

# REGION 9 FY17 SMALL PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM ACTION PLAN

- 477,000: Tribal population served by water systems directly regulated by Region 9
- 90% are small systems (serving <3,300)



# OBJECTIVES: REDUCE EXPOSURE TO TOXINS

## ▶ Arsenic

- ▶ Ensure compliance with standard
- ▶ Naturally occurring
- ▶ A problem in the west

## ▶ Lead

- ▶ Minimize Exposure
- ▶ Introduced in plumbing material
- ▶ Optimize corrosion control

Region 9 emphasis is on improving access to safe drinking water in schools and Tribal communities

# COMPLIANCE STATUS

AS OF AUGUST 30, 2016



## ▶ Arsenic

- ▶ 10 systems with MCL exceedance

## ▶ Lead

- ▶ 5 systems with action level exceedance (no MCL)
- ▶ New exceedances, identifying reasons

# WHAT IS IN THE ACTION PLAN?

- ▶ Improve capacity to comply by providing technical assistance
  - ▶ Provide infrastructure funding through Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside
  - ▶ Improve data collection with improved sample siting plans
    - EPA-funded TA providers are assisting
  - ▶ Provide training on optimal corrosion control treatment
  - ▶ Use enforcement tools when appropriate
  - ▶ Lead in Schools Initiative
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# LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER INITIATIVE

- ▶ Reason/ need:
  - ▶ In children, low levels of Lead exposure have been linked to nervous system damage, learning disabilities, and growth and hearing impairments.
  - ▶ Sample sites are normally residences, not schools or other public buildings
- ▶ Currently:
  - ▶ information gathering, identifying schools, Head Start and daycare facilities
  - ▶ Letters sent to Tribal leaders on December 21
  - ▶ Adding to initial list of schools
- ▶ Next Steps:
  - ▶ determine scope and logistics for Lead sampling
  - ▶ communicate with schools; begin sampling in Summer 2017