

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

Inside this issue:	
Regulatory News	2
Program Updates	4
Tribal Project Success Stories	7
Regional Tribal Operations Committee	8
Tribal Resources	9
Tribal Consultation	
Opportunities	11
Funding Opportunities	13
Training & Technical Assistance	21

Musings from U.S. EPA Staff

To Our Tribal Partners in the U.S. EPA Region 9,

I am sitting in front of my house as I write this, feeling the breeze and the beginnings of fall. Since my theme for this message to you is "change," the symbolism of where I am sitting and what I am feeling is not lost on me. With the dimming light and soft breeze on this late summer/early fall evening, I can't help but think that change is inevitable, but I am ready for it. Change brings opportunities and can even be exciting, refreshing, and sometimes calming.

Many of you do not know me, because most of my work over the past eight years has been behind the scenes running Region 9's Air &

Radiation Division as the Deputy Director. With the recent retirement of my long-term supervisor and friend, Elizabeth Adams, I am once again serving as the Acting Director for the air program. With this change comes the great opportunity to get to know all of you more. I already have a couple of trips planned to visit our tribal partners in the coming weeks. I'm looking forward to learning more about what we can and should be doing together.

Inflation Reduction Act Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Funding:

In the past year, Region 9 funded 21 grants supporting 53 tribes for \$5.9 million for the planning portion of this program. As a result of this funding, each tribe will be creating a greenhouse gas inventory and prioritize what projects they would implement. These tribes will be eligible to compete for the larger implementation grants, which will have a tribal set-aside. Applications will be due Spring 2024. Please keep in mind that tribes who did not receive Climate Pollution Reduction Grants planning grants must partner with a state or metropolitan area to become eligible for implementation funding. Please visit the link below for more information.

More Information | Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers:

We have established two Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers to serve all of Region 9: one at San Diego State University and another at the University of Arizona. Each of the technical assistance centers will receive at least \$10 million to remove barriers and improve accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Clean School Bus Rebates:

In Region 9, eleven school districts that support tribal students received over \$29 million in Clean School Bus rebates.

Page 2 Fall 2023 Issue

American Rescue Plan Funding:

In our region, we have funded 14 tribes with approximately \$3 million in American Rescue Plan monitoring grants.

And our traditional funding has also grown...

We received approximately 25% more funding for the tribal Clean Air Act 103 and 105 grants than usual. This allowed us to more fully fund the requests that we received from the existing air grantees. We are now providing air grants to 30 tribes in the region. And as a reminder, the annual Clean Air Act Sections 103 and 105 request for proposals will come out in November – we encourage anyone interested to apply!

We know it can be hard to navigate all of these new programs. In our air program, we are very lucky to have Kate Harper (harper.kathryn@epa.gov) and Eddy Holman (holman.edward@epa.gov), who are fantastic advocates for you and the tribal programs. Please never hesitate to reach out to me, Kate, or Eddy whenever we can be of assistance. These changes are all very exciting and I know we will make the most of it, working together.

Sincerely,
Matt Lakin (<u>lakin.matthew@epa.gov</u>)
Director, Air & Radiation Division
U.S. EPA, Region 9

Regulatory News

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

U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Drinking Water Section | New Drinking Water Service Line Inventory Requirement for Public Water Systems

The 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions include a requirement for all community and non-transient non-community water systems to develop a service line inventory and submit it to EPA by **October 16, 2024**. Every service line at the system will have to be classified into one of four categories:

- Lead.
- Galvanized needing replacement (meaning a galvanized service line that is, or was, downstream of a lead line or is downstream of a line of unknown material).
- Non-lead.
- Unknown.

EPA recommends that water systems begin developing these inventories as soon as possible. Some tribal utilities may require technical or financial assistance to support development of their system's service line inventory. Rural Community Assistance Corporation circuit riders are available to provide comprehensive technical assistance in preparing your system's service line inventory. Other tribal utilities with few service lines, detailed system records, or those constructed after 1989 may choose to complete their service line inventory in-house using existing resources. Contact your Drinking Water Program Manager to request Rural Community Assistance Corporation assistance if needed.

Page 3 Fall 2023 Issue

Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside-Lead Service Line Replacement funding is now available to support development of service line inventories, including the investigation of service lines of "unknown" material, following the submittal of a system's initial inventory. More information on EPA's Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside-Lead Service Line Replacement Program can be found in the Funding Opportunities section below.

More background information specific to EPA's final revisions to the lead and copper rule can be found at the website linked below.

Supporting Materials: Final Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule | EPA Ground and Drinking Water

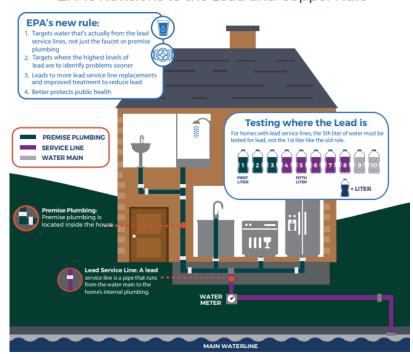
U.S. EPA | *EPA Posts 10 Years of Pesticide Incident Data Publicly and Plans Monthly Updates*

The EPA took a major step to increase transparency by posting 10 years of pesticide incident data on its website. The data sets, which pull information from EPA's Incident Data System, allow users to access raw data on

\$EPA

Improving Lead Sampling to Better Protect Public Health

EPA's Revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule



Lead Sampling infographic.

pesticide exposure incidents such as the incident date, the reason for the report (e.g., adverse effect, product defect), and the severity of the incident. It may also provide information on the location of the incident, the pesticide product, and a description of the incident(s).

"People have the right to know when accidental pesticide exposures or other incidents are reported to the Agency," said EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Michal Freedhoff. "It is particularly critical to share how pesticides may have impacted our most vulnerable populations, including children and farmworkers."

Prior to today's action, EPA generally only provided incident information to the public when responding to requests under the Freedom of Information Act or as an incident summary as part of EPA's pesticide registration review process. EPA has made these data accessible to expand the public's access and understanding of pesticide incidents and pesticide-related illness. Releasing these data is responsive to many long-standing requests to share incident data with farmworker organizations and public health officials.

EPA has made the last 10 years of incident data accessible because incident data older than 10 years may not reflect pesticide product labels currently on the market due to label changes that may occur during registration review. EPA plans to update the data monthly going forward.

News Release | EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Page 4 Fall 2023 Issue

U.S. EPA | 2022 Toxics Release Inventory Preliminary Dataset

Each summer, EPA publishes the preliminary Toxics Release Inventory dataset so that the public can view the most recently reported data from industrial facilities managing toxic chemicals. EPA made the 2022 TRI preliminary dataset available on August 4, prior to EPA finalizing the National Analysis dataset later this month. EPA publishes the National Analysis report, based on the October dataset, early the following calendar year.

The 2022 Toxics Release Inventory preliminary dataset contains data about chemical releases, waste management and pollution prevention activities that took place during calendar year 2022 at more than 20,000 federal and industrial facilities across the country.

Users should note that while these preliminary data have undergone the basic data quality checks included in the online Toxics Release Inventory reporting software, they have not undergone the complete Toxics Release Inventory data quality process. In addition, EPA does not aggregate or summarize these data, or offer any analysis or interpretation of them.

You can use the Toxics Release Inventory preliminary dataset to:

- Identify how many Toxics Release Inventory facilities operate in a certain geographic area (e.g., a ZIP code).
- Identify which chemicals are being managed by Toxics Release Inventory facilities and in what quantities.
- Find out if a particular facility initiated any pollution prevention activities in the most recent calendar year.

Dataset & More Information | EPA Toxics Release Inventory Program

Program Updates

U.S. EPA | October is Children's Health Month!

Did you know that, relative to bodyweight, children drink about **7x more**, eat about **3.5x more**, and breathe about **2x more** than adults? This means if their air or water is contaminated, they'll take in proportionately more harmful toxins than adults.

A child's environment shapes their health and can have both short and long-term consequences. Exposure to environmental hazards can lead to increased asthma, childhood obesity, cancer, neurological damage leading to disorders such as ADHD and autism, and other issues. These conditions impact not only the child, but the community and our society as whole for many reasons, including increased health care costs, special education needs, and lower lifetime earnings.

EPA funded two Healthy Learning Environments grants in Region 9 to help keep children healthy in spaces where they spend much of their early years growing and learning.

Community Development Institute's Healthy Environments/Healthy Children – A Tool of Support for Center and Home-based Childcare: The environment in which children live, learn and grow is critical to health, safety and early childhood development. Community Development Institute, with funding support from EPA's Healthy Learning Environments grant, developed an environmental self-assessment tool for early childhood

Page 5 Fall 2023 Issue



October is Children's Health Month

Protecting Children's Health at All Stages and in All Communities

ŞEPA

Children's Health Month poster

spaces. The intent of the environmental self-assessment is to build awareness of potential environmental exposures, identify potential areas of improvement and provide useful resources to address identified concerns. We know how hard early care and education providers work to create safe and inspiring environments. Utilization of the tool can complement those efforts and help position a greater experience of health, safety and quality for children, families, and staff. The tool is free and can be accessed at the link below, along with a prerecorded training highlighting some environmental risks and tips to using the tool.

Northern Arizona University's Air and Water Assessment of Cocopah Tribal Head-Start and Day Care: Northern Arizona University is using EPA Healthy Learning Environments grant funds to expand upon its preliminary assessments of poor air quality and water contamination on tribal lands. Northern Arizona University is training Cocopah tribal professionals in the

protocols for sample acquisition and analyses at the Cocopah Tribe Head-Start and Day Care. Northern Arizona University and EPA's support will help enable the Cocopah Tribe to develop their own air and water monitoring program and communicate air and water quality hazards to the community to help them keep their families safer.

Visit EPA's webpage on Children's Health Month for more information and resources related to Children's Health Month and how you can protect children where they live, learn, and play.

Tool of Support | Community Development Institute Children's Health Month Webpage | EPA

U.S. EPA | *Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard*

The Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard went into effect on July 18, 2023. EPA Regional and Program Offices, 36 states, and 23 tribal organizations participated in the development of the Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard. The Standard applies to all EPA employees responsible for environmental information operations. The Standard also applies to non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations in support of EPA's mission or national program priorities. This standard replaces EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plan (QA/R-5).

Non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations on behalf of EPA as defined by and in accordance with federal laws and legal requirements including administrative orders/enforcement actions, regulations, extramural agreements or performing work on a voluntary basis under agreement with EPA must adhere to the standard.

Non-EPA organizations include but are not limited to contractors, regulated parties, cooperative agreement holders, grantees, states, tribes, localities, intergovernmental agencies, educational institutions, hospitals, non-profits, other federal governmental agencies and parties to Memoranda of Agreement or Understanding, volunteer organizations, and other environmental information providers.

Page 6 Fall 2023 Issue

This standard defines the minimum requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans for EPA and non-EPA organizations performing environmental information operations. Environmental information operations is a collective term that encompasses the collection, production, evaluation, or use of environmental information by or for EPA and the design, construction, operation, or application of environmental technology by EPA. Changes reflected in the Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard, that are not currently included in organization's approved Quality Assurance Project Plans and Quality Management Plans, must be incorporated during the next revision and approval of those documents.

Quality Assurance Project Plan Standard (2023) | EPA Office of Mission Support

Additional Quality Assurance Materials | EPA Office of Mission Support

U.S. EPA | Region 9 Tribal Branch: Cultural Activities & General Assistance Program Guidance Sheet

EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch has updated their guidance sheet, *Cultural Activities & EPA Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Funding: Facilitating Environmental Protection Through Culture in Region 9*, to consider the new 2022 GAP Guidance. This document was first developed in 2021, using feedback from the Regional Tribal Operations Committee workgroup, to support tribes' ability to include General Assistance Program eligible cultural activities in their workplans.

Cultural Activities & EPA Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Funding
Facilitating Environmental Protection Through Culture in Region 9

INTRODUCTION

EPA recognizes the value that FEK (Traditional Ecological Knowledge) or IK (Indigenous Knowledge), adds to the protection of human health and the environment. Additionally, Indian Environmental Centeral Assistance Program (Gelf jedible activities in junicidus culturally related involvemental other potential activities. Namy GAP allowable activities simultaneously protect the environment and help preserve culture.

TIPS FOR DRAFTING A GAP ELIGIBLE COMMITMENT

1. Connect the work with an EPA environmental program – air quality, water quality, climate change, etc.
2. Check that the activity is a priority in the Title's most updated That Environmental Plan.
3. Consider making multi-year plans that build on eather. You can use your EPA Tribul Environmental Plan as a strategic planning tool.

WORKPLAN COMMITMENT EXAMPLES

Below are some example commitments that include cultural activities and/or TEK. The below list of workplan examples is non-enhaustive. The 2002 CAMP Guidenge and supporting documents has even more examples. See the figs in the section above on his or both and CAP eligible commitment and with your result of the community about environmental protection.

• The well use cultural knowledge stories from elders to beach the community about environmental protection.

• The well supposed of their environmental program though a multi-year traditional environmental protection.

• The well supposed of their environmental program areas that ned councils with position and flooding intermental protection.

• The well supposed of their environmental program though a multi-year traditional environmental games and flooding intermental protection.

• The well supposed of their environmental program areas that need councils with a coll mendation of the program and the collegation plans.

• The well subtract any other control of the councils of the environmen

Cultural Activities Guidance Sheet

Guidance Sheet | EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch

U.S. EPA | Region 9 Tribal Branch: Tribal Climate-Related Funding Resources in Region 9

The Tribal Climate-Related Funding Resources in Region 9 matrix, which came about as an action item out of a Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting, has been uploaded to the website. This comprehensive resource provides more than **80 active climate-related opportunities** in the following areas:

- Federal funding.
- Arizona funding.
- California funding.
- Technical assistance and other resources.

Tribal Climate-Related Funding Resources | EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch

U.S. EPA | Biden-Harris Administration Announces over \$278 Million in Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure for Tribes and Alaska Native Villages

The EPA announced over \$278 million in funding to improve access to safe and reliable drinking water and wastewater services for American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages. Thanks to the boost from President Biden's historic Investing in America agenda, this year, EPA is providing its largest investment ever of annual water infrastructure funding to tribes. The funding will help tribes and Alaska Native villages make significant investments in water infrastructure improvements to advance public health protections by improving compliance with existing water regulations, identifying and replacing lead service lines, and addressing harmful emerging contaminants in drinking water and wastewater, such as per- and polyfluorinated substances.

Page 7 Fall 2023 Issue

The funding will be administered through the following programs:

- \$64 million in FY 2023 Clean Water Indian Set-Aside through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and annual appropriation funds.
- \$130.3 million in FY 2023 Drinking Water
 Infrastructure Grants through the Bipartisan
 Infrastructure Law and annual appropriation funds.
- \$38.6 million in combined FY 2022 and FY 2023
 Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged
 Communities Tribal Grant Program through
 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds.
- \$5.6 million in combined FY 2022 and FY 2023 Small, Underserved, and Disadvantaged Communities Tribal Grant Program through annual appropriation funds.
- \$39.6 million in FY 2023 Alaska Rural and Native
 Villages Grant Program through annual appropriation funds.



EPA Project Officers with La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians Environmental staff at
La Jolla's campground on a recent site visit in August.
From left to right: Edem Yevoo (EPA-GAP PO), Frank Spurgeon (La Jolla –
Air Program Manager), Gilbert Mejia (La Jolla – Clean Water Program Manager),
Rob Roy (La Jolla – Director), and Amaya Simpson (CWA PO)

"This funding opportunity isn't just a great opportunity for our nation, but a great opportunity for all tribal nations that are looking for assistance with tribal water systems," said Lummi Vice Chairman Terrence Adams. "Tribal people have an important relationship with the water, and we believe that it is our inherent responsibility to take care of the water as it cares for us."

News Release | EPA Office of Water

Tribal Project Success Stories

U.S. Department of Energy | *Washoe Tribe Awarded in Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program*

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the U.S. Department of Energy today announced two states and three tribal nations will receive a combined total of \$34 million as the fifth cohort of Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants. Supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and administered by the Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office, these grants will help modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts of climate-driven extreme weather and natural disasters while also ensuring power sector reliability. This funding will ensure all communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity while helping deliver on the President's ambitious clean energy agenda.

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California (Carson Colony, Dresslerville Colony, Woodfords Community, Stewart Community, & Washoe Ranches) was awarded \$1.3 million and will ensure that tribal members and the tribe's critical community facilities are not impacted by weather events. The grant funds will support modernizing grid infrastructure and investments in clean energy while also addressing the energy burden experienced by low-income and disadvantaged tribal communities.

Page 8 Fall 2023 Issue

Over the next five years, the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants will distribute a total of \$2.3 billion to states, territories, and federally recognized tribes, including Alaska Native regional corporations and Alaska Native village corporations, based on a formula that includes factors such as population size, land area, probability and severity of disruptive events, and a locality's historical expenditures on mitigation efforts.

News Release | DOE Grid Deployment Office

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 EPA Project Officer or send an email to: 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/EPA Annual Conference

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a working committee of the EPA and tribal personnel co-chaired by an EPA representative and a tribal representative. The 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.

Summer 2023 RTOC Recap

On August 7-10, Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee co-chairs Mervin Wright Jr. and Laura Ebbert convened the quarterly RTOC in-person and virtual hybrid event at the Peppermill Casino Resort in Reno, Nevada. The four-day meeting included a field trip to Pyramid Lake; a tribal caucus; presentations on the Environmental Protection Network, National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives, and lead testing in schools; and several technical breakout sessions. Over 150 people participated when counting both virtual and inperson attendees.

The Fall 2023 RTOC will be a one-day meeting on Monday, October 23rd at the Viejas Casino and Resort in Alpine, California, with a virtual option. Online registration and an agenda for the Fall RTOC is available at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee website below. Then immediately following the Fall RTOC, in the same location, will be the Tribal/EPA Conference.



Attendees at the Summer RTOC

RTOC Website | EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch

Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Updates

The Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference cosponsors, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and EPA Region 9

Page 9 Fall 2023 Issue

are pleased to announce this year's conference theme will be "This Land We Love" or "Mutt Peyii Uumirrp" in Kumeyaay, as translated by Chairman John Christman. The conference brings together up to 500 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 Viejas Casino and Resort in Alpine, California, October 24 – 26, 2023. Conference organizers are planning a hybrid event so attendees can participate in person or virtually.

Registration is open now! Visit the registration page to get your ticket for in-person or virtual attendance at the link below.

If you haven't made travel arrangements yet, find information on the hotel, room block rates, and transportation on the travel page linked below.

Registration Page | Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Travel Page | Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference

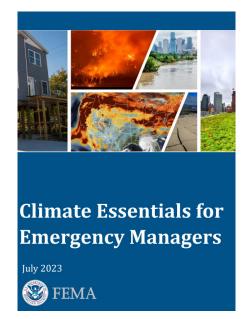
Tribal Resources

FEMA | Climate Essentials for Emergency Managers

To better manage the threats of climate change, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is committed to enhancing the nation's capability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to future climate conditions. This starts with taking initial steps to advance climate literacy across the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the wider emergency management community, and to foster a common understanding of how climate change impacts emergency management.

Climate Essentials for Emergency Managers offers foundational learning opportunities for the emergency management community and beyond. By sharing communication techniques, climate information, data resources, and guidance for connecting with experts, this resource helps advance the integration of climate change considerations into actionable efforts before, during, and after disasters.

Document | FEMA Climate Resilience



Cover of Climate Essentials

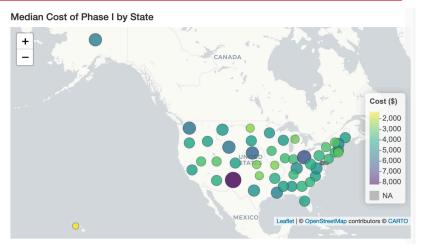
Community Lattice | Analysis of Brownfields Costs Tool

The Community Lattice Analysis of Brownfields Costs tool is an interactive data tool that allows users to explore the assessment and clean-up costs of past, EPA-funded brownfields projects to inform their own project budgets.

The Analysis of Brownfields Costs tool is organized into three sections – Single Variable, Multivariate, and Geography – to allow users to slice and dice the available data to understand the different factors affecting brownfields cleanup costs. Each section allows for the choice of analysis category, phases I and II, and cleanup.

Page 10 Fall 2023 Issue

The Analysis of Brownfields Costs tool builds on Community Lattice's Platform for Exploring Environmental Records tool by providing the next step of information that communities need to make brownfields redevelopment and planning decisions. First, the Platform for Exploring Environmental Records helps communities understand the potential risk level of a specific site and, second, the Analysis of Brownfields Costs tool provides an idea of the cost for cleaning up a site of that risk level.



Brownsfield Costs Tool

Tool & More Information | Community Lattice Resources

U.S. EPA | *RE-Powering Mapper*

EPA's RE-Powering Mapper, an interactive web application, allows users to identify contaminated lands, landfills and mine sites for renewable energy development. Using renewable energy criteria developed in collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, EPA has pre-screened over 190,000 sites for their renewable energy potential.

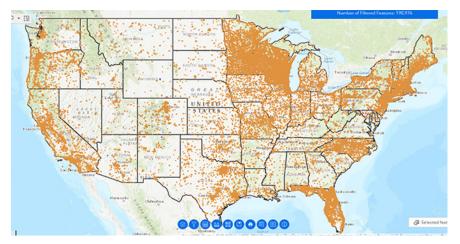
Mapper features include:

- Over 190,000 sites for solar, wind, biomass, and geothermal energy.
- Search data by attributes including state, acreage, renewable energy capacity, distance to nearest substation, and more.
- Site—specific renewable energy reports.
- Links to EPA or state program managing the site clean-up.

Mapper & Tutorials | EPA RE-Powering America's Land

U.S. EPA | Version 3 of EPA's Excess Food Opportunities Map Published

EPA's Excess Food Opportunities Map, first released in 2018, identifies and displays facility-specific information



RE-Powering Mapper Tool

for potential generators and recipients of excess food in the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors, including estimates of excess food for most generators. The map is a useful resource allowing businesses, organizations, and governments to make connections and find opportunities to make the best use of their excess food. It can be used to inform waste management and food recovery decisions at the local level, as well as to identify potential sources of organic feedstocks, infrastructure gaps, and alternatives to landfilling.

Page 11 Fall 2023 Issue

EPA released Version 3.0, which provides data updates for all excess food generators and recipients. The map includes about 950,000 potential generators such as food manufacturers, retailers, and restaurants, and about 6,500 potential recipients such as food banks and composting and anaerobic digestion facilities.

Additionally, in Version 3.0 EPA included data layers from other mapping tools including environmental justice layers from EPA's EJScreen, and food insecurity and food assistance layers from USDA's Food Environment Atlas. Environmental justice is a critical part of EPA's work, and we hope these new data layers can be used in concert with excess food estimates to drive policy decisions, investments, and actions to feed people.



EPA's Excess Food Opportunities Map Version 3.0

Map & More Information | EPA Sustainable Management of Food

Tribal Consultation

A full list of active 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 Joinepa_tcots@lists.epa.gov to receive email notifications on the latest EPA Tribal Consultations.

U.S. EPA Office of International & Tribal Affairs | *Proposed Revisions to EPA's Consultation Policy & Treaty Rights Guidance*

Tribal consultation on the proposed revisions to the EPA Consultation Policy and Treaty Rights Guidance was initiated by EPA on March 1, 2023 and ended on July 21, 2023. EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs is now working through the input that was received and making revisions, with the goal of finalizing the revised Policy and Guidance in November 2023.

For any questions or information about this important work, please contact Zoe Ruge with EPA's American Indian Environmental Office at Ruge.Zoe@epa.gov or (202 566-1695.

EPA appreciates the valuable input that was provided by tribal governments and tribal partnership groups!

U.S. EPA Region 9 | Air and Radiation Division

The EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division is currently reviewing the following State Implementation Plan submittals from state and local air agencies. These State Implementation Plan 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 State Implementation Plan submittals, please email the point of contact for the submittal.

Plan Submittals

Contact: Idalia Perez, Manager of the Planning Section, perez.idalia@epa.gov

Coachella Valley (California) Extreme Area Attainment Plan for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS.

Page 12 Fall 2023 Issue

- Coachella Valley (California) Vehicle Miles Travel Offset for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS.
- San Diego (California) Severe Area Attainment Plan for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone NAAQS.
- San Joaquin Valley (California) 2019 Clean Air Act § 182(e)(5), New Technologies, Progress Report for the 1997
 Ozone NAAQS.
- Las Vegas (Nevada) 2nd 10-year Maintenance Plan for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS.

Contact: Gwen Yoshimura, Manager of the Geographic Strategies & Modeling Section, yoshimura.gwen@epa.gov

- Hawaii Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for Second Planning Period.
- Arizona Infrastructure State Implementation Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS.
- Arizona Transport State Implementation Plan for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS (e.g., "Good Neighbor Plan").

Rule Submittals

Contact: Doris Lo, Manager of the Rules Section, <u>lo.doris@epa.gov</u>

- Great Basin (California) NSR Rule.
- Clark County (Nevada) NSR Rules.
- Feather River (California) NSR Rule.
- Butte County (California) NSR Rule.
- San Luis Obispo County (California) NSR Rule.
- Sacramento County (California) NSR Rule.
- Tehama County (California) NSR Rule.
- Yolo-Solano (California) NSR Rule.
- South Coast (California) Warehouse Indirect Source Rule.

Contact: Lisa Beckham, Manager of the Control Measures Section, <u>beckham.lisa@epa.gov</u>

San Joaquin Valley (California) Recission of Rules with Startup/Shutdown/Malfunction Exemptions.

U.S. EPA Region 9 | *Tribal Operations Committee Consultation Workgroup*

Each month, the Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and discuss consultation topics of interest. This RTOC workgroup is jointly chaired by Cliff Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, and Rubén Mojica Hernandez, EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch Manager.

For more information and/or to become involved, please contact Cliff at cbanuelos@itcn.org or Rubén at Mojica-Hernandez.Ruben@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division | *Tribal Engagement Opportunities for National and Regional Water Actions Visual Calendar*

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

To access the most current and future visual calendars, please follow one the links below.

<u>Tribal Consultation | EPA Pacific Southwest (Region 9)</u>
<u>Tribal Clean Water Act Programs and Grants | EPA Pacific Southwest (Region 9)</u>

Page 13 Fall 2023 Issue

Funding Opportunities

Stay up-to-date on federal grant opportunities by using the Grants.gov search page.

U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs | *Tribal Climate Resilience Annual Awards Program*

- Funding: Maximum of \$250,000. There is no minimum.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized tribal nations and authorized tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To support planning and implementation projects, including for climate adaptation planning, community-led relocation, managed retreat (i.e., partial relocation), protect-in-place efforts, ocean and coastal management, as well as for habitat restoration and adaptation.
- Application due date: October 13, 2023.

Application | Tribal Climate Resilience Annual Awards Program



Lake Henshaw View Point on the La Jolla Reservation

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation |

WaterSMART-Applied Science Grants

- Funding: Up to \$400,000.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: For the development of tools and information to support water management for multiple uses. Eligible projects include the development of modeling and forecasting tools, hydrologic data platforms, and new data sets.
- Application due date: October 17, 2023.

Application | WaterSMART-Applied Science Grants

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants

- Funding: Up to \$400,000.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: To develop collaborative, water strategy grants to conduct planning studies for different types of
 water management improvement projects; drought contingency plans; and projects to conduct final design
 for water management improvements, including projects for domestic water supply, water conservation,
 drought resiliency, and restoration.
- Application due date: October 17, 2023 for FY23 cycle and April 2, 2024 for FY24 cycle.

Application | WaterSMART Planning and Project Design Grants For FY 2023 and FY 2024

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species

- Funding: \$50,000 to \$960,000.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: To develop and implement a program for waters of the United States to prevent introduction and
 dispersal of aquatic invasive species, monitor, control, and study such species, and disseminate related
 information. The Rapid Response Fund addresses the need for readily available financial resources to assess
 and support response actions for quick containment or eradication of newly detected species.

Page 14 Fall 2023 Issue

Application due date: October 18, 2023.

Application | Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species

U.S. Forest Service | Community Wildfire Defense Grant 2023 Tribes

• Funding: Maximum of \$250,000 for the creation or updating of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and \$10 million for a project described within a Community Wildfire Protection Plan less than 10 years old. There is no minimum.

- Eligibility: Federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To assist at-risk local communities and Indian tribes with planning for and mitigating against the risk created by wildfire. There are two primary project types for which the grant provides funding: the development and revising of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and the implementation of projects described in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is less than ten years old. The program prioritizes at-risk communities that are in an area identified as having high or very high wildfire hazard potential, are low-income, and/or have been impacted by a severe disaster. The program helps communities in the wildland urban interface implement the three goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:
 - Restore and Maintain Landscapes: Landscapes, regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, are resilient
 to fire, insect, disease, invasive species, and climate change disturbances, in accordance with
 management objectives.
 - Create Fire Adapted Communities: Human populations and infrastructure are as prepared as possible to receive, respond to, and recover from wildland fire.
 - Improve Wildfire Response: All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

Application | Community Wildfire Defense Grant 2023 Tribes

U.S. Forest Service | Community Wildfire Defense Grant 2023 West

- Funding: Same as above posting.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: Same as above posting.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

Application | Community Wildfire Defense Grant 2023 West

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects

- Funding: \$25,000 to \$5 million, and up to \$10 million for domestic water supply projects that do not currently have access to reliable water supplies.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: For on-the-ground projects and modeling tools that will increase water reliability and improve water management.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

<u>Application | WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects</u>

Page 15 Fall 2023 Issue

U.S. Rural Utilities Service | Assistance to High Energy Cost Communities

- Funding: \$100,000 to \$3 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To acquire, construct, or improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving
 communities where the average annual residential expenditure for home energy exceeds 275% of the
 national average. Eligible projects also include on-grid and off-grid renewable energy projects and the
 implementation of energy efficiency and energy conservation projects for eligible communities.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

Application | Assistance to High Energy Cost Communities

Federal Transit Administration | FY 2023 Emergency Relief Grants for Public Transportation Systems Affected by Major Declared Disasters in Calendar Years 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022

- Funding: \$109,975,497 total is available for eligible applicants.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments.
- Purpose: For communities affected by major declared disasters in calendar years 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Extreme weather and other destructive events occurring during calendar years 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022 resulted in major disaster declarations across the United States. Projects may include costs for disaster response, recovery, and rebuilding activities. Costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic are not eligible for this funding.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

Application | FY 2023 Emergency Relief Grants for Public Transportation Systems Affected by Major Declared Disasters in Calendar Years 2017, 2020, 2021, and 2022

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | *Species Recovery Grants to Tribes*

- Funding: While there is no set minimum or maximum amount for any award, most awards are expected to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$100,000 per year.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized tribes and organizations of federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: To support conservation of endangered, threatened, and candidate species or species proposed
 for listing, as well as post-delisting monitoring of recovered species. The National Marine Fisheries Service
 recognizes the unique importance of many protected species to tribes and values ongoing efforts by tribal
 nations to conserve and protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Funded activities may
 include development and implementation of management plans, scientific research, and public education
 and outreach.
- Application due date: October 31, 2023.

<u>Application | Species Recovery Grants to Tribes</u>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal

- Funding: Between \$300,000 and \$5 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To provide federal financial and technical assistance to Indian tribes and organizations to remove barriers to fish passage. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recognizes that healthy

Page 16 Fall 2023 Issue

fish populations are integral to the living culture of tribes. Funding will be used for fish passage that rebuilds productive and sustainable fisheries, contributes to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species, enhances watershed health, promotes resilient ecosystems and communities, and increases tribal capacity to participate in fish passage barrier removal efforts while improving tribal commercial, recreational, subsistence and cultural practice opportunities. Proposed work may be located on tribal lands, throughout traditional use areas, or in coastal watersheds that support fish populations that are or have been integral to the living culture of tribes.

Application due date: November 8, 2023.

<u>Application | Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal</u>

U.S. EPA | FY24 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Tribal Nations and Entities Addressing Brownfields Grant

- Funding: Up to \$4 million.
- Eligibility: Includes tribal consortia.
- Purpose: To provide technical assistance that directly benefits tribal nations and entities nationwide
 which are eligible for EPA Brownfield Grants funded under CERCLA 104(k) and 128(a) to build sustainable
 brownfield programs and strengthen capacity to manage successful brownfields reuse. This technical
 assistance should also help increase a tribal nation's capacity to establish, manage, and administer their
 CERCLA 128(a) response programs and conduct and oversee brownfield assessment and cleanup activities.
- Application due date: November 13, 2023.

Application | FY24 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Tribal Nations and Entities Addressing Brownfields
Grant

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) | Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

- Funding: \$1 million to \$25 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To support transformational habitat restoration projects that restore marine, estuarine, coastal, or Great Lakes ecosystems, using approaches that enhance community and ecosystem resilience to climate hazards. Funding will prioritize habitat restoration actions that: demonstrate significant impacts; rebuild productive and sustainable fisheries; contribute to the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered species; promote climate-resilient ecosystems, especially in tribal, indigenous, and/or underserved communities; and improve economic vitality, including local employment.
- Application due date: November 17, 2023.

Application | Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

U.S. EPA | Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program and Lead Service Line Replacement Program

- Funding: Approximately \$17 million in FY24 funds may be available to support eligible projects, including up to \$3 million in base Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside funds and up to \$14 million in supplemental Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds. The region also expects to receive nearly \$14 million to address emerging contaminants in drinking water and \$26.5 million to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized tribal governments.

Page 17 Fall 2023 Issue

Purpose: To support drinking water infrastructure projects at public water systems that address
high priority public health risks. These funds can be used to support both planning and construction
projects that address critical water supply shortages, chemical and bacteriological contamination, aging
infrastructure, and water resiliency projects at public water systems. EPA awards funds through direct
grants to tribes or interagency agreements with the Indian Health Service. EPA has developed additional
criteria to prioritize projects for emerging contaminant funding; and created additional guidance, and a
project proposal form, for the Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Lead Service Line Replacement Program.

Proposal (with tribal government endorsement) due date: November 30, 2023.

Full Announcement, Guidance, and Project Proposal Form | Region 9 DWTSA Program
Full Announcement, Guidance, and Project Proposal Form | Region 9 DWTSA LSLR Program

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | Climate-Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Competition

- Funding: \$500,000 to \$10 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes in coastal states.
- Purpose: To establish programs aimed at placing people across the country into good jobs that advance climate resilience and assisting employers in developing a 21st century workforce that is climate literate, informed by climate resilience, and skilled at addressing consequent challenges. This includes:
 - Promoting coastal community resilience strategies that are adaptive, equitable, and based on best practices.
 - Supporting transformational resilience investments in coastal habitat restoration, conservation and in coastal community resilience.
 - Advancing evaluation and adoption of nature-based solutions, such as living shorelines, to build resilience against climate-driven coastal hazards.
 - Reducing climate threats and improve the resiliency of climate-vulnerable protected species, including marine mammals.
- Letters of Intent due date: November 30, 2023 | Full Proposal due date: February 13, 2024.

<u>Application | Climate-Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Competition</u>

U.S. EPA | Diesel Emissions Reduction Act National Grants

- Funding: Maximum funding request per application is \$4.5 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia.
- Purpose: For projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions. Priority for funding will also
 be given to projects that engage and benefit local communities already overburdened by air pollution,
 protect grant funded investments from severe weather events caused by climate change, and applicants
 that demonstrate their ability to promote and continue efforts to reduce emissions after the project
 has ended. Eligible activities include the retrofit or replacement of existing diesel engines, vehicles and
 equipment with EPA and California Air Resources Board certified engine configurations and verified
 retrofit and idle reduction technologies.
- Application due date: December 1, 2023.

Application | Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants

Page 18 Fall 2023 Issue

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I*

- Funding: Up to \$300,000 over three years.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: Funding for grassroots, collaborative watershed groups to complete group development activities, watershed restoration planning, and watershed management project design.
- Application due date: December 5, 2023.

Application | WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NOAA | *Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities*

- Funding: \$75,000 to \$3 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: To support opportunities for tribes, and/or tribal entities, and underserved communities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities. Potential activities include:
- 1) Capacity building, which may include (but is not limited to) participation in municipal or regional-scale resilience planning, project planning and feasibility studies, stakeholder engagement, proposal development for future funding, and outreach and education, as well as hiring of staff to increase capacity to support the planning, design and implementation of restoration actions, as well as capacity to support overall award management including tracking, reporting, and project coordination/development.
- 2) Actionable science support, such as the collection and/or analysis of climate, habitat or other community- or conservation-related data that informs planning and decision making and/or future restoration actions of tribes, tribal entities, and/or underserved communities.
- 3) Restoration project activities, including for demonstration projects, which may include engineering and design, permitting, on-the-ground restoration, and pre- and post-project implementation monitoring.
- Application due date: December 19, 2023.

Application | Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service | *National Fish Passage Program Base Funding Fiscal Year 2023*

- Funding: Individual awards are expected to be between \$500 and \$2 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments, Indian housing authorities, and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: The National Fish Passage Program is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and
 financial assistance to partners to remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and
 aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. National Fish Passage Program funds a
 variety of project types including, but not limited to, dam removals, culvert replacements, floodplain
 restoration, and the installation of fishways. Activities proposed under this award may include project
 planning and feasibility studies, engineering and design, permitting, on-the-ground fish passage
 restoration, near-term implementation monitoring, project outreach, and capacity to manage these
 project-related activities.
- Application due date: December 31, 2023.

Application | National Fish Passage Program Base Funding Fiscal Year 2023

Page 19 Fall 2023 Issue

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | *National Fish Passage Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fiscal Year 2023*

- Funding: Individual awards are expected to be between \$100,000 and \$2 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments, Indian housing authorities, and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: This program differs from the prior posting in that priority will be given to applications that include on-the-ground construction which will occur during the award period. This program also prioritizes projects that will: (1) maximize benefits to priority species and habitats; (2) provide sustainable fish passage benefits; (3) contribute to or otherwise leverage regional or watershed priorities for habitat restoration, fish passage, or aquatic connectivity; (4) enhance community resilience to climate change, address other public safety hazards and generally, provide other co-benefits such as job creation or recreational fishing opportunities; (5) provide benefits to or engage with underserved and indigenous communities; and (6) be supported by partners, affected stakeholders, and the local community.
- Application due date: December 31, 2023.

<u>Application | National Fish Passage Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fiscal Year 2023</u>

U.S. Department of Energy | Weatherization Assistance Program Enhancement & Innovation

- Funding: Individual awards may vary between \$500,000 and \$2 million.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: To expand the impact of the Department of Energy's existing residential weatherization programs
 by utilizing leveraged resources and enhanced community partnerships to perform deep energy retrofits
 of low-income residential buildings and empower local community representation within the energy
 workforce. The Department of Energy seeks proposals that drive innovative approaches to program
 coordination and service delivery, while fostering the collaboration of dynamic and diverse teams.
- Application due date: January 5, 2024.

<u>Application | Weatherization Assistance Program Enhancement & Innovation</u>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects*

- Funding: \$500,000 to \$2 million for study and design projects and between \$3 million and \$20 million for construction projects.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes.
- Purpose: For the study, design, and construction of aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that are
 collaboratively developed, have widespread regional benefits, and result in the improvement of the health
 of fisheries, wildlife, and aquatic habitat.
- Application due date: January 24, 2023.

<u>Application | WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects</u>

U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development | *Disaster Assistance for Presidentially Declared Disasters in 2022*

- Funding: Varies between programs.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes in rural areas.
- Purpose: U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development extends its assistance for recovery from presidentially declared disasters. Disaster relief funds can help recover from natural calamities such as

Page 20 Fall 2023 Issue

flood, wildfire, earthquake, and more in presidentially declared disaster areas. This assistance is available
to repair and replace damaged infrastructure, allowing communities to swiftly rebuild and mitigate future
risk. U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development holds its relationships with tribes in high esteem,
making critical investments in infrastructure, schools, health clinics, housing, and businesses, to benefit
and support Native families and communities across rural America.

- Water and wastewater improvement program funding aims to ensure safe drinking water and efficient
 wastewater management systems are available to all. These grants and loans are offered nationwide
 and can be used to construct, upgrade, or expand water treatment facilities, distribution systems, and
 treatment plants.
- The agency also offers support for community facilities, including tribal health clinics, schools, libraries, and public safety buildings and equipment. Funding can be channeled toward the construction, renovation, or modernization of these essential amenities, fostering healthier and more vibrant rural and remote communities.
- Application due date: Applications are accepted until funds are exhausted.
- Contact: To learn more about these funding opportunities please email or call Sally Tripp, Community Program Specialist at Sally.Tripp@usda.gov or 559-909-0683.

Applications | Rural Development Disaster Assistance

U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development | *Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants*

- Funding: Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water source grants up to \$1 million to construct a water source, intake or treatment facility.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized tribes in rural areas.
- Purpose: To help prevent damage or restore households and business' access to clean, reliable drinking
 water in eligible rural areas and towns following natural disasters. Funding can improve the natural
 environment and encourage manufacturers and other businesses to locate or expand operations.
- Application due date: Applications are accepted year round.

Application | Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

California Strategic Growth Council | Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program

- Funding: Up to \$150,000-\$250,000 per grant.
- Eligibility: Native American tribes in California, including federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes. A non-federally recognized tribe is eligible to apply if they are registered as a nonprofit.
- Purpose: To provide funding and technical assistance to tribes to build staff capacity and fill gaps to
 advance the tribe's climate-related work. This pilot program will fund staff salaries and activities that
 include planning, securing funding for, and implementing projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation,
 and resilience. This pilot program will also offer no-cost technical assistance that will be flexible and
 responsive to each tribe's needs, including, but not limited to: trainings; grant application and management
 assistance; planning and implementation support; partnership building; peer learning; and leadership and
 economic development.
- Application post date: Early November 2023 (check link below for exact date)
- Application due date: Early February 2024.

<u>Application Available Early November | Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program</u>

Page 21 Fall 2023 Issue

Training & Technical Assistance

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with the EPA.

Any links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, or applications.

U.S. EPA Region 9 | Tribal Drinking Water Section | *Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program*

EPA is offering free technical assistance to public water systems to voluntarily assess cybersecurity practices through our Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program. To receive more information on EPA's Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program, please fill out the form linked below.

Request Form | Water Sector Cybersecurity Evaluation Program

Federal Emergency Management Agency | Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance Webinar

This webinar, hosted on September 13, 2023, provides an overview of and guidance on how a community or tribe can request Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct Technical Assistance. It also provides an overview of the initiative and examples of case studies of communities who have participated.

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program makes federal funds available to states, territories, federally recognized tribal governments and local communities for mitigation activities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will give wide-ranging support to participating communities and tribes including climate risk assessments, community engagement, partnership building, mitigation and climate adaptation planning, and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program requests throughout the grant lifecycle. The Federal Emergency Management Agency provides support to participants from preapplication activities to grant closeout.

In addition, the presenter provides information on how a community or tribe can request non-financial direct technical assistance. Non-financial Direct Technical Assistance can provide holistic hazard mitigation planning and project support at the earliest stages to communities, tribes, and territories requesting assistance. During the process, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will engage with each community to further explore and better understand their specific requests for technical assistance. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide support to requesting communities for up to 36 months.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Webinars | FEMA

Federal Emergency Management Agency | Flood Mitigation Assistance Webinar: Examples of Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects Webinar

For the upcoming grant cycle, Localized Flood Risk Reduction projects are one of three program priorities for in the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. These projects address localized flood risk for the purpose of reducing National Flood Insurance Program flood claim payments.

In this webinar hosted on September 20, 2023, the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program staff explores Localized Flood Risk Reduction project types, provides an overview of the benefiting area maps, highlights

Page 22 Fall 2023 Issue

funded projects, and discuss application pitfalls and best practices.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Webinars | FEMA



View of Lake Wohlford from San Pasqual Cultural Center



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

75 Hawthorne St. 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

R9 Tribal Programs: www.epa.gov/tribal/epaspacificsouthwest-tribal-programregion-9
Follow Region 9 EPA on Facebook! www.facebook.com/EPAregion9
Follow us @EPAregion9 on Twitter! www.twitter.com/EPAregion9

Please see and subscribe to our EPA in the Pacific Southwest Newsletter for more general news about the 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