

Tribal Beneficial Uses – Update on Region's Status

Regional Tribal Operations Committee
California Issues Group
April 29, 2020



Overview

- **Basin Plan / Triennial Review Process**
- **Tribal Beneficial Uses Definitions**
- **TBU Working Group**
- **How can California Native American Tribes be involved?**
- **Regional Water Quality Control Boards Updates**
- **Questions**





California Water Boards

Basin Planning / Triennial Review Process

Water Quality Control Plans (“Basin Plans”) – provide foundation for all Regional Water Board regulatory actions

Triennial Review – Federally and State required review of Basin Plans every three years

Solicitation process for Basin Planning actions over the subsequent three years

Regions that Added Triennial Projects on TBUs:

2017	2018	2020?
Region 3 - Central Coast	Region 1 - North Coast Region 2 - San Francisco Bay Region 5 - Central Valley Region 6 - Lahontan	Region 4 - Los Angeles Region 7 - Colorado River



Tribal Beneficial Uses

Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL)

- Uses of water that support the cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, or traditional rights or lifeways of California Native American Tribes including, but not limited to: navigation, ceremonies, or fishing, gathering, or consumption of natural aquatic resources, including fish, shellfish, vegetation, and materials.

Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB)

- Uses of water involving the non-commercial catching or gathering of natural aquatic resources, including fish and shellfish, for consumption by individuals, households, or communities of California Native American Tribes to meet needs for sustenance.

TBU Working Group

- Purpose: Internal (Water Boards) information/knowledge sharing medium to facilitate integrating TBUs into Boards' Basin Plans
- Participants:
 - Basin Planning staff from each Regional Water Board
 - State Water Board:
 - Division of Water Quality
 - Office of Public Participation
 - Office of Chief Counsel
- Schedule: Every three months since August (next meeting is on May 21, 2020)
- Timeline: Each Regional Board working on their own timelines towards Basin Plan Amendments
 - Adding definitions vs. designating waterbodies

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How can California Native American Tribes be involved?

- For the Regions that are conducting their Triennial Reviews, if that's your Region, **contact their Tribal Coordinator and notify them if you think TBU should be prioritized as a project.**
- Reach out to the Tribal Coordinators in your respective Regions to get the status for the Region that you inhabit
- Share water quality concerns
 - What are you seeing that needs to be addressed?
- If you need assistance contacting a Regional Board, please email: Tribal-Liaison@waterboards.ca.gov



Regional Water Quality Control Boards Updates



Regions that are working on TBUs

North Coast Regional Board – Region 1

- Tribal Coordinator – Chuck Striplen
 - Charles.Striplen@waterboards.ca.gov

Central Coast Regional Board – Region 3

- Tribal Coordinator – Angela Schroeter
 - Angela.Schroeter@waterboards.ca.gov

Central Valley Regional Board – Region 5

- Tribal Coordinator – Robert L’Heureux
 - Robert.LHeureux@waterboards.ca.gov

Lahontan Regional Board – Region 6

- Tribal Coordinator – Cindy Wise
 - Cindy.Wise@waterboards.ca.gov

Regions should be reaching out to solicit information on cultural and fishing practices

Los Angeles Regional Board – Region 4

- Tribal governments with ancestral and current lands within the Los Angeles Regional Board are encouraged to contact the Regional Tribal Coordinator – Susana Lagudis:
- Susana.Lagudis@waterboards.ca.gov

Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board (Region 7)

- A Tribal Solicitation Notice was sent January 2020 and a meeting with Tribal governments and their designees was held.
- In addition to the opportunity earlier this year, Tribes can still engage by responding to the public Triennial Review solicitation notice sent by the Colorado River Basin Regional Board on April 7, with a comment period ending on May 27, 2020.
- Tribal governments with ancestral and current lands within the Colorado River Basin Regional Board are encouraged to contact the Regional Tribal Coordinator – Maria Davydova: Maria.Davydova@waterboards.ca.gov

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

- San Diego Water Board approved the adoption of a Basin Plan amendment to incorporate Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) beneficial uses at its March 5, 2020 board meeting in Temecula, CA.
 - Adoption of this Basin Plan amendment did not designate water bodies with the new beneficial uses.
- The San Diego Region is eager to engage with Tribal governments in their next Triennial Review process.

Tribal Affairs Contact Information

Tribal Affairs Website

- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/

Tribal Beneficial Uses Website

- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/beneficial_uses.html

Tribal Coordinator Contact Information

- https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/tribal_contacts.html

Adriana Renteria, Tribal Liaison

- Tribal-Liaison@waterboards.ca.gov

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Questions?