



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



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

Land Division  
Tribal Section • November 2016

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105  
866-EPA-WEST • [www.epa.gov/region9](http://www.epa.gov/region9)

## U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Tribal Section Newsletter

### Latest News

#### RTOC and the 24th Tribal EPA Conference at the Holiday Inn, San Francisco

On October 24, 2016, we hosted a half-day RTOC meeting followed by the Tribal-EPA Conference on October 25-27, 2016. We had over 500 attendees, including 20 Tribal Leaders, and hosted 85 sessions covering a number of topics, including climate change and best practices to protect our air, water, land, and communities. This year's theme was "Voices from Our Past, Guiding Our Future." Tom Goldtooth, Executive Director of the Indigenous Environmental Network and an environmental justice champion was the keynote speaker opening the conference.



#### High-Flow Experiment Underway at Glen Canyon Dam Simulates Natural Flooding through Grand Canyon – *Releases from dam help restore ecological health without affecting water commitments.*

**PAGE, Ariz.** – On November 7, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Interior initiated another high-flow release of water from Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona under an innovative science-based experimental plan. The fourth such release, the goal is to enhance the environment in Grand Canyon National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area while continuing to meet water and power delivery needs and allowing continued scientific experimentation and monitoring on the Colorado River.

To read the full article: [www.doi.gov/pressreleases/high-flow-experiment-underway-glen-canyon-dam-simulates-natural-flooding-through-grand](http://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/high-flow-experiment-underway-glen-canyon-dam-simulates-natural-flooding-through-grand)

#### 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: [www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-role-promoting-international-human-rights-rights-indigenous-peoples-and](http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/epas-role-promoting-international-human-rights-rights-indigenous-peoples-and)

#### 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 five years and currently expire in March, 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 NWPs. 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 provided 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](mailto:rosetti.leana@epa.gov) or **415-972-3070**).

#### **Important Dates:**

- **October 2016:** Letter to Region 9 Tribes providing opportunity to request consultation. Tribes will have 90 days from receipt of letter to comment or request consultation.
- **March 19, 2017:** New Nation Wide Permits go into effect.

#### **EPA’s ANPRM for Federal Baseline WQS on Indian Reservations**

Administrator McCarthy signed the Federal Baseline Water Quality Standards (WQS) for Indian Reservations Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on September 19, 2016. A pre-publication version of the ANPRM, as well as a fact sheet and other material, are available on the ANPRM webpage: [www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-federal-baseline-water-quality-standards-indian](http://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-federal-baseline-water-quality-standards-indian). Publication in the Federal Register is forthcoming.

During the public comment period, EPA intends to hold two public webinars on the contents of the ANPRM and to provide an opportunity for interested participants to ask clarifying questions. Session details and registration information will be announced on EPA’s website as they become available.

#### **Third issue of the Tribal EPA Science Bulletin**

To receive a copy of the Tribal Science Bulletin please contact Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary, EPA Office of Science Policy at [rodia.monica@epa.gov](mailto:rodia.monica@epa.gov) or **(202) 564-8322**.

#### **Upcoming Opportunities**

##### **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.

[www.epa.gov/tribal-lands/fact-sheet-epas-national-tribal-waste-management-peer-matching-program](http://www.epa.gov/tribal-lands/fact-sheet-epas-national-tribal-waste-management-peer-matching-program)

## EPA Releases Final FY 2017 Exchange Network Grant Solicitation Notice

The FY 2017 National Environmental Information Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program Solicitation Notice is now available at [www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program](http://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program).

**Applications are due to EPA by November 18, 2016.**

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. EPA may make a limited number of awards to collaborative, partnership assistance agreements. Budgets for these projects cannot exceed \$500,000. The exact number of assistance agreements will depend on the final amount of EPA's appropriation for the EN grant program, the number of applications submitted to EPA by the application deadline, the amounts of proposed budgets, and the outcome of application reviews.

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 outcome in mind, applications should demonstrate support for and results toward EN program priorities.

EPA only accepts project proposals for EN assistance agreements submitted electronically through [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov), unless applicants have a waiver. EPA anticipates that it will announce selection decisions in or around April 2017, and plans to issue awards by July 31, 2017.

For more information, please contact EPA's Salena Reynolds at [reynolds.salena@epa.gov](mailto:reynolds.salena@epa.gov). The FY 2017 National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program Solicitation Notice is now available at: [www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program](http://www.epa.gov/exchangenetwork/exchange-network-grant-program).

## National Endowment for the Arts Community Solutions Grant Funding

Are you working with local communities that are focused on youth engagement and adult literacy, or building civic cohesion? The NEA Big Read is a program that might be a great fit to complement your work. The program supports approximately 75 community reading programs every year, each designed around a single book in the NEA Big Read Library, with themes such as racism, immigration, multiculturalism, work, art, family relationships, and surviving an apocalypse. Grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000. Eligible applicants include arts centers, housing authorities, literary centers, community organizations, historical societies, environmental organizations, trade associations, resettlement agencies, faith-based organizations, museums, school districts, and tribal governments. Grantees are provided with resources, outreach materials, and training on various aspects such as working with local partners, developing public relations strategies, and leading book discussions and Q&As. **Guidelines** for 2017-18 are now available. Join us for a **public webinar about the books on November 16th, at 3 pm ET**. For more information, please reach out to Jennifer Hughes at [hughesj@arts.gov](mailto:hughesj@arts.gov) or **202-682-5547**.

## Centers for Disease Control ATSDR Funding Opportunity

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry ATSDR's new Partnership to Promote Local Efforts To Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) Cooperative Agreement Program funding opportunity announcement is live on [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov)! This program advances ATSDR's primary goal of keeping communities safe from harmful environmental exposures and related diseases. More specifically, the APPLETREE Program gives awardees the resources to build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

Here is the direct link: [www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=284858](http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppId=284858)

A couple of important dates to note: Letters of Intent are due **December 7, 2016**. There will be an informational call for all interested applicants on **December 7, 2016 at 1pm (ET)**. It is highly recommended that applicants

make it a point to call in for this. Here is the call-in information: 866-862-2139 Passcode: 8376990. Applications are due **January 9, 2017 at 11:59 pm**. For more information please contact, Libby Vianu at (415) 947-4319.

## **USDA News & Events from the USDA Office of Tribal Relations**

### **Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants:**

The Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants help qualified, non-profits provide technical assistance and training to (a) identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; (b) assist applicants in preparing applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants; and (c) assist associations in improving operation and maintenance of existing water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas.

**Application Deadline: December 31, 2016**

### **Solid Waste Management Grants:**

Solid Waste Management Grants help reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources through funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Applications may be submitted to [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov).

**Application Deadline: December 31, 2016**

## **New Request for Proposals – FY 2017 Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Grant Guidelines**

**Community-wide Applicants:** Applicants applying for both hazardous substances funding and petroleum funding may request a combined total up to \$300,000; however the request for hazardous substances funding or petroleum funding cannot exceed \$200,000 for any one individual type of grant funding. For example, an applicant may apply for \$200,000 in hazardous substances funding and \$100,000 in petroleum funding.

**Assessment Coalition Applicants:** Applicants may apply for up to \$600,000 in hazardous substances funding and/or petroleum funding.

### **Cleanup Grants (funded over three years):**

Applicants can apply for up to \$200,000 per brownfield site and can submit up to three separate, site-specific cleanup proposals.

### **Guidelines and Resources:**

[FY2017 Brownfields Assessment Grant Guidelines](#)

[FY2017 Brownfields Cleanup Grant Guidelines](#)

[FY2017 Summary of Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Guideline Changes](#)

[FY2017 Assessment Guideline Checklist](#)

[FY2017 Cleanup Guideline Checklist](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Grants.gov Tip Sheet for Applicants](#)

### **Webinars to Assist in Preparing Assessment and Cleanup Proposals:**

To assist applicants with their proposals, EPA will host the EPA National Assessment and Cleanup Guideline Webinar; tentatively scheduled for the first week of November 2016. Please visit [www.epa.gov/brownfields/apply-brownfields-grant-funding](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/apply-brownfields-grant-funding) for the final date.

**The proposal submission deadline is December 20, 2016.**

**Solid Waste Management Grants:**

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**Application Deadline: December 31, 2016**