Fall 2024 RTOC Action Items

Identifier	Action Items	Tribal Contact	Lead	Response
1	QAPP - 1. Ask EPA how they are going to improve response times on QAPP approvals, esp. with requirement for additional QAPPs. 2. Explain why changes have been made to QAPP requirements.	Southern California	Audrey Johnson, Duane James	1) We have committed to providing examples of QAPPs on our website for grantees use as a resource when preparing QAPPs. The 60-day review standard was adopted Nationally under the direction of the E-Enterprise Leadership Council, in collaboration with state, tribal, and EPA QA professionals after conducting a Lean-Kaizen event in 2018. The ten Regions continued to improve QA processes through an Enterprise Lean Managment System (ELMS) project from 2018 - 2020. 2) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Mission Support, Office of Enterprise Information Programs, Enterprise Quality Management Division (EQMD) revised the EPA Requirements
2	Request an update on issues with the Tijuana River.	Southern California	Water Division - Tom Konner	EPA is developing a comprehensive fact sheet, detailing: current and upcoming infrastructure projects that are aimed to reduce flows in the Tijuana River; increase wastewater treatment capacity; improve conveyance systems; and provide short summary of on-going studies and monitoring efforts. Our goal is to have it approved and then shared broadly in the coming weeks. Existing information is available at https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/usmca-tijuana-river-watershed and specific questions or concerns can be sent to tijuanawater@epa.gov.
3	Request clarification on what CWA data needs to be entered into WQX; flyer seemed to say that ALL data needed to be entered, not just data that EPA paid for collection.	Southern California	Water Division - K. Pinkerton or K. Williams	Tribes must submit water quality data to WQX for all water quality data they collect with EPA funding Page 85 of Tribal CWA 106 Guidance
4	Request EPA documentation on EO 14112 that was used by EPA at the Summer RTOC meeting during the presentation. This has been requested previously.	Southern California	Office of the Regional Administrator	Activities related to EO14112 are on hold at this time. Once we have further guidance from HQ we will share information related to recommendations shared by Region 9 with AIEO.
5	This item was brought up again. It is an action item from the Summer RTOC meeting (#23). Request Financial Training for the Tribal Finance Departments during RTOC meetings, Annual EPA Tribal Conference and for EPA to go out to Tribes.	Christy Sangster-Begay (San Carlos Apache) Tribal Caucus	Mission Support Division - Kerry Drake	The Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) offers EPA's Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients, an online training course designed to introduce EPA grant applicants and recipients to key aspects of the entire grant life cycle, from preparation of an application through grant closeout. Region 9 Grants Branch has partnered up with the Region 9 Financial Specialist from Research Triangle Park Finance Center (RTPFC) to provide past grantee administrative and financial training. The Region 9 Financial Specialist attended the 2023 Tribal Conference and provided an in-depth overview of the ASAP System, drawdowns, and other financial grants guidance. Additionally, the Region 9 Grants Branch is available to discuss future in-person or virtual outreach and training requests. Also, Region 9 has invested in guidance, training, and site visits for grant recipients. In 2020, the Region 9 Grants Branch created the "EPA Region 9 Grants Handbook" to address the needs of grant applicants and recipients by providing information on key topics related to applying for, managing and closing-out an EPA grant in an easy-to-understand format (see attached). The Grants Handbook complements the information provided in the EPA's Grants Management Training for Applicants and Recipients modules and helps establish a solid foundation for understanding EPA's grant requirements. Annually, the Grants Branch assesses the need for updating the Handbook based on any changes in grant regulations, policies, etc. And at this time, the Handbook is currently being updated to incorporate the new regulatory changes to 2 CFR Part 200.