

# CWA §106 Water Quality Assessment Report Template Pilot Narrative Outline

August 2009

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The following is a suggested outline for the narrative component of the Water Quality Assessment Report. This should be used in conjunction with the Region IX Water Quality Assessment Report Template (WQAR Template) and the submittal of your water quality data in a STORET-compatible format in order to comply with the annual reporting requirement as described in **Appendix A** of the ***Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act***. For additional information, please refer to **Appendix A** and contact your CWA § 106 Project Officer.

***The subsequent information should be discussed by ALL grantees receiving CWA § 106 funding for their Water Quality Monitoring Program:***

## **1) Name of Tribe:**

## **2) Project Period Used for Water Quality Assessment:**

- a. Should be the same project period used within the WQAR Template and Water Quality Data submittal

## **3) Purpose of your Water Quality Monitoring Program:**

*NOTE: Be sure to include the goals described within your Monitoring Strategy*

- a. Describe the *Major Goals* of your program
  - i. Examples: Identifying water quality problem areas, developing a water quality baseline by collecting data from around the area/region for purposes of developing trend analysis, identifying Nonpoint source (NPS) impacts, protect and maintain water quality for cultural purposes, address public health concerns, etc.
  - ii. Do you currently have tribally-adopted water quality standards on any of the monitored water bodies?

## **4) Collaboration or coordination with other groups addressing water quality concerns:**

- a. Discuss in detail any work with other groups on your water bodies and/or within your watershed to address water quality issues
  - i. Examples: watershed restoration activities, ordinances, community outreach, etc.
- b. Watershed organizations, stakeholders (farmer groups or concerned community members), local irrigation districts, etc.

## **5) Design of your Water Quality Monitoring Program:**

*NOTE: Be sure that the justification for your monitoring design is consistent with your Monitoring Strategy*

- a. Discuss the approach you used for selection of sampling sites
  - i. List the factors that went into your decisions, for example:
    1. Particular water bodies of concern
    2. Accessibility to water for the person monitoring
    3. Was there a particular area of concern?
    4. Changes in water source (i.e., the convergence of two streams, the affects of a dam, etc)
    5. Seasonal water flows and conditions
- b. Discuss the approach you used for determining the frequency in which all of the sampling locations would be monitored
  - i. Describe the frequency in which you monitor your sampling sites

- ii. List the factors that went into your decisions, for example:
  - 1. Seasonal or daily water flows and conditions
  - 2. Changes in human activities on a water body (construction, agriculture, etc)
  - 3. Resource availability (personnel, monitoring funding, etc)

## **6) How water quality data is interpreted and managed:**

*NOTE: Use your Monitoring Strategy as a reference when discussing this portion of the narrative*

- a. Do you have any lab support for your water quality program?
  - i. How do results from the lab get organized with the results taken in the field?
- b. How is your data organized?
  - i. Spreadsheet (STORET/WQX compatible?)
  - ii. Access Database
  - iii. On a Server (Oracle, SQL, etc)
- c. Who is responsible for the organization and interpretation of results?
  - i. Frequency of data input and organization
  - ii. Frequency of determining results and developing data trends

## **7) Results of water quality monitoring during this Project Period:**

- a. Discuss the interpretation and summary of your program's findings
  - i. Are there potential sources of impairment to the water bodies you are monitoring?
  - ii. Are you able to track trends with the water quality data you collected?
  - iii. After interpreting your results, are you going to make any changes to your water quality program?
    - 1. Change in frequency of monitoring?
    - 2. Focus on a particular area of concern?
- b. Include any water quality issues of tribal concern for future planning of your water quality program
  - i. For example: outbreaks of waterborne disease, fish kills, fishing advisories, restrictions on surface drinking water supplies, restrictions on bathing, restrictions on cultural practices, etc.