



**NELAC Accreditation:** The Region 9 Lab is accredited through the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). NELAP is the program that implements the quality system standards adopted by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC). Both the NELAC standards and the NELAP program fall under the NELAC Institute (TNI.) TNI is a non-profit organization whose mission it is to foster the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality through an open, inclusive, and transparent process that is responsive to the needs of the community.

**ERLN:** The Region 9 Lab is a member of the Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN). The ERLN was established as an Agency asset to ensure sufficient analytical capability and capacity to respond to routine accidents as well as nationally significant incidents.

## US EPA Region 9



EPA's Region 9 office works to protect public health and the environment in the southwestern United States (Arizona, California, Nevada, and Hawaii). EPA Region 9 also works with 147 federally recognized tribes in the Pacific Southwest.

Additionally, the regional office's environmental responsibilities extend into the Pacific Ocean well beyond Hawaii. To the west and south of Hawaii are hundreds of islands with an estimated population greater than 300,000, where EPA has an active and direct role. The islands are scattered over an area larger than the 48 contiguous United States. These island jurisdictions consist of the U.S. territories of Guam and American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and other unincorporated U.S. Pacific possessions.

[www.epa.gov/region9/lab](http://www.epa.gov/region9/lab)



## US Environmental Protection Agency

### Region 9 Laboratory



### *Advancing the Region's Science Agenda*



## BACKGROUND

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Region 9 Laboratory is a full service state-of-the-art facility specializing in chemical analysis, biological analysis, and field sampling service. The Laboratory is charged with producing environmental data and information that is technically sound and of requisite quality for use in achieving Agency and Region 9 goals.

## FACILITY

The Region 9 Laboratory is located approximately 16 miles northeast of San Francisco in Richmond, California. The built-to-suit facility is leased from The Wareham Property Group and is located on the grounds of the University of California - Berkeley Richmond Field Station.

## MISSION

Regional laboratories focus on the application of science policies and methods to support regulatory and monitoring programs. This is done through direct implementation and through partnerships with a variety of groups including state, local and tribal governments, EPA's program offices, and EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). The regional laboratories are crucial to advancing the Agency's science agenda and have embraced the following commitments to achieve this goal:

- To integrate laboratory activities with those of field and quality assurance partners into a comprehensive, holistic, multi-media approach to solving ecosystem-based environmental problems.
- To provide scientific data of known quality to support Agency decisions through partnerships with regional and national program offices, state, local and tribal governments, academia, the private sector and the public.
- To maintain a fully equipped laboratory to produce physical, chemical and biological data of known quality to be used for environmental decision-making at all levels of government.
- To maintain and enhance a technically and scientifically skilled, dedicated and diverse staff through the excellence of our recruitment, career development, training, management and leadership.
- To advance the Agency's science agenda at the point where crucial decisions are made.

## PERFORMANCE

The Region 9 Laboratory primarily provides analytical services and technical support to program offices at EPA's Regional Office in San Francisco. The laboratory typically performs in excess of 12,000 analyses annually to support Region 9 programs. Approximately 70% of the analyses performed support the cleanup of uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites associated with the Superfund program. The other 30% support various other EPA programs including water monitoring, drinking water, NPDES permitting, emergency response, Brownfields and the leaking underground storage tanks program.

The current core analytical services provided by the Region 9 Laboratory includes analysis for volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, pesticides, PCBs, fuels and metals; and general chemistry, biology and microbiology analyses. However, as new analytical support priorities are identified due to changing environmental problems, the Region 9 Laboratory develops additional capabilities to meet the needs of the programs.

The Region 9 Laboratory also provides a variety of field analytical support including sampling, split sampling, field audits and mobile lab support to the various programs at the Regional Office.