

# Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

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## REBRANDING ALERT!

The R9 Tribal Newsletter email address has been changed to [R9Communities@epa.gov](mailto:R9Communities@epa.gov)! Now you will see Environmental Justice Program updates, their community office hours, and other important EJ news, along with the usual quarterly newsletter emails. Use this address to submit your ideas and feedback to the R9 Tribal Newsletter Coordinator.

Be sure to keep a lookout for emails from R9communities in your inbox!

## Regulatory News

*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.*

### U.S. EPA: FY 2022 – FY 2026 U.S. EPA Strategic Plan

The U.S. EPA's FY 2022-FY 2026 Strategic Plan, required by the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act of 2010 (Public Law 11-352), communicates the roadmap for accomplishing EPA's environmental priorities over the next four years.

This Strategic Plan deepens the U.S. EPA's commitment to protecting human health and the environment for all people, with an emphasis on historically overburdened and underserved communities. For the first time, the U.S. EPA's final Strategic Plan includes a new strategic goal focused solely on addressing climate change and an unprecedented goal to advance environmental justice and civil rights. These priorities are part of the Plan's programmatic goals and cross-agency strategies. They support long-term performance goals, which the U.S. EPA will use to monitor and communicate progress.

To learn more about the Strategic Plan, please visit:

[U.S. EPA Strategic Plan.](#)

### U.S. EPA Takes Action to Empower States, Territories, and Tribes to Protect Water Resources and Support Sustainable Development

On June 2, 2022, the U.S. EPA announced a proposed rule to update the regulatory requirements for water quality certification under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401. This proposed rule would strengthen the authority of states, territories, and tribes to protect their vital water resources. It would also support an efficient, predictable, and common-sense certification process, restoring a long-held right, which was severely limited by the previous administration's rule.

"For 50 years, the Clean Water Act has protected water resources that are essential to thriving communities, vibrant ecosystems, and

sustainable economic growth,” said U.S. EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “The U.S. EPA’s proposed rule builds on this foundation by empowering states, territories, and Tribes to use Congressionally granted authority to protect precious water resources while supporting much-needed infrastructure projects that create jobs and bolster our economy.”

For more details, please visit: [U.S. EPA Takes Action to Empower States, Territories, and Tribes to Protect Water Resources and Support Sustainable Development](#).

## Region 9: Air and Radiation Division

The EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division (ARD) is currently reviewing the following State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals from state and local air agencies. These SIP submittals address requirements under the Clean Air Act related to plans to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), New Source Review (NSR) permitting programs or rules, and prohibitory rules to reduce air pollutant emissions. The plans and rules submitted by states and local air districts would not apply in any areas of Indian Country. If you would like information on any of these SIP submittals, please email the point of contact for the submittal type.

### Plan Submittals

**Contact: Anita Lee, Manager of the Air Planning Office, [lee.anita@epa.gov](mailto:lee.anita@epa.gov)**

- Arizona Infrastructure and Interstate Transport SIP for 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Nevada Infrastructure SIP for 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Progress Demonstration for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS
- Imperial County (California) Demonstration for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Serious Area Attainment Plan for the 2012 annual PM2.5 NAAQS
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Attainment Plan Revision for the 1997 annual PM2.5 NAAQS
- Indian Wells (California) 2nd 10-year Maintenance Plan for the 1987 PM10 NAAQS
- California Determinations of Attainment or Failure to Attain for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- California Base Year Emissions Inventories for nonattainment areas for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Clark County (Nevada) Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Clark County (Nevada) Base Year Emissions Inventories for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Nogales (Arizona) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS
- Imperial County Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain for 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS
- Portola, Plumas County (California) Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain for 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS
- San Diego (California) Severe-Area Attainment Plan for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone NAAQS

### Permitting Rule Submittals

**Contact: Gerardo Rios, Manager of the Air Permits Office, [rios.gerardof@epa.gov](mailto:rios.gerardof@epa.gov)**

- Maricopa (Arizona) PSD Revisions
- Maricopa (Arizona) ERC Rule
- Placer (California) NSR Rules
- San Joaquin Valley (California) NSR Rule
- Tuolumne (California) NSR Rule
- Butte (California) NSR Rule
- San Diego (California) NSR Rule Revision
- San Diego (California) Title V Program Evaluation
- El Dorado (California) NSR Rule
- South Coast, Imperial, and Ventura (California) 2015 Ozone Certifications
- Clark County (Nevada) 2021 Ozone Certification



*Enterprise Rancheria Environmental Director Debbie Resmussen and GAP Project Officer Destinee Cooper during a site visit.*

## Prohibitory Rule Submittals

Contact: Doris Lo, Manager of the Air Rules Office, [lo.doris@epa.gov](mailto:lo.doris@epa.gov)

- Antelope Valley and Mojave Desert (California) Rule 315 Federal Clean Air Act Section 185 Penalty
- San Diego (California) Transfer of Organic Compounds Rule
- Mojave Desert (California) Cement Kiln NOx Rule
- Eastern Kern (California) Cement Kiln NOx Rule and Turbine NOx Rule
- California Air Resources Board Oil and Gas Methane Regulation
- South Coast (California) Metal Parts and Products Coatings Rule
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Open Burning and Woodstove Incentives Rules
- Maricopa County (Arizona) Surface Coatings Rule and Boilers and IC Engines NOx Rules
- Maricopa County (Arizona) Gasoline and Organic Liquids Storage and Transfer Rules



## Program Updates

### U.S. EPA Launches Let's Talk About Heat Challenge to Raise Awareness of Extreme Heat Risks

On June 6, 2022, the U.S. EPA launched the Let's Talk About Heat Challenge to protect public health by raising awareness of health risks from extreme heat. The challenge asks applicants to share innovative and effective messages about the health risks of extreme heat for our most at-risk communities. The Let's Talk About Heat Challenge was developed in support of the National Climate Task Force's Extreme Heat Interagency Working Group, which is led by the U.S. EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with support from the White House.

The Let's Talk About Heat Challenge seeks innovative solutions to protect diverse communities in different parts of the country from the risks of extreme heat. The challenge is open now through **July 22, 2022**. Eligible participants include state, regional, tribal, and local governments; nonprofits and community-based organizations such as faith-based, environmental, public health, or environmental justice organizations that have developed effective communication strategies; and individuals and groups. This challenge will award a total of **\$120,000 in prizes** for up to 10 of the most innovative communication strategies.


To learn more about the challenge and to apply, visit the [Let's Talk About Heat Challenge webpage](#).

## Air and Radiation Division

**New Children's Book** - Check out the U.S. EPA's "[Why is Coco Red?](#)" education booklet. Children and Parents will learn about wildfire smoke and how it can affect air quality and health. This book is for all children, especially those with asthma, and their caretakers.

To order physical copies in English or Spanish, please contact [shanahan.eileen@epa.gov](mailto:shanahan.eileen@epa.gov)





**Tribal Nonpoint Source Management: Leveraging Opportunities to Protect and Restore Waters**  
Focus: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

EPA 841-B-22-002  
May 2022

This fact sheet series connects Tribal water quality staff, government leaders, and landowners with financial or technical support for projects that reduce nonpoint sources of pollution.

**Introduction**

Partnerships are pivotal to the success of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution management efforts. Clean Water Act (CWA) section (g) 319 grants provide funding to more than 200 federally recognized Tribes to help assess and manage sources of NPS pollution. (Note: for this document, "Tribes" is a collective term encompassing all Indian Nations.) This fact sheet series explores ways Tribes can leverage CWA §319 funding to pursue resources from other federal agencies to support NPS management.

This fact sheet explores the resources available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) [Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\)](#) and, by extension, local conservation districts. Tribal governments may apply for NRCS project assistance or serve as a conduit to provide Tribal landowners with assistance. NRCS offers technical expertise in resource assessment, conservation planning, and other areas. NRCS works closely with local conservation districts to ensure that federal resources are distributed according to local conservation priorities and needs. Conservation districts often help to connect landowners with NRCS resources.


The following pages discuss how Tribes can:

1. Make connections with NRCS and conservation district staff
2. Plan projects and coordinate conservation services
3. Seek financial assistance
4. Implement and maintain projects successfully
5. Advise NRCS on Tribal Issues

**Tribes: Using §319 Funds for NPS Pollution Management**

CWA §319 authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to award grants to eligible states, territories, and Tribes to implement EPA-approved NPS management programs developed to reduce polluted runoff and its effect on water quality. To be eligible for §319 funding, Tribes must submit an **NPS assessment report** and a **5-year NPS management program plan** to EPA. In these documents, Tribes identify other programs, funding sources, and partners that can support their NPS management goals.

Each year EPA awards §319 grants to eligible Tribes in two ways. **Base §319 grants** serve as the primary source of support for Tribal staff leading NPS management program work. **Competitive §319 grants** are awarded via a national competition to support on-the-ground projects that directly protect or restore water quality. In general, §319 grants can be leveraged with public or private funding sources, which can significantly extend the reach and scope of Tribal NPS projects.



## Water Division

The new [Tribal Nonpoint Source Management: Leveraging Opportunities to Protect and Restore Waters](#) resource guide has been published and can be found on the [Resources & Training](#) tab of the Tribal Nonpoint Source (NPS) webpage.

The resource guide was developed in coordination with Tribal NPS partners, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the National Association of Conservation Districts. This collaboration between the U.S. EPA's Clean Water Act Section 319 program, NRCS and local conservation districts support tribes' and nations' water quality program goals. This guide serves as a starting point for tribal staff interested in learning how to begin working with NRCS and conservation districts to help manage NPS pollution.

## Tribal Project Success Stories

### Congratulations to La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians for their TAS Recognition

During the Spring 2022 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), Region 9 was pleased to announce the U.S. EPA's approval of "Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State" (TAS) for the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians.

TAS provides tribes with the same roles and responsibilities that states have when it comes to implementing federal environmental programs. Specifically, La Jolla is now the primary administrator of the Clean Water Act's Water Quality Standards and Certification Program.

Region 9 gave special acknowledgement to tribal leadership and the environmental department staff for their tireless efforts, with a special thanks given to:

- Norma Contreras, Tribal Chairwoman
- Hank Bojorquez, Water Programs Manager,
- Gilbert Mejia, Environmental Technician,
- and Rob Roy, Environmental Director.

To learn more about TAS, please visit:

[Tribal Assumption of Federal Laws - Treatment as a State \(TAS\)](#).

### *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: [R9Communities@epa.gov](mailto:R9Communities@epa.gov). While we cannot guarantee your story will be used in a particular issue, we would like to develop and highlight a success story for each quarterly newsletter. The project should have an environmental focus and have been funded using federal grants or programs.



## RTOC and Tribal/U.S. EPA 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.*

### Spring Regional Tribal Operations Committee Recap

On April 25-27, Region 9 RTOC Co-Chair Mervin Wright Jr. (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) and Co-Chair Laura Ebbert (U.S. EPA) convened the virtual Spring RTOC meeting. This was the seventh RTOC meeting convened virtually and continues to be well-attended with over 150 participants, including the U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator. The three-day meeting included a tribal caucus, presentations on climate change and budget allocations, and several technical break-out sessions on an array of topics. The topics covered included federal agency memorandums of understanding (MOUs), the Salton Sea Management Program, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and grant funds for drinking water infrastructure. The Spring RTOC presentations and meeting materials can be found here: [Region 9 RTOC Meeting: Spring 2022 | US EPA](#).

The Summer RTOC is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting, which will take place at the Cliff Castle Casino in Camp Verde, AZ, the week of July 25th. Please check the RTOC website for more details: [Regional Tribal Operations Committee \(RTOC\) | US EPA](#)

### 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 this year's conference theme will be, "Knowledge is of the Land." 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, October 25 – 27, 2022. Conference organizers are planning a virtual event so attendees can participate in-person or virtually. For the latest updates from the event organizers, please visit the [Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Website](#).

Registration is now open through the 2022 Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Accelevents event page. Secure your place at the Conference now by registering as an in-person or virtual attendee! Find additional details at the [Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Registration Page](#).

The deadline for submitting session proposals is August 1, 2022! Conference organizers are looking for dynamic, relevant, innovative, and exciting content from presenters for this year's conference. If you are considering submitting a proposal for the upcoming conference, please visit the [Call for Submissions](#) page for more details and to fill out the online submission form.

If you have more questions about registration, proposal submissions, travel, or award nominations, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions Page](#) for detailed answers and links to resource pages.

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

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## Tribal Resources

### U.S. EPA Releases Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice

The U.S. EPA's Office of General Counsel has released [U.S. EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice \(EJ Legal Tools\)](#). This provides the U.S. EPA legal authorities for identifying and addressing the disproportionate impact of pollution on underserved and overburdened communities, including communities of color, Indigenous people, and low-income communities. EJ Legal Tools is intended to help the U.S. EPA decisionmakers and partners understand their authorities to consider and address environmental justice and equity in decision-making, and to promote meaningful engagement.

*EJ Legal Tools* highlights the environmental and civil rights statutes the U.S. EPA implements. These statutes help the Agency achieve its mission of protecting human health and the environment for all communities. This ensures that the environmental justice and equity agendas are integrated throughout the Agency's policies, programs, and activities.

*EJ Legal Tools* includes a chapter focused specifically on tribes, as well as sections within other chapters referencing tribal considerations.

To view *EJ Legal Tools*, please visit: [U.S. EPA Legal Tools to Advance Environmental Justice](#).

### U.S. EPA: Sustainable Material Management Newsletter

Sustainable materials management (SMM) is a systematic approach to using and reusing materials more productively over their life cycles. It represents a change in how our society thinks about the use of natural resources and environmental protection. By examining how materials are used throughout their life cycle, an SMM approach seeks to:

- Use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less.
  - Reduce toxic chemicals and environmental impacts throughout the material life cycle.
  - Ensure we have sufficient resources to meet today's needs and those of the future.
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How our society uses materials is fundamental to our economic and environmental future. Global competition for finite resources will intensify as world population and economies grow. More productive and less impactful use of materials helps our society remain economically competitive, contributes to our prosperity and protects the environment in a resource-constrained future.

Sign up for updates from the [U.S. EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program](#) here: [U.S. EPA SMM Newsletter Signup Form](#).

## U.S. EPA's Sanitary Survey App for Marine and Freshwaters

The U.S. EPA's National Beach Advisory Program has developed an app that is used to monitor recreational water bodies. In particular, it is used with bacteria monitoring and for harmful algal blooms (HAB). It geolocates, captures photos and data, and more. Sanitary surveys are one of the most widely accepted tools to assess potential sources of pollution that can adversely affect public health.

The U.S. EPA's Sanitary Survey App for Marine and Freshwaters is a mobile app that helps communities identify sources of fecal pollution and HAB events in

surface waters, including recreational waters. The app allows users to collect detailed water quality, pollution source, land use, meteorological and waterbody-specific data. This data can be used to not only identify pollution sources for remediation but can also be used to develop predictive models for making same-day decisions on swim advisories.

For more information on the app, please visit [Sanitary Surveys for Recreational Waters](#) website or contact Shari Z. Barash at [barash.shari@epa.gov](mailto:barash.shari@epa.gov).

## Tribal Consultation Opportunities

*Active U.S. EPA consultation opportunities are available on the Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) [webpage](#). If interested, join the TCOTS Listserv by sending a message to, [Join-epa\\_tcots@lists.epa.gov](mailto:Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov) to receive email notifications on the latest U.S. EPA Tribal Consultations.*

Each month, the Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and updates and to discuss consultation topics of interest. This 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](mailto:kstricker@pechanga-nsn.gov)) or Jeremy ([bauer.jeremy@epa.gov](mailto:bauer.jeremy@epa.gov)).



*Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria Environmental Director He-Lo Ramirez talks about native plant species during a visit.*

## Water Division: Tribal Engagement Opportunities for National and Regional Water Actions Visual Calendar

In response to ongoing requests from Region 9 tribes for more outreach on current tribal consultations, we have compiled a schedule of upcoming consultation engagement opportunities for the various U.S. EPA proposed water actions. This document provides both a visual calendar to track important consultation dates and includes a narrative that briefly summarizes all current actions with more specific resources.

To access the current and future visual calendars, go to: [Tribal Consultation in U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest \(Region 9\)](#)

## Air and Radiation Division: Actions for Consultation

- ▶ A NSR permit application to install two new natural gas generators and three emergency diesel generators at the Cache Creek Casino Resort owned and operated by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
- ▶ A Draft Part 71 Permit for the Cache Creek Casino Resort owned and operated by the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation.
- ▶ A Title V/PSD Permit for performance upgrades and operational changes to the South Point Energy Center located on the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation.
- ▶ A Tribal Minor NSR Permit for the construction of a powerplant on the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians' Coachella Valley reservation.
- ▶ Four Corner Power Plan FIP Revisions

For more information, please contact:  
Gerardo Rios, Manager of the Air Permits Office,  
[rios.gerardo@epa.gov](mailto:rios.gerardo@epa.gov).

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## Funding Opportunities

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

### U.S. Department of Transportation: FY 2022 Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117-58) provides funding for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization (NGDISM) Grant Program. NGDISM funds are available for municipality or community-owned utilities (not including for profit entities) to repair, rehabilitate, or replace their natural gas distribution pipeline system or portions thereof, or to acquire equipment to (1) reduce incidents and fatalities and (2) avoid economic losses.

Through the NGDISM Grant Program, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration seeks to reduce the risk profile of existing pipeline systems with pipe prone to leakage of methane. This program creates good-paying jobs, promotes economic growth, and provides disadvantaged rural and urban communities with safe access to natural gas.

Applications are due by **July 25, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](#), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [693JK322NF0018](#).

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## U.S. EPA: FY 2022 Tribal Solid Waste Grant

To address solid waste management issues, the U.S. EPA is responsible for implementing the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) Subtitle D program, 42 U.S.C 6941, et seq. The SWDA Subtitle D program's objective is to promote environmentally-sound methods for disposing of solid waste. It aims to use valuable resources, including energy and solid waste materials to encourage resource conservation.

This grant helps tribes conduct solid waste management activities while considering threats to human health and the environment. It also helps establish sustainable waste management programs. This funding opportunity does not include infrastructure projects. However, it may support preliminary activities for future infrastructure projects, such as planning, assessment, evaluation, and training that are funded under this announcement.

Applications are due by **July 29, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [EPA-OLEM-ORCR-22-03](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/list_funding_opportunities.html?text=EPA-OLEM-ORCR-22-03).

## The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Partners for Fish and Wildlife FY22

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is voluntary, and incentive-based. It provides direct technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these areas.

Geographic focus areas define where the program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and substantial involvement from Fish and Wildlife field

staff. Project selection will seek to support or align with the Secretary of Interior's priorities. The projects will advance the missions of the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and PFW by promoting biological diversity based upon sound scientific biological principles. Program strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity.

Applications are due by **July 30, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [F22AS00095](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/list_funding_opportunities.html?text=F22AS00095).

## U.S. EPA: 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates

The U.S. EPA is pleased to announce that the [2022 Clean School Bus Rebate Application is now open!](https://www.epa.gov/clean-school-bus-rebate) \$500 million is available nationwide to public and private fleet owners for the replacement of existing internal combustion engine school buses with low and zero-emission school buses.

Per the statute, the rebate program will prioritize the replacement of buses which serve high-need school districts, tribal schools, rural and low-income areas. School districts that qualify under one or more of the prioritizations will receive special consideration, since prioritizations is already used in the selection process and funding amount. Tribal schools are considered a priority.

To learn more about program specifics and how to apply, please visit the Clean School Bus website at [Clean School Bus Program](https://www.epa.gov/clean-school-bus-rebate). The U.S. EPA will host webinars throughout the application period. These webinars will include step-by-step assistance with applications.

[Click here](#) to register for one of the U.S. EPA's Zoom Webinars today! Applications are due by August 19, 2022.

## U.S. Department of Energy: Grid Resilience Formula Grants to States and Tribes

This is the first of three multi-billion dollar U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) funding opportunities to improve the nation's electrical grid opportunity. This funding comes from Section 40101 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and is targeted at enhancing the resilience of the electricity grid against disruptive events. This is a \$2.3B formula grant program. States, territories and tribes are eligible and required to match 15% of the award. Funds will be awarded annually for five years, and you can find each tribes' annual award amount [here](#). A recording of a May 5, 2022 U.S. DOE presentation on this grant opportunity is available [here](#).

More information can be found here: [Section 40101\(d\) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes](#).

Applications are due by **September 30, 2022**.

## U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal

The Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Funding Opportunity provides federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and tribal commissions or consortia to remove barriers to fish passage for native migratory or sea-run fish. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries and:

- contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species
- enhances watershed health
- promotes resilient ecosystems and communities
- increases tribal capacity to participate in fish passage barrier removal efforts
- improves tribal commercial, recreational, subsistence and cultural practice opportunities.

Applicants should address the following program priorities: (1) Achieving measurable and lasting benefits for migratory fish populations; (2) Fostering tribally important barrier removal efforts that benefit migratory fish; (3) Enhancing community resilience to climate hazards and providing other co-benefits; or (4) Increasing tribal organizational fish passage capacity to support tribes in their role as managers and stewards of tribal trust resources for cultural, spiritual, economic, subsistence, and recreational purposes.

Applications are due by **August 29, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](#), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [NOAA-NMFS-HCPO-2022-2007193](#).

## U.S. Department of Agriculture: FY 2022 Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Pilot Project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, under the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP), is soliciting applications from eligible applicants to host a Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) pilot project for fiscal year FY 2022. While applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that meet more than one of the objectives below (inclusion of multiple objectives will be considered when ranking proposals), OUAIP will accept proposals that address at least one of the following:

- Generate compost.
- Increase access to compost for agricultural producers.
- Reduce reliance on, and limit the use of, fertilizer.
- Improve soil quality.
- Encourage waste management and permaculture business development.
- Increase rainwater absorption.
- Reduce municipal food waste.
- Divert residential and commercial food waste from landfills.

Applications are due by **September 1, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](#), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CFWR-22-NOFO0001179](#).

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: FY22 National Fish Passage Program

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners. The program works in partnership to provide fish (and other aquatic organisms) passage and restore aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources. In doing so, the program aims to maintain or increase fish populations in order to improve ecosystem resiliency and to provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Activities that restore fish passage also support the modernization of country's infrastructure such as road culverts, bridges, and water diversions.

Example projects include dam removals, culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways. FAC staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other Fish and Wildlife programs to identify and collaboratively implement projects within regional priority areas. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from FAC staff.

Applications are due by **December 30, 2022**.

More information is available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), under Funding Opportunity Announcement [F22AS00300](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/list_funding_opportunities.html).

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## Training & 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 the 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.*

### U.S. EPA: Starting Community Composting Programs on Tribal Lands

The U.S. EPA is offering a free, **in-person workshop on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>** on how to start a community composting program. It will be hosted at the Potter Valley Tribe's Noyo-bida Ranch in Ft Bragg, California. Looking for solutions on how to manage organic materials on your lands, return nutrients to the soil and reduce landfilling? Join this in-person workshop to learn how to compost, identify community composting practices that may work well in your community, and chart a path towards developing a community composting program. We will visit a current tribal composting operation at Potter Valley and hear from other tribes on their composting experiences.

Steven Sherman is a leader in organic materials waste reduction and management. He has provided organics program planning, implementation, and evaluation services nationwide and enjoys helping people to collaboratively identify roles and responsibilities and uncover underused assets or potential linkages within communities.

This training workshop is organized by U.S. EPA Region 9, with the support of Booz Allen Hamilton. If you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact Jenny Stephenson ([stephenson.jenny@epa.gov](mailto:stephenson.jenny@epa.gov)) or Deirdre Nurre ([nurre.deirdre@epa.gov](mailto:nurre.deirdre@epa.gov)).

This workshop is intended for employees of federally-recognized tribes and tribal consortia. Participants from outside of Region 9 are welcome, but we do not have any travel stipends to offer.

**Register here: [U.S. EPA Waste & Materials Management Training Series for Tribes Starting Community Composting Programs on Tribal Lands: In-Person Workshop](#).**

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## U.S. EPA: After a Wildfire Training Course

The U.S. EPA's Region 9, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), and Safeguard EnviroGroup created an "After a Wildfire" training course that will be available on ITEP's website starting in mid-July. The course includes information on the hazards of wildfire smoke, indoor air quality, and covers best practices for cleaning indoor and outdoor spaces that have been affected by wildfire smoke. The training is available online as a self-paced course, suitable for those who work with communities impacted by wildland fires. Upon completion of the course, participants can take Safeguard EnviroGroup's IAQ Prep course to prepare for the ACAC Fire and Smoke Damage Consulting certifications using the code 'EPATRIBAL.'

For additional questions, please contact EPA R9's Kelley Xuereb ([xuereb.kelley@epa.gov](mailto:xuereb.kelley@epa.gov)). The course will be available at [ITEP Trainings](#).

## U.S. EPA: Tribal Disaster Debris and Climate Resilience Planning Training

During the trainings, participants will learn about:

- strategies to build resilience to reduce disaster debris.
- components of a disaster debris management plan
- how to align with other climate resilience and hazard mitigation plans
- building confidence in responding to disaster debris issues on the ground.

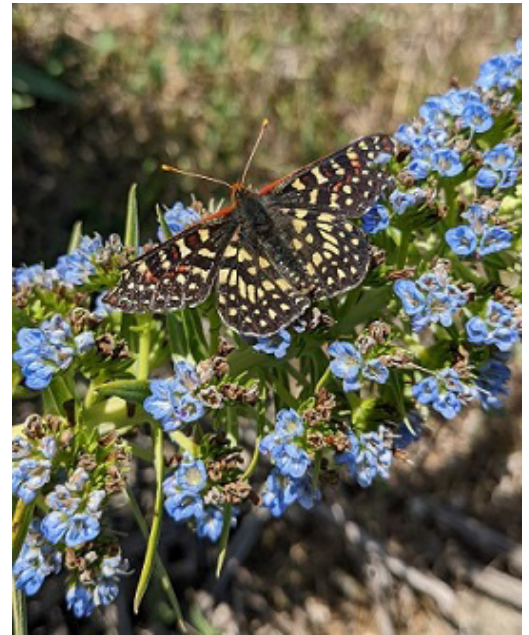
Tribal staff will have the opportunity to work in small groups with staff from other tribal and government agencies to begin developing effective, sustainable disaster debris management plans before disasters strike. Direct technical assistance will be offered to up to 10 tribes following the training. This will help tribes write and implement effective climate resilient disaster debris management plans.

[Register](#) for this free, virtual, three-part session tribal training on:

- Tuesday, October 4, 2022: 10 am – 12 pm PT / 1 – 3 pm, ET
- Wednesday, October 12, 2022: 10 am – 1 pm PT / 1 – 4 pm, ET
- Thursday, October 20, 2022: 10 am – 1 pm PT / 1 – 4 pm, ET

**\*\*attendance at all three training sessions is strongly recommended\*\***

The training series is hosted by the U.S. EPA. More information will be sent out in the coming months. Please contact Dolly Tong ([tong.dolly@epa.gov](mailto:tong.dolly@epa.gov)) with any questions.



*Variable Checkerspot, San Bruno State Park*

## U.S. EPA: Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Engagement in the National Environmental Policy Act: Challenges and Best Practices

This webinar consists of tribal nations and indigenous peoples sharing their experiences engaging in the decision-making processes that are part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). They'll share their best practices, lessons learned, challenges, and recommendations for improving the identification and consideration of tribal and indigenous interests and concerns in NEPA.

This webinar is being held in conjunction with a workshop on Intergovernmental Relations in NEPA Processes: Tools, Resources, and Considerations for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples. It's planned for late summer/early fall, and will be hosted by the Udall Foundation's National Center for Environmental

Conflict Resolution, in partnership with the U.S. EPA, Office of Environmental Justice, and the University of Arizona's Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy.

This webinar took place on June 29, 2022. Please note that recordings of this webinar are expected to be available on the following website: [EJ Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#).

### **U.S. EPA: Strengthening Tribal Sovereignty through Waste Management Codes and Ordinances**

Developing enforceable codes and ordinances can help a tribe address its unique environmental issues while honoring and preserving its traditions for future generations. Abandoned motor vehicles on tribal land can pose an especially challenging problem.

Combining enforceable law with effective policy and tribal programs can be one path towards solving a difficult solid waste problem.

Annie Perry of Snowpony Consulting shared her in-depth knowledge about the step-by-step process of developing codes and ordinances. Kori Ellien discussed her experience implementing and enforcing environmental codes with the Yurok Tribe.

This webinar took place on June 30, 2022. Please note that recordings of this webinar are expected to be available on the following website: [Tribal Lands Webinar Recordings](#).



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

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San Francisco, CA. 94105

### ***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, Mark Rayos, at: [R9Communities@epa.gov](mailto:R9Communities@epa.gov)

**R9 Tribal Programs:** [www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-region-9-pacific-southwest](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-region-9-pacific-southwest)

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*Please see and subscribe to our [EPA in the Pacific Southwest Newsletter](#) for more general news about the U.S. EPA in Region 9.*



**To report environmental violations**, please call 1-800-300-2193, operational during normal working hours, Monday through Friday. **To report oil or chemical spills**, please call the emergency line. More information on reporting spills and environmental violations could be found here:

[How to Report Spills and Environmental Violations](#)

***Protecting Human Health and the Environment***