

1 YODER & LANGFORD, P.C.
2 Robert Yoder, *pro hac vice*
3 robert@yoderlangford.com
4 8175 East Evans Road #13598
5 Scottsdale, Arizona 82567
6 Telephone: (602) 808-9578

7 SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE,
8 MILLER & MONKMAN, LLP
9 Lloyd B. Miller, *pro hac vice*
10 lloyd@sonosky.net
11 Whitney A. Leonard, *pro hac vice*
12 whitney@sonosky.net
13 Chloe E. Cotton, *pro hac vice*
14 chloe@sonosky.net
15 510 L Street, Suite 310
16 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
17 Telephone: (907) 258-6377

18 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Pechanga Band of Indians*

19 *Additional counsel listed on signature page*

20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
21 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

22 PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS,
23 Plaintiff,
24 v.
25 ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., *et al.*,
26 Defendants.

No. 5:25-CV-03605-JGB-SP

**REPLY MEMORANDUM IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
IMMEDIATE INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Date: April 27, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Ctrm: Courtroom 1, 2nd Floor
Honorable Jesus G. Bernal

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ARGUMENT

I. IHS MISCHARACTERIZES THE ISDA IN MULTIPLE WAYS.

The government’s opposition brief reflects the Indian Health Service’s hostility both to the Pechanga Band of Indians and to the core principles of tribal self-determination reflected in the Indian Self-Determination Act (ISDA). But that hostility cannot eclipse the basic principles and undisputed facts that inform this case. IHS may not violate the ISDA simply because it dislikes the statute.

First, IHS possesses *no* discretion whatsoever to refuse tribal contracting proposals outside § 5387(c)(1)(A)’s four specified “rejection” criteria.¹ To the contrary,

Congress has clearly expressed in the ISDA both its intent to circumscribe as tightly as possible the discretion of the Secretary, *see* ISDA § [5328(a)] (prohibiting the Secretary from promulgating any regulation or imposing any nonregulatory requirement, except for regulations pertaining to sixteen carefully delineated topics not relevant here), and its intent to make available judicial review of all agency action, *see id.* § [5331(a)].

Ramah Navajo Sch. Bd., Inc. v. Babbitt, 87 F.3d 1338, 1344 (D.C. Cir. 1996).²

Second, *all* IHS actions involving the ISDA are judicially reviewable, including even agency funding decisions typically beyond judicial review in other settings. *Id.* For these twin reasons, IHS is patently wrong in asserting that its “refusal to agree to the scope of services at issue is not mandatory or reviewable,”

¹ All code citations are to Title 25 of the United States Code.

² IHS chafes at the idea that it could be compelled to enter a “unilateral contract,” Defs.’ Opp’n Pl.’s Mot. Prelim. Inj., at 1 [hereinafter Opp’n], but that is precisely what the ISDA contemplates if IHS refuses to comply with the Act. The ISDA provides *tribes* the choice to propose a compact and make a final offer if needed, and it provides that a tribe’s proposal is “deemed approved” if the Secretary does not issue a timely rejection that “clearly demonstrates” that one of the limited rejection criteria is met. § 5387(b)-(c).

1 and that “any challenge to that decision falls outside of the ambit of the ISD[A]
2 and its limited waiver of sovereign immunity.” Opp’n at 15. If IHS could evade
3 judicial review by unilaterally labeling a tribe’s compact proposal “beyond the
4 bounds of the ISD[A],” *id.*, it would render the judicial review provision
5 meaningless. Indeed, Congress added “strong remedies” in § 5331 precisely to put
6 the brakes on such attempts by IHS to evade its clear obligations under the Act. S.
7 Rep. No. 100-274, at 37 (1987).³

8 Third, IHS may not impose “threshold” criteria in reviewing an ISDA
9 contract or compact. *See* Opp’n at 5. Congress expressly contemplated and *barred*
10 consideration of such issues and instead created declination and rejection processes
11 with specific, limited criteria for turning down a tribe’s proposal—indeed, this was
12 the whole point of specifying those processes (and the accompanying appeal
13 procedures) in the amended Act. S. Rep. No. 100-274, at 24 (1987);⁴ *id.* at 26;⁵ S.
14 Rep. No. 103-374, at 5 (1994).⁶

15 ³ “The amendments made by [§ 5331] are necessary to give self-determination
16 contractors viable remedies for compelling . . . IHS compliance with the [ISDA].
17 The strong remedies provided in these amendments are required because of [IHS’s]
18 consistent failures over the past decade to administer self-determination contracts
in conformity with the law.”

19 ⁴ “The current practice of Federal agencies that impose ‘threshold criteria’ on a
20 self-determination contract application is clearly inconsistent with the intent of the
21 [ISDA]. Furthermore, it is contrary to the intent of the [ISDA] for a Federal agency
22 simply to fail to enter into a contract without providing to the tribal organization a
23 formal notice of declination that states the grounds for declination and provides an
opportunity and procedures for an appeal hearing within sixty days of receipt of a
proposal to contract.”

24 ⁵ “As discussed above, ‘threshold criteria’ are not authorized by the [ISDA].”

25 ⁶ “[The 1994 Amendment] clarifies that the Secretary’s determinations regarding
26 whether a contract proposal is authorized by the Act (the issue known as
27 ‘contractibility’), and regarding contract funding levels are issues which must be
assessed as part of the declination contract review, approval and appeal process set

1 Fourth, despite IHS’s expressed hostility to tribes serving non-Indian
2 patients on a fee for service basis under an ISDA contract or compact, Congress in
3 the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA) vested tribes with precisely that
4 authority.⁷ § 1680c(c)(2). Tribes throughout the country often expand services in
5 this manner because, as Pechanga anticipates here, a larger patient base permits the
6 tribe to provide more robust services to its own citizens. Although IHS criticizes
7 the provision of services to non-Indians because that is not IHS’s core mission,
8 Congress has made clear that both IHS and tribes can choose to provide such
9 services. *See generally Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe v. Azar*, 486 F. Supp. 3d 83
10 (D.D.C. 2020) (IHS not challenging base funding for tribal program involving 3%
11 Indian patients and 97% non-Indian patients).

12 Fifth, payments received when providing health care services under an ISDA
13 contract or compact (including revenues earned from serving non-Indian patients)
14 must, by law, be spent to provide further services under that same contract—they
15 are not profits that can be pocketed by a tribe. *See* § 1641(d)(2)(A);⁸ *see also*

16 _____
17 forth in section 102(a)(2) of the Act (that is, these issues may not be identified as
18 part of some ‘threshold’ assessment, nor in any other way that would escape the
19 critical procedural protections available under section 102).”

20 ⁷ “In the case of health facilities operated under a contract or compact entered into
21 under the [ISDA], the governing body of the Indian tribe . . . providing health
22 services under such contract or compact is authorized to determine whether health
23 services should be provided under such contract or compact to individuals who are
24 not eligible for such health services under any other subsection of this section or
25 under any other provision of law. . . . Any services provided by the Indian tribe . . .
26 pursuant to a determination made under this subparagraph shall be deemed to be
27 provided under the agreement entered into by the Indian tribe or tribal organization
28 under the [ISDA].” *See also* § 1680c(c)(3)(A) (ineligible non-Indian patients “shall
be liable for payment” of health services received from a tribal facility).

⁸ “[A]ll amounts so reimbursed shall be used by the tribal health program for the
purpose of making any improvements in facilities of the tribal health program that
may be necessary to achieve or maintain compliance with the conditions and

1 § 5388(j).⁹ IHS’s suggestion that Pechanga proposes to profit from these services is
2 as offensive as it is wrong.¹⁰

3 Sixth, this case involves only a portion of *Pechanga’s own share* of IHS
4 funding—\$12,644—and the execution of a compact and funding agreement
5 transferring that funding from Riverside to Pechanga. The proposed compact does
6 not permit this IHS funding to be spent on providing care to ineligible non-Indians.
7 Nor does it open other “floodgates of ISDEAA benefits” such as “contract support
8 costs.” *See* Opp’n at 24. As IHS well knows (but did not share), IHS does not pay
9 “contract support costs” to support the delivery of health care to non-Indians.¹¹
10 And a central case IHS cites held that IHS is also *not* required to award a lease to a
11 tribe under § 5324(l) to the extent the leased facility serves non-Indians. *See* Opp’n

12 _____
13 requirements applicable generally to such items and services under the program
14 under such title and to provide additional health care services, improvements in
15 health care facilities and tribal health programs, any health care-related purpose
16 (including coverage for a service or service within a contract health service
17 delivery area or any portion of a contract health service delivery area that would
18 otherwise be provided as a contract health service), or otherwise to achieve the
19 objectives provided in section 1602 of [the IHCIA].”

18 ⁹ “All Medicare, Medicaid, or other program income earned by an Indian tribe
19 shall be treated as supplemental funding to that negotiated in the funding
20 agreement. The Indian tribe may retain all such income and expend such funds in
21 the current year or in future years except to the extent that the [IHCIA] . . .
22 provides otherwise for Medicare and Medicaid receipts..”

21 ¹⁰ The Tribe’s ability to bill at the “all-inclusive rate” reflects the judgment by
22 California and the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that tribal
23 ISDA programs may bill at this rate to encourage providing care to underserved
24 Medicaid patients. It is not some sort of money-making scheme, as IHS suggests,
25 *see* Opp’n at 10 & n.1, and it bears no relation to the statutory rejection criteria.

25 ¹¹ U.S. Dep’t of Health & Hum. Servs., Indian Health Serv. Guidance for Contract
26 Support Costs on Expenditures of Third-Party Reimbursements at 2, available at
27 [https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/docu
28 ments/2024_Letters/Enclosure1_DTLL_12202024.pdf](https://www.ihs.gov/sites/newsroom/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/2024_Letters/Enclosure1_DTLL_12202024.pdf) (Item 6).

1 at 18 (citing *Jamestown*, 486 F. Supp. 3d at 89-90).

2 IHS is doubly wrong in alleging that Pechanga’s proposed compact would
3 “unilaterally reduce Riverside’s funding,” which, in IHS’s view, is “legally
4 prohibited.” Opp’n at 22. IHS ignores evidence already in the record—and
5 submitted to IHS during negotiations—that Riverside *supports* the proposed
6 compact. *See* Dkt. No. 58-4 at 6-7 (Riverside letter). Moreover, because Pechanga
7 is strictly withdrawing only its *own* funds from an intertribal consortium—an
8 action it has an absolute right to take at any time under § 5386(g)—the ISDA
9 provisions addressing the reduction of one tribe’s funding to serve a *different* tribe
10 are entirely inapplicable. *See* Opp’n at 4, 22 (citing, inter alia, §§ 5325(b),
11 5388(d)).¹²

12 At the core of this dispute is the Tribe’s right to reallocate \$12,644 of its own
13 funds toward improved services for Pechanga members that will cost far in excess
14 of this amount. If this litigation is successful, a final injunction would require IHS
15 to deobligate \$12,644 from Riverside’s compact—a reduction Riverside has
16 already consented to—and reobligate those funds to Pechanga’s compact. In the
17 context of a preliminary injunction, however, it is sufficient for the Court to order
18 IHS to award and fund the compact only in monthly increments until the
19 conclusion of the case. (A revised proposed Order accompanies this filing.) In
20 granting plaintiffs preliminary relief, other courts have funded ISDA agreements in
21 precisely this manner. *See, e.g., Navajo Health Found.-Sage Mem’l Hosp., Inc. v.*
22 *Burwell*, 100 F. Supp. 3d 1122, 1192 (D.N.M. 2015) (granting preliminary

23 _____
24 ¹² For the same reason, the fact that “IHS is obligated by law to protect existing
25 contracts,” *see* Opp’n at 17 (citing *Pit River Health Serv., Inc. v. Indian Health*
26 *Serv.*, DAB CR333, 1994 WL 596859, at *13 (H.H.S. Sept. 12, 1994)), cannot
27 prohibit Pechanga from withdrawing its own funds from an existing compact that
28 Riverside has entered into *on Pechanga’s behalf*.

1 injunction and requiring interim contract funding). Contrary to IHS’s suggestion,
2 nothing in such an injunction is irreversible or unworkable, and if the Court
3 ultimately resolves the case in IHS’s favor, the injunction can be dissolved and the
4 month-to-month compact terminated.

5 Although IHS’s additional arguments are addressed below, as best Pechanga
6 can tell, IHS would not object to Pechanga’s proposal if the Tribe did not plan to
7 serve both Indian and non-Indian patients. But the Tribe’s right to serve non-
8 Indians is a statutory right that IHS cannot abrogate through the rejection process.
9 *See* § 1680c(c)(2). Indeed, the decision to serve non-Indians pursuant to an ISDA
10 compact rests entirely with the respective tribe. *Id.*¹³ Pechanga is not aware of any
11 prior instance where IHS has interfered with this right, and the *Jamestown* case is a
12 classic example of a tribe serving non-Indians (there, 97% of the patients) to boost
13 the quality of services available to Indians, 486 F. Supp. 3d at 84. This situation is
14 common in California. Given that IHS routinely approves compacts and funding
15 agreements under which tribes also serve non-Indians pursuant to § 1680c(c)(2), it
16 is difficult to see how IHS can sustain a rejection simply because the proposed
17 funding agreement states that fact and explains how the Tribe intends to provide
18 those services. Yet that is the distinction upon which IHS rests its rejection here.

19 **II. IHS CANNOT EVADE THE STATUTORY INJUNCTION**
20 **PROVISIONS OF THE ISDA.**

21 IHS tries to dodge § 5331(a)’s mandatory injunction provision, first by
22 arguing that this case does not arise under the ISDA. That proposition simply
23 cannot be sustained under the ISDA’s plain meaning and legislative history, *see*
24 *supra* at 1-2, all the more so given Congress’s direction that every provision of the

25 _____
26 ¹³ Once a tribe has made the decision to serve non-Indians, those services are
27 “deemed to be provided under” the tribe’s compact without needing IHS approval.
28 § 1680c(c)(2). Non-Indian care need not be expressly addressed in the compact.

1 ISDA must be liberally construed in favor of the tribe. Dkt. No. 58 at 14 (citing
2 statutes). On its face, IHS’s reading is not “clearly required by the statutory
3 language.” *Salazar v. Ramah Navajo Chapter*, 567 U.S. 182, 194 (2012).

4 IHS also tries to dodge § 5331(a) by switching the field of play to Rule 65
5 mandatory injunctions which alter the status quo and are issued under a court’s
6 equitable power. Opp’n at 12-14. IHS never disputes (and therefore concedes) that
7 if this case indeed arises under the statutory mandatory injunction provision of
8 §§ 5331(a) and 5391(a)—precisely as Congress *expressly* intended in the case of a
9 “declination” or “rejection”—then Rule 65’s caselaw concerning standards of
10 proof and balancing of harms do not apply. On this score, IHS cites no authority
11 contrary to the cases cited in the Tribe’s Motion, Dkt. No. 58 at 19-20, including
12 the Ninth Circuit’s clear rule that “[t]he traditional requirements for equitable relief
13 need not be satisfied” where the applicable statute “expressly authorizes the
14 issuance of an injunction,” *United States v. Est. Pres. Servs.*, 202 F.3d 1093, 1098
15 (9th Cir. 2000); *see also, e.g., Kwon v. Sung-Eun Corp.*, No. SACV 20-01834-CJC
16 (KESx), 2021 WL 3193225, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 9, 2021). IHS’s reliance on
17 *Weinberger v. Romero-Barcelo* is misplaced, as that case did not turn on the use of
18 the word “may” in the injunction provision, nor did it discuss whether courts must
19 apply the equitable factors in order to issue a statutory injunction. 456 U.S. 305,
20 314-15 (1982); *see* Opp’n at 16.¹⁴ Worse for IHS, if § 5331(a) merely restates what
21 courts already have the power to do, it would be a nullity. *Cf. United States v. Atl.*

22 _____
23 ¹⁴ At most, *Weinberger* stands for the proposition that if a statutory violation is
24 merely a technicality and does not violate the *purpose* of the statute, a court has
25 discretion to craft an appropriate remedy. 456 U.S. at 314-15. *Weinberger*
26 specifically contrasted the situation in *TVA v. Hill*, where refusal to order an
27 injunction would have yielded a result that “ignored the ‘explicit provisions of’”
28 the applicable statute, and therefore an injunction was appropriate. *Id.* (quoting
TVA v. Hill, 437 U.S. 153, 173 (1978)). That is precisely the case here.

1 *Rsch. Corp.*, 551 U.S. 128, 136-37 (2007) (explaining courts should avoid a
2 statutory interpretation that “threatens to render [an] entire provision a nullity”).

3 Section 5331(a) plainly applies in this case, and it permits the issuance of
4 mandatory injunctions for precisely the type of circumstances presented here.

5 **III. AN IHS OPIOID PROGRAM SERVING INDIAN PEOPLE IS A**
6 **PROGRAM SERVING INDIANS WITHIN ISDA’S SCOPE.**

7 IHS mischaracterizes Pechanga’s proposal as a proposal to serve *non-*
8 Indians, where Indian beneficiaries are merely “collateral.” Opp’n at 6, 18. In fact,
9 Pechanga seeks to operate an *Indian* opioid treatment facility, which IHS and other
10 tribes routinely operate.¹⁵ IHS does not and cannot dispute that an IHS opioid
11 treatment program serving Indians is a contractable program under § 5385(b)(1)-
12 (2). The Tribe seeks the small sum of \$12,644 to do so, in an effort to minimize its
13 impact on Riverside and after conferring with IHS’s Area Lead Negotiator who
14 confirmed that this amount would be acceptable. Compl. ¶ 76. Obviously that
15 amount alone is insufficient to stand up a robust program for any Indian
16 population, which is why the Tribe stated its intent to generate additional revenues
17 by serving non-Indians (as is its statutory right) and use the proceeds to offer more
18 services to Indian people than could be provided with IHS dollars alone. Extending
19 care to non-Indians does not change the character of the ‘Indian’ funds the Tribe is
20 actually withdrawing from Riverside, or the program it is taking over from IHS.

21 ¹⁵ IHS offers no evidence to support its speculation that the proposed facility will
22 not serve a material number of Pechanga members. Opp’n at 17-18. Nothing in the
23 ISDA gives IHS the right to second-guess the Tribal Council’s determination that
24 this facility is needed for the Tribe’s members, nor is the level of need a criterion
25 on which IHS may base a rejection. *See* § 5387(c). In any event, the Tribe provided
26 extensive evidence on the need among Pechanga members and other Indians in the
27 region. Dkt. No. 58-4 at 9-79. Riverside also agreed with Pechanga regarding the
28 need for these new services, and has expressly confirmed that IHS never bothered
to ask Riverside about actual patient demand. Thomsen Decl. ¶¶ 9-13.

1 IHS’s cases are inapposite. IHS cites two cases in which tribes sought to
2 operate federal programs benefiting the general public, namely the DHHS
3 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program in *Navajo Nation v.*
4 *Department of Health & Human Services*, 325 F.3d 1133 (9th Cir. 2003), and a
5 Bureau of Reclamation fisheries restoration project in *Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe v.*
6 *Ryan*, 415 F.3d 986, 991 (9th Cir. 2005). Neither involved a program operated by
7 IHS or its sister agency the Bureau of Indian Affairs—agencies established by
8 Congress to serve Indian people. Here, by contrast, the Tribe seeks to compact for
9 *IHS funds* already allocated to the Tribe (through Riverside) for the provision of
10 healthcare to Indian people. The Tribe seeks to use those funds for opioid treatment
11 services that are indisputably contractible—and their contractibility is not impacted
12 by the Tribe’s decision to *also* serve non-Indians on a fee-for-service basis under
13 § 1680c(c).

14 **IV. OTHER IHS TRIBAL CONTRACTORS PROVIDE SERVICES**
15 **IDENTICAL TO THOSE PECHANGA PROPOSED.**

16 IHS asserts no one at IHS was aware that other California tribal contractors
17 providing opioid treatment services do so by employing the services of
18 OneTogether Solutions (OneTogether). Opp’n at 10.¹⁶ Whether such tribal
19 contractors use OneTogether, other companies, or in-house resources is irrelevant
20 to the propriety of such arrangements under the ISDA and § 1680c(c).¹⁷ A tribe’s
21 decision to contract for technical expertise in running a program is not a valid basis
22

23 ¹⁶ In fact, IHS officials were aware of OneTogether’s role in other ISDA programs
24 when those programs were approved and later renewed. Sooter Decl. ¶¶ 18-19.

25 ¹⁷ The agreement between OneTogether and Pechanga allows the Tribe to benefit
26 from OneTogether’s expertise in establishing and operating an opioid treatment
27 program while ensuring the Tribe retains full control over the program and its
28 employees. Sooter Decl. ¶¶ 5-6, 16-17.

1 for rejecting a compact, as IHS seems to have recognized when it approved
2 multiple other programs using an identical model. *See* Sooter Decl. ¶¶ 18-19.
3 Indeed, the entire purpose of the ISDA, and in particular Title V, is to allow tribes
4 to determine how to design and deliver services to better meet their communities’
5 needs. Similarly, a tribe’s decision to exercise its statutory right to serve non-
6 Indians under § 1680c(c) cannot possibly be a valid basis for rejecting a compact.
7 And many tribes nationwide *do* serve non-Indian patients under § 1680c(c).

8 IHS conceded as much in the most recent reported case involving non-Indian
9 services, where IHS never argued that the contract or the dual-service delivery
10 system were illegal or outside ISDA’s scope. *Jamestown*, 486 F. Supp. 3d at 86.
11 And here, IHS *encouraged* Pechanga to adopt a resolution authorizing the Tribe to
12 serve non-beneficiaries, provided template language, and conveyed that it had “no
13 comments or concerns” with the final resolution. Compl. ¶¶ 64-65, 72-74. In short,
14 both law and settled IHS practice make untenable the assertion that Pechanga’s
15 proposal falls outside the scope of the ISDA, as supplemented with § 1680c(c).

16 **V. AN INJUNCTION IS WARRANTED.**

17 For all the reasons set out above, Pechanga is entitled to immediate
18 injunctive relief pursuant to § 5331(a).

19 Injunctive relief is also appropriate under the equitable standards
20 encompassed in Rule 65. First, the Tribe has demonstrated that it is facing
21 irreparable harm as long as IHS refuses to enter into the proposed compact that
22 would allow the Tribe to open the proposed treatment facility using the benefits
23 Congress conferred in the ISDA. Unable to contest the evidence that Pechanga’s
24 members desperately need these services, *see* Macarro Decl. ¶¶ 11-17, IHS’s
25 primary argument is that Pechanga’s members can receive services “elsewhere.”
26 Opp’n at 19. But telling a tribe it should send its members elsewhere rather than
27 operate its own program is antithetical to the self-determination principles

1 embodied in ISDA. Moreover, sending Pechanga’s members “elsewhere” is
2 equivalent to leaving them without practicably accessible services. Riverside does
3 not offer the level of services that Pechanga will provide, *see* Compl. ¶ 45, and
4 Riverside itself supports Pechanga’s efforts “to make these critical services
5 available,” Dkt. No. 58-4 at 6-7; Thomsen Decl. ¶ 10; LeBeau Decl. ¶ 5. The other
6 two tribal opioid programs IHS references are indeed similar to Pechanga’s
7 proposed program—both serve Indians and non-Indians, and both contract with
8 OneTogether—but they are not within a reasonable driving distance from the area
9 Pechanga will serve. Sooter Decl. ¶ 8. IHS never asked Riverside whether Indian
10 patients have access to other tribal providers, Thomsen Decl. ¶ 11, and offers no
11 support for its assertion that other tribal providers are available.

12 Pechanga’s ongoing harm is not diminished by the timing of its motion, as
13 IHS contends. Pechanga waited several months to file suit only because the Tribe
14 continued discussions with IHS in an effort to *avoid* litigation. Compl. ¶¶ 143-52;
15 *see, e.g., Guess?, Inc. v. Tres Hermanos*, 993 F. Supp. 1277, 1286 (C.D. Cal. 1997)
16 (finding one-year delay before filing suit reasonable because plaintiffs were
17 actively trying to resolve the issue out of court). The Tribe filed suit only when it
18 became clear those efforts would not bear fruit. It then filed the instant motion for
19 injunctive relief while the litigation was still in very preliminary stages; IHS has
20 not yet filed an Answer, and it has alleged no prejudice arising from the timing of
21 the Tribe’s motion. Moreover, the timing of a preliminary injunction motion “is
22 merely one of several factors to consider” when courts evaluate irreparable harm.
23 *Cordelia Lighting, Inc. v. Zhejiang Yankon Grp. Co.*, No. EDCV 14-881 JGB
24 (SPx), 2015 WL 12656241, at *9-10 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 27, 2015) (citing *Arc of Calif.*
25 *v. Douglas*, 757 F.3d 975, 990 (9th Cir. 2014)). “The Ninth Circuit has explained
26 that ‘courts are loath to withhold relief solely on that ground,’” especially when the
27 plaintiff’s “injury is ongoing,” as it is here. *See id.* (citation modified).

1 On the other side of the scale, IHS has identified no harm that it would face
2 from the issuance of an injunction. To the extent that entering into an irreversible
3 compact could cause harm if the Court later determines it was mistaken in issuing
4 an injunction, that harm is eliminated by providing for the tailored month-to-month
5 payment described above. Even the term of the compact can be tailored to be
6 month to month. Although IHS tries to skew the perception of the equities by
7 suggesting that the Tribe is a victim of its own choices and could have simply not
8 built the clinic, the Tribe made these choices in direct reliance on *IHS's*
9 representations that the compact would soon be approved. Compl. ¶¶ 79, 83-84.
10 IHS must now make good on those assurances.

11 Finally, the Court should reject IHS's hyperbolic arguments as to why
12 Pechanga should be required to post a bond. First, no bond is required if the Court
13 issues a statutory injunction under § 5331(a), because such injunctions fall outside
14 the scope of Rule 65 (and IHS does not argue otherwise). Second, even if the Court
15 instead grants an equitable injunction under Rule 65, IHS has offered no response
16 to the Tribe's argument that IHS would suffer no harm. *See* Dkt. No. 58 at 34.
17 Likely for these reasons, Plaintiff has found no instances of courts requiring a bond
18 when granting preliminary injunctions in the ISDA context. *See Sage*, 100 F. Supp.
19 3d at 1192; *Fort Defiance Indian Hosp. Bd., Inc. v. Becerra*, 604 F. Supp. 3d 1187,
20 1263 (D.N.M. 2022). This Court should not do so either.

21 CONCLUSION

22 For the foregoing reasons, Pechanga is entitled to a preliminary statutory
23 injunction (or, in the alternative, a Rule 65 equitable preliminary injunction)
24 compelling IHS to award and fund the proposed compact and funding agreement.
25 A revised form of proposed Order accompanies this reply.
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1 Respectfully submitted this 13th day of April 2026.

2 **SONOSKY CHAMBERS SACHSE**
3 **MILLER & MONKMAN, LLP**

4 By: /s/ Lloyd B. Miller
5 Lloyd B. Miller, *pro hac vice*
6 lloyd@sonosky.net
7 Whitney A. Leonard, *pro hac vice*
8 whitney@sonosky.net
9 Chloe E. Cotton, *pro hac vice*
10 chloe@sonosky.net
11 510 L Street, Suite 310
12 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
13 Telephone: (907) 258-6377

14 YODER & LANGFORD, P.C.
15 Robert Yoder, *pro hac vice*
16 robert@yoderlangford.com
17 8175 East Evans Road #13598
18 Scottsdale, Arizona 82567
19 Telephone: (602) 808-9578

20 SONOSKY, CHAMBERS, SACHSE,
21 ENDRESON & PERRY, LLP
22 Colin C. Hampson
23 California Bar No. 174184
24 champson@sonoskysd.com
25 145 Willow Road, Suite 200
26 Bonita, CA 91902
27 Telephone: (619) 267-1306

28 PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNCIL
Steve Bodmer, General Counsel
sbodmer@pechanga-nsn.gov
California Bar No. 257123

12705 Pechanga Road
Temecula, California 92593
Telephone: (951) 770-6171

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Pechanga Band
of Indians*

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LOCAL RULE 11-6.2 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The undersigned, counsel of record for Plaintiff Pechanga Band of Indians, certifies that this memorandum complies with the limit set out in section 9.b. of this Court’s Standing Order, Dkt. No. 36, because it does not exceed 12 pages. The memorandum has been prepared in a proportionally-spaced typeface using Microsoft Word for Office 365 Times New Roman 14-point font.

DATED this 13th day of April 2026 at Anchorage, Alaska.

SONOSKY CHAMBERS SACHSE
MILLER & MONKMAN, LLP

By: /s/ Lloyd B. Miller
Lloyd B. Miller, *pro hac vice*

*Attorney for Plaintiff Pechanga Band
of Indians*