



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest / Region 9



Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and 148 Tribes

Land Division
Tribal Section • January 2017

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
866-EPA-WEST • www.epa.gov/region9

U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Tribal Section Newsletter

National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) 2016 Report: Environmental Protection Belongs to the Public, A Vision for Citizen Science at EPA

On December 13, 2016, the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) formally transmitted its report to the agency on citizen science.

In this report, NACEPT developed thirteen robust recommendations regarding actions that EPA should take in response to technological and sociological developments in the area of citizen science. The report urges EPA to embrace citizen science and capacity building initiatives that further advance the agency's mission of protecting the environment and human health. To see the full article click here: www.epa.gov/faca/nacept-2016-report-environmental-protection-belongs-public-vision-citizen-science-epa.

Congress OKs Pechanga Water Rights Settlement

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act includes legislation that ends a decades-long dispute in the Temecula Valley region. Congress has approved a settlement agreement with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians that protects the tribe's access to groundwater in the region and provides the tribe with more than \$30 million in federal funding to pay for water storage projects. The agreement – which took the form of legislation introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Corona – settles competing claims involving the Rancho California Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District, which both draw from the large aquifer in the region that stretches 750 square miles from Southwest Riverside County to north San Diego County. Calvert's legislation was tucked inside the omnibus water bill approved by both houses of Congress. President Barack Obama was expected to sign the bill (December 2016). www.pe.com/articles/water-820771-pechanga-settlement.html

New Regional Sea Level Scenarios Help Communities Prepare for Risks

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released on January 19, 2017, new U.S. regional sea level scenarios developed by NOAA and its partners to give coastal communities better, more localized data to help them plan for and adapt to the risk of rising sea levels to their economies and infrastructure. Here is the link to the NOAA press release, with the report link embedded: www.noaa.gov/media-release/new-regional-sea-level-scenarios-help-communities-prepare-for-risks.

EPA Seeking Water Quality Input from Tribes on Reissued Army Corps of Engineers General Permits

The Corps issues Clean Water Act (CWA) permits for placing dredged or fill material in most waterways ("404 permits"), including seasonally dry creek beds or wetlands that are common on tribal lands in the West. These permits are often needed for building roads, utility lines and other structures, or even for ecosystem restoration or flood control.

The "Nationwide" Permits (NWP) are one type of 404 general permit that the Corps uses to streamline certain low-impact fill activities (for example, a quarter acre of fill or less). These NWPs are reissued every five years and currently expire in March, 2017. On June 1, 2016, the Corps published in the Federal Register its proposal to

reissue the 50 existing NWP's and issue two new NWP's.

These permits must include water quality protections for everyone. On most tribal lands, EPA has responsibility under Section 401 of the CWA to evaluate and certify water quality protections for any federal permit or license, including the NWP's. As we did in 2012, EPA Region 9 is currently evaluating the proposed 2017 NWP's for conditional water quality certification of the entire NWP program (a "programmatic" approach, rather than project-by-project). We welcome input from the public, and especially affected tribes!

At the EPA Region 9 Annual Tribal Conference we provided an overview of the NWP's and our proposed approach to CWA 401 programmatic certification for tribes that do not yet have "Treatment As a State" and approved Water Quality Standards. Please see important dates below and contact Leana Rosetti with any questions (rosetti.leana@epa.gov or 415-972-3070).

Important Dates:

- **March 19, 2017:** New Nationwide Permits go into effect.

National Tribal Waste Management Peer Matching Program – Fact Sheet

This fact sheet, Building Sustainable Tribal Waste Management Programs Through Collaboration, describes EPA's Peer Matching Program, which aims to strengthen tribal capacity building and develop sustainable waste management programs. www.epa.gov/tribal-lands/fact-sheet-epas-national-tribal-waste-management-peer-matching-program

Vector Control for Environmental Professionals

Captain Mike Herring (U.S. Public Health Service, retired) has provided a link to an online version of the course he helped develop: "Vector Control for Environmental Health Professionals." This course was funded by the CDC and there is no charge for the training: lms.southcentralpartnership.org/vcehp.php

Preventing Vector-Born-Disease – Brown Dog Tick/ Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Seresto Collars

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) is a tick-borne disease that is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected tick species. RMSF is a serious illness that can be fatal if not treated correctly. This bulletin discusses the use of Seresto™ collars on dogs to combat the spread of the disease. It is intended to help communities weigh the risks of both RMSF and of any proposed tick-control approach, and then decide what is best for the community. **For questions, contact Patti TenBrook in the EPA Region 9 Pesticides Office at (415) 947-4223. View the full fact sheet:** www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-01/documents/weighing_risks_to_children_from_dogs_wearing_seresto-tm_collars.pdf.

EPA's ANPRM for Federal Baseline WQS on Indian Reservations

Administrator McCarthy signed the Federal Baseline Water Quality Standards (WQS) for Indian Reservations Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on September 19, 2016. A pre-publication version of the ANPRM, as well as a fact sheet and other material, are available on the ANPRM webpage: www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-federal-baseline-water-quality-standards-indian. Publication in the Federal Register is forthcoming.

During the public comment period, EPA intends to hold two public webinars on the contents of the ANPRM and to provide an opportunity for interested participants to ask clarifying questions. Session details and registration information will be announced on EPA's website as they become available.

EPA's New Webpage – Promoting International Human Rights, Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Justice

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice has a new webpage to share information on the Agency's efforts to promote international human rights, rights of indigenous peoples and environmental justice. It includes a list of the blog posts written for EPA's EJ in Action Blog, on the work we and others are doing around international human rights. Please feel free to share with your colleagues and others who may be interested:

www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-role-promoting-international-human-rights-rights-indigenous-peoples-and

Upcoming Opportunities

Funding and Technical Assistance Opportunities

Solar in Your Community Challenge

The DOE SunShot Initiative has launched the Solar in Your Community Challenge, a \$5 million prize competition that aims to expand solar access to low and moderate income (LMI) households; state, local, and tribal governments; and non-profit organizations. **Application Deadline is March 17, 2017.**

- The Challenge will support dozens of teams across the country to demonstrate innovative, scalable business and financial models that can overcome market barriers, and open new solar markets that benefit LMI households and nonprofits.
- The Challenge will provide cash prizes and technical assistance to support teams as they work to pilot new programs and projects that expand access to solar.
- Teams will compete over 18 months for a \$500,000 Grand Prize.
- Two things you can do:
 - Learn more about the Challenge and apply as a team or technical assistance provider on our website: www.solarinyourcommunity.org
 - In addition to your participation in the Challenge, we'd love your help in getting the word out! Newsletter blurbs, 2-page factsheet, social media posts, and graphics can all be found online in this Google Drive folder.

BIA Student Internship Job Announcements

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) is continually seeking scientists and technicians in a range of STEM-related disciplines to protect, conserve, utilize, and manage Indian forest and agricultural lands and resources, including water and power. BIA is recruiting for several internship positions working across various Agriculture and Rangeland Management or Forestry and Wildland Fire Management programs. **Students can intern with the BIA or with a tribal related program.** All of our intern job vacancies announcements are posted to USAJOBS and can be found at www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads.

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for the Drought Response Program

Deadline for Applications: February 14, 2017. Applicants under this FOA may request funding to develop a new drought plan or to update an existing drought plan. Applicants may also request technical assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation for the development of elements of the Drought Contingency Plan. Applicants may request up to \$200K in federal funds. There is a cost-share waiver available under exceptional/limited circumstances (see C.2. in the FOA). Drought Resiliency Projects increase flexibility for water managers through system modifications and improvements, and development of alternative water supplies, among other projects to mitigate the impacts of future drought.

Planning Funding: www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=29012

Project Funding: www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=290104

2017 Tribal Exchange Network Conference

Viejas Casino & Resort, Alpine, California

February 28 – March 1, 2017

(Post-conference workshop sessions are being planned for March 2, 2017!)

The Tribal Exchange Network Conference provides tribal professionals, and those working with tribes, an opportunity to meet and learn about current initiatives, funding, and technical topics related to the [Exchange Network](#). Come and share your experiences or to learn from and network with other tribal professionals! For more details, please visit the website at: www.tribalexchangenetwork.org.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Click [HERE](#) to submit your registration for the Conference (if you are unable to open the Registration Form, contact [ITEP](#) for an alternate copy).

PRESENTERS AND POSTERS

Presentation abstracts and poster requests are currently being accepted! As presentation times are limited, we encourage all presenters to also bring a poster or additional information to share during the Poster Session & Sponsor Reception. **Please note:** presentations from for-profit entities will not be considered for the conference agenda sessions. Become a sponsor for presentation or workshop opportunities before the conference! Click [HERE](#) to submit an abstract for a presentation or poster (if you are unable to open the Registration Form, contact [ITEP](#) for an alternate copy).

SPONSORSHIPS AND EXHIBITORS

Interested in highlighting your products or services and affirming your commitment to tribal environmental protection? Become a sponsor or exhibitor! For details, pricing and printable version of the form click [HERE](#) [PDF] OR click [HERE](#) to submit your request online.

AGENDA

Visit www.tribalexchangenetwork.org for travel details and other updates regarding the Conference. If you have suggestions for topics or presentations, please contact [ITEP](#).

Please share this announcement with others who might be interested in attending.

To stay notified of updates related to the Tribal Exchange Network Conference, sign up for our [email listserv](#)!

FEMA Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity on Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks

On December 7, 2016 — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2016 Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks \(CCTA Program\)](#).

The FY 2016 CCTA Program provides \$35.94 million to local, state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions for improving their ability to prepare for, prevent, and respond to complex coordinated terrorist attacks in collaboration with the whole community.

The FY 2016 CCTA Program is intended to enhance resilience and build capacity for jurisdictions to address complex coordinated terrorist attacks that may occur across the nation. Following a competitive process, selected local, state, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions will receive funding specifically to build and sustain capabilities to enhance their preparedness for complex coordinated terrorist attacks, to include the following components: identifying capability gaps, developing and/or updating plans, training to implement plans and procedures, and conducting exercises to validate capabilities.

Awards will be made on a competitive basis to applicants who present an ability to successfully meet the requirements described in the NOFO. FEMA encourages interested jurisdictions of various types, sizes, and capabilities to apply.

The application period will remain open until **February 10, 2017**. The [FY 2016 CCTA Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is online at www.fema.gov/grants as well as on www.grants.gov. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 97.133.

A series of webinars have been scheduled to assist potential applicants with understanding the FY 16 CCTA Program's objectives and priorities, application requirements and review process, timeline, and grant application systems and provide an opportunity to ask questions. If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at **(202) 646-3444** or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

- [FY 2016 CCTA Program FAQs 20161206 FINAL.pdf](#)
- [FY 2016 CCTA Program Fact Sheet 20161206 FINAL.pdf](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2016 Program to Prepare Communities for Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks NOFO FINAL 20161207.pdf](#)