

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

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Musings from U.S. EPA Staff

Dear Tribal Partners in Region 9,

Hello again to many familiar faces and for those of you that I have not met yet, I hope to meet you soon at the upcoming Tribal EPA conference, Tribal Drinking Water Conference (coming April 2025) or in the field. I currently manage the Tribal Infrastructure program in the Water Division. I have had the privilege of working with many of you to support environmental programs for Tribal nations for most of my twenty+ year career at EPA. Many of you have welcomed me to your land and homes. I thank you for your continuing generosity in time, hospitality and in developing my own capacity to better support Tribal Nations' efforts to advance your environmental protection and public health goals.

Writing this at the sunset of the Fall equinox, change is palatable in the air. And I suppose that's appropriate as change has been an almost constant for the Tribal drinking water and infrastructure programs of late. I have been incredibly fortunate to grow EPA's programs from a small-but-mighty team five years ago to now two offices in the water division dedicated to ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation for Tribal communities in the region.

The last few years have been a whirlwind of new funding opportunities (thank-you bipartisan infrastructure law!), regulatory safeguards and strengthened partnerships. We stood up four new grant programs to address emerging contaminants in drinking water, identify and remove lead plumbing, and our newest program to identify and mitigate emerging contaminants in clean water. Since the passage of BIL, we've awarded nearly \$120 million to support new water infrastructure in Tribal communities.

While the agency finalized a new drinking water standard for six PFAS analytes, our team completed PFAS sampling at 121 Tribal drinking water systems, helping Tribal utilities complete the initial monitoring requirements of the new rule. And we've worked with your water utilities to complete over 100 service line inventories, the first step to identify lead plumbing that needs replacement. The input and engagement we received from our frequent visits to the ROTC and during site visits with your water utilities has been integral to informing these new programs. And your continued partnerships are integral to their success.

Please avail yourselves of the support from our incredibly talented team in the Tribal infrastructure and drinking water programs as you navigate all the opportunities and new requirements. While we have made great progress, I recognize there is much work ahead to ensure access to safe water for all Tribal communities. I look forward to working with you to ensure that lasting change is realized. As you have all taught me the words I live by - Water is life.

Sincerely,

Emmanuelle Rapicavoli – Manager, Tribal Infrastructure Section, Water Division.

R9 Organizational Chart – As of September 13, 2024



Office of the Regional Administrator

Kori Cordero,
Tribal Advisor



Office of the Regional Administrator

Martha
Guzman, Regional
Administrator



Office of the Regional Administrator

Cheree Peterson,
Deputy Regional
Administrator



Public Affairs
Michael Alpern



Air & Radiation
Matt Lakin



Superfund &
Emergency
Management
Michael
Montgomery



Land, Chemicals
& Development
Claire
Trombadore



Mission Support
Kerry Drake



Water
Tomás Torres



Office of the
Regional
Counsel
Suzanne
Andrews



Enforcement
& Compliance
Assurance
Amy Miller



Laboratory
Services &
Applied Science
Duane James



Environmental
Justice, Com-
munity Engage-
ment & Environ-
mental Review
Laura Ebbert

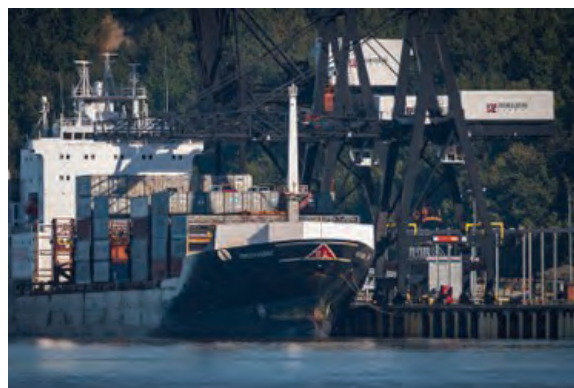
Regulatory News

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 Changes to the Hazardous Waste Manifest Regulations

The EPA Administrator signed regulatory changes on manifesting shipments of hazardous waste on June 28, 2024. Specifically, the final rule:

- Incorporates hazardous waste export manifests and other manifest-related reporting (exception, discrepancy, and unmanifested waste reports) into the e-Manifest system.
- Expands the required international shipment data elements on the manifest form and revises the international movement document requirements to more closely link the manifest data with the movement document data.
- Requires small and large quantity generators to register for access to e-Manifest.
- Requires entities to correct data errors for their respective portions of the manifest.
- Makes other updates, conforming changes, and corrections to the RCRA hazardous waste and polychlorinated biphenyl regulations with respect to manifests.



Source: U.S. EPA

[Hazardous Waste Manifest Regulations](#)

Program Updates

U.S. EPA | EPA Releases National Program Guidances

The final FY 2025-2026 National Program Guidances (NPGs) and accompanying Response to Comments documents are available on EPA's website. The NPGs communicate two-year operational priorities and strategies for EPA programs and regions, and EPA partners in states, Tribes, and territories.

In developing the NPGs, EPA considered input obtained from states, Tribes, territories, media associations, and public comments. NPGs were issued by eight program offices: the Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Congressional and International Relations, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, Office of Tribal Affairs, Office of Land and Emergency Management, and Office of Water.

[National Program Guidances \(NPGs\)](#)



Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. Source: EPA Project Officer, Alan Bacock

Tribal Project Success Stories

U.S. EPA | *EPA Announces Selected Region 9 Tribal Applications for the Competitive Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced they selected 34 applications for \$300 million in grants to Tribes and one territory to implement community-driven solutions to tackle the climate crisis, reduce air pollution, advance environmental justice, and accelerate the clean energy transition on September 5, 2024. The grants will be funded through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, which was created under the Inflation Reduction Act as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. The six Tribes selected in Region 9 are listed below:

- **Blue Lake Rancheria:** The Blue Lake Rancheria selected application will support carbon sequestration by wetland and forest ecosystems through the expansion of the Land Conservation Program, which acquires and restores land within the aboriginal territory of the Tribe.
- **Hopi Utilities Corporation:** The Hopi Utilities Corporation selected application will install a solar photovoltaic and battery electric storage system microgrid to provide renewable electricity to the Hopi Reservation. Combined with other federal investment, the proposed project will reduce dependence on coal for home heating and cooking for nearly 900 homes, in addition to providing critical improvements and stability to the aging electricity distribution network that serves Hopi villages.
- **Fort Independence Indian Community:** The selected application will extend the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power distribution line to deliver renewable electric power to the Fort Independence Indian Community and replace diesel generators used at the Grinding Rock Aggregates quarry. The project will mitigate toxic air pollution, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver community health benefits.
- **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community:** The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community project will help fund a Tribal landfill gas conversion project, fleet vehicle electrification, installation of electric vehicle charging stations, facilitation of home energy assessments, implementation of a land buy-back program, and improvements to soil management.
- **La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians:** The La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians and the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians will transition fleet vehicles to comparable battery-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicles and install electric vehicle charging stations. The selected application will also include development of solar and storage microgrids and installation of efficient air-source heat pump systems at Tribal residences.
- **Tule River Economic Development Corporation:** The Tule River Economic Development Corporation project will convert waste wood biomass into biochar that can be sold in various markets. By converting forest biomass into biochar, the selected application will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate wildfire risks, improve soil quality, and create jobs. This project aims to provide a sustainable solution to environmental challenges faced by the Tule River Nation.



*San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Electric Vehicle Charging Station.
Source: EPA Project Officer, Edem
Yevo.*

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.

Summer RTOC Recap

On August 27 – 29, 2024, the hybrid 2024 Summer RTOC meeting convened at the Soboba Casino Resort in San Jacinto, CA. The three-day meeting included a Tribal caucus, a discussion on the Executive Order 14112- Reducing Administrative Burden on Tribes, a presentation on Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) updates, and several technical break-out sessions. The Summer RTOC presentations and meeting materials are available online.

[Summer RTOC Presentations and Meeting Materials](#)

Fall RTOC Information

The Fall RTOC is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting, which will take place at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose, CA, on October 21, 2024. To register, please see the RTOC website.

[Fall 2024 RTOC Meeting](#)

2024 Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference

The 32nd Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference cosponsors, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and EPA Region 9 are pleased to announce this year's conference will take place October 22-24, 2024, at the Hayes Mansion in San Jose, California. 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. Conference organizers are planning an event wherein attendees can view sessions in person or virtually via a live stream. To avoid the technical disruptions of a hybrid presentation and to encourage on-site networking and collaboration, presenters are asked to plan on attending and presenting in person. You can view the conference agenda here: [Conference Agenda](#).

There is still time to register! Visit the registration page to get your ticket for in-person or virtual attendance: [Conference Registration](#).

There are only a few more days to submit an entry for the Youth Art Contest, the deadline is October 11! Entries can be submitted online via the conference website: [Youth Art Contest](#).

For more information on the location, room block rates, registration, agendas, the Connor Byestewa Jr. Award, and all other conference information, please visit the conference website:

[Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#).



Attendees at the Summer RTOC hosted by Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Source: Soboba Tribal Environmental Department

Tribal Resources

U.S. EPA | *Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox*

EPA has released a new website, the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox (CRAFT). CRAFT was created to support technical assistance providers working with states, Tribes, communities, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, businesses, and others looking to invest in climate-resilient projects. By using CRAFT, technical assistance providers can support potential funding applicants and recipients with a variety of simple yet effective resources that include:

- [Program overviews](#) of EPA's financial assistance programs where climate-safe investment opportunities are available.
- [Climate risk tools](#) and decision support resources that can inform the development, design, and implementation of projects.
- [Communications materials](#) to facilitate discussions about adaptation, resilience, and environmental justice.
- [Meaningful engagement resources](#) on how to perform targeted community engagement efforts effectively and intentionally when implementing climate-smart projects.
- [Definitions](#) of common terms to use during technical assistance consultations, engagement efforts, and the development of project proposals.



Pulikla Tribe of Yurok People sampling event. Source: EPA Project Officer, Juliann Schroeder.

[Climate Resilience and Adaptation Funding Toolbox \(CRAFT\)](#)

U.S. EPA, CDC, and HUD | *National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: Outreach Materials*

In preparation for National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 20-26, 2024), EPA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have released a wide range of materials at the links below to help plan local events and activities that educate communities about preventing lead exposure.

[Outreach Materials](#)

[Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping our Children Healthy! Curriculum](#)

[Get the Lead Out Technical Assistance](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | *DOE Releases Sample Responses to Support Tribes in Completing Funding Applications*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released Sample Narrative Responses that Tribes can incorporate into their funding applications under the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program. DOE is providing this optional document to assist Tribes in preparing the narrative portion of their funding applications. DOE developed the document in response to requests from Tribes to facilitate a more efficient application process. Please see the Funding Opportunities section of the newsletter for more information on the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program.

[Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program: Sample Narrative Responses](#)

U.S. EPA | *EPA Launches New All-Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool Webpage*

EPA developed the interactive tool, All-Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool, to assist emergency managers and planners for all communities (state, local, Tribal, and territorial), and large industrial and municipal facilities, such as airports and stadiums. The tool helps these parties create or update a comprehensive pre-incident plan for managing materials and wastes generated from manmade and natural disasters. On June 20, 2024, EPA launched a new webpage that includes:

- Information about the tool.
- A recording of a webinar about the tool.
- Federal agency, training, and safety resources.
- Example state and local plans and guidance.
- Tools and references.

[All-Hazards Waste Management Planning Tool Webpage](#)

U.S. EPA | *Working Sessions on Battery Collection Best Practices and Battery Labeling Guidelines*

Throughout 2024, EPA is hosting a series of working sessions across the battery life cycle to inform the development of voluntary guidelines for battery labeling as well as the development of best practices for state, Tribal, and local governments to collect end-of-life batteries for recycling. You can now find presentation materials for previous sessions along with additional information on these efforts and future sessions through the links below.

[Battery Collection Best Practices and Battery Labeling Guidelines](#)

[Working Sessions](#) | [Battery Collection Best Practices and Battery Labeling Guidelines](#)

U.S. EPA | *EPA Publishes Webpage on Climate Resiliency*

EPA published a new webpage about climate change adaptation and land and emergency management. To minimize climate change risks for hazardous and non-hazardous waste management systems, EPA, Tribal governments, state agencies, businesses, organizations, and individual communities can implement a variety of measures to make their sites and communities more resilient to a changing climate. The webpage also contains information about disaster debris management planning. This new webpage includes three guidance memos EPA recently published:

- EPA's **hazardous waste permitting** program developed guidance to EPA Regions, states, and territories on when and how to consider potential adverse climate change impacts in the hazardous waste permitting process under RCRA.
- EPA's **hazardous waste corrective action** program developed recommendations for EPA regions and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act authorized states about how to work with RCRA facility owners and operators to integrate climate change adaptation considerations into the RCRA cleanup process.
- EPA developed an approach encouraging project managers overseeing **PCB approvals** to assess whether proposed PCB cleanup, storage, and disposal controls will be resilient to the impacts of climate change.

[Climate Resiliency and Adaptive Capacity](#)

Arizona State University | *Tribal Center for Digital Sovereignty*

The American Indian Policy Institute at Arizona State University and the National Congress of American Indians have launched the Center for Tribal Digital Sovereignty, which is dedicated to providing Tribes with the resources and support to address data sovereignty in the digital era. Digital sovereignty encompasses various aspects of a Tribal Nation's digital plan and footprint, such as Tribal codes, managing data protection, digital equity, network infrastructure, development of funding sources, and capacity building.

[Center for Tribal Digital Sovereignty Website](#)



Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation Food Village. Source: EPA Project Officer Juliann Schroeder

Tribal Consultation

A full list of active EPA Tribal Consultation opportunities are available on the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) [webpage](#). To get email notifications on upcoming EPA consultation opportunities, join our TCOTS Listserv: Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov

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 EPA Region 9. For more information or to become involved, please contact Cliff at Cbanuelos@itcn.org.

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 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.

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.

[Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse](#)

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 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to support drinking water infrastructure projects at public water systems to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- **Funding:** Approximately \$26.5 million in FY24 funds will be available to support eligible projects to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- **Eligibility:** Federally recognized Tribes in Region 9 eligible to apply. 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. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants*

- **Funding:** Up to \$5 million for water conservation projects.
- **Eligibility:** Applications accepted from Federally recognized Tribes in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- **Purpose:** For the implementation of on-the-ground water management improvement projects, including projects that conserve water and address water supply reliability.
- **Application due date:** **extended to November 13, 2024.**

[WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants*

- Purpose: To fund environmental and climate justice activities that benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to address environmental and climate justice challenges.
- 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 Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

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

- 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.
- Funding: Approximately \$17 million in FY25 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.
- Proposal (with Tribal government endorsement) due date: **December 6, 2024**.

[Full Announcement, Guidance, and Project Proposal Form | Region 9 DWTSa Program](#)

[Full Announcement, Guidance, and Project Proposal Form | Region 9 DWTSa LSLR Program](#)

U.S. EPA | *Tribal and Territory Grants: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act*

- Purpose: This Notice of Funding Opportunity announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities to incentivize and accelerate the upgrading or retirement of the nation's legacy diesel engine fleet. Eligible activities include the retrofit or replacement of existing diesel engines, vehicles, and equipment with the EPA and California Air Resources Board certified engine configurations and verified retrofit and idle reduction technologies.
- Funding: \$8 million will be made available to Tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) or Alaska Native Villages, and approximately \$1 million will be made available to eligible territory government entities.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **December 6, 2024**.

[Tribal and Territory Grants: Diesel Emissions Reduction Act](#)

U.S. EPA | *Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program*

- Purpose: EPA seeks coalition applications that include the following elements: (1) a project to develop and implement a national consumer wasted food reduction campaign; (2) a project that will increase the market for and sales of compost; and (3) a project that will increase education and outreach to households on

composting. Applicants must demonstrate they will subaward a portion of the total award to implement education and outreach activities locally, which will benefit local communities.

- Funding: approximately \$39 million for one award
- Eligibility: Eligible entities include Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, U.S. States, including Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Local governments, Non-profit organizations, and Public-private partnerships.
- Application due date: **December 20, 2024.**

Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects*

- Purpose: For the implementation of small-scale water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts
- Funding: Up to \$100,000 for water efficiency improvements.
- Eligibility: Applications accepted from Federally recognized Tribes in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- Application due date: **January 14, 2025.**

[WaterSMART Small Scale Efficiency Projects](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects*

- Purpose: For the implementation of projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values or watershed health; water management or infrastructure improvements to benefit ecological values or watershed health; and watershed restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.
- Funding: Up to \$5 million for projects focused on environmental benefits.
- Eligibility: Applications accepted from Federally recognized Tribes in the 17 Western States, Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.
- Application due date: **March 11, 2025.**

[WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects](#)

U.S. EPA | *Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia*

- Purpose: To advance recycling infrastructure and boost food waste prevention education across the country. This includes projects that will improve collection, transport, systems, and processes related to post-use materials that can be recovered, reused, recycled, repaired, refurbished, or composted.
- Funding: \$20 million total in awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million each.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized Tribes, including Alaskan Native Villages, Intertribal Consortia, and former Indian reservations in Oklahoma, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.
- Application due date: **March 14, 2025.**

[Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia](#)

CA Strategic Growth Council and CA Department of Conservation | *Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program*

- Purpose:
 - The SALC program supports agricultural land conservation, economic growth, and sustainable devel-

opment by providing grants for three types of projects: Land Use Planning grants that support the development of local and regional land use policies and economic development strategies to protect critical agricultural land; Agricultural Conservation Acquisition grants to permanently protect croplands, rangelands, and lands utilized for the cultivation of traditional resources from conversion to non-agricultural uses; and Capacity and Project Development grants to expand organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects.

- The California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) and the California Department of Conservation (DOC) will release the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) Draft Round 10 Guidelines for public comment on July 24, 2024. Key dates and timelines are noted below; look for updates and workshop announcements on the SALC website. Please feel free to reach out to salcp@conservation.ca.gov with any questions or to discuss potential projects.
- ◊ Draft guidelines will be available for public comment on July 24, 2024, and the final guidelines and NOFA on October 31, 2024.
- **Funding:**
 - Planning grants: up to \$500,000; Acquisition grants: no maximum, depends on program fund availability; and Capacity grants up to \$250,000.
- **Eligibility:** Federally recognized California Native American Tribes, non-federally recognized California Native American Tribes on the contact list maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission, and 501 (c)(3) nonprofits with a Native American-centered mission or majority Native American board and a Native American-centered mission are eligible to apply for all three SALC Grant types. Please refer to the SALC guidelines for more details.
- **Application due date:** Pre-proposals (required for Acquisition and Capacity grants only) are due **January 31, 2025**. Applications (all grant types) are due **July 3, 2025**.

[Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program \(SALC\) Website](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture | *Community Facilities Grants available to Rural Tribes*

- **Purpose:** Does your Tribe need equipment for one of your community facilities needs such as police cars, fire engines, furniture for your community center, or laptops for the teachers in the school? The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program may be the funding program to meet those needs.
- **Funding:** Grants are up to \$50,000 and there is a cost share match which is determined by the population and Median Household Income of the service area. There is also special grant funding available to repair or replace buildings, equipment or facilities that were damaged in the 2022 federally declared disasters. This grant is 75% of the project cost with no maximum grant amount.
- **Eligibility:** Eligible entities include federally recognized Tribes, nonprofits and public bodies who cannot fund the project from their own resource or obtain a loan for the project. Eligible projects include essential community facilities located in rural areas of 20,000 population or less, such as health care, fire, police, day care, schools, animal shelters, museums, and more.
- **Application due date:** There is **no deadline to apply but there is limited funding available**, so we suggest applying early in the calendar year. More information can be found at the link below or contact Community Facilities Specialist, Sally Tripp at 559-909-0683 or Sally.Tripp@usda.gov.

[Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in California | Rural Development](#)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife | *Cannabis Restoration Grant Program*

- Purpose: To promote ecosystem restoration and ecological health through, among other things, cleanup, restoration, and remediation of areas impacted by cannabis cultivation and support of legal cannabis cultivation operations.
- Funding: Approximately \$20 million available.
- Eligibility: Includes California Native American Tribes, public agencies, and nonprofit organizations.
- Application due date: **CRGP solicits project concepts on a rolling basis.**

[California Department of Fish and Wildlife Cannabis Restoration Grant Program](#)

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](#)

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

- 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. Matching funds are not required but partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **Applications accepted year-round.** For more information or an application please contact Luis Andrade, California Water and Environmental Program Director USDA Rural Development (760) 457-1829 or luis.andrade@usda.gov or Jenni Strauch, State Office WEP Specialist at (530) 233-4137 ext. 112 Jennifer.Strauch@usda.gov.

[Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants webpage](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development | *Calendar Year 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program*

- Purpose: This program helps eligible communities of up to 35,000 population, Public Bodies, Tribes, and Non-profits pay expenses related to damages to rural water systems as a result of events (Presidentially Declared Disasters) that occurred between January 1, 2022, and December 31, 2022. For the purposes of this program, the term “water” refers to all water resource infrastructure, including drinking water, wastewater, stormwater

drainage, and solid waste facilities. Funds can be used to develop water infrastructure system capacity and resiliency to reduce or eliminate long term risks from hazards resulting from (Presidentially declared) disasters during calendar year 2022.

- Funding: Until funds are exhausted
- Eligibility: Open to federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **Applications accepted year-round**. For more information or an application please contact Luis Andrade, California Water and Environmental Program Director USDA Rural Development (760) 457-1829 or luis.andrade@usda.gov or Jenni Strauch, State Office WEP Specialist at (530) 233-4137 ext. 112 Jennifer.Strauch@usda.gov.

[Calendar Year 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation Permitting Dashboard | *Environmental Review Improvement Fund Tribal Assistance Program*

- Purpose: To provide funding to support capacity building for Tribal governments to meaningfully participate in environmental reviews such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and consultations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will help make the environmental review and authorization process for FAST-41 (Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, Title 41) covered projects more timely and efficient.
- Funding: Up to \$862,500.
- Eligibility: Federally Recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: No due date.

[ERIF Tribal Assistance Program Webpage](#)

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.

Tribal Exchange Network Group | 2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference

The Tribal Exchange Network Conference will be held October 15 – 17, 2024, in Spokane, Washington. The Tribal Exchange Network Conference aims to support and enhance Tribal participation in the EPA Environmental Information Exchange Network through interactive sessions and information-sharing opportunities that foster connection and collaboration on data management, analysis, and sharing. This event provides the opportunity to highlight the successes and challenges of Tribal environmental programs managing data using digital technology solutions.

[2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference](#)

Tribal Climate Health Project | 2024 Tribal Climate & Health Adaptation Summit

The 2024 Tribal Climate & Health Adaptation Summit will be held November 6 – 7, 2024, at the Pala Casino, Spa & Resort in Pala, California. This Summit brings together experts and practitioners in Tribal health and climate adaptation to explore emerging and successful strategies that address the physical, mental, socioeconomic, and cultural and spiritual health and wellbeing of Tribes.

[2024 Tribal Climate & Health Adaptation Summit](#)

U.S. EPA | Waste and Materials Management Training for Tribes Conducting Waste Characterizations: In-Person Workshop

This waste training workshop on Conducting Waste Characterizations will be hosted by the Ak-Chin Indian Community on November 13 – 14, 2024, in Maricopa, Arizona. This workshop will enable you to assess the composition and quantity of the wastes being generated within your community by conducting a hands-on waste sort/characterization. By knowing the types and amounts of the materials and waste your community is generating, you can better evaluate waste management options and identify opportunities for improvement. Please direct any questions about the training workshops to Jenny Stephenson (Stephenson.jenny@epa.gov).

[Waste and Materials Management Training for Tribes Conducting Waste Characterizations](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | 2024 Office of Indian Energy Program Review

The 2024 U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Program Review will occur on November 18 – 22, 2024 in Denver, Colorado. This annual event is an opportunity for Tribal Leaders and staff to meet, learn from other Tribes pursuing clean energy projects, and share in each other's successes. The 2024 Program Review is open to all of Indian Country and will feature project updates from Tribes across the nation who are leveraging Office of Indian Energy grant funding to deploy clean energy technology.

[2024 Office of Indian Energy Program Review](#)

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](#)



Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation Tribal Lands. Source: EPA Project Officer, Juliann Schroeder



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

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San Francisco, CA 94105

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: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epa-region-9-pacific-southwest>

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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](#)