

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

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Musings from U.S. EPA Staff

Having had the privilege of working with Tribal partners on children's environmental health issues and presenting at the Region 9 Tribal Conference the past few years, I was thrilled when I was offered the position of Region 9's Lead Region Coordinator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA). Each EPA headquarters office (Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Water, etc.) has a Lead Region that serves as the primary communication coordinator between that headquarters office and all ten EPA Regions. The Region serves as Lead Region for that office for two years, then rotates to a new headquarters office/Region relationship. Region 9 will be Lead Region for OITA until the end of September 2025. As Lead Region Coordinator, my job is to help ensure effective communication between OITA and the Regions and OITA takes regional perspectives into account for national decisions.

While my work is more focused on internal coordination and communication within EPA, my role has also given me the opportunity to get out and visit Tribes. In March, I joined Intergovernmental Branch Manager Rubén Mojica Hernandez, American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) Director Kenneth Martin, AIEO Deputy Director Felicia Wright, and AIEO staff member Will Post on a trip to visit some of the Tribes along the Klamath River in northern California. It was so great to be able to visit and see firsthand the incredible work being done by the Tribes to restore and protect the river, among many other environmental projects! I hope to be able to visit more Tribes in Region 9 and across the country during my two years in this role.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting at the end of May!

Sincerely,

Sarah Sullivant

Lead Region Coordinator – Office of International and Tribal Affairs
U.S. EPA, Region 9



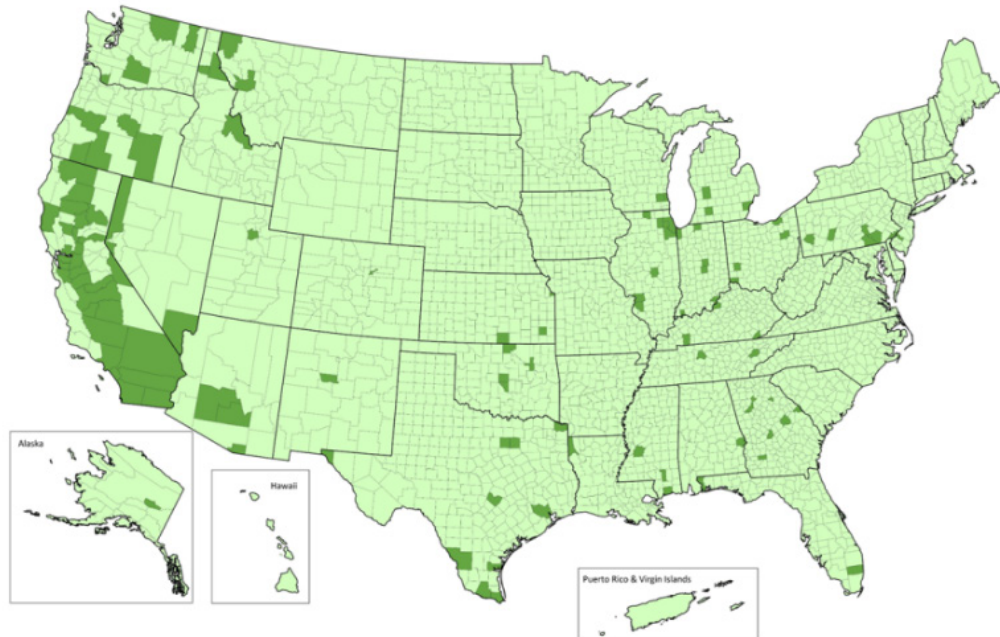
Sarah Sullivant (third from the left - blonde hair, blue jacket) during a March trip to the Klamath River area with AIEO Deputy Director, Felicia Wright (far right), Intergovernmental Branch Manager, Rubén Mojica Hernandez (third from the right), and Blue Lake Rancheria representatives.

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 | *EPA Finalizes Stronger Standards for Harmful Soot Pollution*

On February 7, 2024, EPA strengthened the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM NAAQS). The PM NAAQS protects millions of Americans from harmful and costly health impacts, such as heart attacks and premature death caused by fine particle or soot pollution. These standards are based on the best available science, as required by the



Based on 2020-2022 air monitoring data, the dark green areas on the map indicate counties that do not meet the annual PM2.5 standard of 9 ug/m3. (Source: [EPA](#))

Clean Air Act, and establishes an air quality level that EPA will aid states and Tribal Nations to meet in the coming years. Backed by the historic investments under President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA standards are projected to reduce pollution from power plants, vehicles, and industrial facilities.

Please see the Tribal Consultation section of the newsletter for the EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division's Consultation on the Revised NAAQS Designation Guidance Document and Process.

[EPA Press Release: Stronger Standards for Harmful Soot Pollution](#)

[EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards \(NAAQS\) for PM webpage](#)

U.S. EPA | *EPA Expands its Water Technical Assistance Program*

On February 22, 2024, EPA announced the expansion of its water technical assistance program, or WaterTA. A free program, WaterTA addresses this need by helping communities identify their water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and develop their application materials. Through increased partnerships with states, Tribes, territories, other federal agencies, local governments, community groups, and other technical assistance providers, WaterTA will be better equipped to support communities applying for federal infrastructure resources

through the agency's State Revolving Fund programs such as the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) funding.

[EPA Press Release: Expansion of its Water Technical Assistance Program](#)

[EPA Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) webpage](#)

[EPA Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program webpage](#)

U.S. Department of Interior | *Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$72 Million Investment to Electrify Homes Across Indian Country with Clean Energy*

On March 5, 2024, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced \$72 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help Tribal communities electrify homes through clean energy sources. The first round of funding will support the work of the Office of Indian Affairs' Tribal Electrification Program. The program's ambitious goals include providing financial and technical aid to 21 Tribes to convert homes to clean energy; powering unelectrified Tribal homes through zero-emissions energy systems; transitioning electrified Tribal homes to zero-emissions energy systems; and support home repairs and retrofitting necessary to install zero-emissions energy systems. The Office of Indian Affairs' Tribal Electrification Program will also support clean energy workforce development opportunities in Indian Country. A second round of funding availability is expected to be announced in the spring of 2024.

[DOI Press Release Announcing \\$72 million Investment to Help Electrify Tribal Communities](#)

[Office of Indian Affairs' Tribal Electrification Program webpage](#)

Program Updates

U.S. EPA | *New Grant Recipient Training Requirement*

The EPA Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) is requiring all new applicants/recipients to complete the EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients and the training on How to Develop a Budget. EPA defines new applicants/recipients as an organization that never received an EPA grant before, or if the organization last received an EPA grant prior to federal fiscal year (FY) 2015 (i.e. prior to October 1, 2014).

The Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) is implementing this training requirement to ensure new applicants are knowledgeable of grants application guidelines, budget formulation, and overall grants management rules and regulations.

[Recipient/Applicant Information Notice \(RAIN\) on New Recipient Training Requirement](#)

[EPA Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients](#)

[How to Develop a Budget Training](#)

U.S. EPA | *EPA Releases 2023 Update to Equity Action Plan*

On February 14, 2024, EPA released the 2023 update to its Equity Action Plan, as part of EPA's efforts to implement the President's Executive Order on "Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." EPA identified eight priority strategies, which include four previously identified priorities carried forward from the 2022 Equity Action Plan and four newly identified strategies to support historically underserved communities. These eight priorities are:

- Improve access for Communities to Federal Assistance.
- Reduce Cumulative Impacts and Health Disparities.
- Strengthen our Civil Rights Compliance Program.
- Protect Children from Exposures to Environmental Harms.
- Address Inequitable Access to Resources for Rural Communities.
- Ensure Public Access to EPA Programs and Address Environmental Harms for People with Disabilities.
- Strengthening Community-Based Participatory Science to Achieve Environmental Equity.
- Improve Data and Analytic Capacity to Better Identify and Remove Barriers.

[EPA Press Release Announcing Update to Equity Action Plan](#)

[EPA's Equity Action Plan webpage](#)

[Executive Order on Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities](#)

U.S. EPA | EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) announces new OEJECR Grants News and Updates webpage

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) announced the new OEJECR Grants News and Updates webpage. Visit the page to find grantee success stories, program deadline reminders and updates, and information about upcoming and past engagement opportunities.

[EPA OEJECR Grants News and Updates webpage](#)

Tribal Project Success Stories

Congratulations to Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians for their Water Quality Standards Approval

During the January 2024 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), EPA announced approval of the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians' (Rincon) Water Quality Standards (WQS). This is a significant accomplishment, as Rincon becomes the 11th of 148 Tribes in Region 9 to have WQS in effect under the Clean Water Act. The Tribe's standards establish Beneficial Uses of Tribal waters, which outline 46 criteria to protect aquatic life and over 100 criteria to protect human health. The standards also establish an Antidegradation Policy and Implementation Plan and a Variance Authorizing provision. Effective immediately, the EPA-approved standards for Clean Water Act (CWA) purposes for waters of the U.S. within the 4,688-acre (7.3 square mile) reservation approximately 45 miles northeast of San Diego, California. The Rincon Reservation's main water source is the San Luis Rey River, which runs through the reservation



Presentation of Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians Water Quality Standards Approval at the Winter 2024 RTOC. Region 9 acknowledged Tribal leadership and the environmental department staff for their tireless efforts. From left to right: John Constantino (Rincon Council Member), Camille Merchant (Rincon Environmental Director), Joseph Linton (Rincon Council Member), Bo Mazzetti (Rincon Chairman), Martha Guzman (Regional Administrator – Region 9), and Tomas Torres (Water Division Director – Region 9).

from the east before exiting the reservation and joining the Pacific Ocean. This standards approval follows EPA's 2018 "Treatment in a Manner Similar to a State" (TAS) approval, which established the same CWA responsibilities for Rincon that states have for the federal water quality standards and certification programs.

To learn more about TAS and resources for developing water quality standards, please visit the websites linked below.

[Tribal Assumption of Federal Laws - Treatment as a State \(TAS\) webpage](#)
[Water Quality Standards Tools for Tribes webpage](#)

RTOC and Tribal/U.S. 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.

Winter RTOC Recap

During the week of January 29, Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Co-Chair Roman Orona (Ak-Chin Indian Community) and Co-Chair Laura Ebbert (EPA) convened the hybrid Winter 2024 RTOC meeting at EPA Region 9 headquarters in San Francisco. Among its over 150 participants, the RTOC welcomed the EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator and the EPA American Indian Environmental Office Director. The three-day meeting included a Tribal caucus, a Tribal Leaders Roundtable, a presentation on the revised Tribal consultation policy, an open discussion on Tribal priorities, and several technical break-out sessions. The Winter RTOC presentations and meeting materials are available online.

[Region 9 RTOC Meeting: Winter 2024 | Presentations and Meeting Materials](#)

Spring RTOC Information

The Spring RTOC is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting, which will take place at the Table Mountain Casino in Friant, CA, the week of May 27. To register, please see the RTOC website.

[Region 9 RTOC Meeting: Spring 2024 | Registration](#)

2024 Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference

The 2024 Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference is cosponsored by the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and USEPA. 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. The event will take place October 22-24, 2024. It will tentatively be held at the Hayes Mansion San Jose in San Jose, California.

Stay up to date on conference planning news by checking the event website and be on the lookout for email communications from conference organizers: [Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#).

Tribal Resources

U.S. Department of Energy | *Tribal Nations and Native Communities Resource Guide*

The U.S. Department of Energy published the Tribal Nations and Native Communities Resource Guide in February 2024 as part of the Biden-Harris Administration commitment to working closely with Tribal Nations and Native communities to apply for and deploy transformative federal funding opportunities to build bright clean energy futures. This guide provides resources for Tribal governments and nongovernmental partners to navigate, access, and utilize funding opportunities.

[DOE | Tribal Nations and Native Communities Resource Guide](#)

U.S. EPA | *Best Practices Guide for Construction & Demolition Landfills in Indian Country*

EPA published the guide, Construction & Demolition (C&D) Landfills in Indian Country: Federal Regulations and Best Practices, as a resource for Tribal Governments and other stakeholders. The guide provides best practices and information on regulatory requirements for Tribal Governments to site, operate, and close C&D landfills; and to build capacity to regulate C&D landfills in Indian country.

[Construction & Demolition Landfills in Indian Country: Federal Regulations and Best Practices EPA's Tribal Waste Management Program webpage](#)

U.S. EPA | *Tribal Waste Journal about Building Effective Partnerships*

In February 2024, EPA published the 14th Issue of the Tribal Waste Journal about Building Effective Partnerships. The Tribal Waste Journal is a publication about various aspects of waste management and response programs on Tribal lands. Each issue of EPA's Tribal Waste Journal features several articles about the same topic and includes interviews, resources, contacts, and a section for kids. This issue is dedicated to "Building Effective Partnerships with States and Localities to Protect Tribal Lands."

[14th Issue of the Tribal Waste Journal about Building Effective Partnerships Tribal Waste Journal webpage](#)

U.S. EPA | *New Composting Webpages and Community Composting Videos*

EPA made updates across its composting webpages including an updated Composting homepage, and updates to the Composting at Home and Approaches to Composting webpages, which both provide more detailed and technical information on different methods and models of composting. EPA also published a new webpage with resources for educating youth about wasted food. It includes resources to use in the classroom like lesson plans, resources for reducing school food waste, composting and prevention resources for youth, and more.

[Composting Homepage](#)

[Educating Youth on Wasted Food Web Page](#)



Cover of Tribal Waste Journal Issue 14: Building Effective Partnerships with States and Localities to Protect Tribal Lands



Closed Loop Composting (Source: [EPA](#))

U.S. EPA | *Know Before You Grow Guide*

Thinking about establishing a community garden or an urban farm on your brownfield? Check out EPA's Know Before You Grow guide for steps to consider when creating gardens or farms in formerly vacant areas. EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) providers are available to help you get started.

[Brownfields webpage](#)

[Know Before You Grow Guide](#)

[Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities \(TAB\) Program](#)

U.S. EPA | *Water as a Climate Change Solution Website*

EPA's Water as a Climate Change Solution website provides a comprehensive collection of National Water Program climate-related resources, including a new Resilience Resource Directory. This directory is a database of EPA water climate adaptation and mitigation resources and is easily searchable by types of assistance provided, program type, and more.

[Water as a Climate Change Solution Website](#)

[Resilience Resource Directory](#)

Center for Creative Land Recycling

| *Documentary Showcasing Brownfield Redevelopment*

The Center for Creative Land Recycling (CCLR) profiled four rural communities in Nevada and California that have leveraged brownfield funding for economic and community benefit. CCLR serves as U.S. EPA's Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (TAB) provider in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and the Pacific Island territories.

[CCLR's Rural Reuse Documentary | YouTube](#)

[Center for Creative Land Recycling Website](#)

LEARN HOW SMALL TOWNS ARE DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH BROWNFIELD REUSE



BEFORE



AFTER

WATCH NOW TO LEARN HOW RURAL CITIES IN NV AND CA ARE UTILIZING BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT!

Center for Creative Land Recycling Rural Reuse Documentary Flyer.

Tribal Consultation

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

U.S. EPA Region 9 | *Air and Radiation Division Consultation on the Revised NAAQS Designation Guidance Document and Process*

On February 7, 2024, the EPA promulgated, or established, a revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particles (also known as PM_{2.5}), strengthening the standard to 9 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) (annual average). Upon setting a new air quality standard, EPA designates areas across the country as attaining the standard, not attaining the standard, or unclassifiable. States are required by the Clean Air Act to

submit designation recommendations to EPA as part of the designations process. State recommendations do not address Tribal lands. Submitting recommendations is optional for tribes.

EPA is offering government-to-government consultation on the designation guidance document and the designation process. To request consultation, please contact Kate Harper at Harper.Kathryn@epa.gov or 415-947-4150. If you are interested in consultation, we ask that you notify us by **April 14, 2024**. More information on the new PM2.5 standard, designations guidance document, and data available for use in designations can be found here: [Particle Pollution Designations Memorandum and Data for the 2024 Revised Annual PM2.5 NAAQS | US EPA](#)

U.S. EPA Region 9 | Water Division: Development of the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant Program

On February 7, 2024, the EPA promulgated, or established, a revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for fine particles (also known as PM2.5), strengthening the standard to 9 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (annual average). Upon setting a new air quality standard, EPA designates areas across the country as attaining the standard, not attaining the standard, or unclassifiable. States are required by the Clean Air Act to submit designation recommendations to EPA as part of the designations process. State recommendations do not address Tribal lands. Submitting recommendations is optional for tribes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 is entering early engagement with federally recognized Indian Tribes to inform development of the Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant (CWI-SA-EC) Program. Region 9 will be developing prioritization methodology to select projects that are eligible for funding under the CWISA-EC Program and currently requesting input on the following aspects of the Program:

1. Proposed funding process,
2. Proposed funding timeline, and
3. Potential emerging contaminants for regional sampling programs.

Early Engagement Initiated: April 2024

Consultation period: **July 1, 2024 to September 2, 2024**

Region 9 Contact: Nancy Sockabasin, Sockabasin.Nancy@epa.gov and Amita Muralidharan, Muralidharan.Amita@epa.gov

Website: [CWISA-EC Program Consultation Opportunity](#)

Note: EPA requests input from Tribes on the funding process. EPA is also accepting project proposals.

U.S. EPA Region 9 | Air and Radiation Division Reviewing State Implementation Plan Submittals

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.

Plan Submittals:

Contact: Karina O'Connor, Acting Manager of the Planning Section, Oconnor.Karina@epa.gov

- San Joaquin Valley 1997 Ozone - 2019 182(e)(5) Reconciliation
- Coachella 1997 Ozone - Extreme Plan
- Coachella 1997 Ozone - VMT Offset

Contact: Ashley Graham, Acting Manager of the Geographic Strategies & Modeling Section, Graham.AshleyR@epa.gov

- Arizona 2012 PM2.5 Infrastructure SIP (non-transport elements)
- Arizona Regional Haze 2023 Progress Report
- Arizona 2015 O3 Infrastructure SIP - Prong 4 Visibility
- Arizona Regional Haze - 2nd Implementation Period Plan 2022
- Arizona 2012 PM2.5 Infrastructure SIP - Element D Transport Prongs 1 and 2

Rule Submittals

Contact: Doris Lo, Manager of the Rules Section, Lo.Doris@epa.gov

- CARB 2008 Ozone Multiple Areas - IM Cert and PSM
- CARB 2015 Ozone Multiple Areas - IM Cert and PSM
- Maricopa County AQD Rule 600 Emergency Episodes
- San Diego Rule 19.3 Emission Statement
- Tehama County APCD Rule 2:20 Emissions Statement
- Eastern Kern Rule 108.2 - Emissions Statement
- San Diego Rule 45 Federally Mandated Ozone Section 185 Nonattainment Fees
- Mojave Desert AQMD Rule 315 - 185 Fee Rule
- ADEQ - AgBMP Statute and Rules Submission
- Antelope Valley Rule 315 - 185 Fee Rule
- California Advanced Clean Cars Regulation - 2012 and 2018 Amendments
- CARB Heavy-Duty Inspection and Maintenance Regulation

Contact: Lisa Beckham, Manager of the Control Measures Section, Beckham.Lisa@epa.gov

- CARB Oil and Gas Methane Rule, includes local air district rules as well:
 - San Joaquin Valley APCD Rule 4401 - Steam Enhanced Crude Oil Production Wells
 - San Joaquin Valley APCD Rule 4409 - Components of Light Crude and Natural Gas Production
 - San Joaquin Valley APCD Rule 4623 - Storage of Organic Liquids
 - South Coast Rule 463 - Organic Liquid Storage
 - Ventura County Rule 71.1
- Maricopa County Rulebook Recodification Project – updating outdated rule references
- Washoe County District Board of Health Section 040.051 Wood-Burning Devices
- Washoe County District Board of Health Prescribed Burning Regulation 040.037
- San Diego 2008 and 2015 RACT SIP for ozone
- Maricopa County Rule 352 Gasoline Cargo Tank Testing and Use
- Maricopa County Rule 353 Storage and Loading of Gasoline at a Gasoline Dispensing Facility
- Sacramento Metro AQMD Source-Specific Permits related to boilers at major sources

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

Each month, the Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee Consultation (RTOC) 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 Juliann Schroeder, EPA Region 9 Tribal Section 1 Interim Manager. For more information or to become involved, please contact Cliff at CBanuelos@itcn.org or Juliann at Schroeder.Juliann@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 in Region 9 for more outreach on current Tribal consultations, we have compiled a schedule of upcoming consultation engagement opportunities for all the various U.S. EPA proposed water actions on deck. This document provides 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 the links below.

[Tribal Consultation | EPA Pacific Southwest \(Region 9\)](#)

[Tribal Clean Water Act Programs and Grants | EPA Pacific Southwest \(Region 9\)](#)

Funding Opportunities

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

U.S. EPA | Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program

- Purpose: The EPA's Healthy Watersheds Program supports states and other partners working to implement proactive, holistic approaches to protect healthy waters and watersheds. The EPA established the Healthy Watersheds Consortium (HWC) Grant Program to accelerate and expand the strategic protection of healthy watersheds, including freshwater, estuarine, and marine ecosystems, across the United States.
- Funding: EPA expects to award one cooperative agreement to fund a single grantee to manage the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant program and issue subawards on a competitive basis. Up to \$2,100,000 of federal EPA funding, incrementally funded at an average of approximately \$350,000 per year, is expected to be available over a six-year project period.
- Eligibility: Open to Intertribal Consortia.
- Application due date: **May 10, 2024**.

[EPA Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grants webpage](#)

U.S. EPA | Pollution Prevention Grant Programs

- Purpose: Pollution Prevention (P2) grants provide technical assistance to businesses in order to help them develop and adopt source reduction practices (also known as "pollution prevention" or "P2"). P2 means reducing or eliminating pollutants from entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal.
 - Funding:
 - P2 Recurring Grants
 - \$13.9 million available in funding with up to \$350,000 maximum individual award.
 - P2 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Grants
 - \$9.94 million available in funding with up to \$700,000 maximum individual award.
 - Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes and Intertribal Consortia.
 - Application due date: **May 17, 2024**.
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[Pollution Prevention \(P2\) Grant Funding webpage](#)

[Application | FY24–FY25 Pollution Prevention Grant Program](#)

[Application | FY24–FY25 Pollution Prevention Grant Program Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)

CA Governor’s Office of Planning and Research | *Adaptation Planning Grant Program*

- Purpose: This program provides funding to help fill local, regional, and Tribal planning needs, provides communities the resources to identify climate resilience priorities, and supports the development of a pipeline of climate resilient infrastructure projects across the state.
- Funding: Awards range from \$100,000 to \$650,000.
- Eligibility: Open to California Native American Tribes.
- Application due date: Applicants must submit the Pre-Application Interest Form by **May 6, 2024**, and Full Application Form by **May 20, 2024**.

[Adaptation Planning Grant Program \(APGP\) Website](#)

[APGP Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#)

[APGP Pre-Application Interest Form](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | *Rebates for Home Electrification and Appliances*

- Purpose: U.S. Department of Energy released application guidelines for Tribal governments to apply for \$225 million in funding under the Inflation Reduction Act’s Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) program. Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate funds will provide rebates to low- and moderate-income households installing efficient electric technologies.
- Funding: This program will provide up to \$14,000 per eligible household.
- Eligibility: Rebate amounts vary depending on a household’s income, the total project cost, and the technologies installed. Multifamily and single-family buildings, including manufactured housing, may be eligible for rebates. Eligible households may be owner-occupied or rented.
- Application due date:
 - Letter of Intent to apply recommended due date is **May 15, 2024**.
 - Application must be submitted by, and reviewed on a rolling basis until, **May 31, 2025**.

[DOE | Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture | *ReConnect Loan and Grant Program*

- Purpose: The Rural eConnectivity Program (ReConnect) Program provides loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. The Agency encourages applicants to consider projects that will advance the following key priorities:
 - Assisting rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and through improved infrastructure.
 - Ensuring all rural residents have equitable access to Rural Development programs and benefits from Rural Development funded projects.
 - Reducing climate pollution and increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change through economic support to rural communities.
- Funding: Awards range from \$100,000 to \$25 million.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes and Native American Tribal organizations.
- Application due date: **May 21, 2024**.

[USDA | ReConnect Loan and Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | *Clean Energy Technology Deployment on Tribal Lands*

- Purpose: The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes, which include Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, Intertribal Organizations, and Tribal Energy Development Organizations, to install clean energy technology on Tribal lands.
- Funding: Awards range from \$100,000 to \$5 million.
- Eligibility: Restricted to an Indian Tribe, Intertribal Organization, or Tribal Energy Development Organization, and on whose Tribal Lands the project(s) will be located.
- Application due date: **May 30, 2024**.

[Clean Energy Technology Deployment on Tribal Lands: Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)
[DOE Press Release: Funding for Tribal Clean Energy Projects](#)

FEMA | *Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current Grant Program*

- Purpose: The purpose of Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current grant program is to reduce or eliminate the flood risk to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-participating communities and repetitive flood damage to structures and buildings insured by the NFIP following a flood-related disaster event, and to enhance community flood resilience within NFIP participating communities. FMA Swift Current aims to simplify funding eligibility criteria, minimize application periods, and narrow focus of Individual Flood Mitigation Projects to 3 categories: Severe Repetitive Loss, Repetitive Loss, and Substantially Damaged.
- Funding: Applicant allocation variable up to \$40 million.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribal governments.
- Application due date: Disaster declaration deadline is **May 31, 2024**.

[Application | Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current \(FMA Swift Current\)](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | *Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy*

- Purpose: Under the new Local Government Energy Program, Communities Sparking Investments in Transformative Energy will award approximately \$18 million to implement municipally or Tribal-led, high-impact clean energy projects in disadvantaged communities, energy communities, small- and medium-sized cities and towns, and Tribal communities.
- Funding: Award amounts ranging from \$900,000 to \$3.6 million.
- Eligibility: Local governments and federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **May 31, 2024**.

[DOE | Communities Sparking Investment in Transformative Energy](#)

U.S. EPA | *Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant Funding*

- Purpose: EPA is pleased to invite Tribes to submit project proposals that address emerging contaminants in wastewater for Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant (CWISA-EC) funding consideration. These funds may be awarded through either direct grants to Tribes or interagency agreements with the Indian Health Service (IHS). Region 9 also plans to offer EPA-directed in-kind assistance to Tribes for planning (e.g., sampling and Preliminary Engineering Report development) to improve program flexibility and simplify processing.
- Funding: Approximately \$3.5 million in funds may be available to support eligible projects that address emerging contaminants in wastewater. Region 9 anticipates receiving funding through FY26.
- Eligibility: Project eligibility and further direction for identifying emerging contaminant projects and

associated planning activities are detailed in the CWISA-EC Region 9 program guidance and project proposal form.

- Application due date: To be considered for funding, **proposals must be received by June 14, 2024** and must be submitted with a Tribal government endorsement.

[Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant \(CWISA EC\) Program](#)

Note: EPA is simultaneously soliciting project proposals and requesting input from Tribes on the funding process and prioritization. See Consultation section.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Tribal Wildlife Grants

- Purpose: The Tribal Wildlife Grants (TWG) Program was created to develop and support programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats and species important to Tribal culture or tradition. The TWG Program provides opportunities for federally recognized Tribes to engage in fish and wildlife conservation efforts on Tribal lands.
- Funding: Award amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized Tribal governments.
- Application due date: **June 21, 2024.**

[Application | Tribal Wildlife Grant Program](#)

USDA Forest Service | Tribal Access to Emerging Private Markets for Climate Mitigation and Forest Resilience

- Purpose: The Inflation Reduction Act provides the USDA Forest Service with funding to support the participation of underserved landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience. Emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience include but are not limited to formal markets for carbon sequestration, water quality and quantity, habitat protection, biodiversity conservation, and wetland restoration. Whether regulatory or voluntary, these markets have the potential to attract private capital to land conservation and create additional revenue streams for Tribes and individual Tribal members. With this funding opportunity, the USDA Forest Service intends to support Tribes that self-determine interest in gaining access to these emerging markets.
- Funding: Applicants may submit one proposal requesting up to \$2 million.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Corporations/Villages, and Tribal Organizations.
- Application due date: **August 21, 2024.**

[Application | Tribal Access to Emerging Private Markets for Climate Mitigation and Forest Resilience](#)

U.S. EPA | Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Lead Service Replacement program

- Purpose: EPA is pleased to invite Tribes to apply for Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) Lead Service Replacement (LSLR) program funding available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to support the investigation and removal of lead service lines in drinking water infrastructure.
- Funding: Approximately \$26.5 million in FY24 funds will be available to support eligible projects to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes in Region 9. Projects must be otherwise Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside eligible and be a lead service line replacement project or associated activity directly connected to the identification, planning, design, or replacement of lead service lines. This includes investigatory work to meet the compliance requirement for service line inventories for community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems.
- Application due date: Please make special note that for service line inventory projects there is an expected

6- month timeline from proposal submission to funds awarded and the inventories must be completed and submitted to EPA by **October 16, 2024**. Proposals for lead service line replacement projects will be accepted on a rolling basis.

[DWTSA Lead Service Line Replacement \(LSLR\) Program](#)

U.S. EPA | *Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance and Grants*

- Purpose: With a special focus on disaster-prone and vulnerable communities, Community Change Grants are available to provide free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops. Climate resilience projects that qualify for technical assistance include a focus on new or expanded green infrastructure, open spaces, and/or retrofits of existing community buildings or streets to address climate change impacts. Requests for technical assistance are being accepted on a rolling basis until 50 recipients have been identified. Eligible projects must show the following:
 - Intent and eligibility to apply for a grant under the Community Change Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.
 - Agreement to host EPA contractors for site visits.
 - Project location in a disaster-prone area.
 - Site description, ownership status, and environmental and land use information (if available).
 - Potential resilience benefits for disadvantaged community.
 - Engagement opportunities.
- Funding: Up to \$20 million.
- Eligibility: A partnership between community-based non-profit organization and a federally recognized Tribe.
- Application due date: Accepted on rolling basis until **November 21, 2024**.

[Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Website](#) [Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture | *Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program*

- This program provides funding for improvements to drinking water systems, wastewater systems, sanitary solid waste disposal, and stormwater systems. Funds may be used to develop or update projects for drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage, and distribution; sewer collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal, and closure; stormwater collection, transmission, and disposal.
- Funding: This program provides Grants and loans (low interest, long-term) to Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and public bodies in rural areas of 10,000 population or less.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **Applications accepted year-round**. For more information call or email Luis Andrade at Luis.Andrade@usda.gov or (760) 355-2208 ext. 108.

[Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program webpage](#)

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

- Purpose: This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Events that qualify as emergencies include drought or floods, earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes, disease outbreaks, chemical spills, leakage, or seepage, and other disasters.
 - 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 \$1,000,000 to construct a water source, intake, or treatment facility.
-

- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **Applications accepted year-round.**

[Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants webpage](#)

BIA | *Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse*

- Purpose: The Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse was launched at the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 6, 2023, to provide a one-stop-shop for Tribes to find federal funding. The clearinghouse was created from a multi-agency strategy to improve awareness of, access to, and utilization of federal funding resources for Tribal governments, and Tribal businesses.
- Funding: Funding amounts vary based on opportunity.
- Eligibility: Open to Tribal governments, Tribal enterprises, Native entrepreneurs, and Native Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs).
- Application due date: Varies based on funding opportunity.



Bird perched on a branch on the southeastern edge of the Grand Canyon.

[Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse](#)

U.S. EPA | *Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act*

- Purpose: EPA developed this resource to provide an overview of current and upcoming funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The page is frequently updated with new funding opportunities. Funding amounts and deadlines are tentative and subject to change. See the link below for the overview of funding opportunities.
- Funding: Funding amounts vary based on opportunity.
- Eligibility: Varies based on funding opportunity.
- Application due date: Varies based on funding opportunity.

[EPA | Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

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.

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality | *24th Annual Conference*

The 24th Annual National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) Conference will be held at the Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Resort on May 6-9, 2024. The NTFAQ aims to support Tribal programs by fostering information-sharing and networking opportunities that are focused on building Tribal capacity in air quality management. The NTFAQ is a cooperative endeavor co-sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA). This year's theme, Environmental Action in Native Communities,

highlights local and national efforts to advance air quality protection, climate change awareness, and environmental action in Tribal communities.

[National Tribal Forum on Air Quality \(NTFAQ\) Conference Website](#)

U.S. EPA | *Clean Water Act Tribal Forum*

EPA is hosting the second Clean Water Act (CWA) Tribal Forum in person on May 14-15, 2024 in Washington, DC. The forum will focus on a more advanced understanding of the CWA authorities most relevant to Tribes and implementation of those authorities in Indian country. This event is intended for Tribes with experience administering water quality programs who are interested in taking a deeper dive with CWA implementation to discuss challenges, benefits, and available tools.



Southeastern edge of the Grand Canyon.

[Clean Water Act Tribal Forum 2024 Registration](#)

Council of Development Finance Agencies | *Tribal Finance Webinar Series*

The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) Tribal Financing Webinar Series is a four-part online offering that will discuss a wide range of development finance programs that tribal communities can use to preserve small businesses, promote community health, restore local economies, and protect our environment. This webinar series will explore the tools and approaches available to uplift native communities through increased access to financial resources, collaborative partnerships, and greater agency among tribal governments.

[Register | CDFA Tribal Financing Webinar Series](#)

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals | *Annual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum*

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' (ITEP) Tribal Lands and Environment Forum hybrid event will take place on August 12-15, 2024, online and in person in Eugene, Oregon. This 14th annual forum provides a community for environmental professionals from Tribes, US EPA, State/Local/Federal agencies, community organizations, and other interested parties to network, share knowledge, and work together to improve management, protection, and restoration of Tribal lands.

[Tribal Lands and Environment Forum Website](#)

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals | *National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference*

Save the date for the 2024 Biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC), slated for September 9-12, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska. The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Tribes and Climate Change Program is seeking proposals for presentations, trainings, working groups, and climate conversation breakout sessions.

[National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference Website](#)

U.S. EPA | *Water Technical Assistance*

EPA's free Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) services support communities to identify water challenges,

develop plans, build technical, managerial, and financial capacity, and develop application materials to access water infrastructure funding. To implement WaterTA, EPA collaborates with states, Tribes, territories, community partners, and other key stakeholders.



[EPA Water Technical Assistance \(WaterTA\) Website](#)

U.S. EPA | Region 9 Targeted Brownfields Assessments

EPA offers help with researching historical property records, conducting environmental sampling, and identifying potential environmental concerns. EPA can provide communities with free environmental assessments, cleanup planning, and visioning services for brownfield properties with redevelopment potential.

[Region 9 Targeted Brownfields Assessment Application](#)



Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 Intergovernmental Branch
Environmental Justice, Community Engagement and Environmental Review Division

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Get in Touch!

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, Edem Yevo, at:

R9Communities@epa.gov

R9 Tribal Programs: www.epa.gov/tribal/epaspacificsouthwest-tribal-programregion-9

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Please see and subscribe to our [U.S. 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](#)