

Fall RTOC  
October 26, 2015

New Issues

Tribal Contact Information	Issue	Response
<p><b>Southern California Area</b></p> <p>Kelly Ferguson – SY Chumash (kferguson@santaynezchumash.org) Shawn Muir – 29 Palms (smuir@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov)</p>	<p><b>GAP Guidance/Changes -</b> Some people who attended the Tribal Lands Conference remarked that it seemed we were getting a different story from EPA Headquarters than from EPA Region 9. A relatively unified interpretation of the guidance would at least be a point where everyone can start a productive discussion. For example, some have been told they cannot purchase certain supplies for their solid waste program under GAP Guidance by their Project Officer, but then at Tribal Lands Luke Jones said it was allowable. Another example relating to educational materials and repetition of use also resulted in conflicting information at the conference.</p>	
<p><b>Southern California Area</b></p> <p>Becky Ross – Augustine (Bross@augustinetribe.com) Shawn Muir – 29 Palms (smuir@29palmsbomi-nsn.gov) Cliff Batten – San Manuel (cbatten@sanmanuel-nsn.gov) James Payne – Morongo (jpayne@morongo-nsn.gov)</p>	<p><b>Salton Sea -</b> Coachella Valley tribes are frustrated with the ongoing issues with the Salton Sea and the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). They have been inadequately consulted and have the potential to suffer major air quality degradation as a result of reduced inflow to the SS. They are also already experiencing air quality issues due to drought and the geologic location of the sea. This is not just an issue for all people and tribes in the CV, but throughout Southern California. Additionally, they have major concerns about its use as a flyway for migratory birds and that current conditions and future actions will damage this habitat. The agencies in charge of the water diversion have not consulted adequately with the tribes. The tribes request discussion with the Regional EPA about what, if anything, it is doing to protect the area from the environmental consequences. They would also like to express their deep concerns on this matter with someone from the EPA.</p>	
<p>John Prada – Los Coyotes (loscoyotesepa@yahoo.com)</p>	<p><b>GAP Concerns:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Restrictions on GAP funding to cover actual waste pickup and disposal. Program capacity for some tribes has greatly diminished as a result of this change in guidance.</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Perception that different EPA Regions interpret these restrictions differently, so that some tribes in the Southwest appear to be funded for trash pickup under GAP while Region 9 tribes are not.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Dumping of abandoned trailers are an emerging concern. If abandoned trailers are then used as meth labs, tribes are going to be dealing with not just abandoned trailers but also hazardous waste sites.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> GAP funding for education and outreach is not sufficiently flexible. Tribes are currently asked to plan their education/outreach activities down to the penny, but outreach needs can change significantly during the course of the grant planning and funding cycle. In some cases it's not feasible to explicitly define a tribe's education/outreach curriculum program for months in the future, given that priorities can shift.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tribes are being told that they can't be funded for a single outreach theme for more than one year; if recycling is an outreach theme one year then it can't be funded in a future year. However community education sometimes requires stating the same theme in different ways over time.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Eastern California Area</b></p> <p>Alan Bacock – Big Pine Paiute Tribe  <a href="mailto:a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org">a.bacock@bigpinepaiute.org</a></p>	<p><b>Collaborative ETEP Training</b></p> <p>The Owens Valley Indian Water Commission recently held a workshop on developing an ETEP. During the workshop, participants shared that information provided by EPA Region 9 staff differed from information provided by EPA Headquarters staff at the Tribal Lands Conference on GAP Guidance issues including requirements for ETEPs. As ETEPs were being required through the GAP Guidance a previous RTOC comment was that a training be conducted in the region with headquarters staff, regional staff and tribes so that everyone has the opportunity to be on the same page. We recommend that a collaborative training be conducted to not only to help regional staff and tribes understand what headquarters is desiring out</p>	

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	of the ETEPs, but also to inform headquarters of the practicability issues which may result for tribes and the region	
<b>Nevada Area</b>  William Campbell wcampbell@ndep.nv.gov	<b>Project Officer Changes -</b> During the Nevada Tribal Environmental Manager's Meeting, it was shared by multiple tribes that there was frustration because of a lack of communication on the part of EPA regarding project officer changes in the Water and Indian Program divisions. It would be helpful to tribes for email communication from EPA to share what is happening in the midst of changes so that tribes know who to contact for program questions.	