



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest, Region 9



Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 Tribes

Tribal Section, Land Division
June/July 2015

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
800-EPA WEST • www.epa.gov/region9/tribal

U.S. EPA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST TRIBAL SECTION NEWSLETTER



NEWS OF NOTE

Spring RTOC Conference: Some of the hardest-working people in Region 9 could be found at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) spring meeting in San Francisco in May. For three days, the first-floor conference rooms at EPA Region 9 headquarters were abuzz with breakout sessions, greetings, presentations and awards for jobs well done. The agenda was packed and much was accomplished. For more information on conference presentations, visit <http://ow.ly/NNjQ9>.



Above, from left: Preparing for a full day's sessions of presentations, tribal caucus reports and updates are EPA officials Bridget Coyle and Laura Ebbert (Land Division and Tribal Section, respectively) and Enrique Manzanilla (Superfund), along with Cornelius Antone, RTOC Tribal Co-Chair, and Alex Cabillo, Northern Arizona RTOC Representative. Manzanilla delivered the opening remarks and made the budget presentation on behalf of EPA.

Left: Caucus attendees mingle, relax, and meet and greet their colleagues before getting down to business on Day 2 of the conference, the full caucus.



Top: Superfund's Enrique Manzanilla (left) congratulates Tribal Environmental Director Chris Ott on behalf the Dry Creek Chairman, the award for Dry Creek Rancheria for achieving Treatment as a State status for water quality standards. Above, left: EPA Tribal Section Project Officer Morena Villaneuva (right), pictured with RTOC officer Alex Cabillo and the Tribal Section's Laura Ebbert, is honored for her years of service at EPA. Above, right: Tribal Environmental Director Kelly Schmandt Ferguson (right) accepts the EPA 2014 Food Recovery Challenge award on behalf of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and Chumash Casino Resort.

Region 9's New Program Officer. The Tribal Section welcomed a new project officer in June. Shannon Kissinger comes from the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Francisco, where he was a social worker for homeless veterans. The U.S. Navy veteran is a native San Franciscan and has both bachelor's and master's degrees from Humboldt State University. He will be working tribes in Sonoma and Mendocino counties, including Round Valley, Cahto (Laytonville), Sherwood Valley, Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Coyote Valley, Guidiville and Pinoleville.



GOVERNMENT GRANTS

★ **Diesel Engine Upgrade Grants** (\$1 million): EPA is funding tribal clean-diesel projects that reduce air pollutants from diesel exhaust, such as nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Up to five tribal assistance agreements will be awarded, between \$30,000 and \$800,000 each. Projects can involve school buses, transit buses, heavy-duty diesel trucks, marine engines, locomotives, energy production generators and other diesel engines. For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/354NV>. This competition is part of the Diesel Emission Reduction (DERA) Program, which funds projects to retrofit or replace older diesel engines. Details of this program are at <http://go.usa.gov/354Rk>.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, July 15, 2015. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/354X3>. The Funding Opportunity Number is EPA-OAR-OTAQ-15-05.

CONTACT: [Rosalva Tapia](mailto:Rosalva.Tapia), (202) 343-9534 or tapia.rosalva@epa.gov.

★ **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture program helps eligible rural communities recover from or prepare for emergencies adversely affecting the supply of drinking water. Up to \$150,000 is available to repair breaks or leaks in water distribution lines, and to pay for related maintenance. Up to \$500,000 is available to construct a new water source, intake, and/or treatment facility or waterline extensions. A federal disaster declaration is not required.

DEADLINE: Ongoing. Apply at your local rural development office. For a list of offices, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3P8bA>.

CONTACT: For list of contacts, visit <http://go.usa.gov/3P8bJ>.



TRAININGS & MEETINGS

Campus-Community Partnerships Promote Sustainability: EPA is hosting a workshop on EPA tools for advancing sustainability and on what is a successful Campus-Community Sustainability Partnership (CCSP) model.

In a CCSP, a university campus supports a city (or tribe or other local or regional governmental entity) in achieving the sustainability and resiliency goals of the city's work plan. Discussion topics include the following:

- An introduction to a successful CCSP model
- A panel discussion with university and city staff that have implemented a model
- A demonstration of EPA sustainability evaluation and implementation tools

For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/NPKUo>.

WHEN & WHERE: Thursday, July 23, 2015, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., San Francisco State University.

REGISTER: Visit the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) website at <http://ow.ly/NQjBk>.

CONTACT: Dr. Laura Bloch, (415) 947-4165 or bloch.laura@epa.gov.

20th Annual Native American Water Association Conference: Presentations will address issues in tribal drinking water and wastewater programs throughout Indian Country. The conference goal is for tribal drinking water and wastewater professionals to develop a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities in protecting public health in tribal communities. The agenda includes presentations on tribal wastewater and water resource programs, “Rainwater Capture and Collection,” and “Architectural Blending of Tanks Into New or Existing [Ones].” For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/O8Qwy>.

WHEN AND WHERE: Wednesday, July 29, 2015, to Friday, July 31, 2015, South Point Hotel Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

REGISTER: Visit <http://ow.ly/O8PNV>.

CONTACT: Call (775) 782-6636 or NAWA@msn.com.

2015 Tribal Lands Forum: This annual Tribal Lands and Environment Forum will host special trainings, field trips and breakout sessions. Topics address solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites and emergency response. Breakout sessions focus on tribal water programs: water quality, drinking water and habitat restoration (including wetlands, streams and fisheries). Fields trips are planned for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux community composting facility, an underground storage tank site and a Superfund site. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/OIFeY>.

WHEN AND WHERE: Monday August 17, 2015, to Thursday, August 20, 2015, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

REGISTER: Register at <http://ow.ly/OIFpF>.

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ODDS & ENDS

White House Now Online for Native American Youth. The White House now has a website for Native American youth interested in the Generation Indigenous initiative. Designed to improve the lives of Native American youth, the initiative’s key programs address education, health and nutrition, juvenile justice, housing and youth engagement. The site lists job opportunities, information on federal contacts and resources, and events. For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/OIGoO>.