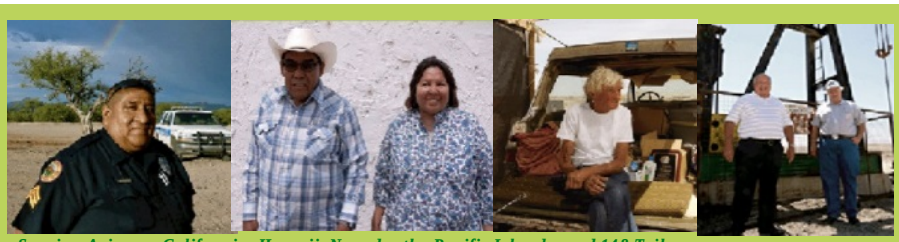
US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Pacific Southwest, Region 9



Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands, and 148 Tribes

Tribal Section, Land Division
September/October 2015

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105
800-EPA-WEST • www.epa.gov/region9/tribal

U.S. EPA PACIFIC SOUTHWEST TRIBAL SECTION NEWSLETTER

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Indian Community Development Block Grants ($58,856,810). The Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) is awarding grants to develop Indian and Alaska Native communities, including creating adequate housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for people with low and moderate incomes. The Office of Native American Programs in HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing administers the program. The awards range from $500,000 to $1 million. For more information, visit http://go.usa.gov/3e5uP.

***DEADLINE*:** Thursday, October 22, 2015. Submit the application online at http://go.usa.gov/3e5ym. The Funding Opportunity Number is FR-5900-N-23.

***CONTACT*:** Office of Strategic Planning and Management, (202) 708-0667.

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants ($3 million). The USDA Rural Development office is providing up to $150,000 for repairing breaks/leaks in and maintaining water distribution lines, as well as $500,000 for the construction of new water sources, intake and/or treatment facilities, or waterline extensions. The program helps eligible rural communities recover from or prepare for emergencies that diminish the capacity to provide safe, reliable drinking water. For more information, visit http://go.usa.gov/3emkR.

DEADLINE: Open. For applications, contact a Rural Development office; for a list of offices and staff contact information, visit http://go.usa.gov/3emXV.

CONTACT: See above.

2016 Exchange Network Grants Program ($9 million). The Environmental Information Exchange Network facilitates environmental data sharing among EPA, states, tribes, and territories. The EPA program funds projects that develop the network and enable timely, on-demand access to environmental data through innovative technologies, improved support systems, and expanded collaboration. Grants will range from $50,000 to $500,000. For more information, visit http://go.usa.gov/3ep9k.

DEADLINE: Friday, November 13, 2015. Apply online at http://go.usa.gov/3ep8V. The Funding Opportunity Number is EPA-OEI-16-01.

CONTACT: Salena Reynolds, reynolds.salena@epa.gov or (202) 566-0466.

TRAINING

The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the Colorado River Indian Tribes will be hosting a Bioassessment Training, sponsored by the EPA Region 9. This training is designed for tribal staff involved in, or with future plans to develop, water quality monitoring programs for lake and river ecosystems. In addition to being in a classroom setting, attendees will participate in hands-on field work to practice skills learned at the training.

Monitoring of aquatic systems is perhaps the single most important component of a water quality management program. Data from an ambient water quality monitoring program is used to identify and assess problems, set program goals and objectives, and define management strategies to address those problems.

This free training will be held **Tuesday, November 17, 2015 – Thursday, November 19, 2015** at the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, in Parker, Arizona and the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, in Havasu Lake, California.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Blue Water Resort and Casino (https://www.bluewaterfun.com/). Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-243-3360 or 1-928-669-7000. When making reservations, use Group Number "4068" or Group Name "CRIT Environmental Meeting". Rooms, at a rate of $54.95/night + tax and resort fee, will be held until Monday, November 2, 2015.

Space is limited. To register please contact Nancy Sockabasin at sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov or 415-972-3772. Provide the following information to register: Name, title, tribe/organization, email address, and phone number.

WEBINARS

Tribal Science Series Begins. EPA is inaugurating its "Sustainable and Healthy Communities Seminar Series," co-hosted by the National Center for Environmental Research and the Office of Science Policy. This webinar series offers a forum to discuss the complex environmental issues facing many tribal and indigenous communities, and will feature expert guest speakers, from government, academic institutions, and other organizations. The October webinar is "Native Science and Environmental Health: Discussions on Research, Traditional Knowledge and Community Health." For more information, visit http://ow.ly/SiOxN.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

REGISTER: Visit http://ow.ly/SiOMS; click on the conference link and enter as a guest: http://ow.ly/SiP76; Phone: (866) 299-3188 and enter the conference code 9195415646#.

ODDS & ENDS

Lowdown on Algal Blooms and Cyanotoxins. EPA Region 9 now has a list of frequently asked questions and resources on harmful algal blooms (HABs) and cyanobacterial toxins, or "cyanotoxins." The document explains HABs and relevant issues, and gives links to resources and contact information for more in-depth coverage. The document is available at:

FAQs_on_HABs_Res
ources_V1 July2015.

Be Prepared for Emergencies. EPA Region 6 has compiled more than 100 documents on chemical emergency preparedness and prevention. The pdf contains the text-only files of most of the documents. This compilation is useful for officials searching for historical documents, or determining what guidance may have been developed on a specific topic. The pdf is available at:

Chemical
Emergency Prepared

New Request for Proposals (RFP) Template Released. The Department of Energy has developed an RFP template for tribal solar photovoltaic systems, including roof-mounted, ground-mounted and carport utility-interactive systems. The template has information on project description, requirements and submissions. Tribes can modify the template to suit their specific needs and projects. This template is available at http://go.usa.gov/3emR9.

Feedback Requested on:

Treaty Rights. Tribes are invited to submit comments on the "Draft Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights." This guidance helps implement "EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes," which governs tribal treaty rights related to natural resources in a geographic area affected by a proposed EPA decision or action. The draft, related documents, and tribal leader notification letter are at http://go.usa.gov/3epDw.

SUBMISSIONS: Submit written comments online at: http://go.usa.gov/3epDe or by mail to Jeff Besougloff, EPA American Indian Environmental Office (2690R), 1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460.

DEADLINE: Friday, October 30, 2015.

CONTACT: Jeff Besougloff, Besougloff.Jeff@epa.gov.

Enforcement Initiatives: Tribes are encouraged to submit comments on EPA's National Enforcement Initiatives that focus on civil and criminal enforcement and expertise related to the most serious pollution problems in communities. For more information on the "Selection of EPA Fiscal Year 2017-2019 National Enforcement Initiatives," visit http://go.usa.gov/3tZwG.

SUBMISSIONS: Submit written comments online to Daniel Palmer, palmer.daniel@epa.gov, or by mail to Daniel Palmer, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Mail Code 2221A, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Comments can also be made via conference call, hosted by the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. The call-in number is (866) 299-0772, access 1474305787#.

DEADLINE: Friday, October 16, 2015.

CONTACT: Daniel Palmer, palmer.daniel@epa.gov

Farewells:

Tim Grant left EPA, Region 9, in August, after spending 17 years in the Tribal Section as a project officer. He described his post-EPA plans include perfecting his golf game and playing at as-yet untried golf courses. Eventually, he says, he plans to return to home to Nebraska. Tim worked with tribes in Northern and Central California, and Arizona.

After an incredible 44 years at EPA and 46 years of federal service, Wendell Smith retired at the end of July – and the Tribal Water Office will not be the same without him. Among his many accomplishments was establishing Region 9's Tribal Water Quality Program in the 1980s. As the tribal program expanded, Wendell trained others to assist. He believed in empowering the tribes to restore and protect their own water resources. Today, a substantial number of the Region's 147 tribes have established water quality programs.