



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

Tribal Water Infrastructure Program

Water Division
Tribal Water Section • October 2016

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U.S. Environmental Agency (EPA) Region 9 provides annual funding opportunities for federally recognized tribal governments to support drinking water infrastructure and basic sanitation needs. Outlined below is information about our water infrastructure programs, eligibility, and funding. All selection criteria include public health as a high priority.

Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program

The Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program (DWTSA) provides annual funding for federally recognized tribes within Region 9 for public drinking water systems. DWTSA funds come from a 2% set-aside of the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program. EPA publishes a request for proposals that is announced on the Web at www.epa.gov/region9/funding/dwtsa.html.

The current solicitation closes on November 10, 2016. The highest priority projects are selected for funding based on a public health ranking criteria. Funds are awarded through direct grants to federally recognized tribes or interagency agreements with the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS). Average funding levels have been approximately \$600,000 per project. In FY16 Region 9 funded over \$7 million in drinking water infrastructure projects.

Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program

The Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program (CWISA) provides annual funding for federally recognized tribes within Region 9 for planning, design and construction of wastewater infrastructure projects. CWISA funds come from a 2% set-aside of the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF).

To apply for funding, tribes must first contact their IHS Area Office (www.dsfc.ihs.gov/staff) to determine if their wastewater needs are eligible to be entered into the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) list, which identifies current sanitation deficiencies for existing tribal homes. The program is not competitive, and matching funds are not required. The funds are awarded annually, based on the wastewater project needs listed on the SDS list, through interagency agreements with the IHS or direct grants to federally recognized tribes. Average funding levels have been approximately \$300,000 per project.



Eligible DWTSA Activities Include:

- Projects that achieve compliance with national primary drinking water standards
- Water treatment plants
- New sources of drinking water
- Storage tanks and distribution systems

Ineligible Activities Include:

- Operations and maintenance (O&M)
- Monitoring
- Land acquisition
- Dams



Eligible CWISA Activities Include:

- Interceptor sewers
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Infiltration/inflow correction

Ineligible Activities Include:

- Operations and maintenance (O&M)
- Emergency repairs

Tribal Border Infrastructure Program

The Tribal Border Infrastructure (TBI) Program provides funding to federally recognized tribes to address high-priority drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of tribes whose reservations are within 62 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border. This program is funded by congressional special appropriations for the U.S.-Mexico Border Program. The program received approximately \$345,000 in 2016. Funds are dependent upon the annual allocation received through the U.S.-Mexico Border Program and are awarded through interagency agreements with IHS. Historically, funding levels have been approximately \$250,000 to \$500,000 per project.

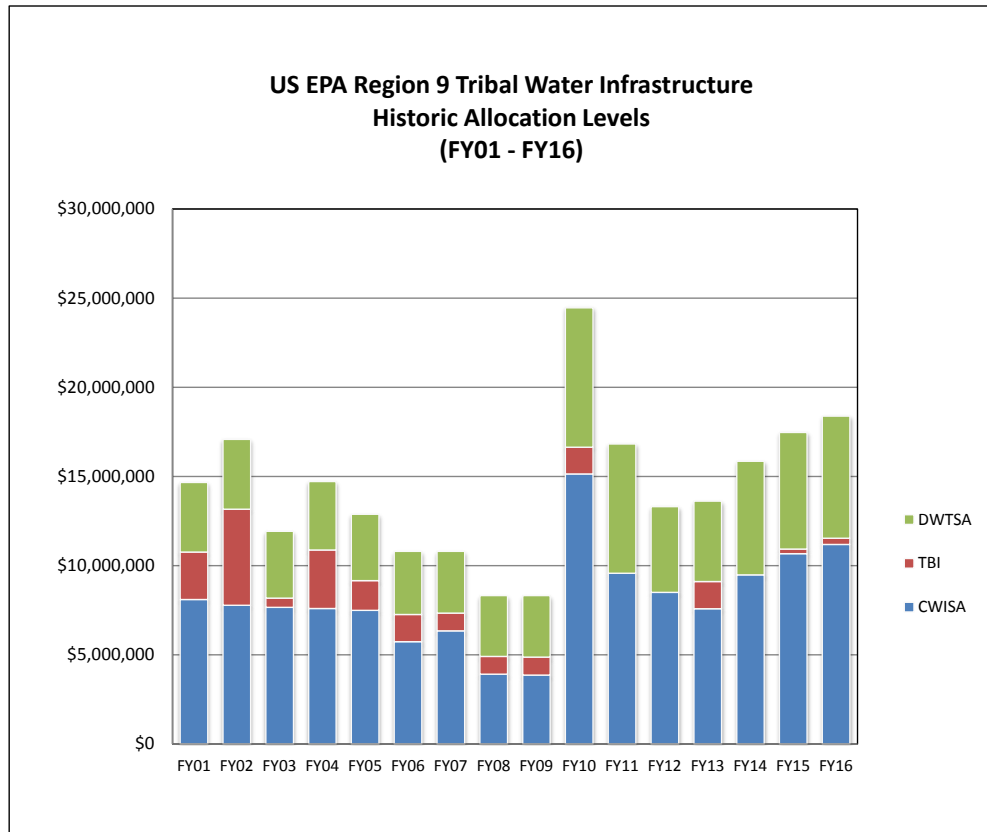
Eligible TBI Activities Include:

Drinking Water

- New wells to replace contaminated sources
- New water storage tanks to provide needed capacity

Wastewater

- Collection systems to replace failing individual septic tanks/drainfields and pit privies
- Wastewater treatment facilities



EPA Program Contacts

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