



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



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

Land Division
Tribal Section • September 2016

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

U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Tribal Section Newsletter

2016 Summer RTOC

The Summer RTOC meeting marked the opening of the new conferencing facilities at EPA, Region 9! We welcomed more than 150 tribal representatives into our new space, and engaged in vibrant discussions on a variety of topics, including a pre-RTOC seminar on vector-borne disease in Indian Country. For a complete set of materials from the week's proceedings, see: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-9-rtoc-documents-summer-2016>.



EPA's Fourth Annual Tribal Leaders Listening Session w/ Administrator Gina McCarthy

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
9:30 to 11:30 AM EST

EPA Headquarters at 13th and Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.
William Jefferson Clinton South Entrance
Rachel Carson Green Room, 3rd Floor

To RSVP and/or for more information, contact Elle Chang:
chang.elle@epa.gov or 202-564-2956

*IMPORTANT: Please note that federal buildings, including EPA, require additional identification through the REAL ID Act. Please refer to the Dept. of Homeland Security website: <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id-public-faqs>.

EPA Seeking Water Quality Input from Tribes on Reissued Army Corps of Engineers General Permits

The Corps issues Clean Water Act (CWA) permits for placing dredged or fill material in most waterways ("404 permits"), including seasonally dry creek beds or wetlands that are common on Tribal lands in the West. These permits are often needed for building roads, utility lines and other structures, or even for ecosystem restoration or flood control.

The "Nationwide" Permits (NWP) are one type of 404 general permit that the Corps uses to streamline certain low-impact fill activities (for example, a quarter acre of fill or less). These NWPs are reissued every 5 years and currently expire in March of 2017. On June 1, 2016, the Corps published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue the 50 existing NWPs and issue two new NWPs.

These permits must include water quality protections for everyone. On most Tribal lands, EPA has responsibility under section 401 of the CWA to evaluate and certify water quality protections for any federal permit or license, including the NWP. As we did in 2012, EPA Region 9 is currently evaluating the proposed 2017 NWPs for conditional water quality certification of the entire NWP program (a “programmatic” approach, rather than project-by-project). We welcome input from the public, and especially affected Tribes!

At the EPA Region 9 Annual Tribal Conference we will provide an overview of the NWPs and our proposed approach to CWA 401 programmatic certification for Tribes that do not yet have Treatment As a State and approved Water Quality Standards. Please see important dates below and contact Leana Rosetti with any questions (rosetti.leana@epa.gov or 415-972-3070).

Important Dates:

- **October 2016:** Letter to R9 Tribes providing opportunity to request consultation. Tribes will have 90 days from receipt of letter to comment or request consultation.
- **March 19, 2017:** New NWPs go into effect.

New ITEP Course: Waste Diversion Strategies and Tribal Food Sovereignty

We are pleased to announce a new training course ITEP is developing in cooperation with several tribes in Minnesota, including the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and others. This course, “Waste Diversion Strategies and Tribal Food Sovereignty,” will be focused on tribal case studies, highlighting successful strategies for implementing and managing various waste diversion activities (such as recycling, composting, and others) and also exploring the connections and opportunities for collaboration between waste management programs and growing and protecting traditional foods.

This new course will take place in Minneapolis on **September 27-29, 2016**. You need to complete an application to be considered. If you are selected to participate in this course, we will let you know as soon as possible, so you can make your travel arrangements. All accepted participants will have their lodging costs covered by ITEP, but they will be responsible for their own transportation and per diem costs. We will be accepting up to 20 participants for this course. The earlier you submit your application, the better your chances of being selected will be. If you are interested in being considered for this training, please submit your completed application to Todd Barnell at todd.barnell@nau.edu.

National Tribal Waste Management Peer Matching Program – Fact Sheet

This fact sheet, Building Sustainable Tribal Waste Management Programs Through Collaboration, describes EPA’s Peer Matching Program, which aims to strengthen tribal capacity building and develop sustainable waste management programs: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal-lands/fact-sheet-epas-national-tribal-waste-management-peer-matching-program>

EPA’s New Webpage – Promoting International Human Rights, Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Justice

EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice has a new webpage to share information on the Agency’s efforts to promote international human rights, rights of indigenous peoples and environmental justice. It includes a list of the blog posts written for EPA’s EJ in Action Blog, on the work we and others are doing around international human rights. Please feel free to share with your colleagues and others who you think would be interested in this webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-role-promoting-international-human-rights-rights-indigenous-peoples-and>.

Free Tribal Training: The Mining Lifecycle in Phoenix

November 2-4, 2016
Doubletree Hilton Phoenix
www.ntmw.org

New DOE \$3 Million Tribal Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy announced the availability of up to \$3 million to initiate the first steps toward developing and sustaining renewable energy facilities and energy efficiency on tribal lands.

Under this funding opportunity announcement, the Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications from Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations, under the following topic areas:

1. Conduct energy options analyses
2. Establish baseline energy use and efficiency options
3. Develop energy organizations
4. Conduct climate resiliency planning
5. Establish policy, regulations, and codes to reduce energy use or promote energy development
6. Obtain skills and training related to energy use and development

Applications are due Oct. 20, 2016. To apply for the FOA (DE-FOA-0001621), visit the [EERE Exchange website: https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx](https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/Default.aspx)

Tribal Waste Assessment Training

Wednesday, September 28 2016

9:00 am to 4:00 pm Pacific Time

Stewarts Point Rancheria, CA

Come learn and experience how to assess the composition and quantity of the wastes being generating within your community by conducting a hands-on waste assessment

To register, email Deirdre Nurre (nurre.deirdre@epa.gov) with your contact information and the status of your tribe's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP).

The training is being offered by EPA at no cost. Limited travel reimbursement is available for tribal staff and will be provided on a first come first serve basis. We suggest that attendees attending from outside the area plan to stay overnight in the town of Gualala, because this area is remote (1.5 hours from Santa Rosa, California).

Please register no later than Thursday, September 22nd.

EPA Releases Final FY 2017 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice

In FY 2017, EPA expects to award about \$9 million for 30-40 assistance agreements for Exchange Network projects. Most awards will be in the \$50,000 to \$300,000 range. Awards to a single applicant cannot exceed \$300,000.

The primary outcome expected from EN assistance agreements is improved access to, and exchange of, high-quality environmental data from public- and private-sector sources. With this in mind, applications should demonstrate support for, and results relevant to EN program priorities.

The FY 2017 National Environmental Information Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program Solicitation Notice is now available at: <https://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program>. Applications are due to EPA by **November 18, 2016**.

Summer RTOC Tour of “Sequence” at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA)

Thank you Sara Bartholomew for setting up two group tours to experience the sculpture called “Sequence”, by Richard Serra at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SF MOMA). It is a winding pathway through walls made of thick steel (somewhat like a slot canyon and at times disorienting), and was a nice highlight to the Summer RTOC.



From left to right: Gillian Hayes (Graton Rancheria), James Payne (Morongo Band), Lisa Gover (Campo Band), Erika Iacona (Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria), Celine Bethel (Yerington Paiute), Melody Sees (Santa Ysabel), Cory Lachusa (Mesa Grande), Alberto Ramirez (Torres Martinez)



*Front row: Judy Kerpel (EPA, Water Division), Nancy Ruiz and Vivian Stevens (Yavapai-Apache Nation)
Back row: Sara Bartholomew (EPA, Air Division), Justin Conley (Agua Caliente Band), Janet Dillman and Lynn Chaparosa (Los Coyotes Band), Tej Attili (La Jolla Band)*

Looking Ahead...

Compost 2017 – Technical session on composting

Save the Date: U.S. Composting Council Conference, January 23-26, 2017, Los Angeles, CA. For more information please see website: <http://compostingcouncil.org/compost-conference/compost-conference.html>

California Resource Recovery Association Conference

Save the Date: Zero waste, recycling, composting, and food recovery technical training opportunity with technical sessions and tours.

August 20 – 23, 2018

<http://www.crra.com/save-date>

San Diego, California