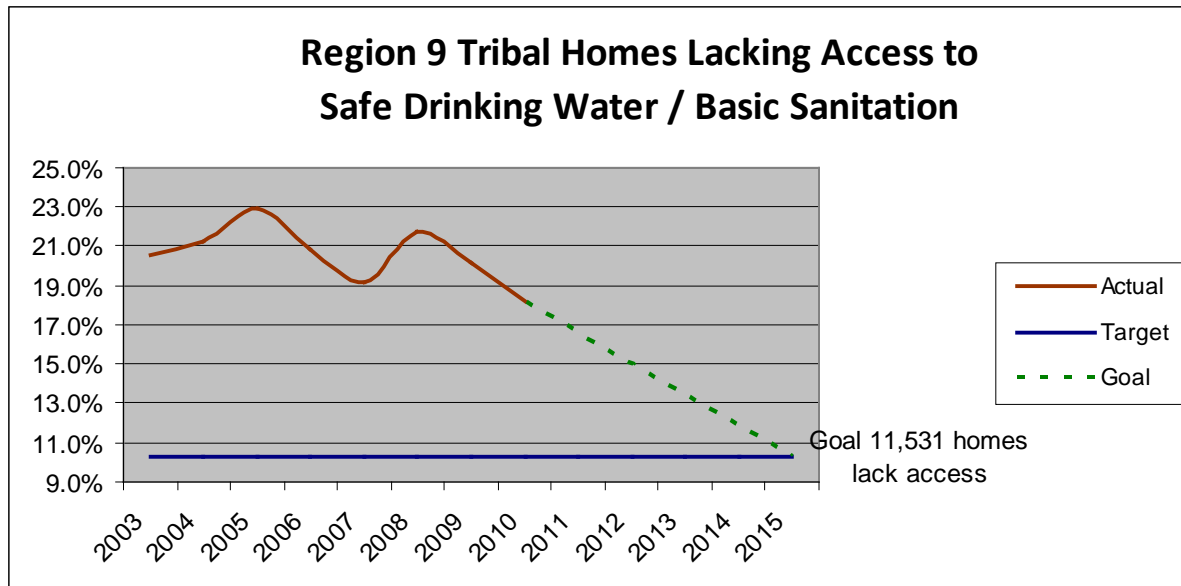


## RTOC Drinking Water / Wastewater Workgroup Breakout Session 2/9/11

Participants – see attached sign in sheet

### 1. Access Update

In FY 10 the percent of Region 9 tribal homes lacking access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation dropped from 23% to 18%, due in large part to the ARRA funds provided in 2009.



### 2. Budget recommendations

The RTOC is working on a multiyear budget request for 2013 and beyond. Drinking Water and Wastewater infrastructure funding remains one of the RTOC priorities. Components to be addressed will include funding for Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside, Clean Water Tribal Set-Aside, Tribal Border Infrastructure and Operation and Maintenance (O&M).

One of the Infrastructure Task Force recommendations is to conduct an O&M study to better understand and quantify the needs. This recommendation has not yet been implemented. The group discussed advocating for the study, and collecting available O&M information in the Region.

IHS reported that it is including O&M funding in its funded projects. More clarity is needed on the type of O&M activities IHS will fund.

### 3. Tribal Drinking Water Needs Survey

EPA has selected the systems for the Drinking Water Needs Survey. These systems were statistically chosen to reflect the needs of small systems and both ground water and surface water systems.

#### 4. EPA Drinking Water Operator Certification program

EPA has a national drinking water operator certification program to serve tribes that cannot get certification by other means. It is not expected that tribes in Region 9 will use this program because they already get certified by the states or ITCA.

#### 5. California Wastewater Operator Certification program

The proposed California wastewater operator certification regulations contain a definition of tribes inconsistent with the definition agreed to by tribes. A letter for the RTOC will be drafted recommending that the original language be used.

#### 6. Action Items

What	Who	When
1. Provide data for tribal budget recommendations on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- ARRA progress</li><li>- R9 Access progress and historical funding levels</li><li>- Current needs in IHS Sanitary Deficiency Systems list</li></ul>	Linda Reeves	2/28/11
2. Follow up with IHS on O&M funding in projects	Rob Roy	2/28/11
3. Gather existing O&M information to identify need	All	Next RTOC
4. Request Infrastructure Task Force implement recommendation to conduct O&M Study	Mart Burg/Linda	2/24/11
5. Research legality and interpretation of federal requirements in funding agreements which mandate tribal O&M	Marta	Next RTOC
6. Draft letter from RTOC on tribal definition (related to preliminary draft California wastewater operator certification regulations)	Marta	2/28/11