

Region 9 Fact Sheet

Geographic summary

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Tribes: 148 federally recognized Tribes, including the Navajo Nation

Pacific Islands: The U.S. Territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam; the States governed by Compacts of Free Association (the Freely Associated States) of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia

Logistics

Regional Office headquarters: San Francisco, CA

Field offices: Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Honolulu, HI; Flagstaff, AZ; Signal Hill, CA; Hayward, CA

Laboratory: Corvallis, OR

Staff: approximately 800 FTE

Top environmental priorities and challenges

- In recent years, R9 has been tasked by FEMA to conduct disaster response work following wildfires on Maui and in California, and typhoons in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Marianna Islands. Most recently on Maui, R9 crews removed 200 tons of hazardous materials from over 1,400 properties and more than 30 tons of lithium batteries from fire-impacted areas. The County of Maui and the Hawaii Department of Health face significant capacity constraints, so EPA is providing support for Maui's long-term recovery by assisting with sustainable recovery planning and providing technical guidance to support water infrastructure rebuilding.
- In 2021, jet fuel spills from the U.S. Navy's massive underground Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage facility contaminated Oahu's aquifer, resulting in contamination of the nearby Pearl Harbor drinking water system. In FY2023, EPA negotiated a Consent Order with the U.S. Navy and the Defense Logistics Agency to require actions on the drinking water system and facility defueling and closure that is ongoing.
- EPA is coordinating the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of an upgraded and expanded International Treatment Plant to address U.S.-Mexico water pollution which has posed significant economic and environmental impacts on border communities, particularly in San Diego County, CA.
- We are committed to ensuring that over 55% of our inspections in FY25 are focused on overburdened communities such as the Alameda Corridor in Los Angeles County. We are implementing the EPA Region 9/CalEPA EJ Enforcement MOU FY24/25 Action Plan focused on enhancing engagement with five community forums, institutionalizing the Rapid Response Task Force, increasing transparency and access to environmental compliance information, and strengthening opportunities for information sharing.
- With new regulatory changes to PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels, we will use our enforcement tools to determine if National Priorities List (NPL) sites are a source of PFAS contamination to drinking water supplies.
- R9 has 114 active Superfund sites on the National Priorities List, including former mine sites, sites with vapor intrusion and/or metals contamination, federal facilities, and many area-wide groundwater Superfund cleanup sites. With the largest number of abandoned mines in the country, R9 is remediating mine sites on the NPL in CA, NV and AZ, with nearly \$80M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds.
- To reduce the highest exposure risks at more than 200 abandoned uranium mine sites on or near Navajo Nation, R9 has entered into enforcement agreements and settlements valued at over \$1.7 billion. Additionally, we have listed on the National Priorities List the first abandoned mining district on Navajo Nation.
- R9 has more areas not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards than any other Region, with ~42 million people living in areas not meeting one or more standard. R9 receives the most State Implementation Plan submittals requiring review and action and has about 130 in backlog. Pollution from heavy-duty trucks, ships, and trains visiting the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach contribute to poor air quality in Southern CA and CA's San Joaquin Valley, two of the most polluted areas in the country for particulate matter and ozone.

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2020 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

- Phoenix, Arizona, is in a “serious” nonattainment area for ozone and is developing a plan to reduce emissions of the ozone precursors oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Therefore, facilities who want to construct or expand operations that would increase emissions need to earn offset credits from other sources that will correspondingly reduce their emissions.
- Region 9’s work with Tribal Nations is a top priority and we support environmental presence and programs at most Tribes in the Region; it is a priority that all Tribes who apply for core capacity-building General Assistance Program (GAP) assistance get an on-time award and that EPA provides technical service to help Tribes build their environmental capacity and implement solid and hazardous waste programs.
- We are responding to the concerns of farmworker advocates by supporting a national bilingual pesticide labeling initiative with stakeholder engagements and other opportunities to hear directly from farmworkers.
- We will conduct climate vulnerability evaluations at Underground Storage Tank facilities, and facilities regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Toxic Substance Control Act to ensure severe climate impacts are accounted for in remedial decisions.