

WATER DIVISION BREAKOUT SESSION

SPRING RTOC 2020



AGENDA

- Welcoming Remarks– Tomás Torres
- COVID 19 Water Quality Concerns – Emmanuelle Rapicavoli
- PFAS – Matthew Small
- Grant Flexibility – Jason Brush
- Regulatory Actions – Tomás Torres/
Kristin Gullatt
- Q&A– Tomás Torres



Duckwater Tribe



Congratulations

TAS Approval for CWA Sections 303 & 401

- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- San Carlos Apache
- Yerington Paiute Tribe

4 pending TAS applications



- ▶ The virus that causes COVID-19 has not been detected in drinking water.
- ▶ Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that cause COVID-19.
- ▶ Standard municipal and individual septic systems wastewater treatment practices should also remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.
- ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

COVID-19 WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESOURCES FOR TRIBAL DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES

- ✓ Wheeler Letter to Tribal Leaders on Priority Water/Wastewater Operations and Essential Workers
- ✓ Template for Designation of Tribal Water/Wastewater Operators to Facilitate Access
- ✓ EPA's Pandemic Incident Action Checklist for Water and Wastewater Utilities
- ✓ In Region 9, RCAC is available to provide onsite technical assistance on an emergency basis to assist DW/WW operators.

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-state-local-and-tribal-agencies-and-associations>

PPE DISTRIBUTION TO WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES

- ▶ FEMA is supplying reusable cloth masks to critical infrastructure employees throughout the country. EPA is coordinating the water sector request for these masks through the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARNs).
- ▶ Priority is given to states with the highest COVID impacts. California is one of the first states to receive mask shipments which are expected to arrive later this week. We do not have an estimate yet for Arizona and Nevada. EPA HQ is facilitating mask distribution to the Navajo Nation.
- ▶ Region 9 is partnering with RCAC to facilitate the ordering and distribution of these masks to tribal utilities in California. RCAC will be requesting and delivering the masks to each utility via hand delivery or US mail depending on your preference.
- ▶ Once RCAC has picked up the masks from the points of distribution, they will be in contact with you regarding your expected mask delivery date. Utilities should not make an individual request to FEMA or CalWARN for masks.

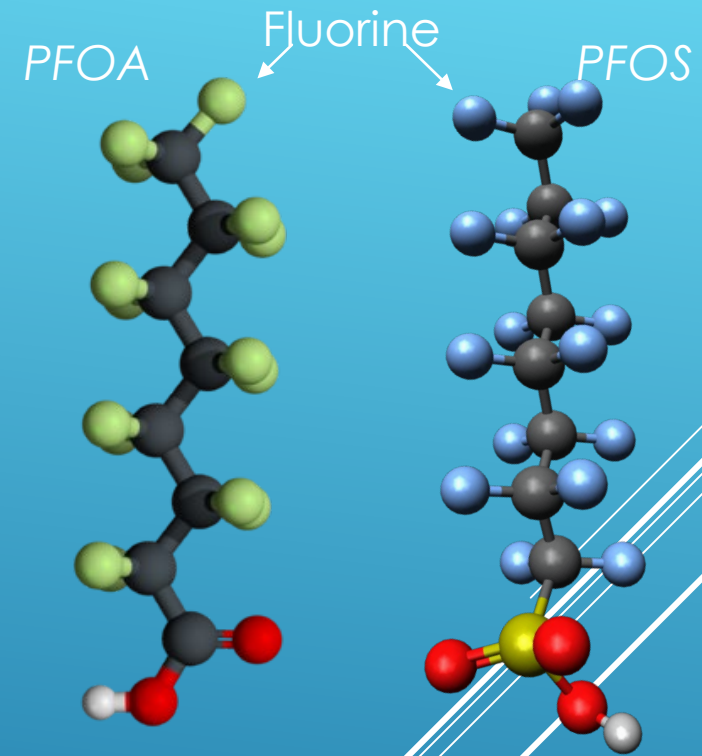
WHAT IS PFAS?

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals in use since the 1940s.
- PFAS are found in a wide array of consumer products like cookware, food packaging, and stain and water repellants used in fabrics, carpets and clothing.
- Known sources of PFAS:
 - Use of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).
 - PFAS production and use in industry.
 - Incineration/thermal treatment facilities.
 - Landfills and leachates from PFAS products disposal.
 - Wastewater effluent and land application of biosolids.



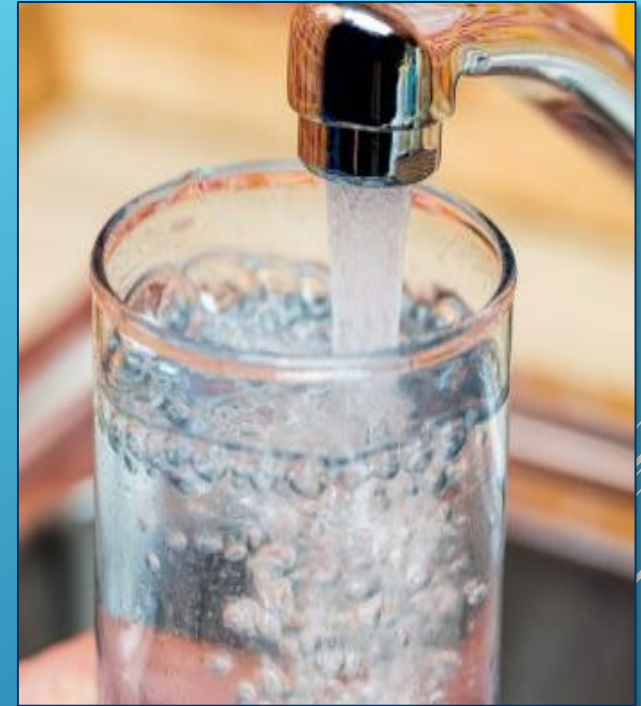
WHY IS PFAS A PROBLEM?

- PFAS chemicals are widespread, mobile in the environment, bioaccumulative, toxic, and don't break down quickly.
- Most people in the U.S. have been exposed to PFAS.
- **The EPA PFAS Action Plan** is intended to assist states, tribes, and communities in addressing PFAS. www.epa.gov/pfas



EPA PFAS ACTION PLAN: DRINKING WATER

- Current EPA drinking water advisory is 70 parts per trillion (ppt).
- February 20, 2020 - EPA initiates process for regulating perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water.
- EPA has approved drinking water analysis methods for 29 PFAS compounds (537.1 and 533).
- PFAS will be included in the next UCMR monitoring cycle (UCMR 5, 2023-2025).



TRIBAL CLEAN WATER SECTION

Questions on Grant Deadlines or Flexibilities?



Contact your Project Officer:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal-pacific-sw/tribal-clean-water-section-project-officer-and-tribal-liaison-assignments>

Water Division Management is committed to working with you and being as flexible on deadlines as possible.



REGULATORY ACTIONS

- ▶ Lead and Copper Rule Revisions – Final Rule expected in November 2020
- ▶ Navigable Waters Protection Rule – Published in the Federal Register on April 21 and will take effect on June 22, 2020.
- ▶ Preliminary Regulatory Determination on PFAS - comment period closes on May 12, 2020

