safe bowl.
- Place it inside the microwave and turn it on high power for several minutes until the mixture boils and the window steams up.
- Let cool for 5 minutes before opening the door, then remove the bowl and wipe the inside clean with a sponge.



## Dishwasher Cleaning

In time, bits of food, grease, undissolved detergent, and water minerals build up on the dishwasher's filter and interior walls. Along with an unpleasant smell and look, this gunk can actually leave spots and film on your glassware, dinnerware, and flatware. In short, that means **if you don't clean your dishwasher correctly, your appliance can't fully do its job.**

### Wipe away door and gasket grime.

To clean the inside of the door:

- **Wipe away any residue and spots** that may have splashed or settled onto the interior surface of the door, its door edges, handle, or dishwasher controls with a damp [microfiber cloth](#) or [sponge](#).

To avoid damaging any touch screens or special finishes, don't use a cleaning product on the sponge or cloth.

To clean the dishwasher gasket:

- **Gently scrub any icky gunk from the rubber seal** using an old [soft toothbrush](#).
- **Wipe clean** with a damp cloth or paper towel.

It's simple: If the filter isn't clean, nothing else will be. The filter is found below the bottom spray arm. You may

need to check the owner's manual or manufacturer's website for details.

To eliminate pesky spots on future loads:

- **Unlock and remove the filter** and rinse it under hot running water.
- **Using a soft toothbrush**, scrub the mesh screen and plastic frame to remove any grease or particles stuck in the crevices. Then, rinse it clean.
- **Lock the filter** back into place.

Then it's important to get down and dirty to remove any trapped particles, mineral buildup, and detergent residue you can do so with vinegar and baking soda.

- **To clean with vinegar**, place a dishwasher-safe bowl filled with one cup of distilled [white vinegar](#) on the top rack and run a normal (hot) cycle without detergent or dishes.
- **To clean your dishwasher with vinegar and baking soda** for extra freshening, after running the vinegar cycle, sprinkle a cup of baking soda in the bottom of your empty dishwasher, and run a short hot cycle.

**Clean and shine up your dishwasher's exterior as needed.**



# California's 1<sup>st</sup> Low-Income Solar System!

## CSD Santa Rosa Ribbon-Cutting



## Completion of CA First Low-Income Community Solar Project Celebrated by Nonprofit GRID Alternatives Inland Empire with Ribbon-Cutting

Anza, CA — March 29, 2021 — GRID Alternatives Inland Empire (GRID IE) was joined by tribal partner Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians and Anza Electric Cooperative Inc. recently to celebrate the completion of California's first low-income community solar project with a ribbon-cutting. GRID Alternatives is a national leader in making clean renewable energy technology and job training accessible to communities who need it most. GRID IE was awarded a \$2.5 million grant

under the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) Low-income Weatherization/Community Solar Pilot Program to fund this nearly one megawatt solar array (994.6 kW DC, approximately 3,000 panels) located on the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians reservation in Anza Valley. The project broke ground in June 2020 and was completed in January of this year. The CSD Santa Rosa Solar Project is expected to provide \$5.4 million in savings to benefit low-income members of Anza Electrical Cooperative (AEC). Electricity generated from the system will not only benefit all (38) Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indian Tribal homes but will also provide electric discounts for up to 200 qualified low-income utility customers within the AEC Cooperative. This project reflects the collaborative spirit of this small rural community coming together for the benefit of those less fortunate. In addition, due to the massive size of the project, building the system consisted of a team not only of GRID construction staff, but also tribal trainees recruited to assist.

The ribbon-cutting event was well attended by Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indian tribal council and tribal members; Tribal Chair Lovina Redner, Tribal Vice Chair Steven Estrada, and Tribal Administrator Vanessa Minott. Additional attendees included AEC General Manager Kevin Short, Debbie Skallerud with All Mission Indian Housing Agency (AMIHA), GRID IE Executive Director Jaime Alonso and several GRID IE staff. Jaime gave an overview about the project and the impact it will have on the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indian tribal community, as well as AEC members. Five tribal trainees were honored including: Alex Alcalá, Richard Fierro, Vivian Hamilton, Lovina Redner and tribal trainee Garret Marcus, who sadly passed away before the ceremony and was posthumously honored. His family received his certificate on his behalf.

Tribal trainee Vivian Hamilton expressed her gratitude to GRID IE for being able to participate in this historic project. "I am very proud of the work my teammates and I accomplished," she said. Additionally, she expressed that she beams with joy at the sight of the project and is happy that her grandchildren will be able to tell people, "My grandmother helped build this solar project!"

GRID IE serves Riverside, San Bernardino and Inyo counties, providing disadvantaged communities throughout the Inland Empire with long-term relief from unpredictable utility costs, while training individuals for positions in the solar industry. GRID's Tribal Program helps tribal communities become self-sustaining by providing resources to assist with their clean energy goals. Renewable energy can drive economic growth and environmental benefits in communities including tribal reservations that are most impacted by underemployment, pollution, and climate change. For more information about GRID Alternatives Inland Empire, visit [www.gridalternatives.org](http://www.gridalternatives.org). Contact: Natasha Ferguson [ferguson@gridalternatives.org](mailto:ferguson@gridalternatives.org).

## Office Updates

Until the COVID19 pandemic is behind us, the AMIHA Office continues to be closed to the general public until further notice. Staff will continue to work remotely to provide full services by phone, email, and USPS.

Or visit our website [www.amiha.org](http://www.amiha.org) for staff contact information.

### **Holiday Office Closures**

**Memorial Day 5/31/21**  
(last Monday in May)

**Independence Day 7/5/21**  
(4<sup>th</sup> of July)

### ***Desert Purple Sage***



Is a beautiful shrub, sub-shrub that grows to 2-3ft and is a native to California and a butterfly magnet.

**HAPPY**  
*Mother's*  
**DAY**



## Construction Corner

AMIHA is kicking off the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) on the Viejas reservation. Check out the progress of these beautiful family homes below.



AMIHA also has four other homes in the excavation stage.

Read about the progress of these homes in the next quarterly newsletter!



# NEED HELP WITH YOUR SDG&E BILL?

You may qualify for a bill discount or home improvements. SDG&E's assistance programs help lower your monthly energy bill while keeping your home comfortable.



**California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program:** Save 30% or more every month on your bill. Find out if you qualify at [sdge.com/CARE](https://sdge.com/CARE).

**Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) Program:** If you don't qualify for CARE and your household has 3 or more people, you may qualify for FERA. You could receive an 18% discount on your electric bill. Visit [sdge.com/FERA](https://sdge.com/FERA) for more information.

**Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program:** You may qualify to receive no-cost, energy-saving improvements for your home, such as new appliances, furnace repair, lighting, insulation and

more. Find details at [sdge.com/ESAP](https://sdge.com/ESAP).

Online applications are easy, fast, and convenient. To learn more about SDG&E's assistance programs, visit [sdge.com/assistance](https://sdge.com/assistance).

## How to Maximize Your Fan's Efficiency

Follow these tips to make the most of your fan to help you stay cool and save.

### **Turn off when not in use**

Remember that fans cool people, not rooms, so be sure to turn it off when you're not occupying the room to help save energy.

### **Tip: Counterclockwise direction**

During warmer months, your ceiling fan should be turning in the counterclockwise direction which will help circulate the air downward. That means that if you're standing directly underneath the ceiling fan, you should feel a cool breeze caused by a "wind-chill" effect, which makes you feel cooler. This is the same feeling you'd get if you stuck your head out of a moving car.

### **Tip: Fan blade size**

When staying cool, your ceiling fan blade size is equally important. Ceiling fan sizes can range from 29 to 54 inches and the most popular is the 52-inch model. You can determine which size you need by measuring the room where the room ceiling fan will be installed.

### **Tips: Choose the right ceiling fan for your room**

Looking to install a ceiling fan at home? Energy Star has some useful tips on how to choose the best ceiling fan depending on the size of your room. For example, you could opt for a 29 to 36 inch fan with room dimensions of up to 75 feet.

### **Tip: Use ice to your advantage**

Check out this neat trick from *Greatist* on how to create your own air conditioner at home. You'll need a pan or bowl and fill it with ice in front of a fan. The breeze from your fan will pick up the ice's surface as it melts.



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Contact John Osuna,  
Housing Manager for  
more information at  
the # below.

## Virtual Home Inspections

Home inspections are  
scheduled on ***Tuesdays,  
Wednesdays, Thursdays  
& Saturdays*** between  
9am and 8pm

Have a Safe Memorial Day Weekend



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