

Spring 2024 RTOC Action Items

Identifier	Action Items	Tribal Contact	Lead	Response
1	Regarding the Reorganization Tribal Sections changes within the agency. 1. How does this affect central California Tribes and why weren't the tribes invited to a discussion on reorganizing, specifically the Tribal programs branch? 2. What are the Tribal Section roles? 3. How do you determine which sections the Tribes will be in? is it based on the PO? 4. Will Tribes have an option of Tribal Section 1 or Tribal section 2. If the Tribes have issue with certain EPA staff (due to past experiences) what is the recourse for Tribes who have concerns with EPA Sectional members?	Central California	Kristin Gullatt, Ruben Mojica Hernandez	Acting Division Director Kristin Gullatt discussed the reorganization changes. Ruben Mojica Hernandez also met with Central California area Tribal representatives regarding the reorganization and talked through the questions they had, addressed any concerns they had, and addressed some misconceptions and misinformation.  1. The GAP Tribal program has not changed. The two Tribal sections function as one program and meet as a Team weekly. The reorg only provides more manager support to the program. 2. The Tribal Sections roles are the same as before- issuing GAP grants, providing project officer support, supporting/planning RTOCs and Tribal EPA conferences, and issuing quarterly newsletters 3. Sections are split by Project Officer (PO). Tribes are not being moved to a new PO based on the reorg. 4. If there are issues with a PO or a manager, that's something that can be raised to the director level, either individually or through the RTOC Co-Chair, Roman Orona. 5. During the reorganization presentation we discussed the different programs and how their work supports Tribes. We are happy to follow-up about the role of a specific Section if there are further questions at the next RTOC. 6. We continue to strive to have representation from all the Divisions and major programs at the RTOCs. 7. All the Tribal programs from the various offices (air, water, GAP, etc.) meet monthly to ensure connectivity and work on important Tribal issues.
2	Regarding the Reorganization Branches changes within the agency. 1. Why is the policy section and Environmental Justice Section separate and since we don't have them how do we have interactions with those divisions under this reorganization? 2. Who is required to be at the RTOCs now from the EPA program offices? 3. What is EPA doing to make sure that connectivity between branches continues?	Central California	Kristin Gullatt, Ruben Mojica Hernandez	
3	Requesting at the Spring RTOC agenda include an EPA representative to address the Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program.	Central California: Nina Hapner- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli appreciates the notification from Nina about this consultation opportunity. As a result, she followed up with Tribal contacts the week following the Spring RTOC to alert them of the opportunity and direct them to the headquarters point of contact. Emmanuelle then provided feedback to headquarters requesting better upfront communication about these consultation opportunities. She is available to host listening sessions for future drinking water consultation opportunities, as requested by Tribes.  Please see attached slides on the Summer RTOC meeting materials webpage for background on the Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program. The consultation period has been extended until August 30th, 2024.
4	Can we get a reorganization chart with head shots?	Central California	Kori Cordero, EJCEERD	Thank you for the suggestion. We are working on getting an EPA R9 organizational chart with headshots of Division Directors and other senior management posted in our Fall 2024 Newsletter ( <a href="https://www.epa.gov/tribal-pacific-sw/newsletters">https://www.epa.gov/tribal-pacific-sw/newsletters</a> ). This newsletter should be available in October.
5	Requesting a formal visit from Martha Guzman, Regional Administrator to Owens Valley.	Teri Red Owl	Martha Guzman	Thank you for the request. Martha Guzman is planning a visit for the end of October.

6	<p>Problem: Water management issues persist in the Scott and Shasta Rivers, Klamath River Basin. The Scott River is a key Klamath River tributary that supports ESA-listed coho salmon and the Shasta River is an equally important producer of Chinook salmon in the Klamath River Basin. Despite the importance of both of these Klamath River tributaries and their fish populations, the CA State Water Control Board has not yet established minimum instream flows to protect salmonid species in these basins. In non-drought years diversions of surface waters to support agriculture cause reaches of both rivers to go dry and further results in degraded instream habitat conditions where surface waters remain. For the past two years, the Governor's drought declaration has provided temporary protections for instream flows, however, once the drought declaration is lifted the emergency provisions will be rescinded and both the Scott and Shasta Rivers and the salmon populations they support will once again be unprotected from diversions and pumping.</p> <p>Ask: Can the EPA engage with CA State Water Control Board to advocate for Klamath River Tribes trying to protect salmon populations and instream habitats in the Scott and Shasta Rivers?</p>	<p>Hans Voight Submitted on behalf of the Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, and Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People</p>	Tomas Torres	<p>Loretta Vanegas, Jason Brush, and Licia Maclear met with Pulikla Tribe (formerly Resighini Rancheria), Karuk and Quartz Valley Tribes. EPA Staff and management are coordinating meetings with the water board, other government entities and EPA Lab to discuss the ongoing water quality issues in the Klamath basin and the effects on the salmon and crab populations. Funding for additional testing is in discussion</p>
7	<p>Problem: Water Quality issues in the Klamath River basin span across two state lines and two EPA regions (# 9 &amp; 10). Poor water quality conditions in Upper Klamath Lake negatively impact water quality throughout the Klamath River downstream to the Pacific Ocean. EPA funding supports the Tribal Water Consortium in California (Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley, Hoopa, Pulikla Tribe (Resighini), and Yurok), but there isn't any current coordination with Tribes in the upper Klamath Basin, Region 10 EPA, or the State of Oregon Dept Water Resources. Moving forward post-dam removal, there will be an increased need for coordinated monitoring and management that incorporates a holistic watershed approach versus the existing disconnected efforts.</p> <p>Ask: Can EPA Region 9 take the lead to coordinate with Region 10 and the Klamath River Tribes to achieve a unified monitoring approach for water quality related concerns in the Basin? For example, can the existing River Tribal Water Consortium (and its funding) be expanded to include the Klamath Tribes?</p>	<p>Hans Voight Submitted on behalf of the Karuk Tribe, Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, and Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People"</p>	Tomas Torres	<p>Loretta Vanegas, Jason Brush, and Licia Maclar met with Pulikla Tribe (formerly Resighini Rancheria), Karuk and Quartz Valley Tribes to clarify request. Loretta Vanegas contacted CWA 106 Regional Coordinator for R10 to facilitate communication with R9 and inquire about R10 Klamath Tribes Water Quality funding. During FY25 EPA R9 will facilitate a discussion between R9 and R10 Klamath basin tribes to discuss water quality issues shared within the watershed.</p>
8	<p>What is the progress of testing soils in wildfire areas for PFAS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there any updates or findings from EPA scientist Matt Small re: research using microbes to degrade PFAS?</li> <li>Have there been any updates to the EPA being able to enforce environmental regulations regarding mining?</li> <li>Is there funding available to upgrade a drinking water treatment system to add ion exchange resin to remove minerals?</li> </ul>	<p>Cathie Buchanon Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria</p>	Matthew Small, Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	<p>Matthew Small provided technical answers to Cathie Buchanon's questions on PFAS at the Spring RTOC. He also followed-up directly with Cathie to answer some more related questions she has.</p> <p>Emmanuelle Rapicavoli discussed at the Spring RTOC some of the drinking water treatment system funding sources available.</p>
8	Update from Martha Guzman on the Inter-Agency Meeting (Regional Administrators)	Meyo Marrufo		The Regional Administrators meet weekly. Meyo Marrufo said she will meet with the Regional Administrator to talk about national topics and this item can be removed.
	Follow up / Action Items from 5/29/24			

9	Region 9 Reorganization. Question: why the reorganization? Who initiated the reorganization?	Nina Hapner	Kristen Gullatt	After establishing a new national program office charged with advancing environmental justice and external civil rights (OEJECR), EPA's Deputy Administrator directed each EPA region to establish an independent division for environmental justice and several other community-focused programs. As a result, EPA Region 9 consolidated their community-focused programs into a division called the Environmental Justice, Community Engagement, & Environmental Review Division (EJCEERD). Although most regional Tribal programs are under the Regional Administrator's office, EPA Region 9 decided to keep the Tribal program in the new EJCEERD because of the large size of Region 9's Tribal program, with up to 16 direct reports. Because Region 9 has such a robust Tribal program, Region 9 was also able to establish a Senior Tribal Advisor position that will remain in the Office of the Regional Administrator. The Tribal Advisor, Kori Cordero, is assigned to coordinate consultations, facilitate meetings with Tribal elected leadership, and facilitate resolution of issues across Divisions.
10	Invite William Post to a R9 RTOC Meeting regarding GAP Training.	Roman Orona	William Post, Ruben Mojica Hernandez	Roman Orona and Ruben Mojica Hernandez met with William Post on 8/20 to discuss the different ways Tribes and EPA can identify Tribal training needs.
11	Request a listening session on mining to gather Tribal concerns and input. If Tribes would like to participate, please contact Sally Manning.	Sally Manning	Sarah Samples	EPA Region 9 is hosting listening sessions on a site-specific basis. Sally is onboard with this approach.
12	Request Indian Health Service to visit Tribal Environmental Programs to discuss projects and to update the SDS list.	Rob Roy		This is an action item for IHS. Please let EPA know if you need contact information.
13	Request for a "Right to Know Act" training (Mining).	Cliff Banuelos	Licia Maclear	Licia Maclear working with Cat Looper, lead contact in the Emergency Response program for Tribes and EPCRA, to find presenters for this. This will be a 20-30 minute training that will take place in September. Tribes that are interested in participating should reach out to Licia at maclear.licia@epa.gov
14	Provide the IHS Phoenix Area Office contact information to Dallas Smales, South Fork Band		Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Sara McGillewie followed up with Dallas Smales to provide her the IHS contact info.
15	Send information on exploratory well closures (Mining) to Sarah.		Sarah Samples	The NEPA Mine Team has begun researching this topic along with general exploration reclamation.