



NORTH FORK RANCHERIA OF MONO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE
P.O. Box 929
North Fork, CA 93643-0929
(559) 877-2461
Fax (559) 877-2467
1-866-291-9909

E. Scott Pruitt
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: Proposal to rescind and then revise the definition of "waters of the United States"

Dear Mr. Pruitt,

The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California received the letter regarding consultation and coordination in regard to President Trump's Executive Order 13778 "Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the "Waters of the United States" Rule"

President Trump's Executive Order 13778 clearly identifies two agency administrator's to coordinate their efforts as ordered in the presidential document, however President Trump, had declined to consider intergovernmental relationships within the document and this approach doesn't meet the trust responsibility the federal government has with the sovereign governments in this great nation. The United States Department of the Interior isn't identified in EO 13778 and this is of great concern to the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California.

The goals of the Clean Water Act (Act) to reduce, prevent and eliminate pollution in order to restore, and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters has provided substantial benefits to communities throughout the nation. The Act may not meet the needs of each and every person's opinion in the U.S., but without the Act there would not be any standards to protect public health and the cumulative impacts to the environment may not be restorable.

The efforts to define relatively permanent waters and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to relatively permanent waters will need to be broad enough to include the diverse geographic features that the act will apply to. The California drought is a historic example, <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/>, of where relative permanent waters once flowed, and now with a historic snowfall record for parts of the Sierra Nevada, many of the drought stricken wetlands, ponds, perennial streams, and marshes are now flowing into systems that meet relatively permanent waters.

Water is essential to all life and this diversity must also be considered when developing regulatory rule. Tribes are sovereign nations, and water is an important element in our cultural and traditional way of life.

Respectfully,

Gary W. Walker
Tribal Chairperson
gwalker@nfr-nsn.gov