

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

Fall 2020 Issue

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Save the Date!

The Winter RTOC will be held virtually from February 2-4, 2021. More information will be available on the RTOC website closer to the date: [Winter RTOC Information](#)

Musings from the Director, Air and Radiation Division

I have always loved walking my dog Eddie, but this year the walks have become my lifeline – a precious time when I get up from the desk I have sat at all day and connect with the natural world around me. It is the time I have to drink in the colors and smells of the plants I walk by, listen to the birds, share in Eddie’s joy to be on a walk, and get some fresh air. That is, until August when dry lightning sparked an unprecedented number of massive wildfires on the West Coast, making air quality hazardous, and forcing us to stay indoors day after day.

As the Air & Radiation Division Director, my staff and I had been preparing all year to be able to help the public deal with wildfire smoke events, but this year COVID-19 made our preparations more challenging. Health professionals were in desperate need of N-95 masks, which we had previously recommended for protection from wildfire smoke, so we needed to provide a different approach. The scarcity of N-95 masks led us to focus our efforts on helping people minimize their exposure to smoky air using tools such as EPA’s AirNow website, Purple Air sensor maps and EPA’s new Fire and Smoke map.

For months, as smoke engulfed much of the West, we received feedback from the public and the press about these website tools. People were rightfully confused as to why EPA’s AirNow, the Fire and Smoke map, and private sensors such as Purple Air did not match each other, or their own observations. We learned that there are unique characteristics of wildfire smoke that need to be reflected in our tools. For example, AirNow displays air quality in three-hour averages but if wind direction changes, air quality can change very quickly, from healthy to unhealthy within 20 minutes as smoke moves into an area. It became clear that communicating these changes in air quality was important for people to protect their health. Last month, along with other western regions, I approached EPA Headquarters and shared our experience and observations, and now we are all working together to improve these website tools prior to next fire season.

While we can’t control wildfires, we can help you understand your air quality. We’ve created a short video showing how to use these website tools: [Be Smoke Ready: Know Where To Go For Air Quality Info](#). Our goal is simple- we want folks to be ready for the next smoke event and have the tools to decide when to open or shut windows, when to let your kids go out to play or when, like me, you can take your dog for a much needed walk.

Musings from the Director Continued...

We are always working towards improving our programs and our communication, and it is in that spirit that I am also happy to share the Air & Radiation Division's draft document outlining best practices that our Division will follow for tribal consultation on our regulatory actions. After several listening sessions, we have compiled this document for your review and will be collecting comments until December 31, 2020: [ARD Draft Tribal Consultation Best Practices](#). Comments on the document can be sent via email to our tribal Air Coordinators, Kathryn Harper (harper.kathryn@epa.gov) and Eddy Holman (holman.edward@epa.gov). Please feel free to reach out to me, too, if you have any questions.

As winter approaches and this challenging year comes to an end, I hope that you, your family and community stay well, find ways to share joy, and have a moment to enjoy the outdoors and the change in seasons.

Wishing you all the best,

Elizabeth Adams

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Pacific Southwest Region encompasses more than half of all tribal lands in the United States and works on a government-to-government basis with 148 federally recognized tribes. The U.S. EPA recognizes tribal governments as the primary parties for setting standards, making environmental policy decisions, and managing programs for reservations.

In alignment with this year's Native American Heritage Month, Region 9 launched a series of *Working Effectively with Tribal Governments* training sessions designed to improve cultural competency and improve our ability to work collaboratively with tribal governments. These trainings have reached more than 200 U.S. EPA employees.



LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, PHOTO BY MARK RAYOS

TRIBAL PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

Walker River Paiute Tribe Transfer Station

Success Story contributed by Walker River Paiute Tribe.

The Walker River Paiute Tribe's (WRPT) Reservation is located across three counties in rural midwestern Nevada. The reservation consists of 325,000 acres in a river valley, mostly used for grazing and ranching. The only town within the reservation boundary is Schurz, NV, where US Highway 95 and Alternate Highway 95 intersect. The community of Schurz consists of tribal and non-tribal members, population ~700. There are ~350 residential dwellings in Schurz. For many years, the WRPT's Solid Waste Department operated and maintained an open dump that served as a source of trash disposal. The open dump site was located along side of US Highway 95 and led to major air pollution because the dump was always on fire.



BURNING AT THE OPEN DUMP SITES, SCHURZ, NV. PHOTO BY WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

In 2010, the WRPT built a Transfer Station located to the east of the open dump site. Upon the completion of the Transfer Station, flaws in the design were discovered that rendered the structure useless. The WRPT Council decided that the Environmental Department would take the Solid Waste Department under its wing and began working closely with U.S. EPA and IHS to make plans to officially close the open dump site and to begin utilizing the Transfer Station.

In April 2019, the WRPT Council approved an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. The Tribe's completion and approval of the plan was an essential action in the Tribe's Solid Waste Program becoming self-sustainable, and aided in the closure of the open dump.

In May 2019, the open dump was officially closed to the public. Upon the closing of the open dump, the WRPT Environmental Department began utilizing the Transfer Station, flaws and all, to continue to dispose of waste. During this time, the WRPT Environmental Department along with the WRPT Council was able to develop a regular trash pick-up schedule for residential and commercial entities in the community and increased the costs of trash pick-up services to sustain the Solid Waste Program.



WRPT TRANSFER STATION, PHOTO BY WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

Tribal Program Success Story Continued...

The Tribe provides a trash pick-up service, collecting the trash on a weekly basis. The WRPT Environmental Department/Solid Waste Department have also instituted a recycling and composting program, which has helped to minimize the waste stream.

Currently the WRPT Environmental Department/Solid Waste Department is still working with IHS to work out the design flaws to make this structure fit the needs of the community and to follow guidelines set forth by the U.S. EPA.

The WRPT Environmental Department/Solid Waste Department retains two solid waste staff, that are essential in the success of the program. The WRPT Environmental Department/Solid Waste Department is working on expanding their programs through more extensive composting, providing outreach and education to Tribal members throughout the year, and by hosting annual community clean-ups.



WRPT EARTH DAY COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP EVENT, HOSTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT, SCHURZ, NV. PHOTO BY WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE

In 2020, the WRPT was granted a portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Grant for COVID-19 Response. The Tribe identified the Solid Waste Department's need to replace their current trash truck with a new trash truck to continue to effectively provide trash pick-up services to the community. Quite often, the Solid Waste Department's trash truck would break down, requiring staff from the Environmental and Solid Waste Department to drive around the community with a lift trailer on the back of a pickup truck, picking up residential and commercial trash. Currently, the Tribe is still awaiting the delivery of the new trash truck.

We would like to thank all the staff from Indian Health Services and U.S. EPA that have been working diligently with the Walker River Paiute Tribe to get our issues resolved and that have aided in the progress our Tribe has made.

Call for Region 9 Tribal Project Success Stories!

Do you have an environmental project that you are proud of and would like to have highlighted in an upcoming Region 9 newsletter? Notify your U.S. EPA Project Officer or send an email to: R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov. While we cannot guarantee your story will be used in a particular issue, we would like to develop and highlight one success story for each quarterly issue. The project should have an environmental focus and have been funded using federal grants or programs.

REGULATORY NEWS

U.S. EPA provides some external links in this newsletter for informational purposes only. U.S. EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of non-U.S. EPA information provided by any third-party sites or any other linked site. U.S. EPA does not endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, internet applications or any policies or information expressed therein.

Air and Radiation Division

The EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division (ARD) is currently reviewing the following State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals from state and local air agencies. These SIP submittals address requirements under the Clean Air Act related to plans to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), New Source Review (NSR) permitting programs or rules, and prohibitory rules to reduce air pollutant emissions. The plans and rules submitted by states and local air districts would not apply in any areas of Indian country. If you would like information on any of these SIP submittals, please email the point of contact for the submittal type:

Plan Submittals (Contact: Anita Lee, Manager, Air Planning Office, lee.anita@epa.gov)

- Western Nevada County (California) Attainment Plan for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS
- West Mojave Desert (California) Attainment Plan for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS
- Plumas County (Portola, California) Contingency Measure for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Attainment Plans for the 2012 and 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS and Contingency Measure for the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS
- Bullhead City (Arizona) 2nd Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1987 PM10 NAAQS
- West Pinal (Arizona) Attainment Plan for the 1987 PM10 NAAQS

Permitting Rule Submittals (Contact: Sheila Tsai, Acting Manager, Air Permits Office, tsai.ya-ting@epa.gov)

- South Coast (California) NSR, Permit to Construct, and Permit to Operate Rules
- San Joaquin Valley (California) Experimental Research Operations Rules
- Maricopa County (Arizona) Permit-related Rules
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Minor NSR and other Permit-related Rules
- El Dorado County (California) NSR Rule
- Clark County (Nevada) Permit-related Rules
- Northern Sierra (California) NSR Rule
- Amador County (California) NSR Rule

Prohibitory Rule Submittals (Contact: Doris Lo, Manager, Air Rules Office, lo.doris@epa.gov)

- Ventura County (California) Adhesives and Sealants Rule
 - South Coast (California) Adhesive and Sealants Rule
 - Feather River (California) Surface Preparation and Clean Up Rule
 - San Joaquin Valley (California) Indirect Source Rule
 - Maricopa County (Arizona) Surface Coating Operations Rule
 - Maricopa County (Arizona) Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) SIP for 2008 Ozone NAAQS
 - San Diego County (California) Large Coating Operations for Wood Products Rule Rescission
 - Arizona and West Pinal Agriculture Rules
 - Pinal County (Arizona) Surface Coating Operations Rule
 - Pinal County (Arizona) Storage and Loading of Gasoline at Gasoline Dispensing Facilities Rule
 - Placer County (California) Open Burning rules
 - South Coast (California) Heavy-Duty Vehicles Incentive Measure
 - San Joaquin (California) Valley Agriculture Tractor Incentive Measure
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PROGRAM UPDATES

Air and Radiation Division

Draft Tribal Consultation Best Practices for Air and Radiation Division Regulatory Actions:

Region 9's Air and Radiation Division (ARD) has developed this draft document to clearly state several best practices for consultation when ARD takes a regulatory action required by the Clean Air Act or actions guided by U.S. EPA Policy and/or guidance. The draft is available online and comments are being accepted by the U.S. EPA until December 31, 2020. Comments should be sent directly to Kathryn Harper (Harper.Kathryn@epa.gov) with a "cc" to Eddy Holman (Holman.Edward@epa.gov).

Follow this link to view the draft document: [ARD Draft Tribal Consultation Best Practices](#).



LA POSTA RESERVATION, PHOTO BY JULIANN SCHROEDER

Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division: Zero Waste Section

Tribal representatives interested in national recycling policy are invited and encouraged to comment on EPA's Draft National Recycling Strategy:

The U.S. EPA released a draft National Recycling Strategy and Executive Summary for public comment on October 5, 2020. The comment period closes on December 4. According to the Agency statement, "Recycling has been a critical component of the U.S. EPA's decades-long efforts to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and its more recent efforts to pursue a Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) approach, which aims to reduce the environmental impacts of materials across their lifecycle. Building on the National Framework for Advancing the U.S. Recycling System and U.S. EPA's long history of providing data, tools, information, and other resources to support recycling in the United States, the draft strategy identifies strategic objectives and actions needed to create a stronger, more resilient, and cost-effective U.S. municipal solid waste recycling system. The strategy, when finalized, will be aligned with and support implementation of the national recycling goals."

The U.S. EPA is currently accepting comments on the draft National Recycling Strategy through December 4, 2020 in the federal docket. To leave a comment, go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for the docket EPA-HQ-OLEM-2020-0462.

The U.S. EPA offered the following questions to consider when reviewing and commenting on the draft strategy:

- Of the proposed actions, which are the most important and would have the greatest positive impact at the local, regional, and national level?
- What are the key implementation steps and milestones necessary to successfully implement these actions?
- Is your organization willing to lead an action? Or collaborate with others to implement the actions? What factors would your organization take into account when considering whether to lead an action?
- What are the most important roles and/or actions for federal agencies to lead?
- Are there other actions that should be included in the strategy?
- Do you have additional information or recommendations to inform the development of the strategy?

To view the materials available for public comments, visit the following links: [Draft National Recycling Strategy](#) and [Draft National Recycling Strategy Executive Summary](#).

General Assistance Program (GAP) Updates

Greetings from the U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch! In this issue of the newsletter, we are sharing Region 9 news and updates for three fiscal years (FY20, FY21, and FY22) as well as a new GAP Pollution Control training video developed by the U.S. EPA American Indian Environmental Office. Please reach out for additional details or follow-up questions.

Fiscal Year 2020: 4th Quarter Reports, Federal Financial Forms (FFRs), and Joint Evaluations

Project Officers (POs) have begun reviewing 4th quarter reports and are beginning the joint evaluation process. We would like to acknowledge the accomplishments tribal grantees achieved in FY20 with the GAP dollars provided, an impressive return on investment. Some highlights include:

- 19 U.S. EPA Tribal Environmental Plans created or updated
- 14 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans created or updated
- 17 dump sites cleaned up
- 39 community clean-up events
- 11 tribal codes or ordinances created or updated
- 40 virtual outreach activities
- And many more

As a next step, POs will document for each grantee actual deliverables received, and total expenditures as noted in Federal Financial Forms required to be submitted by each grantee. POs will then develop and share for grantee review and input a draft end-of-year joint evaluation table and key take-aways before finalizing an end-of-year report and cover letter.

Fiscal Year 2021: Focus on The Current Year

As of the writing of this newsletter, Region 9 awarded 115 tribal capacity-building grants funding updates to 43 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans and 58 Integrated Solid Waste Management Plans; completion of 7 dump site cleanups and 44 waste collection events; and development of 31 air quality programs, 26 water quality programs, and 8 sets of codes and ordinances; among many other projects. FY2021 is already well underway and we are very excited for the variety of projects tribes and intertribal consortia in the region will be completing. We look forward to witnessing the results of your work and hearing the stories of your successes.

Fiscal Year 2022: Looking Forward Towards Next Year

Notification of funding availability for Region 9 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grants covering workplan activities occurring in Fiscal Year 2022 is now live. Please refer to the document linked below for all deadlines. Early submittals are welcome. POs have begun reaching out to potential tribal grantees to schedule calls to review EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPs) and to discuss plans for FY22 workplans and budgets. Please reach out to your PO if you have questions.

To see the Fiscal Year 2022 GAP Notification, please click the following link: [GAP FY22 Funding Announcement](#)

GAP Pollution Control Programs Training Video

The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) of the U.S. EPA has produced a training video about the GAP that illustrates how tribal governments can implement pollution control programs instead of relying on the U.S. EPA. The video was debuted at the Tribal Environmental Lands Forum (TLEF) and remains available to view on-demand: [AIEO GAP Training Video](#).

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

A full list of active U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation opportunities are available on the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) webpage: [TCOTS Webpage](#). If interested, join the TCOTS Listserv by sending a message to, Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov to receive email notifications on the latest U.S. EPA Tribal Consultations.

Air and Radiation Division

Anticipated Consultation Opportunities:

This Fall/Winter, ARD plans to invite consultation on the following requests made by the State of California and the associated local air districts:

- Request to reclassify the Sacramento Metro nonattainment area from Moderate to Serious nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- Request to reclassify the San Diego nonattainment area from Moderate to Severe nonattainment for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS and Serious to Severe nonattainment for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS.

In general, reclassification actions could change the air permitting thresholds in the nonattainment area, including in areas of Indian country. ARD will be sending invitations to consult to all tribes geographically located within the Sacramento Metro and San Diego nonattainment areas. If you would like further information, please contact Khoi Nguyen, Air Planning Office, at nguyen.thien@epa.gov.

Water Division

Consultation Opportunity: Market-Based Approaches under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES).

The U.S. EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on a proposed rule addressing Market-Based Approaches under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program.

The U.S. EPA is holding an informational webinar for tribes on December 8, 2020, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM Eastern Time. Please follow this link to register for the webinar: [Registration NPDES Consultation Opportunity Webinar](#).

For additional information, please see the materials available in the EPA's TCOTS website: [NPDES Consultation Opportunity](#).



MANZANITA RESERVATION, PHOTO BY JULIANN SCHROEDER

RTOC AND REGION 9 U.S. EPA/TRIBAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a working committee of EPA and tribal personnel co-chaired by an EPA representative and a tribal representative. EPA designates its RTOC representatives through internal mechanisms. All tribes within Region 9 are considered members of the RTOC. Tribal representatives to the RTOC are selected through government-to-government communication, by tribal leaders in various geographical areas within Region 9.

RTOC Recaps

On August 12, 2020, the Region 9 RTOC co-chairs Mervin Wright Jr. (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) and Laura Ebbert (U.S. EPA) kicked-off the virtual Summer RTOC meeting. This meeting provided a robust agenda chock-full of interesting sessions on topics such as consultation, air monitoring, water reuse, fraud awareness, and more. The virtual Fall RTOC was convened on Oct 5, 2020 and included information-sharing on the McGirt v. Oklahoma case, GAP program updates, and U.S. EPA regional priorities. Over 150 participants were present at these two RTOC meetings. RTOC presentations and meeting materials can be found here: [RTOC Materials](#).



PYRAMID LAKE, PHOTO BY DAN MOSLEY OF PYRAMID LAKE PAIUTE TRIBE

Region 9 U.S. EPA/Tribal Annual Conference Recap

The San Pasqual Tribe and EPA Region 9 organized a successful virtual U.S. EPA/Tribal Conference which ran throughout October. The conference provided a virtual space where 640 attendees were able to learn, network, and participate in important topics surrounding tribal environmental issues. Throughout the month there were engaging sessions on topics that applied to land, multimedia, community resiliency, solid waste, water, and air programs. The conference also included a virtual Tribal Leaders Round Table with John Busterud, the U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, an award ceremony to honor the hard work of the 2020 Conner Byestewa Jr. Environmentalist Award Winners, and a karaoke social lunch hour! Many of the conference sessions were recorded and will be available here: [U.S. EPA/Tribal 2020 Conference Materials](#).



A FEW OF THE KARAOKE SOCIAL SUPERSTARS: MELODY SEES, JEREMY BAUER, AND MARK RAYOS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Stay up-to-date on federal grant opportunities by using the [Grants.gov search page](#).

U.S. EPA Drinking Water Tribal Set Aside

The U.S. EPA Region 9 has issued guidelines and procedures for applying for assistance from the Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) program in Fiscal Year 2021. This program provides funding for federally recognized tribes within Region 9 for public drinking water system infrastructure. Funds are awarded through direct grants to tribes or interagency agreements with the Indian Health Service. The funding will be used to address the most significant public health threats for public water systems. **Proposals are due November 20, 2020** and information can be found on the website: [U.S. EPA Drinking Water Tribal Set Aside](#).

DOI Energy and Mineral Development Program

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), through its Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD), is soliciting grant proposals from tribes and Tribal Energy Development Organizations for technical assistance funding to hire consultants to identify, evaluate, or assess the market for energy or mineral resources that a tribe will process, use, or develop. DEMD anticipates awarding approximately 25 to 30 grants under this announcement ranging in value from approximately \$10,000 to \$2,500,000. The program can fund projects only one year at a time. **Applications are due Dec. 2, 2020**. Find out more information by visiting the website: [DOI Energy and Mineral Development Program](#).

DOE Indian Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement

On March 27, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$15 million in new funding to deploy energy technology on tribal lands. This funding through the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs will support Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, Intertribal Organizations, and Tribal Energy Development Organizations. Should tribes choose to unleash their vast undeveloped energy resources, this funding opportunity announcement (FOA) would help support those communities.

The intended results of the projects selected under this FOA are to stabilize or reduce energy costs and increase energy security and resiliency for Indian Tribes and tribal members. **The application deadline was extended to December 10, 2020**. For more details on eligibility, please visit the FOA: [DOE Indian Energy FOA](#).

HUD Indian Housing Block Grants

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is accepting applications from eligible Indian Tribes and tribally designed housing entities to carry out affordable housing activities for benefits of low-income Native American families.

Grant funds may be used to develop, maintain, and operate affordable housing in safe and healthy environments on Indian reservations and in other Indian areas, and carry out other affordable housing activities. Grant funds must be used to primarily benefit low-income Indian families.

Applications are due Dec. 10, 2020. Visit the website to find out more: [HUD Indian Housing Block Grants](#).

Funding Opportunities Continued...

USDA Solid Waste Management Grants

This United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development Office program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. **Applications are accepted annually from October 1 through December 31.**

For information on eligibility and how to apply, please see: [USDA Solid Waste Management Grants Fact Sheet](#).

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes federal funds available through the new Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) grant program to states, local communities, tribes, and territories for pre-disaster mitigation activities. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program. The Disaster Recovery Reform Act, Section 1234; amended Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) authorizes BRIC. The BRIC priorities are to:

- incentivize public infrastructure projects
- incentivize projects that mitigate risk to one or more lifelines
- incentivize projects that incorporate nature-based solutions
- incentivize adoption and enforcement of modern building codes

Applications accepted from September 30, 2020 through January 29, 2021. For more information of eligibility and how to apply, see the [FEMA BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

USDA Special Evaluations Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH)

The SEARCH program helps very small, financially distressed rural communities with predevelopment feasibility studies, design, and technical assistance on proposed water and waste disposal projects. Federally-recognized Tribes may apply and applications are accepted year-round; please see this fact sheet for other requirements:

[USDA SEARCH Fact Sheet](#).

U.S. EPA Wetland Program Development Grant Funding Announcement

Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) assist state, tribal, and local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining state, tribal, or local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands. The primary focus of these grants is to develop and refine tribal wetland programs. **Applications are due January 15, 2021.** Awards will likely range from \$25,000 to \$250,000 in federal funds for a 1 to 4-year project period starting June 2021.

For additional information and to see the funding announcement, please visit: [WPDG Request for Applications](#).

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. Any links to websites outside of U.S. EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The U.S. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.

U.S. EPA Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands

Join this free online training course to learn how to develop or improve a waste transfer station or community convenience area/drop-off site serving smaller populations to meet the considerations and needs of your community. Environmental program staff, public utilities staff, and tribal leadership are encouraged to register. Bring your questions and concerns for group problem-solving.

Each session will build on content from those prior, but you're also invited to join the session most relevant to your current circumstance:

November 12th: Introduces waste transfer station fundamentals, siting, and needs considerations;

November 19th: Explores design factors, hauling considerations, and site layouts from real-life examples;

December 3rd: Focuses on design specifics, ancillary facilities, vehicles and equipment, capital costs, and funding sources;

December 10th: Addresses operational challenges: costs, waste handling issues, site security, emergencies, and illegal dumping.

Instructor: Larry Sweetser, with over 30 years of experience resolving solid and household hazardous waste program issues and specializing in assisting California rural counties. This training series is organized by the U.S. EPA Regions 9 & 10, with the support of Booz Allen Hamilton.

Please contact Deirdre Nurre with any questions, Nurre.Deirdre@epa.gov. To register for this training, fill out the registration information at this link: [Registration Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands](#).

Tribal Drinking Water Conference

Originally scheduled for May 4 – May 7, 2020, the Tribal Drinking Water Conference was postponed. The rescheduled conference will be virtual and held in the Spring of 2021. Exact dates are to be determined.

Protecting drinking water quality and ensuring a sufficient supply are complex responsibilities. Tribal utilities must have the financial stability, managerial competence, and technical skills to address their immediate and projected drinking water needs and protect community health and well-being in a sustainable manner. They must make decisions on operating costs, aging infrastructure, and much more on a daily basis.

Join your colleagues from the U.S. EPA and the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) to learn new skills, gain information, earn contact hours, network, and of course have a little fun! Please stay up-to-date on changes to conference dates and registration information by regularly checking the RCAC events page: [Tribal Drinking Water Conference](#).

Environmental Protection Agency
 Region 9 Tribal Branch
 Tribal, Intergovernmental, and
 Policy Division

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 San Francisco, CA. 94105

Protecting Human Health and the Environment

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to Walker River Paiute Tribe for working with their GAP Project Officer to develop a Success Story for this newsletter issue. If you would like to have a success story highlighted in a future issue, please contact your Project Officer or email the Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, at:
R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov



Get in Touch!

Do you have an idea for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter? Do you have a question or comment about an article in this issue?

Please submit ideas, questions, tribal success stories, original photos, or other feedback to the R9 Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, Jeanette Sasek, at:

R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

USEFUL LINKS

R9 Tribal Programs:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/epas-pacificsouthwest-tribal-program-region-9>

Follow Region 9 EPA on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/EPAregion9>

Follow us @EPAregion9 on Twitter!

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to the members of San Pasqual Tribe who planned and organized this year's Region 9 U.S. EPA/Tribal Conference. It was challenging planning to convene in a virtual environment, and their care and attention resulted in a very successful and enriching conference.

Thank you to each and every hardworking member of tribal environmental programs. You have done extraordinary work under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, and your colleagues at the U.S. EPA are cheering you on!



PINNACLES NATIONAL PARK, PHOTO BY JEANETTE SASEK