

RTOC Winter 2016
Tribal Caucus Issues and EPA Responses
(bolded items are on the Action Item list)

#	WHO	ISSUE	EPA Response
1	Multiple Areas	<i>Multiple EPA Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) Questions</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who is the signatory? b. What are EPA and Tribes responsibilities in preparing ETEPs? c. Tribes would like to know how they can integrate ordinances into ETEPs? d. Will ETEPs create only project based funding to be included in GAP activities in the future? e. How is the Tribal Environmental Plan incorporated within the ETEP umbrella document? 	Addressed in ETEP Presentation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The tribe decides if anyone will sign and if so, who will sign. b. This is explained in the ETEP flowchart which is on the RTOC website http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/region-9-rtoc-winter-2016-presentation-etep-workflow.pdf c. Ordinances can be included in the Tribal Environmental Plan and tribes are encouraged to include all info that would make the document useful d. GAP funding is not project based and the ETEPs assist in reporting to Congress where GAP is going e. 4 documents are included with the ETEP and the Tribal Environmental Plan is one of them. Please see the ETEP flowchart
2	Southern Arizona/ Southern California	GAP Online continues to have technical issues which require additional time for inputting information and it is a cumbersome process. For instance, one tribe must log out and log in to save information. There is a request for follow-up to address software glitches.	The wrong browser version may be creating some freezing issues with GAP Online. Talk with your Project Officer who will help you roll back your browser to be compatible with GAP Online. Erskine and Laura will have a follow-up with John Parada and Melody regarding specific GAP Online Access by 2/12.
3	Eastern California	Move GAP Online to Environmental Exchange Network (Flat File Submission)	This is currently being considered and discussed.
4	Navajo Nation	Uranium leaks are affecting surface water and ground water at Navajo Nation and there is a need to do an economic impact study.	A meeting will be set up within a month to discuss with Navajo Nation.

5	Northern Arizona	Tribes do not want to see a replication of Flint, Michigan (lead poison exposure) in Indian Country and would like to know what EPA has learned through this issue and how it will prevent it in the future.	The first step in assuring safe drinking water supplies is having adequate water quality monitoring. There are tribes that are being served by public water systems that are regulated by the state. The EPA needs to talk with states to ensure that tribes would be notified if a state utility changes their source water. EPA has a lot of information about drinking water systems they are overseeing for tribes. If there is a significant change in those systems that EPA oversees such as a change of source water they would like to see that information from the tribe so it could be examined with the degree of importance that it requires. David Albright will make contact with state groups within a month.
6	Northern California	Why are 401 certification waivers continuing to be issued to hydroelectric dams if water is not meeting water quality standards in place on the Hoopa Valley Reservation?	There will be follow up discussions held with Ken Norton to further clarify what can be done at the regional level. Discussions are being held with Region 10 office with regard to activities going on in the Klamath, seeing that it is a bi-regional watershed. This conversation will be held within the next 3 weeks.
7	Central California	Fires last year in Central California are now leading to flood and erosion impacts affecting tribes. Tribes would like to setup an emergency response workgroup call to discuss the situation.	An emergency response workgroup call will be set up.
8	Central California	Who is going to be EPA's Co-Lead on the Emergency Preparedness Workgroup?	Bill Jones from Superfund will likely be the co-lead on the emergency preparedness workgroup.
9	Southern California	How is EPA compiling capacity development of Tribes? Can tribes review those developed capacities?	<p>For FY15 and FY14, OITA counted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent of tribes conducting monitoring activities Percent of tribes implementing regulatory programs Percent of tribes with an environmental program <p>Through OLEM (used to be OSWER) we also counted number of tribes with an integrated solid waste management plan.</p> <p>We no longer count dump cleanups as a performance measure. Other programs (water, air, superfund) also have specific performance targets for their grant programs, but the above are the targets measured by OITA; obviously two of those measures aren't things tribes can do with GAP, but might indicate tribes who had built capacity under GAP and had graduated out of a specific media area.</p> <p>AIEO has been delayed in coming up with a new performance tracking strategy under the new GAP Guidance.</p>

10	Southern California	Tribes shared that there is insufficient data collection activities around the Salton Sea and there is a lack of data sharing. Tribes would like to see a commitment of involvement from EPA regarding the Salton Sea.	Willard Chin will continue to act as the EPA lead for this and an update will be provided by the next RTOC.
11	Southern California	Data sharing has also been difficult for tribes in the Lake Henshaw area and funding from State has not been available. Would like to see how EPA can assist tribes in being included as stakeholders for groundwater management plans.	This looks like an excellent issue for the CA Issues Workgroup to work through. Hopefully the California Workgroup can come up with some specific requests for EPA involvement. The EPA could possibly assist through a Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement.
12	Nevada	Ensure there is enough funding for Project Officers to do proper site visits	<p>Due to limited funding Water Division Project Officers typically go out on multi day trips to visits to multiple tribes. A half day is usually set aside and dedicated to a single tribe for site visits and technical assistance.</p> <p>For Air Division Project Officers site visits are on an as needed basis. If you want a site visit let them know and they will find a way to make it happen. Project Officer visits are not on a regular scheduled basis and are not required.</p> <p>Travel funds are limited for Land Division Project Officers. They are trying to secure more travel funds to do additional outreach and site visits. If there is a specific request let them know.</p> <p>Project Officers for GAP are required to make site visits to tribes once a year. It is important for Project Officers to meet with tribes in the tribal community to see the land they are working on and the community they are working with.</p>
13	Nevada/ Southern Arizona	Tribes would like to have GAP Training for New Environmental Directors reignited and hold the trainings around RTOC meetings Tribes would also like GAP Online training.	GAP and GAP Online training will be looked into and some of these trainings could occur at RTOC meetings in the near future.
14	Nevada	Tribes would like to request that EPA Engage Nevada Tribal Leaders by having EPA attend an ITCN Managers Meeting	Laura will work on scheduling with Bill Campbell.
15	Southern Arizona	Request for Facilitation Training, Project Management Training and	A note has been sent to Jeff Scott and Laura will report back at the next RTOC.

		Task Management Training for RTOC	
16	Northern California	Tribes are interested in bringing some additional impairments that are affecting tribes into the water quality assessment report template. For instance, one tribe is experiencing degraded water quality due to a bridge.	This issues will be referred to the Clean Water Act Workgroup and Gail will speak with Jay about this issue since he is currently amending the template.