

Summer 2020 RTOC Action Items						
Current as of 9/30/20						
Identifier	Action Items	Tribal Contact	Lead	Status	Category/Topic	Response
1	Capacity Indicators listed in GAP Guidance is not all inclusive and Tribes can develop their own capacity indicators. How is EPA approving Tribal-specific capacity indicators that are not in the existing Guidance?	Rob Roy, Southern California	Jeremy Bauer	In progress	GAP	Rob Roy will follow-up with Jeremy if there are specific tribes who are tackling this issue
2	Request to review the End of Year process so that everyone is aware of the steps involved and that they are followed. A Tribe worked with their Project Officer on the EOY report and the Tribe believed that all had been resolved, then EPA sent EOY report and letter to the Tribal Chairman and the "standard language" in the letter that referenced uncompleted workplan components or commitments and the possibility of having to return grant funds.	Rob Roy, Southern California	Jeremy Bauer	Ongoing	GAP	GAP POs will provide opportunity for tribal environmental directors/coordinators to review content of draft EOY letters before they are finalized and sent to tribal leadership
3	STARs Database request, would like IHS to present, at an RTOC, Tribes on how they access dump information on STARs and the process. (IHS and Rob Roy with the Solid Waste Workgroup could do this together.) It is important for Tribes to know who they need to speak with on open or closed dumps since the database has been turned over to IHS for management.	Nina Hapner, Central California	Solid waste workgroup	In progress	Solid Waste	Rob Roy reached out to IHS to see if they will present at annual conference about STARs database and process; IHS will be presenting on this topic during the conference ("IHS Approach to Solid Waste Projects") on October 7 @ 11:10 am - 12:10 pm
4	Solid Waste and COVID19: Bio Hazard Guidance requested in response to Solid Waste in connection with COVID19 mitigation and prevention.	Nina Hapner, Central California	Julie Anderson, ECAD	Complete	Solid Waste	Julie Anderson from ECAD followed-up with Nina Hapner. Here is a link to the National Waste & Recycling Association's guidance on Covid-19: <a href="https://wasterecycling.org/page/covid19workpractices">https://wasterecycling.org/page/covid19workpractices</a>
5	Tribes experiencing shortage of safe drinking water due to lack of funding of O&M and operations (implementation), inadequate storage tanks, and other problems. The impacts on Tribal Communities is concern of safe drinking water, public health and COVID-19 issues. Tribes request collaboration between IHS and EPA to address these issues.	Cliff Banuelos, Nevada Duane Masters, Nevada	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Ongoing	Drinking Water	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli: Karl and I spoke with Michael O'Shea of IHS on 8/14. IHS agreed to work with RCAC (EPA contractor) to develop a technical assistance plan for the Ft. McDermitt water system.  At the plenary I also addressed the general concern about tribal drinking water and O+M funding. I stated that tribal water systems should consult with EPA program managers about their specific concerns and my staff will work them to find available resources to assist. However, EPA does not have authority or appropriations to fund O+M expenses at tribal drinking water systems.
6	Workgroup Name Change: the Drinking Water/Waste Water WG to Water Infrastructure WG	Mervin Wright Jr. Tribal Co-Chair	Water Infrastructure WG	Complete	Drinking Water	Juliann Schroeder changed the information on the RTOC contact page
7	RTOC Representatives participation in RTOC Workgroups. The Tribe was told by their GAP PO that they could not participate or conduct work related to the RTOC Air Workgroup because they had no air quality activities in their current GAP workplan.	Cliff Banuelos, Nevada Willard Antone, Southern Arizona	Jeremy Bauer	In progress	GAP	Attending RTOC regional workgroups considered a GAP eligible activity (can be in the workplan to build capacity) (ex. May have pesticides issues but not a pesticide grant, still can participate in pesticide RTOC workgroup); Jeremy Bauer will create text to be included in notification of funding availability we put out in the fall
8	RTOC Alternate Update: Tribal Caucus Representatives to provide or update their alternate information. Provide information to Mervin.	Tribal Caucus	Mervin Wright	In progress	RTOC	Mervin Wright Jr is compiling this information to update the RTOC representative sheet

9	Request from EPA funding information that was provided to Cherokee Nation several years ago (2003/2004) on training and information related to methamphetamine labs; they provided informational booklets, etc.. What was the funding source and is the funding still available?	Nina Hapner, Central California Rob Roy, SW Workgroup	Jeremy Bauer	Complete	Other	Jeremy Bauer checked with Region 6 to see how this was paid for; information was shared with Nina and Rob and Mervin was cc:ed on August 20th. The source of funding was GAP and a Brownsfield Training Grant. Info about Brownsfield grants: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding">https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/types-brownfields-grant-funding</a>
10	Mervin to provide the "One Drive" information to Tribal Caucus	Mervin Wright Jr. Tribal Co- Chair	Mervin Wright	In progress	RTOC	
11	RTOC Action Items: follow-up on all Action Items need to be shared with Tribal Co-Chair and the Tribal Caucus; not just to the person/Tribe who made the request	Tribal Caucus	EPA (Juliann Schroeder)	Ongoing	RTOC	We can share action item list and responses with Caucus before the following RTOC
12	RTOC Action Items: with regard to the column "status"; do not put the status as "complete" when the item has not been complete, it would be appropriate to put "in progress" or "not complete". Example is Spring 2020 RTOC Action Item #10, the Summer RTOC has not taken place, but the status column states "complete".	Tribal Caucus	EPA (Juliann Schroeder)	Ongoing	RTOC	EPA will err on the side of an item being "in progress" or "ongoing"
13	Spring 2020 RTOC Action Item #14 <i>"Three questions that need follow-up from Amanda Pease: Do you still need a .gov email to sign up for NRC notifications? Does the Coast Guard have an online listing of existing tribes that have agreements in place? What are your recommendations when local law enforcement cuts down marijuana plants but wont remove due to illegal pesticides?"</i> There were 3 different questions; not all questions received a response.	Tribal Caucus	Juliann Schroeder	In progress	Emergency Response	Juliann Schroeder has followed-up with Tribal contacts to make sure no needed follow-up and cc:ed Mervin Wright Jr. on all responses (8/14/20). Juliann will share the guidance document on EPA's approach to marijuana sites with RTOC when final (before the end of the calendar year).
14	Spring 2020 RTOC Action Item #17 "How is EPA going to assist tribes with waste water testing and monitoring for COVID?" John Parada requested how might EPA be able to assist with requirements for testing of drinking systems resuming operations? Might a waiver or variance be available?	John Parada	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Complete	Drinking Water	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli: I responded at the RTOC plenary that tribal water systems with reopening questions should consult with individual EPA Tribal drinking water program managers regarding the specific situation at their water system. EPA PMs will work with those water systems to adjust monitoring requirements and provide guidance, as appropriate. Jason Gambatese also followed up directly with John Parada and provided him with reopening and flushing guidance for water systems. Here is EPA's guidance on reopening of facilities: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use">https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use</a>
15	Spring 2020 RTOC Action Item #17 <i>"How is EPA going to assist tribes with waste water testing and monitoring for COVID?"</i> Nina Hapner requested how EPA is assisting Tribes with waste water testing and monitoring for COVID-19? In addition, Nina has not heard back from Emmanuelle Rapicavoli.	Nina Hapner, Central California	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli	Complete	Waste Water	Emmanuelle Rapicavoli: I spoke with Nina on 8/13 and believe this is now resolved. I reached out to IHS to see if they could assist Tribes with COVID-19 surveillance monitoring. IHS can provide technical support for sample collection but they do not have funding to pay for the monitoring. We also referred Nina to a research collaboration with EBMUD to assess this type of WW surveillance monitoring.
16	Pump Storage Projects Discussion: EPA to write down ways in which pump storage projects appear at EPA (for NEPA review or permitting or otherwise) and which Office/Division are the contacts to whom Tribes could direct questions or share their comments on proposed projects.		NEPA office	Complete	Pump Storage	Robin Truitt from the Environmental Review Branch shared a memo on 9.23.20 that addresses this action item. This memo was sent to Mervin to share with the Caucus.

17	Pump Storage Projects Discussion: EPA to look and report back on pump storage projects that might currently be before EPA.		NEPA office	Complete	Pump Storage	Robin Truitt from the Environmental Review Branch shared a memo on 9.23.20 that addresses this action item. This memo was sent to Mervin to share with the RTOC email list on 9/23/20.
18	EPA Solid Waste Program to send additional information on STARS (from SW Workgroup)	SW Workgroup	Deirdre Nurre	In progress	Solid Waste	Spoke with Deirdre and she recommends attending IHS's session on this topic during the conference ("IHS Approach to Solid Waste Projects") on October 7 @ 11:10 am - 12:10 pm
19	EPA Solid Waste Program to provide guidance on PPE usage for Solid Waste Activities. (from SW Workgroup)	SW Workgroup	Deirdre Nurre	Complete	Solid Waste	Deirdre Nurre wrote an email with information and links on this topic. Email was sent to Mervin to share with the RTOC email list on 9/16/20.
20	Nina Hapner to summarize her findings on pesticide exposure assessments and send the list of resources to Tribes for their Tribal Communities and Clinics.	Nina Hapner, Central California		In progress	Pesticide	Nina Hapner will confirm but believes she shared information with Mervin to share with RTOC.
21	Consultation Workgroup to host monthly calls rather than quarterly calls.	Kelcey Stricker, Consultation WG Lead		Ongoing	Consultation	Kelcey Stricker led the first monthly call. Please contact Kelcey if you would like to join the calls.
22	EPA Region 9 to follow up as needed on UST Compliance questions/comments (UST Enforcement Pilot Project Presentation)	Levi Anderson, Nina Hapner, Lisa Gover, Melody Sees, Rob Roy	Bobby Ojha	In progress	UST	Bobby Ojha from EPA R9 shared with Rob Roy a monthly checklist for a walkthrough of a UST station in an email on 9/2/02. He also provided information on the minimal requirements for Class C training. The UST Enforcement Pilot Project is currently on hold. Consultation will not take place until 2021 at the earliest.
23	Tribes experiencing challenges related to timely responses on Quarterly Reports from EPA Project Officers, mainly GAP Project Officers.	Rob Roy, Southern California	Jeremy Bauer	Ongoing	GAP	The EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch discussed during its fall retreat strategies to improve quarterly report response time. The team agreed to begin tracking quarterly report response times under our team's "visual management" performance board and to check in on status of this effort each week during our team huddles.
24	Concern about EPA flexibility on workplan / budget modifications due to COVID19 and what to do if the 4-year contract ends this fiscal year.	Rob Roy, Southern California	Jeremy Bauer, Danielle Angeles	Complete	Grants	EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch Manager (Jeremy Bauer) communicated options for requesting amendments including extensions during the RTOC GAP workgroup meeting on August 12th, 2020. Following request that this message be shared more broadly, Branch Manager distributed message to all tribal environmental directors in Region 9 to reiterate these options and to ask that grantees please continue working with their Project Officers and Grants Specialists if they would like to request to amend their current (FY20) workplans due to cancelled activities (e.g., due to COVID-19); would like to request other amendments to their FY20 workplans; and/or whether they would like to request to move or extend activities into FY21, or otherwise request to amend FY21 activities. He reminded grantees that Project Officers and Grant Specialists are available to discuss options. He provided a link to additional information as well: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-grants-and-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/frequent-questions-about-grants-and-coronavirus-covid-19</a> ; Danielle from the R9 Water Program also addressed this issue for water grants- get in touch with Project Officer, these are 5 year grant cycles (if a grantee is not on the same page as PO, contact their supervisor to discuss)
25	Spring 2020 RTOC Action Item #3 "Votes for online training topics will be shared with EPA R9 staff to organize one or more webinars." Results of the online poll were not received; please share with Tribal Caucus	Tribal Caucus	Juliann Schroeder	Complete	RTOC	Juliann Schroeder shared during the Summer RTOC Plenary. They are also available online: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-08/documents/training_topics-r9-rtoc-summer-2020.pdf">https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-08/documents/training_topics-r9-rtoc-summer-2020.pdf</a>