

FALL 2025 RTOC Action Items

NOTE TO EPA - Please include a DATE of when a response will be completed for each Action Item.

Identify	Action Items	Tribal Contact	Lead	Response	Deadline	Notes
1	What is U.S. EPA doing to keep staffing levels at appropriate levels to support Tribal programs in Region 9?		Mike Martucci, Regional Administrator	Region 9 remains fully committed to fostering strong, respectful, and responsive relationships with the Tribes we serve. Continued investment in the Tribal program is vital, and having dedicated staff to support the work is an ongoing priority.		
2	Tribes would like to review and provide input to EPA for program guidance and NOFOs before they are released to ensure that programs support Tribal needs.	Louisa McCovey, Northern CA RTOC Rep		Program guidance and Notice of Funding Opportunities are developed and approved at the national level. We have shared this insight with the National Tribal Consultation Advisor for their consideration.		
3	When does U.S. EPA plan to get the NOFOs out since they are not working on them right now? Will we see the NOFOs at the regular time or will they be late?	Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians		NOFOs were paused for all programs due to the lapse in appropriations.  New NOFOs were paused, such as competitive Brownfields grants. 2 national funding opportunities are out for SWIFR and Brownfields 128A.  Drinking Water Infrastructure Set-Aside NOFO out. Deadline was extended to December 19th due to the government shutdown.		
4	Morongo hasn't received their funding. Who can they reach out to during the shutdown. Who can Tribes reach out to if they haven't received funding?			EPA reached out to Morongo with an update on their funding. Any other Tribe who had questions or concerns about the status of their awards can reach out to: Laura Ebbert (ebbert.laura@epa.gov) or Kerry Drake (drake.kerry@epa.gov) or Cheree Peterson (peterson.cheree@epa.gov).		
5	What is the update on the U.S. EPA Communication Plan? Some Tribes have not seen this. Revisiting how to better communicate in the future.  (To include communication on the reorganization plan).		Laura Ebbert, U.S. EPA	The Communication Plan will be posted on the Region 9 RTOC Website once signed final.		
6	Is there an update on the EPA Strategic Plan? How is this going to work if the strategic plan is going to be consulted on? Who is going to work on this and how will the Five Pillars be incorporated? Will EPA be providing an opportunity for Tribal input on a draft Strategic Plan before it goes for public review or gets finalized?	David Lewis, NTC, Central Arizona Rep	Victoria Tran, OITA	No current Strategic Plan. Currently being drafted by HQ and the Five Pillars are a key component. Uncertain about when it will be released.  Agency historically has engaged with Tribes prior to drafting and releasing Strategic Plan. R9 will elevate and follow up with OITA.  OITA to speak to the Tribal components of the draft Strategic Plan when it comes out.		
7	Asking for budgets that are partially funded what are the staff and travel cuts are? Is there anything else that comes with this as well?	RTOC Budget Work Group		Needs revision from Budget Workgroup. Syndi and Lisa Gover will meet to finalize this request after reviewing the GAP presentations from Summer RTOC.		
	For partial budgets:					
	Need update on budget funding for full funding					
	How many Tribes have requested GAP funding					
	What is the GAP funding amount for R9 and what was the formula used for funding Region 9 Tribes?					
	What is the contingency plan for prolonged federal shutdown?		Mike Martucci, Regional Administrator	No current contingency plan.		
8	Request for formal response to the letters sent to Administrator Zeldon from Tribal Leaders	Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians	Mike Martucci, Regional Administrator	EPA transmitted formal responses to all of the letters on October 29, 2025.		
9	Greenhouse Gas permitting - does this go through U.S. EPA or the State due to deregulation of greenhouse gasses.	Daniel Tirado-Lopez, Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians	Anita Lee, ARD	Anita followed up with a call with Daniel and Marco Perez to address/answer the question raised at RTOC. During the meeting, a few additional permitting questions were raised. Anita provided initial responses and connected Daniel and Marco with ARD for additional details.		
10	EPA's take on the Defense Production Act and its application to the 5 Pillars? The 2018 reauthorization expired September 30, 2025. It could potentially impact Tribes and National Defense. Are there any amendments being put forward for this and will have Tribes have an opportunity to see them?	Nina Hapner, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria	Laura Ebbert, U.S. EPA	Deputy Regional Administrator Cheree Peterson shared at the meeting that at her level, she's unaware of any conversations related to the Defense Production Act amendments or reauthorization.		

11	Is water permitting for lithium and geothermal and the new technology used to derive the minerals and use of water, in terms of water rights v mining rights	Cliff Banuelos, Inter Tribal Council of Nevada	Tomas Torres, Director of Water Region, U.S. EPA Region 9	Tomas and WD followed up with Cliff after RTOC and resolved this item.		
12	Underground Storage Tank and Enforcement concern/question - Does ITCA still provide inspection services with respect to the removal and installation of UST's? If not, do you have contacts at EPA or AZDEQ who can assist the Nation in ensuring that the removal and replacement of the UST's complies with federal law and thereby protects the Nation's lands?	David Lewis, Yavapai-Apache Nation	Claire Trombadore, LCRD Rick Sakow, ECAD	USEPA provided a response to this action item via email after Fall RTOC.		
13	2015 CEQ changes to rulemakings regarding cumulative impacts and NEPA analyses?	Matthew Schwobel, Morongo Band	ORC, Desean Garnett	Response from ORC/OGC pending.		

