

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

Winter 2021 Issue

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Save the Date!

The Spring RTOC will be held virtually from April 27-29, 2021. Please visit the RTOC website for updates: [Spring RTOC Information](#)

Musings from the Director, Mission Support

I am so proud that the U.S. EPA Region 9 (R9) includes 148 sovereign tribal nations and that the R9 Mission Support Division (MSD) plays a crucial role in assisting those nations to protect the environment and public health. The R9 MSD provides operational support to all the R9 environmental programs in the areas of budget and financial accountability, grant administration, acquisition of goods and services, facilities, information technology, and human resources. MSD staff are also connected directly to the U.S. EPA's mission through tribal nations' environmental projects such as water and wastewater infrastructure, air monitoring and environmental program capacity building. As a support organization whose work is mostly behind the scenes, we value this direct connection and are committed to being a valued partner with tribal nations.

Our most direct connection with tribes is through the R9 Grants Branch. The branch includes the Grants Management Officer (GMO), Carolyn Truong, who awards all R9 grants, and 13 grant specialists. Region 9 has over 100 project officers in the environmental programs (Air, Water, Superfund, GAP, etc.) who work directly with grant recipients on work plans, while grant specialists work with recipients to ensure that all federal grant administrative requirements are adhered to. This includes the entire span of the grant cycle from pre-award applications, to monitoring and reporting during the project period, to grants closeout. Each year, about \$45M is awarded to over 125 tribal nations in Region 9 for a variety of environmental projects spanning 21 U.S. EPA programs. To ensure the success of these efforts, our grant specialists team up with the project officers to provide compliance assistance and training materials to tribes; and regularly participate in on-site compliance assistance visits (virtual during COVID), Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meetings, and the Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference. Thus, they are MSD's closest one-on-one connections with tribes. MSD staff in the Financial Management Branch have a much less direct but important role to play in grants in that they ensure that grant funding is available (Budget Section), and that use of federal funds is audited and accounted for (Accounting Section).

Historically, when there have been grant compliance issues (such as insufficient documentation on how federal funds were spent), they have been caught at the end (or after the end) of the project period. This has resulted in lengthy and resource intensive (for tribes and the U.S. EPA) compliance actions that resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being reimbursed to the government after it is too late to apply them to environmental projects. To address this situation, the Grants Branch worked with the R9 Tribal Program to develop an early detection and compliance assistance program that can spot potential issues at the first sign of trouble (such as a missed report deadline). This pilot has resulted in informal compliance procedures that have most often resulted in immediate corrective actions where the funds

Musings from the Director Continued...

were able to be used properly by the original recipient for the environmental projects intended. Nonetheless, EPA remains committed to ensuring that federal funds are used as intended, and the GMO has the authority to initiate compliance actions against any grant recipient if informal actions fail.

The Contracts Branch in MSD has 12 contract officers that work with project officers in the environmental programs (Water and Superfund) to acquire services for environmental projects on tribal lands using federal funds or funds that were recovered from parties responsible for contamination. The most recent example is the multiple-award contract of up to \$220M that was recently awarded for cleanup of abandoned uranium mines on the Navajo Nation using funds held in trust by the U.S. EPA from a settlement with a responsible party. Three small businesses were the awardees in this case, two of which were Native American-owned. While the project officers develop contract scopes of work, as with grants, the contracts officers in MSD are the ones who ensure the Federal Acquisition Regulation is adhered to and have the authority to award contracts after a fair and open competition.

Each fiscal year, the U.S. Small Business Administration negotiates a goal with the U.S. EPA for the percentage of contracts to be awarded to small businesses, in general, and more specifically, to woman-owned, minority-owned, disabled veteran-owned small businesses, and small businesses that are in Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HubZones). Many tribal nations are considered HubZones, so it is important that tribal small businesses work with the U.S. Small Business Administration to be certified as a HubZone small business so that they can appropriately compete for federal contracts and provide the U.S. EPA with a viable pool of contractors in order to set contracts aside for HubZone businesses. With regard to the Navajo Nation example above, R9 contract officers worked with their partners in the Superfund and Emergency Management Division to conduct small business informational meetings for the Navajo Nation prior to opening the competition to ensure that the contract solicitation was appropriately set aside for small businesses.

While these are the most direct examples of the interaction between R9 MSD and tribal nations, all of us in MSD are honored to support the U.S. EPA's mission and honored to serve the 148 sovereign tribal nations as you strive to protect public health and the environment.

Respectfully,
Kerry J. Drake
Director, Mission Support Division

Call for Region 9 Tribal Project Success Stories!

Do you have an environmental project that you are proud of and would like to have highlighted in an upcoming Region 9 newsletter? Notify your U.S. EPA Project Officer or send an email to: R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov. While we cannot guarantee your story will be used in a particular issue, we would like to develop and highlight one success story for each quarterly issue. The project should have an environmental focus and have been funded using federal grants or programs.

PROGRAM UPDATES

2021 Native American Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA)

Following tribal consultation in 2019, the U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, U.S. EPA Regions, and IHS are partnering with tribes to conduct the 4th nationwide survey of the 20-year capital investment needs for drinking water system infrastructure in Indian Country. As part of the survey, the U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Drinking Water Program will be collecting information from 55 tribal water systems throughout the Region. Tribal drinking water systems were selected for inclusion in the survey based upon a statistically derived survey method.

Although participation is voluntary, responses from tribal systems will help determine the total capital investment needed for drinking water systems nationwide, and the amount of money Region 9 receives under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Annual DWSRF allocations fund the U.S. EPA's Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) Program which provides financial assistance for infrastructure improvements and operator training and certification. In the coming weeks, U.S. EPA Region 9 will be contacting selected water systems to request assistance with completion of the survey. If you have questions or would like additional information on the 2021 DWINSA, please contact Greg Gholson at (415) 947-4209 or via email at gholson.greg@epa.gov.

Region 9 Tribal Branch Team Update

My name is Ruben Mojica Hernandez, and I am the Acting Tribal Branch Manager while Jeremy Bauer is away on a detail. Before moving into this new and exciting role, I was an Environmental Justice Coordinator for Region 9. In that role I contributed to the U.S. EPA's understanding of environmental justice (EJ) issues, supported decision-making in communities with EJ concerns, and worked to improve our relationships with EJ partners. Prior to being in the EJ Program, I worked in the Tribal Branch from 2015 to 2020 as a General Assistance Program (GAP) Project Officer. While I was in the Tribal Branch, I worked with 12 federally recognized tribes as their Project Officer and was the RTOC and Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Coordinator. I'm very excited to be back in the Tribal Branch and to see familiar faces and meet new ones as well. I'm looking forward to supporting tribes and the staff in the Tribal Branch. I'm ready to fully commit myself to this role to ensure the success of all tribes.

Best,
Ruben Mojica Hernandez
Acting Manager, Tribal Branch
(415) 972-3268
mojica-hernandez.ruben@epa.gov



TRIBAL PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

Success Story contributed by Elk Valley Rancheria

Elk Valley Rancheria

In July 2013, the Elk Valley Rancheria, California, applied for and received Targeted Brownfield Analyses (TBA) on five tribal properties. As a result of the TBAs, the tribe applied for competitive Brownfields cleanup grants on two of the larger properties, both former motel sites. In 2015, both competitive grants were awarded to the tribe by the U.S. EPA; one for \$182,400 and the other for \$200,000. Though administering the grants proved challenging, the tribe was able to complete both cleanup projects within the two-year project period.

The smaller of the two grants went toward an old motel site, Ocean Way Motel, comprised of a large two-story office and apartment complex, a separate building containing the motel units, and a maintenance shed. As is common for buildings that were constructed in the 1940s, lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials were abundant in the structure.



WAGON WHEEL MOTEL SITE, BEFORE CLEANUP: PHOTO BY JOSE GARCIA

The larger grant also addressed a motel site, the Wagon Wheel, with 19 structures ranging from a main office and apartment, several individual cabins, a café, and maintenance sheds. Similar to the other property, the buildings were heavily covered with lead-based paint and asbestos-containing materials.

With the removal of the hazardous materials and unsafe structures, both properties have achieved their “green space” intention and eliminated the blight that developed over the decades. Elk Valley Rancheria, California, is extremely grateful for the assistance the U.S. EPA has provided to the tribe for these redevelopment projects.

For more information about Targeted Brownfields Assessments, please see Trainings and Technical Assistance on page 12.

Tribal Program Success Story Continued...



WAGON WHEEL MOTEL SITE, DURING CLEANUP: PHOTO BY JOSE GARCIA



WAGON WHEEL MOTEL SITE, AFTER CLEANUP: PHOTO BY JOSE GARCIA

TRIBAL RESOURCES

The U.S. EPA provides external links in this newsletter for informational purposes only. U.S. EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of non-U.S. EPA information provided by any third-party sites or any other linked site. U.S. EPA does not endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, internet applications or any policies or information expressed therein.

Disinfection Fact Sheet

The U.S. EPA Region 9 Pesticide Office has developed a fact sheet that provides guidance and best practices for properly disinfecting surfaces. As tribes begin to re-open facilities, this information will be helpful in efforts to prevent and contain the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The fact sheet includes helpful links to information about the coronavirus, U.S. EPA-registered products effective against the virus, disinfection guidance from the CDC, and other useful tools and resources.

The fact sheet was developed in collaboration with the U.S. EPA Region 9 Public Affairs team, Enforcement Division staff, as well as the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention at U.S. EPA Headquarters. For more information, please contact Peter Earley (earley.peter@epa.gov) or visit the Region 9 Pesticide Team [Contact](#) page.

Link to fact sheet: [Reopening Tribal Facilities—Effective Disinfection](#).

Performance Partnerships Grants

The EPA provides financial assistance to states and tribes to help them develop and implement environmental programs. For many years, states and tribes wanted greater flexibility in how they use and manage the grant funds they receive from the EPA. In 1996, Congress responded by authorizing the EPA to award Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs). States, certain interstate agencies, and tribes can now choose to combine two or more environmental program grants into a single PPG.

Grantees should consider their specific circumstances when considering whether to pursue a PPG. Examples of the types of benefits that may be associated with PPGs include:

- *Reduce administrative costs through streamlined paperwork and accounting procedures.* Tribes can assign a single accounting code to PPGs instead of assigning codes for every program folded into them. Under that option, a tribe that combines three environmental programs into a PPG (for example) would be required to provide the EPA with one Federal Financial Report each year, instead of three separate reports. Tribes can also gain efficiency by providing one consolidated PPG work plan and progress report.
- *Direct EPA grant funds to priority environmental problems or program needs.* If a tribe completes commitments for all programs in a PPG, and has unexpended funds at the end of a given year (closeout years excepted), they may be able to request an amendment to their workplans to use those funds for any activity that would be eligible under any of the environmental programs that contribute funds to their PPG.
- *Reduce matching costs and increase match flexibility.* Match requirements for most programs can be reduced to 5% when the programs are added to PPGs.

Regulations governing state and tribal environmental program grants including PPGs are published in 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B. There are currently 19 environmental program grants eligible for inclusion in a PPG. Those grants can be found at the following link: <https://www.epa.gov/ocir/national-environmental-performance-partnership-system-nepps>.

Tribal Resources Continued...

Tribes and Intertribal Consortia are eligible for PPGs if they are eligible to receive two or more grants that can be combined in a PPG. To find out more, please review the following document that highlights key regulations, policies, and procedures for developing and managing PPGs: [Best Practices Guide for PPGs with Tribes](#).

While there can be some benefit to entering a PPG, it may not be the best fit for every tribe. If you would like to explore whether a PPG is a good option for your tribe, please contact one of your EPA project officers or grant specialists. They will coordinate with other EPA project officers and grants specialists who would be involved in a potential PPG, and that group will collectively assist with evaluating whether entering a PPG would be beneficial in your case.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of active U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation opportunities are available on the U.S. EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) webpage: [TCOTS Webpage](#). If interested, join the TCOTS Listserv by sending a message to, Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov to receive email notifications on the latest U.S. EPA Tribal Consultations.

Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships

The U.S. EPA is committed to honoring tribal sovereignty and advancing the tribal partnership in policy deliberations as called for in President Biden's January 26, 2021 memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations. President Biden identified tribal consultation as a responsibility of all federal agencies. The U.S. EPA has a robust tribal engagement policy, which will continue to be the cornerstone of the U.S. EPA consultation actions and will ensure that the Agency's actions protect human health and the environment in Indian Country.

To see the full memorandum, please follow this link: [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Partnerships](#).

The U.S. EPA Consultation Policy continues to implement clear standards for the Agency's tribal consultation efforts. The policy defines when and how consultation takes place, and how tribes are made aware of consultation opportunities and establishes management oversight and reporting to ensure accountability and transparency. Per the Presidential Memorandum, the U.S. EPA is conducting tribal consultation on its current efforts to adjust and improve U.S. EPA tribal consultation and submit a new detailed plan.

To see the U.S. EPA Consultation Policy, please visit: [U.S. EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes](#).

To see the Consultation Opportunity tracking system, please visit: [U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System \(TCOTS\)](#).

Each month, the Region 9 RTOC Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and updates and to discuss consultation topics of interest. The workgroup is jointly chaired by Kelcey Stricker, Environmental Director of the Pechanga Environmental Department, and Jeremy Bauer, Acting Deputy Director of the U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division.

For more information or to become involved in the workgroup, please contact Kelcey (kstricker@pechanga-nsn.gov) or Jeremy (bauer.jeremy@epa.gov).

RTOC AND TRIBAL/U.S. EPA REGION 9 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a working committee of the U.S. EPA and tribal personnel co-chaired by a U.S. EPA representative and a tribal representative. The U.S. EPA designates its RTOC representatives through internal mechanisms. All tribes within Region 9 are considered members of the RTOC. Tribal representatives to the RTOC are selected through government-to-government communication, by tribal leaders in various geographical areas within Region 9.

Winter RTOC Recap

On February 2-4, the Region 9 RTOC co-chairs, Mervin Wright Jr. (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) and Laura Ebbert (U.S. EPA, Region 9), convened virtually the Winter 2021 Region 9 RTOC. This virtual meeting brought together over 170 participants and provided a space for dialogue on tribal environmental issues and priorities. There was discussion on the U.S. EPA's new administration, COVID impacts, and a presentation on the U.S. EPA's new Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains. Additionally, there were technical sessions on an array of topics including the Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grant Program, Clean Water Act rules, indoor air quality, interagency agreements, consultation, and quality assurance. The Region 9 Acting Regional Administrator, Deborah Jordan, also hosted a discussion for elected tribal leaders on Feb 3. Presentations and materials from the meeting can be found here: [Region 9 Winter 2021 RTOC](#).

Save the Date! Our next RTOC will take place virtually on April 27-29! Please visit the [RTOC web site](#) for updates.

Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Updates

The Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference co-sponsors, the Pala Band of Mission Indians and the U.S. EPA, are pleased to announce that this year's conference theme will be "Tribal Land, Tribal Knowledge, Tribal Sovereignty." The Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference brings together more than 300 participants from tribal nations located across Arizona, California, and Nevada; and representatives from federal, state, and local agencies; nonprofits and academia.

Plans are in place to hold this year's conference at Harrah's Lake Tahoe Conference Center in Stateline, Nevada, on October 18 through 22, 2021. Conference organizers are planning a hybrid event where people can participate in-person or virtually; however, they will continue to assess the situation around COVID-19, including the vaccine rollout and the status of the state's policy on large gatherings. Conference organizers will make a final decision by June 1, 2021, on whether the conference will include a face-to-face component or whether it will be fully virtual.

The health and safety of conference participants and their communities is our top priority and the policies and guidelines of both Harrah's Lake Tahoe and the state of Nevada will be followed. Please note that the conference co-sponsors do not have the authority to enforce mandatory vaccinations of the participants.

Please check the website for important updates: [Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Website](#).



BIG PINE RESERVATION: PHOTO BY ALAN BACOCK

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Stay up-to-date on federal grant opportunities by using the [Grants.gov search page](#).

U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Funding Opportunities

The U.S. EPA announced the availability of funds for two environmental justice funding programs. **The closing date for both programs is May 7, 2021:**

The *EJ Small Grants Program* is a one-year grant designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks.

The *EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Program* is a two-year Cooperative Agreement that assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships to help them understand and address environmental and public health concerns in their communities.

These Environmental Justice programs provide funding to work on solutions for developing partnerships and projects to overcome local environmental and public health issues through supporting and empowering communities. The U.S. EPA will be giving special consideration to the following focus areas:

- Addressing COVID-19 concerns faced by low-income communities and communities of color
- Climate Change and Natural Disaster Resiliency outreach and planning
- New applicants to either opportunity
- Ports Initiative to assist people living and working near ports across the country
- Small non-profits

To find out more information about these funding opportunities, please visit: [Environmental Justice Grants](#). If you have further questions, please contact Alan Bacock, Region 9 Environmental Justice Coordinator at Bacock.alan@epa.gov.

To stay up to date on information about Environmental Justice funding opportunities, events, and webinars, subscribe to the U.S. EPA Environmental Justice listserv by sending a blank email to: [U.S.EPA Environmental Justice Listserv](#).

U.S. EPA Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes

This grant program provides financial assistance to tribal governments and intertribal consortia for developing and implementing hazardous waste programs, building capacity to improve and maintain regulatory compliance, and developing solutions to address the improper management of hazardous waste on tribal lands.

Eligible entities are tribal governments and intertribal consortia and **the deadline for submitting applications is March 30, 2021.**

For more details on the program and a link to the funding opportunity, please visit: [Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program](#).

Contact the U.S. EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Tribal Program Co-leads for more information and to join our email list:

Denise Roy, roy.denise@epa.gov

Tonya Barnett, barnett.tonya@epa.gov

Deirdre Nurre, nurre.deirdre@epa.gov

Funding Opportunities Continued...

Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is pleased to announce the availability of funding through the Tribal Climate Resilience Program. The program will provide funding for tribal activities that support tribal adaptation and resilience planning, ocean and coastal management planning, and relocation, managed retreat, or protect-in-place planning and design activities for coastal and river communities. The program aims to support tribal nations that are working toward climate adaptation planning and need information for management decisions that affect tribal treaty and trust resources, economies, infrastructure, and human health and welfare.

The solicitation is for federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations (as defined by 25 U.S.C. Section 5304(1)). Other entities may participate as sub-grantees. While both federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations are eligible for funding through this solicitation, tribal organization proposals will be reviewed and ranked separately from tribal proposals.

There are nine award categories and **proposals are due Friday, April 23, 2021, 6:00pm PT**. The proposal must be submitted and is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), named TEMP-11663. Please see the BIA Tribal Resilience Program site for more information: [BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program](#).



BIG PINE RESERVATION: PHOTO BY ALAN BACOCK

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. Any links to websites outside of U.S. EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The U.S. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.

Managing Harmful Algal Blooms in Tribal Waters Webinar Series

March 10, 16, and 18, 2021: 10:00 am-12:30 pm PT

In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, the U.S. EPA is hosting a three-part webinar series on the impacts of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms (HABs) and their toxins. Registration is free.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to and talk with tribes from across the country about their experiences addressing the impacts of HABs and their toxins in fresh and marine waters.
- Learn about strategies to build tribal capacity for effectively collecting baseline data on HABs.
- Ask national experts about data collection, funding, outreach, and other HABs management needs.

For questions or more information, please send an email to: EPACyanoHABs@epa.gov.

For registration information, please visit: [Managing HABs in Tribal Waters Webinar Series](#).

U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Drinking Water Conference

May 3, 2021, 8:00am PT through May 7, 2021, 1:00pm PT

Save the date! The next U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Drinking Water Conference will be virtual and held May 3 through 7, 2021. The sessions will be held primarily in the morning and cover a range of interesting topics.

For more information, please see the event flyer: [Tribal Drinking Water Conference Flyer](#)

To register for this event, please visit: [Registration for Tribal Drinking Water Conference 2021](#)



BIG PINE RESERVATION, PHOTO BY ALAN BACOCK

Training and Technical Assistance Continued...

Region 9 Tribal Water Quality Standards Virtual Workshop

March 23, 2021, 9:00am PST to March 25, 2021, 5:00pm PT

This workshop is being held for tribal government Clean Water Act (CWA) program staff to receive, provide, and share technical information and strategies to support establishing a Water Quality Standards program. This authorization process supports tribal water quality goals for a specific water body and serves as a regulatory basis for establishment of water quality-based pollution controls.

The following is the preliminary agenda:

Day 1: The Regulatory Framework

Day 2: Developing Tribal Water Quality Standards

Day 3: Implementing a Tribal Water Quality Standards Program

For more information, please contact Shawn Muir (smuir@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov), Danielle Angeles (angeles.danielle@epa.gov), Kate Pinkerton (pinkerton.kate@epa.gov) or your CWA Project Officer.

Please check the following link to stay up-to-date on registration information: [R9 Tribal Water Quality Standards Virtual Workshop](#).

U.S. EPA Region 9 Freedom of Information Act Webinar for Tribes

April 13, 2021, from 2:00 to 3:30pm PT

EPA Region 9 is convening a virtual discussion on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for tribes in Region 9, designed to cover the following topics:

- Overview of FOIA online
- How a FOIA request is initiated
- How EPA responds to a FOIA request
- Overview of FOIA Exemptions
- Explanation of the process EPA takes to apply the FOIA Exemptions
- Questions and Discussion

For more information, including registration information, please visit the Region 9 RTOC website: [Region 9 RTOC Website](#).

Targeted Brownfields Assessments

The U.S. EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program provides contractor assistance to research historic property uses, conduct environmental sampling, identify cleanup options, and estimate cleanup costs at properties under consideration for redevelopment. Applicants can access up to \$100,000 worth of technical assistance by submitting an easy online application.

For more information on Targeted Brownfields Assessments, follow this link: [Brownfields and Land Revitalization in the Pacific Southwest](#).

If you are interested in applying, follow this link: [Targeted Brownfield Assessment Application](#).

Training and Technical Assistance Continued...

Emergency Planning, Preparedness & Response for Tribal Nations

May 20, 2021 from 9:00 -11:30 PT (AM Session) and 1:00 – 3:30 PT (PM Session)

The U.S. EPA Region 9 will be hosting a free virtual workshop that will provide emergency planning, preparedness and response training for tribal nations, including information on:

- Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Planning, and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and Clean Air Act (CAA) accident prevention provisions;
- Examples of institutional structures to support emergency efforts (e.g., Tribal Emergency Response Commissions, mutual aid agreements);
- Importance of community emergency plans;
- Case studies of chemical incidents and natural disaster responses;
- Federal resources to support emergency planning, preparedness, and response.

To attend, please follow this link to register: [Registration Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response Workshop](#).

Please contact Bill Jones (jones.bill@epa.gov) with any questions.

U.S. EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: Air Sensor Performance Testing Protocols, Metrics, and Target Values for PM2.5 and Ozone

March 24, 2021, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Lower cost air sensor technologies have flooded the marketplace and are being rapidly adopted by state, tribal and local agencies, community scientists, researchers, health professionals, schools, and many others to measure air quality conditions. Common applications for air sensors include understanding air quality trends, supplemental monitoring, monitor siting, identifying hot spots, monitoring in remote locations, personal monitoring, and educational and environmental awareness. While air sensors have become more widespread, it is commonly known that the data quality from these technologies is highly variable. Consistent testing protocols and target values have not been available to uniformly evaluate and compare different air sensor technologies to better understand their performance in real-world conditions. As a result, there is a lack of confidence in data quality and in selecting sensors that best suit an application of interest.

This webinar will highlight two reports developed by EPA's Office of Research and Development that outline recommended performance testing protocols, metrics, and target values for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone (O3) air sensors. The reports apply to the use of PM2.5 and O3 air sensors in non-regulatory supplemental and informational monitoring applications in ambient, outdoor, and fixed site environments.

For more information and to register for this event, please visit: [Air Sensor Webinar](#).

Environmental Protection Agency
 Region 9 Tribal Branch
*Tribal, Intergovernmental, and
 Policy Division*

75 Hawthorne St.
 San Francisco, CA. 94105

Protecting Human Health and the Environment

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Elk Valley Rancheria, California for working with their Project Officer to develop a Success Story for this newsletter issue. If you would like to have a success story highlighted in a future issue, please contact your Project Officer or email the Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, at: R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov



Get in Touch!

Do you have an idea for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter? Do you have a question or comment about an article in this issue?

Please submit ideas, questions, tribal success stories, original photos, or other feedback to the R9 Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, Jeanette Sasek, at:

R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

USEFUL LINKS

R9 Tribal Programs:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epas-pacificsouthwest-tribal-program-region-9>

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<https://twitter.com/EPAregion9>



JACUMBA WILDERNESS: PHOTO BY JEREMY BAUER