REGION 9 FY17 SMALL PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

- 477,000: Tribal population served by water systems directly regulated by Region 9
- 90% are small systems (serving < 3,300)



OBJECTIVES: REDUCE EXPOSURE TO TOXINS

- > Arsenic
- Ensure compliance with standard
- Naturally occurring
- > A problem in the west

- ▶ Lead
- ► Minimize Exposure
- Introduced in plumbing material
- Optimize corrosion control

Region 9 emphasis is on improving access to safe drinking water in schools and Tribal communities

COMPLIANCE STATUS AS OF AUGUST 30, 2016



- ▶ Arsenic
- >10 systems with MCL exceedance

- **Lead**
- 5 systems with action level exceedance (no MCL)
- New exceedances, identifying reasons

WHAT IS IN THE ACTION PLAN?

- Improve capacity to comply by providing technical assistance
- Provide infrastructure funding through Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside
- Improve data collection with improved sample siting plans
 EPA-funded TA providers are assisting
- Provide training on optimal corrosion control treatment
- ▶ Use enforcement tools when appropriate
- ► Lead in Schools Initiative

ENFORCEMENT

- Issue Orders to bring noncompliant systems into compliance with the arsenic MCL of 10 ppb
- Facilitate and track primacy agencies' enforcement actions
- Federal Orders where EPA retains direct implementation of SDWA
- Require interim measures to provide alternative drinking water
- > Prioritize systems based upon:
 - Size and vulnerabilities of population served
 - Noncompliance duration
 - Arsenic exceedance level
 - Noncompliance with other health based standards

LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER INITIATIVE

- ► Reason/ need:
 - ► In children, low levels of Lead exposure have been linked to nervous system damage, learning disabilities, and growth and hearing impairments.
 - Sample sites are normally residences, not schools or other public buildings.
- ► Currently:
 - ► information gathering, identifying schools, Head Start and daycare facilities
 - Letters sent to Tribal leaders on December 21
 - ► Adding to initial list of schools
- ► Next Steps:
 - determine scope and logistics for Lead sampling
 - communicate with schools; begin sampling in Summer 2017