



# Tribal Case Study: Leveraging Funding



Heidi Brow

Pala Environmental Department





# Pala Band of Mission Indians

Northern San Diego County, California



*\*\*note: aerial taken during a flood year*

## TAS Authority

No WQS approved yet

## LAND BASE:

- 13,000 acres
  - Valley Floor/Village Area ~ 5 square miles
- Population ~ 1,300

## WATER RESOURCES:

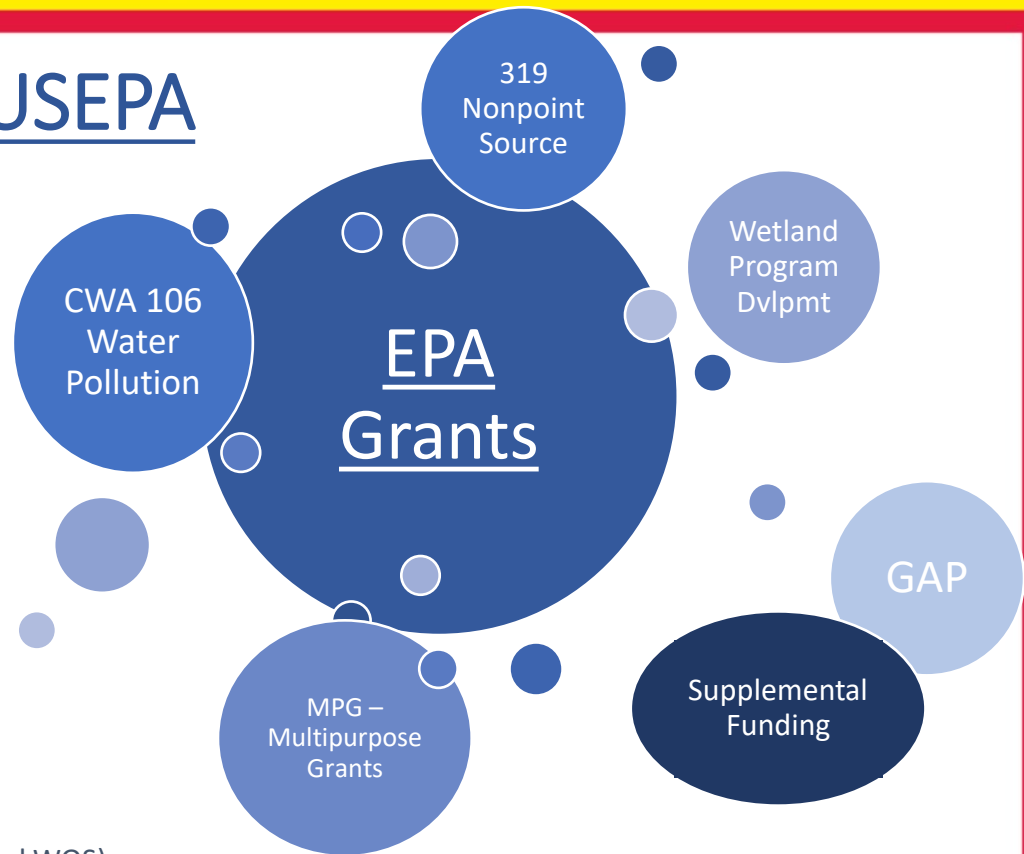
- 28 stream miles
- Mostly ephemeral
- San Luis Rey River





# Federal Sources – USEPA

Water Related Programs



## Types of Projects Funded

- Conduct water quality sampling
- Develop baseline WQ data
- Develop WQ database
- Inventory tribal waters / impairments
- Related water studies
- Develop TAS applications
- Develop Tribal WQS (or federally approved WQS)
- Develop WQS related permit protocols, templates, forms, etc.
- Integrate WQS protocols into tribal codes and ordinances
- Develop Wetland WQS
- Install stream gages





# Federal Sources – USEPA

You can combine many of these grants into a **PPG – Performance Partnership Grant**

## Benefits of a PPG

Ultimately, the benefits of a PPG outweigh the extra financial tracking challenges.

### Flexibility

Provides flexibility to move \$\$ around  
BETWEEN GRANTS

BETWEEN YEARS

(even BETWEEN CATEGORIES)

Easy to add in new EPA grants as you get them

Increases tribal control over your  
environmental program

### Streamlines Reporting

Fewer Grant Financial Reports

1 quarterly report  
combines all grants under PPG

1 grant application submission  
under Grants.gov

### Lowers Match

Rolling your grants into a  
PPG reduces the match to  
5%

**\*\* PPG's do require more robust financial tracking & more communication with project officers**





- Very useful & widest applicability
- (eg) manage, conserve wtr resources
- (eg) inventory/categorize wtr resources
- (eg) SW/GW assmnts; wtr mngmt.
- (eg) monitoring; modeling; gauging

Water  
Management,  
Planning, Pre-  
Development  
Program

## Federal Sources – BIA *Bureau of Indian Affairs* Water Resource Programs



Water Rights  
Negotiation /  
Litigation  
Program

- Water quality = linked to quantity and water rights
- (eg) hydrographic survey reports
- (eg) PIA studies – practicably irrigable acreage
- (eg) determine SW/GW supplies

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/dwp/branch-water-resources>





- Fisheries Hatchery Operations
- Tribal Mgmt / Dvlpmt
- Nat Res Damage Assessment
- Rights Protection Program

## Natural Resource Program

# Federal Sources – BIA

## Natural Resource Program & Internships



## Water Resources Technician Training

- Training & Internship Opportunity
- Open to Native American HS grads (ages 18-34)
- Teaches water resources & technical / practical skills
- Trains interns for your program

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/division-natural-resources/branch-fish-wildlife-recreation>







# Federal Sources – BOR *[Bureau of Reclamation]*

## WaterSMART Programs

WaterSMART (Sustain & Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program –  
plan / implement actions to increase water supply through investments to modernize infrastructure.

<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/>

### Applied Science Grants

- Modeling, forecasting tools
- Hydrologic data platforms
- New data sets

### Cooperative Watershed Management Program

- Watershed restoration planning
- Watershed group development
- Some water sampling/planning

Other programs include = Baseline Assessments; Basin Studies, & many others...





# Federal Sources – BOR

## Other Programs

The programs below might be helpful if you need to find/fill in data gaps, or if you can incorporate a WQS-related component within a larger project.

<https://www.usbr.gov/main/water/>

### BOR Water Operations

- Data / resources
- RISE (Reclamation Information Sharing Environment)

### Water Conservation Field Services Program

- Focus on water conservation planning
- BOR will provide technical assistance







# State Funding & Other Pots of Money

## PROS

- Use federal \$ as in-kind
- Tribes get priority in funding (?)

## CONS

- Tribes not always eligible
- CEQA requirements

## Consider This

- Partner w/ nonprofits
- Try to fit in with larger project

- **CA Department of Fish & Wildlife**

- Partnered with a watershed council (main grantee) on a large water conservation project
  - water harvesting installations (e.g. LTL, rain gardens, rain cisterns)
  - agricultural irrigation efficiency pilot (weather station, soil moisture sensors)

- **DWR – Department of Water Resources**

- SGMA-related projects (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act)

- **Prop Funding**

- **State Environmental Departments** (eg – CalEPA)

- **Environmental Justice Grants**

- **County/City Projects (local)**





# Partnerships: Nonprofits & Academia



- **Academia**

- Increases technical expertise /sampling reach
- Student projects



- **Nonprofits / Foundations**

- Partner w/other nonprofits as part of larger grant-funded projects/plans
- Tribal participants makes a grant more competitive
- Partners can ensure more resources / data / upper watershed information
  - *(eg) local watershed council*





# Tribal Resources

Matching/In-Kind Funds & Other Ideas...

## Tribal Labor



- **GIS staff**
  - *Inventory*
  - *Mapping*
  - *Database*
  - *Outreach*
- **Maintenance staff**
  - *On-the-ground work*
  - *Stream gage installation*
- **Environmental staff**
  - *Writing grants*
  - *Sampling assistance*

## Tribal Equipment



- Tribal drone to inventory waters
- Tribal water lab equipment
  - *Share meters, reagents, etc.*

## State Funds



- Use as a match for federal grants
- Nonprofit / Foundation
  - *Good source of supplemental funds*

Break up a large plan/project into smaller tasks & use multiple grants

Partner w/other tribes/academia to share equipment/lab

Overlap water quality monitoring with other environmental / drinking water programs

Use tribal funds to pull water quality data

Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Funds





# Questions?



## Contact Information:

Heidi Brow, Pala Environmental Department

[hbrow@palatribe.com](mailto:hbrow@palatribe.com) 760-891-3514

<http://ped.palatribe.com/>

