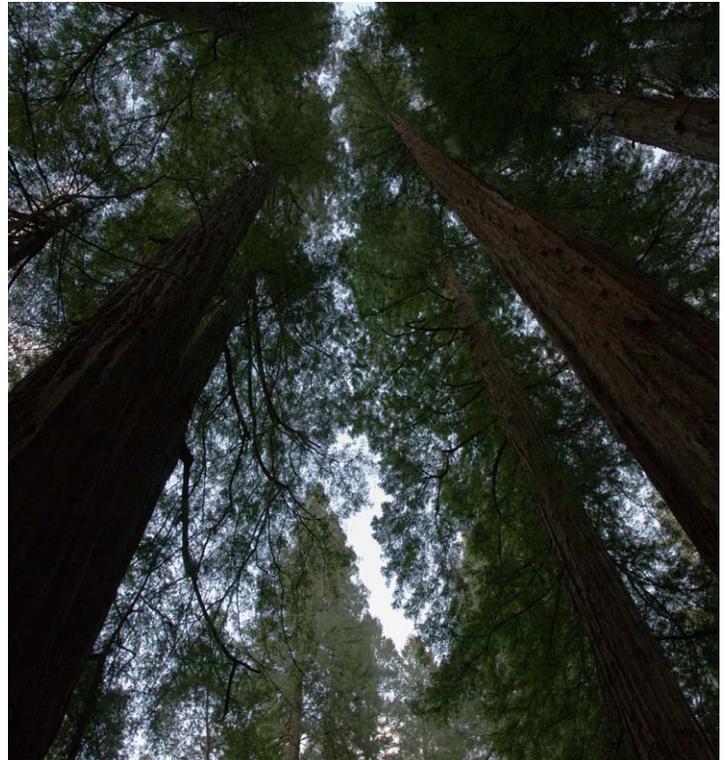
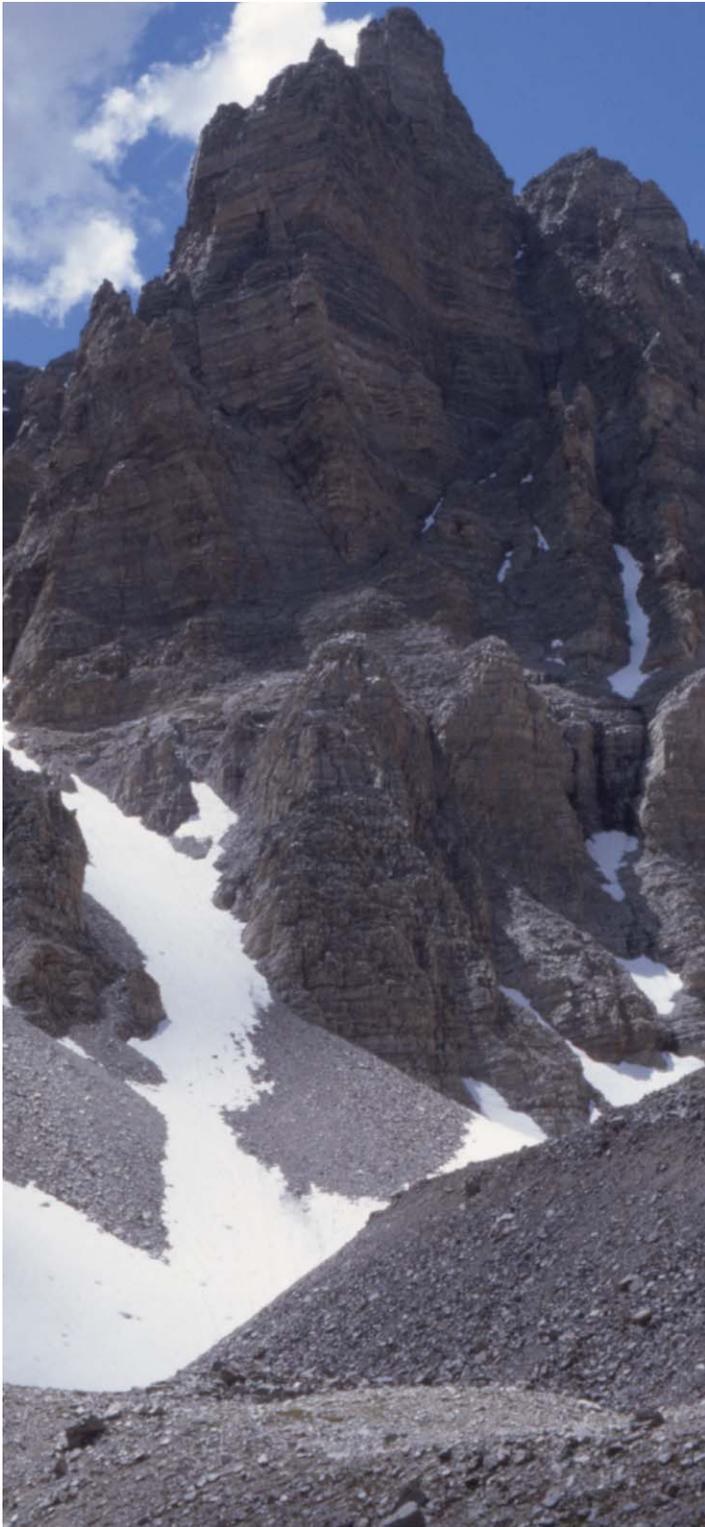




Region 9
The Pacific Southwest

Environmental Results Through Tribal/EPA Partnerships



Fiscal Year 2007 Accomplishments

EPA-909-R-08-002



Dear Readers,

This is our sixth annual report on tribal accomplishments, and it provides a valuable overview of our collaboration with tribes in the Pacific Southwest Region.

For the past seven years I have been privileged to work with more than 140 federally recognized tribes in the Region. Each tribe's commitment to protect tribal environmental health and resources continues to improve and I'm proud of what we have accomplished together.

In partnership with the EPA, tribes are working toward the shared goals of clean air, clean water, clean land, and healthy communities. The accomplishments achieved during 2007 are numerous and I'd like to highlight a few that are excellent examples of what we can do together.

Among the successes included in this report are stopping illegal dumping on the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indian Reservation; supporting the Tohono O'odham Nation's effort to create the first tri-national Sister City emergency response plan with the U.S. and Mexico; and the effective use of grant funds by tribal governments to protect the air, land and water.

This report not only shares the accomplishments of tribes and EPA, it also inspires us to continue working collaboratively and on a government to government basis with tribal governments to protect the future of tribal lands for generations yet to come.

For more information on tribal environmental accomplishments, please visit our website at www.epa.gov/region09/indian/success/.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Nastri".

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator, Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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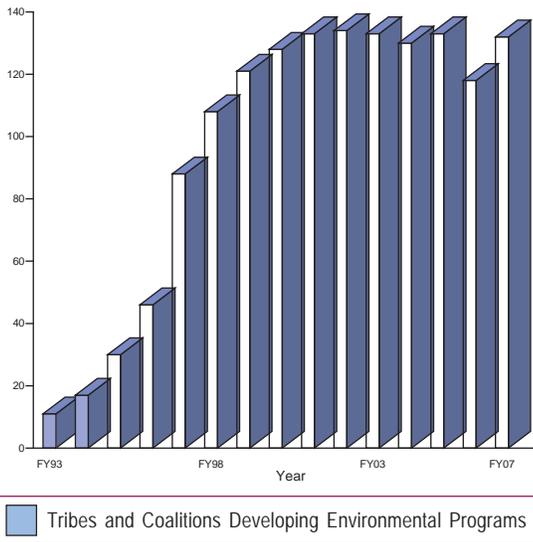
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*Cover Photos: Great Basin National Park, Nevada by David D. Schmidt
California Redwoods, California by John Kung
Air Moon Falls, Arizona by Karl Banks
Bead work, pp. 2-19: Regina LeRoy*

Tribal Results

EPA's Pacific Southwest Region includes 146 Indian tribes and nearly 40% of the tribal land in the United States. Tribal lands are subject to federal and tribal environmental laws, but many tribes have lacked the capacity or funding to carry out environmental programs. In recent years, a change has been occurring. Tribes have forged productive partnerships with other agencies and neighboring communities. As of 2007, 121 tribes and four coalitions had active environmental protection programs, 85 tribes had environmental protection codes or policies in place and 8 tribes have federal program authorization.

Number of Tribes Developing Environmental Programs



Environmental conditions on many reservations in the Pacific Southwest Region are challenging. More than one-third of reservation households are at or below the poverty level. Nineteen percent of homes lack complete plumbing. More than 1,200 open dumps are found on tribal lands. Over a third of the region's tribes are located in areas that do not meet air quality standards.

EPA is working in partnership with tribes to face these challenges head-on. Together, we are achieving positive results! Working as partners, the tribes and EPA have made significant progress in protecting tribal lands, waters, air and other resources.

In the Pacific Southwest, many tribes have formed inter-tribal partnerships to address environmental issues. The Yurok Tribe Environmental Program (YTEP) formed a consortium with five tribes in the Klamath Basin. The successes of this group are the result of a coordinated effort using EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) funds to level the playing field for tribes in a watershed that has many complex environmental issues. This consortium has developed a significant body of scientific study and rigorous analysis of the various state and federal processes and environmental factors that affect water quality in the Klamath Basin (e.g. FERC, TMDL, fish disease, toxic algae).

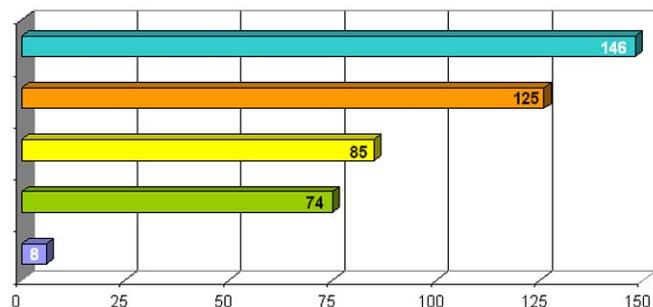


Yurok Tribal Environmental Program staff Micah Gibson samples Klamath River at Turwar Creek as part of toxic algae reconnaissance in 2005. Credit: YTEP

The YTEP, with support from the Tribal Water Quality Workgroup, has significantly increased the level of data collection and analysis in the past three years. The program has established the first and most extensive network of consistent real-time water quality monitoring stations in the Klamath Basin. This serves to inform a large group of stakeholders and the public of the effects of water management decisions made on the Klamath and Trinity Rivers.

Environmental Capacity Building

- Tribes in Region 9
- Tribes with Environmental Programs
- Tribes with Codes or Policies
- Tribes Monitoring the Environment
- Tribes with Federal Program Authorization



Clean Air

Twenty-five tribes received EPA support for air quality activities. Twenty-four tribes are operating 67 air monitors.

EPA and Tribes Collaborate to Improve Air Quality

During 2007, EPA worked closely with tribes to assess and improve air quality in Indian Country. The results include education and outreach to tribes, as well as new air quality standards, regulations, and plans.



Air pollution trapped over the Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians Reservation.

EPA Grants are the Foundation of Tribal Air Quality Work

EPA awarded 25 tribal air grants, totaling just over \$3 million. Five tribes also used part of their GAP grants to assess air conditions. Four tribes received radon grants to assess and reduce radon levels in their homes. Twenty-four tribes are monitoring either particulate matter or ozone (smog).

Tribes' Collaboration Brings Greater Return on Investments

A partnership between the **Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community** and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality led to the installation of a special monitor at the confluence of two of the most heavily traveled freeways in the Phoenix area. This Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy (DOAS) Monitor continuously measures air toxics and pollutants regulated by federal clean air laws. It is one of the most advanced monitors of its kind, and the only one located in the Southwest.



Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Differential Optical Absorption Spectroscopy Monitor.

Three tribes in California's Owens Valley — **Lone Pine**, **Fort Independence**, and **Bishop** — continue to work with other nearby tribes and the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District as they assess the impacts of the Owens Dry Lake, the largest source of fine particles such as dust and smoke in the nation. In addition, those three tribes participate in the Tribal Environmental Exchange Network, a system that makes air quality and meteorological data available in real time on the Internet, facilitating region-wide data analysis.



Owens Valley tribal youth learning about air quality.

New Tribal Regulations Delegate Certain EPA Air Programs to Tribes

The **Gila River Indian Community** (GRIC) submitted a Tribal Implementation Plan, which is a set of programs and regulations to ensure air quality standards are met and maintained. EPA Region 9 is reviewing

the GRIC's proposal. When approved, it will delegate many EPA air programs to the tribe. In addition, the **Pala Band** and the **Fort Independence Tribe** recently applied for Treatment as State status to be notified of permits for large sources of air pollution nearby.



Air monitoring station operated by the Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians.

New Rules Will Help Ensure Economic Growth Occurs in Harmony with Clean Air Goals

EPA is continuing to move forward with new clean air regulations for Indian country, such as the Tribal New Source Review requirements proposed in 2006. These apply to permits for new and modified stationary sources of air pollution. The rules are important because they close a loophole that has allowed some polluters to evade compliance on tribal lands. The new regulations would require new or modified small industrial facilities and large industrial facilities on tribal lands to get permits.



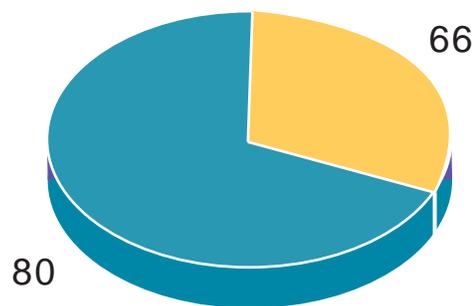
Gila River Indian Community.

New Plan, Permit for Projects on Navajo Lands Draw Public Interest

EPA completed a Federal Implementation Plan for the Four Corners Power Plant, establishing federally enforceable emission limits for several pollutants, including a substantial reduction in the allowable amount of sulfur dioxide emissions. However, the Arizona Public Service Corporation and the Sierra Club have challenged EPA's action in federal court, and the case is still pending.

EPA worked closely with the **Navajo Nation** on the permit for the proposed new Desert Rock coal-fired power plant. EPA proposed a "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" permit for the Desert Rock facility. The project is controversial because many people are opposed to new coal-fired power plants in this area. In 2006, more than 1,000 comments were submitted on the proposed permit. EPA is now responding to these comments.

Pacific Southwest Tribes Located in Air Quality Non-Attainment Areas



Nonattainment – Areas of the country where air pollution consistently exceed the national ambient air quality standards may be designated “non-attainment.”

Clean & Safe Water

Good Health Depends on Clean and Safe Water

EPA and tribes work together to achieve clean and safe water through construction of drinking water and wastewater projects, development of sustainable infrastructure, and water quality monitoring and watershed restoration projects.

1,545 homes have received safer drinking water.

5,718 homes have better wastewater facilities.

8,114 homes along the U.S./Mexico border have upgraded water infrastructure since 1999.

68 tribes are eligible to receive funding to restore watersheds and nine tribes have received program authorization to set water quality standards for tribal waters.

Providing Access to Safe Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation

In 2007, the Clean Water Act Indian Set-Aside Program awarded \$6.3 million for 42 wastewater projects that will serve about 5,718 homes. The Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Program awarded \$3 million to fund five tribal drinking water projects that serve 924



Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona Baboquivari Intertie Project.

homes. Several water infrastructure projects were completed during the year, including construction of a wastewater lagoon on the **Hualapai Reservation**. That lagoon serves 300 homes and replaces an old, undersized, and unlined lagoon that was at risk of overflowing into nearby Truxton Wash. Also, the Tohono O'odham Utility Authority and the Indian Health Service constructed the Baboquivari Intertie project which provides safe drinking water to several small communities that have high levels of arsenic and poor water quality.

In 2007, tribes implemented several innovative projects to achieve access to safe water, recognizing the importance of collaboration and partnership in Indian Country. The **La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians** organized an On-Site Wastewater Management Collaborative to properly operate and maintain septic systems, improving water quality in the San Luis Rey



Navajo Nation Shiprock Booster Pump Station.

Tribal Collaborative for On-Site Wastewater Management

The San Diego Foundation
A foundation for our people

LA JOLLA INDIAN RESERVATION

Walking Shield Rural Community Assistance Corp.

watershed. The tribe constructed a wastewater facility to treat septic tank waste, drafted an on-site wastewater ordinance, and located and mapped all septic tanks on the reservation. Collaborative partners include EPA, neighboring tribes, the San Diego Foundation, Indian Health Service, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, and the Walking Shield Indian assistance organization.

Many tribal members who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation live in traditional homes or temporary structures without indoor plumbing. In 2007, the **Hualapai Tribe** funded and successfully completed a project which extends water and wastewater lines to three homes. EPA funded proper closure of the outhouses.



Hualapai Indian Tribe of the Hualapai Indian Reservation – Collaborative Water Infrastructure Project before and near completion.

The need for water infrastructure improvements in Indian Country gained attention this year with the development of a draft Access Implementation Plan. The goal of this plan is to achieve what the United States pledged at the World Sustainability Summit: to provide safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 to at least half the homes that now lack these necessities. The draft Access Implementation Plan, developed by federal agencies and tribes, recommends solutions for achieving the access goal.

Watershed Protection and Restoration

In 2007, 97 tribes in the Pacific Southwest Region were eligible to develop and carry out water quality protection programs under the Clean Water Act Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program. EPA provided a total of \$8.3 million in funding to tribes to support tribal water quality and monitoring activities. In addition, nine tribes began to implement water quality monitoring strategies, and three tribes provided water quality data to EPA electronically.

Sixty-eight tribes were eligible to receive funds to reduce polluted runoff and to restore watersheds under the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Control Program. Through a national base allocation and competitive process, EPA awarded 55 grants totaling \$3.2 million to tribes in the Pacific Southwest.

Trees Grow More Than Two Feet in Three Months After Removal of Non-native Species

The **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community** implemented a NPS-funded wetlands restoration project in the Cottonwood Wetlands. The tribe's NPS program removed invasive tamarisk and revegetated the wetlands with native vegetation such as willow and cottonwood sprouts. Post-project monitoring showed the willow and cottonwood grew more than two feet in three months and water has shown an increase in clarity.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Cottonwood Wetlands Restoration Project.

Stream Restoration Project is a Great Success

The **Hopland Band of Pomo Indians** carried out a successful stream restoration project. The tribe identified several sedimentation problems which impacted water quality in creeks. They obtained funding from the NPS program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Tribal Wildlife Program for restoration activities. The tribe implemented restoration activities on four sites where major erosion of stream banks contributed significantly to stream

sedimentation. The projects were an enormous success and have resulted in numerous benefits, including reduction in sediment loads, reduction in turbidity and nutrient loads, healthier aquatic vegetation, improved fish habitat, and improved water quality.



Hopland Band of Pomo Indians of the Hopland Rancheria – Stream Restoration Project. Eroding hillside; workers laying straw wattles.

Water Quality Protection

EPA also approved two Treatment as a State (TAS) program authorizations for the water quality standards and certification programs for the **Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians** and **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe**. Both tribes are in the process of completing their Water Quality Standards for waters within their reservations.

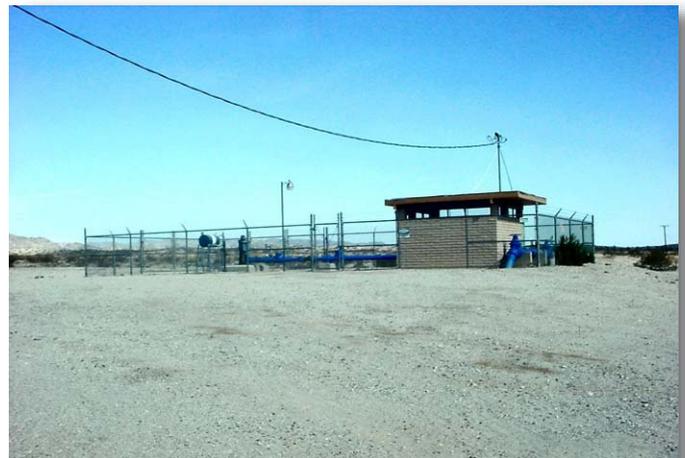
Funding to Help Tribes Protect Underground Sources of Drinking Water

In 2007, the Tribal Source Water and Assessment Program (SWAP) issued a total of more than \$99,000 to four tribes. This funding will support activities such as four-step assessments used to evaluate pesticide use for human health risk. It will fund work to locate and ensure proper closure of abandoned wells. Tribes will use the funds to develop best management practices to prevent or reduce the contamination of underground sources of drinking water.



Treatment as a State approval: pictured left to right are Norman Harry, former Tribal Chairperson for Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Alexis Strauss, EPA R9 Water Division Director; Dan Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Water Quality Specialist; JoAnn Asami, R9 Attorney; Tiffany Eastman, R9 Grants Project Officer; Kristin Gullatt, R9 Tribal Water Program Manager; and Wendell Smith, R9 Water Quality Program Manager.

The **Chemehuevi Indian Tribe's** Environmental Department conducted a successful source water assessment of the public water system wells on their reservation. The results indicated their wellhead was in excellent condition, which greatly reduces the likelihood of drinking water contamination.



Chemehuevi Indian Tribe of the Chemehuevi Reservation – Successful source water assessment of the public water system wells on the reservation.

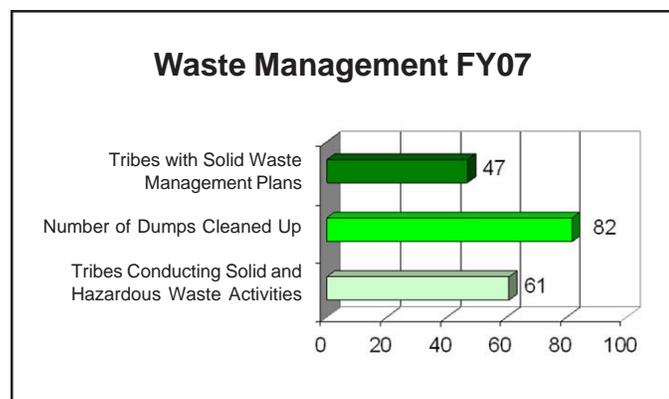
Protecting Tribal Lands

Tribes Use Innovative Tactics to Clean Up Waste, Hazardous Materials

Improper disposal of both household trash and hazardous waste threaten tribal lands in the Pacific Southwest. More than 1,200 open dumps, dozens of abandoned storage tanks, and hundreds abandoned mine sites litter these tribal lands.

Tribes Work with EPA to Clean Up Open Dumps and Expand Recycling Programs

In 2007, tribes tackled these hazards by cleaning up 82 open dumps, and collecting household hazardous waste. They developed recycling and composting programs, and removed and recycled abandoned vehicles.



Collaboration Closes Open Dumps

The Torres Martinez Solid Waste Collaborative got impressive results this year. The collaborative, which includes representatives from EPA and 24 other federal, state, and local agencies, the **Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians**, and nonprofit organizations, closed 20 of 27 known dumps, put access controls in place, and prevented new dumps from being started on the Torres Martinez Reservation in Southern California’s Coachella Valley.

Their efforts have also cut dump fires by more than 70%. Together, collaborative members distributed information on proper waste disposal to more than 500 local growers, haulers, and landscapers to reduce waste coming onto tribal lands.

The collaborative used new regulatory authority to conduct solid waste inspections in 2006. Those led

to four enforcement actions in 2007 and two legal settlements with penalties of \$12,525 and a supplemental environmental project.



Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe. Upper photo – Auclair site cleanup; lower photo – Tayawa site cleanup.

Tribal Innovation Removes 44 Tons of Waste

The **Hoopa Valley Tribe** conducted four dump cleanups using the tribe’s innovation, the “Blake Apparatus.” This innovation, which saved the tribe as much as \$10,000 in contractor fees, operates from the front end of a pickup truck with a winch-powered cableway and allows the operator to remove waste from steep terrain. One person can operate the Blake Apparatus, which fits in the back of any pickup truck and sets up in less than 10 minutes. The apparatus, which won a 2007 EPA award, enabled the four-person staff of the Hoopa Tribal Environmental Protection Agency to remove 44 tons of trash, appliances, and scrap metal.



Hoopa Valley Tribe – dump cleanup using the Blake Apparatus.

Tribe Transforms Trash

The **Pinoleville Pomo Nation's** Environmental Department has found new uses for abandoned trailers by using parts of the dismantled trailers to build a tool shed. Other plans for similar trash reuse projects include building a fence out of abandoned tires and a greenhouse made of abandoned trailer trusses.



Pinoleville Pomo Nation's Environmental Department reuse program.

"Project Can It" Collects 2 Tons of Waste in 2 Days

In Arizona, **the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community** held a free community tire cleanup that removed and recycled 2,500 tires in 2007. That brings the total removed since 2005 to more than 7,000.

The tribe also organized "Project Can It," a community cleanup and recycling effort. It featured recycled 55-gallon drums as drop-off points and a competition among 12 teams to see who could collect the most waste. The teams collected more than two tons of waste in two days.



Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community "Project Can It" participants.

Solid Waste, Recycling Service Reduces Open Dumping and Burning

The **Pit River Tribe** developed a solid waste and recycling collection program for their tribal homes and businesses. With EPA and USDA grant funding, the tribe hired a solid waste coordinator and technician, purchased a collection vehicle and bins, and established the Pit River Solid Waste and Recycling

service. The service includes a drop-off recycling center, a car crushing operation, and a “pay-as-you-throw” trash collection program. The **Pit River Tribe** also found a way to generate additional income for the program by renting out their collection vehicle and clean-up bins.



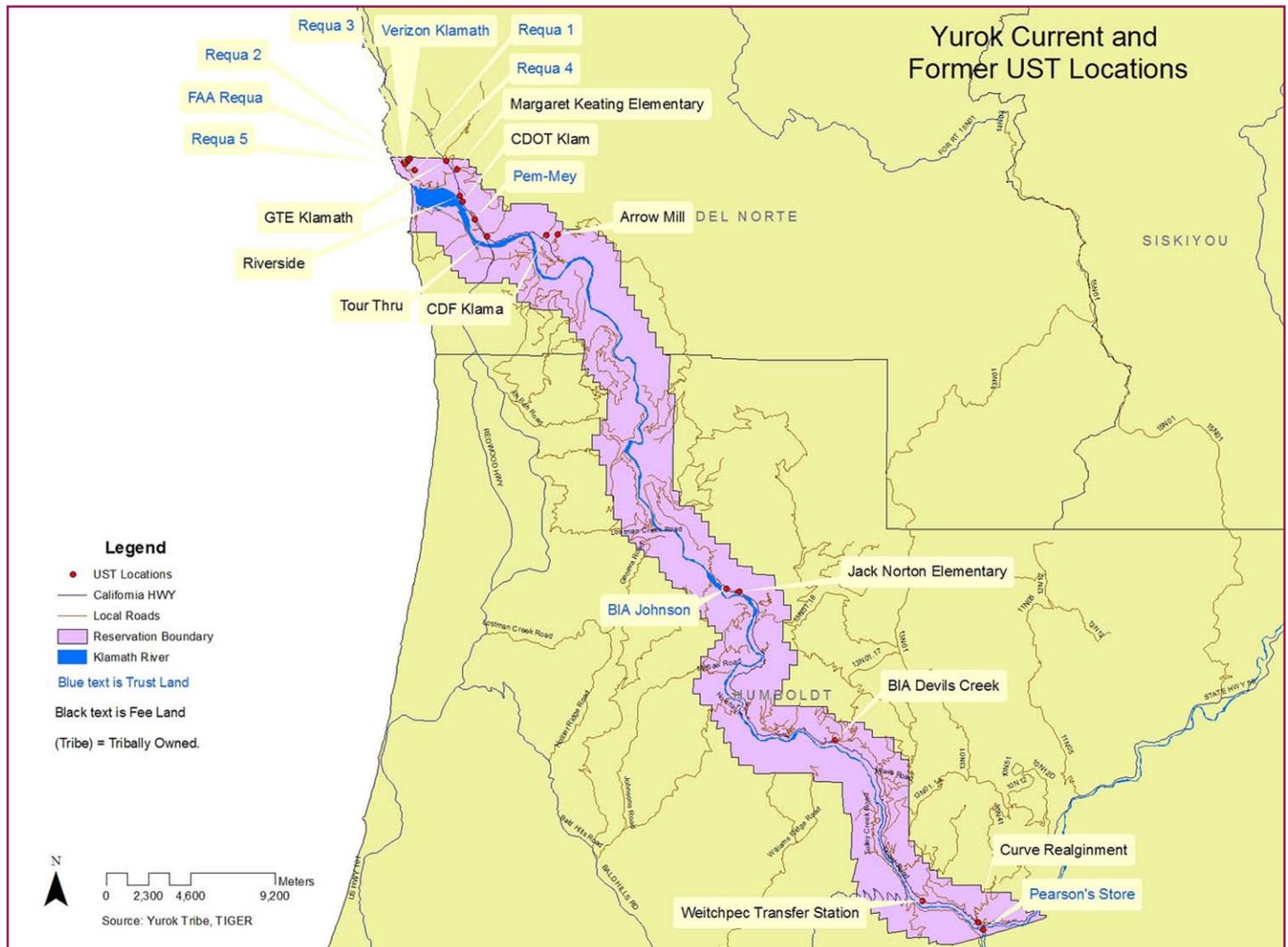
Pit River Tribe “pay-as-you-throw” trash collection program.

The **Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California** worked on a number of successful solid waste projects in 2007. These included the startup of a backyard composting program and the development of a draft solid waste code to more effectively control illegal dumping. The tribe also began purchasing paper that contains at least 30% post-consumer recycled content for all tribal offices.

Tribes Work with EPA to Close Underground Storage Tanks Leaking Fuel

In 2007, tribes and EPA inspected 96 underground storage tanks, issued 25 field citations, and conducted four UST inspector trainings with over 300 tribal participants. To date, 17 underground storage tanks have been cleaned up with federal funding on tribal land.

Along the Klamath River near California’s northern border, EPA has been working with the **Yurok Tribe** to review the tribe’s progress on completing a Leaking Underground Storage Tank site inventory. The tribe received a \$30,000 EPA grant to fund their work.



The **Tohono O'odham Nation's** Environmental Program Office and its Hicikiwan District have been working cooperatively with EPA to permanently close underground storage tanks at the Vaya Chin site. These tanks had been unused for several years. Under the district's leadership the tribe was able to get funding for the removal of these old tanks. The site may now be used for new economic development.



Tohono O'odham Nation, Hicikiwan District. Photographed left to right: Mary Keil, EPA R9; Fred Orosco, Tohono O'odham Nation, Tess Salire EPA R9.

The **Tohono O'odham Nation's** Sells District took responsibility for an abandoned gas station on Highway 86 in the middle of the town of Sells, and paid for the removal of underground tanks and subsequent cleanup.

Along the Lower Colorado River, where California borders Arizona, EPA has been working with the **Colorado River Indian Tribe** and contractors to remove and clean up leaking underground tanks at Telles Ranch, which is next to the river. According to a site assessment done in September 2007, leaking tanks have polluted both soil and groundwater. EPA is now evaluating cleanup alternatives.

Superfund Helps Tribes Remove Contamination from Former Mines

EPA's Superfund Division works closely with tribes to clean up tribal lands contaminated by mining and other activities. Several abandoned mines located on tribal lands are on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). Those sites are environmental threats due to acids and dissolved metals that have polluted

surface water and groundwater. Along with the mining cleanup projects, EPA provided more than \$3.2 million in grants to tribes in 2007 to investigate, clean up, and restore tribal lands to beneficial uses.

\$7.5 Million Project Cleans Up Mercury, Arsenic, Protects Cultural Resources

The 150-acre Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine, next to Clear Lake and the **Elem Indian Colony**, was once one of the state's largest producers of mercury. EPA put it on the NPL in 1990. In December 2006, EPA finished a \$7.5 million project at the Elem Colony to remove mine wastes contaminated with mercury and arsenic from beneath and around homes. EPA removed 28,000 cubic yards of mine wastes, installed five new modular homes, and refurbished and cleaned seven existing homes. EPA also replaced two trailers and rebuilt the paved roadway system with new curbs, storm drains, and sidewalks. Finally, EPA replaced the water supply system, and improved the sewers.



Elem Indian Colony, Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine cleanup.

EPA collaborated with the tribe to complete the cleanup while protecting cultural resources. Tribal members helped identify and preserve cultural artifacts in and around the cleanup area. Nearly one-third of the construction crew were tribal members. As part of the project, nine tribal members also received 40-hour Hazardous Materials training.

Biological Treatment System Cleans 5,000,000 Gallons of Acid a Year

The Leviathan Mine, an abandoned open-pit sulfur mine in Alpine County, California, has contaminated a nine-mile stretch of mountain creeks. Some of the polluted areas are stretches that run through Washoe

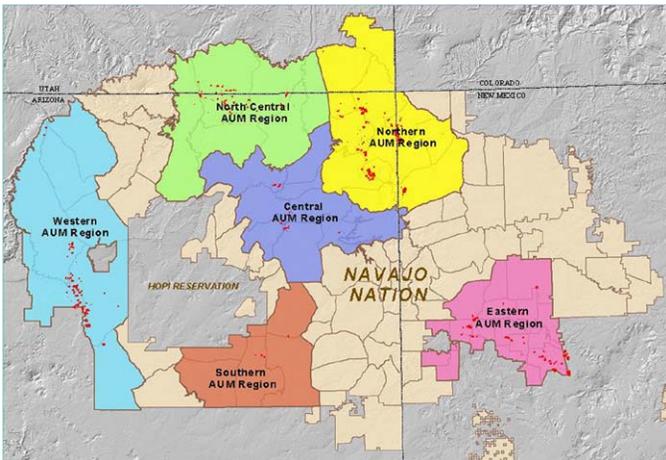
Tribal lands. The tribe is working to help protect traditional uses of area resources. The mine's lime treatment plant treated nearly six million gallons of acid mine drainage in 2007. A biological system operates all year and has treated more than five million gallons this year.



Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Leviathon Mine lime treatment plant.

Navajo Nation and EPA Investigate Cold War Era Uranium

In Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, mining and milling of uranium ore for nuclear weapons took place at hundreds of sites on the **Navajo Nation** during the Cold War. These activities dispersed radiation and heavy metals in soil and water, causing health concerns among Navajo residents. The Navajo Nation and EPA recently completed a \$13 million investigation of these abandoned sites. The work involved aerial surveying of 41 mining areas totaling about 1,440 square miles, water sampling at 226 locations, surveying 28 homes for radiation, and 34 radiation-screening surveys. Researchers merged data from



Navajo Nation GIS map uranium of contaminated sites.

the Navajo Nation EPA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of Energy, and the states of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico to identify more than 500 mine sites. The results are being shared with Navajo officials and communities, regulators, health agencies, universities and non-profits. The results will help Navajo Nation EPA and EPA prioritize response work. The study was also used to publicize the mine locations and to help the Navajo Nation identify and reduce radiation risks.

Tribes Revitalizing Contaminated Lands

In 2007, EPA provided grants to the **Navajo Nation**, **Gila River Indian Community**, **Tohono O'odham Nation** and **Yurok Tribe** to establish and enhance their Brownfields cleanup and response programs. The Navajo Nation used this funding to develop their own Superfund legislation that gives the tribe authority to conduct and oversee cleanups on Navajo land.

The **Wiyot Tribe**, located at the Table Bluff Reservation on California's North Coast, used an EPA Brownfields grant to clean up contaminated boat repair facilities at Indian Island in Humboldt Bay. The 1.5-acre shell mound site is also known as the tribe's Tuluwat Village, and will be restored as a sacred tribal gathering place and dance grounds.



Wiyot Tribe- Brownfields cleanup of contaminated ship repair facilities at Indian Island, Humboldt Bay, CA.

At the **Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community** near Phoenix, Arizona, EPA Brownfields assessment and cleanup grants are helping the tribe revitalize a 160-acre former cattle feedlot site that is contaminated with pesticides. Funds will be used to clean up biological waste and pesticides. The tribe plans to use the site for agricultural development that will provide jobs in the community.

Compliance and Stewardship

EPA and Tribes Foster Compliance and Good Stewardship

EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the regional offices selected Indian Country as a national priority and are working with tribes to boost compliance with federal environmental laws, and to build tribal capacity to enforce the laws.

EPA's national priority has three focus areas: drinking water, solid waste and schools.



Regional Tribal Operations Committee Quarterly Meeting.

Expanding Tribal Abilities to Enforce Environmental Laws

EPA aims to increase the number of tribal environmental staff trained to conduct enforcement and compliance assurance inspections. To do this, EPA funded five workshops through the Institute of Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University.



**CERTIFIED PESTICIDE
APPLICATOR**
in
NAVAJO NATION

Your
Picture
Goes Here

Federal Certification Plan

Three tribal inspectors received credentials: one under the Clean Water Act and two under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. EPA will continue to work with tribes to identify inspectors to be credentialed.

Ensuring Healthy Schools in Indian Country

Healthy schools are another top concern in Indian country. There are 89 BIA schools in EPA's Pacific Southwest Region, and EPA inspected 15 of them in 2007. EPA is working with BIA to address compliance problems identified by inspectors.



Owens Valley tribal youth environmental education camp.

Compliance and the Courts

EPA brought 30 enforcement actions, issuing penalties of more than \$2.8 million to companies operating on tribal lands. Facilities will spend almost \$1 million to fix environmental violations. In Southern California, a judge has ordered defendants to pay the government up to \$42.8 million – mostly cleanup costs for the Lawson Landfill on the **Torres Martinez Reservation**.

Reducing Impacts from Activities Outside the Reservation



Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation – dump site cleanup.

For 11 years, EPA, tribes, state and local agencies have worked to reduce off-reservation impacts to tribal lands. They have succeeded in trimming effects of nearby abandoned mines, construction sites, and electric power plants. In 2007, EPA asked tribes about similar sites and activities of concern. EPA plans to work with state and local agencies to ensure that these facilities and activities meet federal standards.

EPA also helped tribes improve solid waste programs and create solid waste management plans with enforcement codes.



La Jolla Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the La Jolla Reservation – Environmental education class.



Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community of the Bishop Colony – World Water Day Cleanup.

In September 2007, EPA launched an Internet-based Compliance Assistance Center (at www.assistancecenters.net/).



It offers information on:

- The federal environmental laws that apply in Indian country
- How to comply with federal environmental laws
- Ways to build tribal environmental enforcement and compliance programs

Staff contacted 325 water systems – all the known public water supply systems in Indian country within Region 9, including 65 BIA schools. The systems shared information on drinking water, pesticides, asbestos, and laboratory chemical storage and disposal.



Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community of the Bishop Colony – World Water Day Cleanup.



Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community of the Bishop Colony – Indigenous World Water Day Hot Ditch Cleanup.

Healthy Tribal Communities

Ecosystems frequently cross borders. Likewise, communities often depend on others outside their borders to help them meet basic health standards. In 2007, EPA worked with several communities, tribes, and Mexico, to improve environmental health.

Collaborative Effort Provides Training to Baja Tribes

With a grant from EPA's Border 2012 program, the **Pala Band of Mission Indians** conducted an operation and maintenance training program for tribes in Baja California. U.S.-based tribes, local Mexican water agencies, and volunteers worked together on this effort. They held classes, and provided hands-on field training and tours of tribal water utilities in the United States. As a result, the Baja tribes are gaining the capacity to operate and maintain their own water systems.



Water Operator taking a chlorine residual sample for the Santa Ysabel band of Diegueno Indians.

Grants Totaling \$1 Million Bring Safe Water to U.S. Border Tribes

EPA provided an additional \$1 million to the Tribal Border Infrastructure program for water projects. Since its inception in 1996, the program has funded 42 projects for 16 tribes, providing safe drinking water or basic sanitation for 8,114 homes. Among the latest to benefit are the **Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Indians**. They have a new drinking water treatment plant which removes iron and manganese, and EPA's Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside program is funding a new drinking water well. Soon residents will be able

to drink safe tap water for the first time. EPA's Tribal Border Infrastructure funds allowed the Campo Kumeyaay Nation and Indian Health Service to replace a badly corroded drinking water storage tank.



A new tank will replace Campo Kumeyaay Nation's drinking water storage tank.

Tribes and EPA Work to Restore Ecology of Lower Colorado River

Border area tribes are also leading efforts to restore the Lower Colorado River Delta region. For centuries, the **Quechan** and **Cocopah Indian Tribes** have lived in this region. It was one of the largest tidal wetlands in the world. However, over the past century, upstream dams altered the river's natural flow. Invasive salt cedar pushed out native mesquite, cottonwood, and willow. Today, flows from this once-great river have dwindled to a trickle in the delta.



Quechan Indian Tribe's Colorado River riparian corridor restoration.

Upstream, the **Quechan Indian Tribe**, the City of Yuma, and the Yuma Crossing Heritage Area are carrying out a multi-phased project to restore 1,418 acres of the Colorado River's riparian corridor. Nearly half of the restoration area is on the Quechan Reservation. The abundance of birds in the corridor

doubled after restoring just the first 200 acres. People have spotted the White Faced Ibis and many North American migratory songbirds for the first time in decades.



Cocopah Indian Tribe wetland restoration.

Downstream from the Quechan Reservation, 12 of the 23 river miles in the delta region are on the Cocopah Indian Tribe's land. Ten miles are on U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. This creates an enormous potential for restoration. With funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs and BLM, the Cocopah Tribe restored 200 acres of riparian habitat. They removed invasive salt cedar and restored the native cottonwood, willow, and mesquite. The **Cocopah Tribe** is also restoring another 150 acres with funds from the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Waste from Undocumented Immigrants



Tohono O'odham Nation, removing abandoned vehicle from Vamori Wash.

Each day undocumented immigrants leave large amounts of garbage, or solid waste, on reservations along the U.S.-Mexico border. With Border 2012 funding, the **Tohono O'odham Nation** removed vehicles and waste from the remote Vamori Wash, a usually dry creek bed that winds from Mexico to the Tohono O'odham Nation and back to Mexico. The Nation identified and geopositioned more than 220 abandoned vehicles and was able to remove 109 remote vehicles for recycling. In addition, the Nation removed 1,231 bags of abandoned trash and recovered 235 bicycles for refurbishment at an 'at risk youth' organization.

Emergency Response

This year, the Border 2012 program is supporting the Tohono O'odham Nation's effort to create the first tri-national Sister City emergency response plan. The plan will include the city of Sonoyta, Mexico, and Pima and Pinal counties in Arizona.



First tri-national Sister City emergency response plan. Photographed: Members of Tohono O'odham Nation and residents from cities of Sonoyta, Mexico, and Pima and Pinal counties in Arizona.

Pesticide Programs Protect Agricultural Lands, People

EPA's Region 9 Pesticides Office works closely with tribes to protect over 20,000,000 acres of tribal agricultural lands and 220,000 tribal members living near those areas. Its tools are regulatory and volunteer programs.

Inspections, Enforcement Increase Compliance with Rules on Pesticide Use

The Colorado River Indian Community's Environmental Protection Office monitored pesticide applications throughout the community, including schools,

hospitals, waters, and other sensitive areas. In 2007, the community's Pesticide Program increased its oversight and issued notices of violations, resulting in increased compliance and better protection of the community and workers from pesticide exposure.



Pesticide Inspectors from Colorado River Indian Tribes conducted an inspection of this pesticide application.

EPA and Tribes Look into Possible Misuse of Pesticides Affecting Fish

Members of the **Resighini Rancheria** in California alerted EPA to a misapplication of pesticides. The applicator allegedly applied three pesticides in April 2007 near riparian areas known to support cut-throat and steelhead trout, and Coho salmon.



Site of a pesticide application at Resighini Rancheria.

With the support of tribal representatives from the **Rancheria** and the **Yurok Tribe**, EPA pesticide inspectors investigated the incident.

Navajo Nation Inspections Lead to Enforcement

Based on inspections conducted by the **Navajo Nation** EPA (NNEPA) Pesticide Program, U.S. EPA initiated an enforcement action against a commercial pesticide applicator for failing to ensure that employees wore protective gear when applying pesticides. In 2007, NNEPA also conducted several outreach events to inform pesticide applicators about



Navajo Nation Pesticide Inspectors found that pesticide applicators did not wear the personal protective equipment required by this product label.

their responsibilities under a new U.S. EPA-approved Federal Plan requiring certification and training for applicators that use Restricted Use Pesticides. As of the end of 2007, six applicators submitted certification requests.

Ordinances Will Reduce Exposure to Pesticides The Shoshone Paiute Tribe of the Duck Valley Reservation in northern Nevada and the Ak-Chin Indian Community in southwestern Arizona developed new pesticide ordinances.

These ordinances will help protect workers, community residents, and the environment from pesticide exposure.

Tribes and EPA Educate, Inform Public on Environment



Sea lions at Cher-ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria – Trinidad Harbor.

Trinidad Rancheria on California's North Coast became a charter steward of the BLM-managed California Coastal National Monument through a 2005 agreement with BLM. Last year, the Rancheria cooperated with BLM in a number of education activities at the monument. For example, the Rancheria helped design an information kiosk for placement at Trinidad Harbor. Tribal youth presented information about the monument's importance at Trinidad School's annual oceans festival.

Youth Learn How to Monitor Surface Water
The **Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians** is one of the tribes successfully implementing water pollution control programs. Among other environmental education and outreach activities, they hosted an Environmental Camp that showed tribal youth how to conduct surface water monitoring on the reservation.



Elko Band of Te-Moak Indians Earth Day Celebration.



Owens Valley tribal youth celebrate Earth Day.

In Eastern Nevada, the **Elko Band of Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians** celebrated Earth Day with an educational program for young children in the tribe's Head Start class.



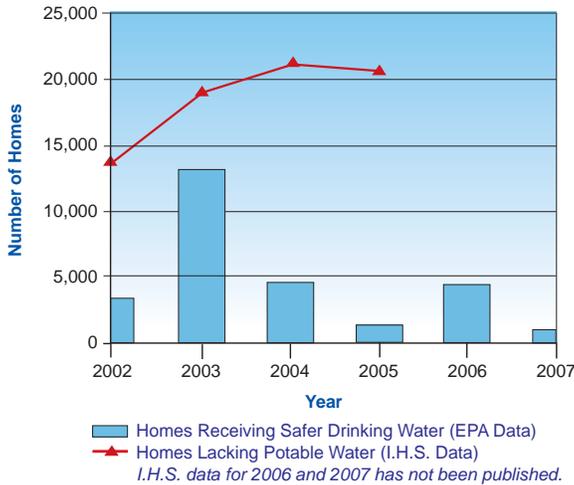
Baja Tribal Festival Dancers, Ensenada, Mexico.



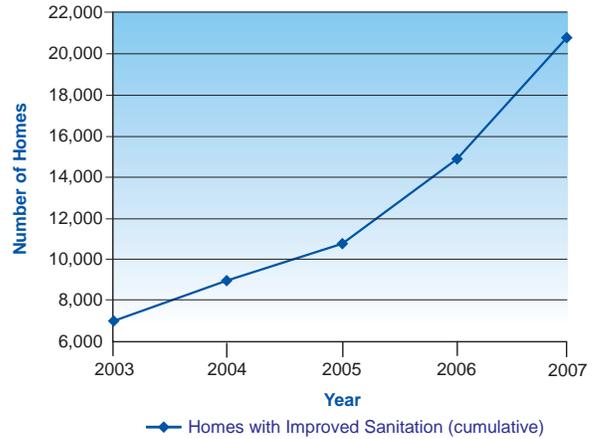
Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians Environmental Camp. Youth learning how to conduct surface water monitoring on the reservation.

EPA Pacific Southwest Region Tribal 5-Year Trends

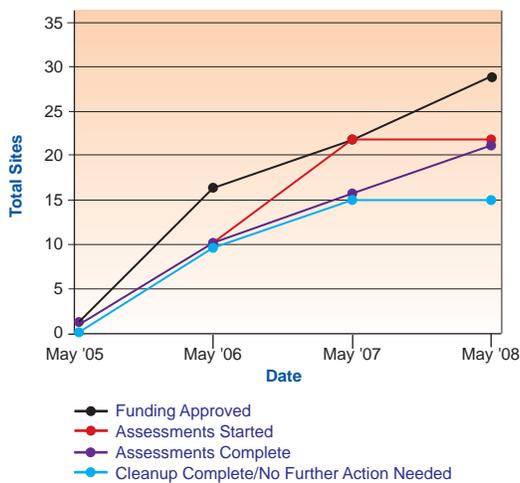
**Homes Receiving Safer Drinking Water on Tribal Lands versus Homes Lacking Potable Water
EPA Region 9, 2002-2007**



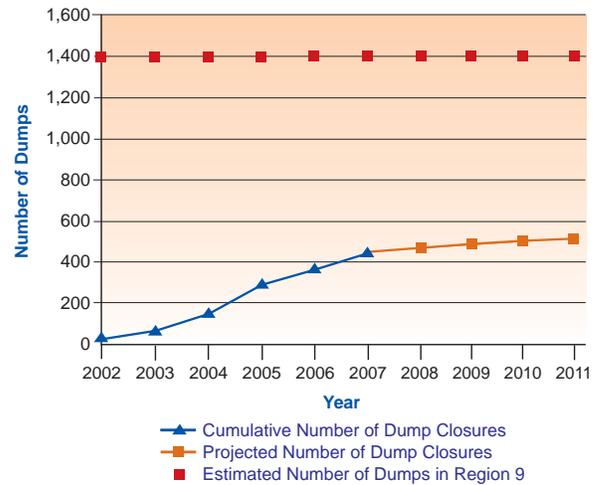
**Homes with Improved Sanitation on Tribal Lands
EPA Region 9, 2003-2007**



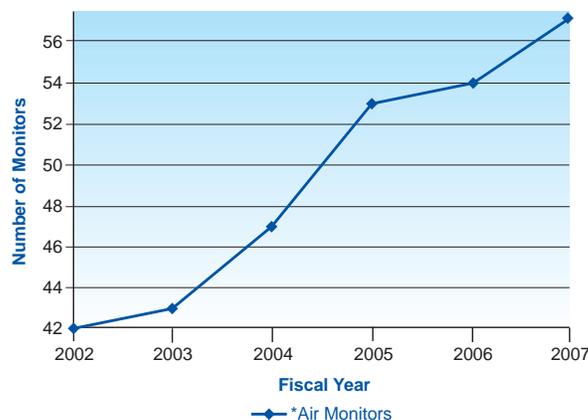
**Cumulative Number of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites in Federally-funded Cleanup Process
EPA Region 9, 2002-2007**



**Dump Closures on Tribal Lands
EPA Region 9, 2002-2007**



**Number of Air Monitors Used by Tribes
EPA Region 9, 2002-2007**



Region 9 Tribal Program Office

GAP Project Officers	Project Officer	Phone
Northern California		
Big Lagoon, Cedarville Rancheria, Cortina, Elk Valley, Fort Bidwell, Pit River, Quartz Valley, Redding, Resighini, Trinidad, Smith River, Blue Lake (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes), Hoopa (PPG/WTR-Loretta Vanegas), Yurok (PPG/WTR-Loretta Vanegas), Karuk (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes), Bear River (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes), Susanville (PPG/CED), Wiyot (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes), Alturas Rancheria	Tim Wilhite (Place – based in Yreka)	530-841-4577 Fax Number: 530-841-4571
Southern California		
Chemehuevi, Cocopah, CRIT, Fort Mojave, La Jolla, Los Coyotes, Pala (PPG/CED), Pauma, Pechanga, NAEPC, Quechan, Rincon, San Pasqual (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes), Viejas	Hillary Hecht	415-972-3790
Southern California		
Agua Caliente (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles), Augustine (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles), Cabazon (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles), Campo, Cuyapaipe, Jamul, LaPosta, Mesa Grande, Santa Ysabel, Sycuan, Torres Martinez, Twenty Nine Palms (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles)	Willard Chin	415-972-3797
Southern California		
GAP Grants: Cahuilla, Capitan Grande, Inaja-Cosmit, Ramona, San Manuel (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles), Santa Rosa Reservation, Santa Ynez, Soboba (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes)	Tina Williams	415-972-3784
Southern California		
GAP Grants: Barona, Manzanita, Morongo (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles)	Morena Villanueva (Part-time)	415-947-4239
Central California		
Auburn, Berry Creek, Big Sandy, Buena Vista, CA Valley Miwok (Sheep Ranch), Cachil Dehe Band (Colusa), Chicken Ranch, Cold Springs, Enterprise, Greenville, Grindstone, Ione, ITCC, Jackson, Lower Lake, Mechoopda (Chico), Middletown, Mooretown, North Fork, Paskenta, Picayune, Round Valley (Covelo), Rumsey, Santa Rosa Rancheria, Scotts Valley, Shingle Springs, Table Mountain, Tule River, Tuolumne, Coyote Valley (PPG/WTR-Janis Gomes)	Gilbert Pasqua	415-972-3788
Mendocino-Sonoma Area		
Big Valley, Elem, Guidiville, Hopland, Lytton, Pinoleville, Potter Valley, Robinson, Upper Lake/Habermaatolel, Dry Creek (PPG/WTR-Jared Vollmer), Stewarts Point/Kashia Band (PPG/WTR-Danielle Angeles)	Veronica Swann	415-972-3699
California - Owens Valley and Eastern Nevada		
Benton/UtuUtu Gwaitu, Big Pine, Bishop, Bridgeport, Duckwater, Ely, Fort Independence, Goshute, Graton, Lone Pine, OVIWC, Timbisha	Erica Yelensky	415-972-3021
Arizona		
Cahto (Laytonville), Cloverdale, Hopi, Manchester/Pt. Arena, Navajo, Pascua Yaqui, Redwood Valley, Sherwood Valley, San Juan So. Paiute, Tohono O'odham	Pam Overman	415-972-3781
Arizona & Las Vegas		
Ak-Chin, Fort McDowell, Gila River, Havasupai, Hualapai (PPG/WTR-Wendell Smith), ITCA, Kaibab, Las Vegas, Moapa, , Salt River(PPG/CED-Tim Grant), San Carlos, Tonto Apache, White Mountain, Yavapai Apache, Yavapai Prescott	Tim Grant	415-972-3783
Nevada		
Battle Mountain, Duck Valley, Elko, Fallon, Fort McDermitt, ITCN, Lovelock, Pyramid Lake, Reno Sparks, South Fork, Summit Lake, Te-Moak, Walker River, Washoe, Wells, Winnemucca, Yerington, Yomba	Greg Phillips (Place – based in Carson City)	775-885-6085 Fax Number: 775-885-6147
Manager, Tribal Program Office:	Jean Gamache	415-972-3554
Office Manager, Tribal Program Office:	Kimberli Smith	415-972-3778
Tribal Liaison, Tribal Program Office:	Lilia Dignan	415-972-3779
Tribal Liaison, Tribal Program Office:	Maria Castain	415-972-3264
Tribal Program Office Fax Number:		415-947-3562

EPA Pacific Southwest/Region 9

Office of the Regional Administrator

Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator
Laura Yoshii, Deputy RA
Bridget Coyle, Civil Rights Office
Lynn Kuo, Chief of Staff

Office of Planning & Public Affairs

Kate Nooney, Compliance Assurance Team
415 947-4266/415 947-3519
Nooney.Kate@epa.gov

Office of Regional Counsel

Danita Yocom, ORC, Immediate Office
415 972-3885/415 947-3571
Yocom.Danita@epa.gov

Legal Counsel

Civil and Criminal Enforcement

Air Division

Colleen McKaughan, Associate Director
520 498-0118/520 498-1333
McKaughan.Colleen@epa.gov
Stephanie Valentine, Manager
Grants & Program Integration Office
415 972-3014/415 947-3579
Valentine.Stephanie@epa.gov
Sara Bartholomew
Grants & Program Integration Office
415 947-4100/415 947-3579
Bartholomew.Sara@epa.gov

Planning Permits, Rulemaking
Enforcement, Technical Support
Radiation & Compliance Assurance
Grants & Program Integration

Superfund Division

Debbie Schechter, Section Chief
Brownfields & Site Assessment Section
415 972-3093/415 947-3520
Schechter.Debbie@epa.gov
Matthew Jefferson, Environmental Engineer
415 972-3272/415 947-3528
Jefferson.Matthew@epa.gov

Site Cleanup, Brownfields, Oil Pollution
Federal Facilities and Base Closures
Emergency Response & Planning
Community Involvement, Site Assessment

Waste Management Division

Heather White, Supervisor, Tribal Solid Waste Team
415 972-3384/415 947-3530
White.Heather@epa.gov
Nancy Sockabasin, EE, Tribal Solid Waste Team
415-972-3772/415 947-3530
Sockabasin.Nancy@epa.gov

Pollution Prevention, Solid Waste

Permits/Corrective Action
Inspections & Enforcement
State Program Development
Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

Water Division

Kristin Gullatt, Manager, Tribal Office
415-972-3432/415 947-3537
Gullatt.Kristin@epa.gov
Linda Reeves, EPS, Drinking Water Office
415 972-3445/415 974-3537
Reeves.Linda@epa.gov

Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act,
Marine Sanctuaries Act

Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enrique Manzanilla, Director
415 972-3311/415 947-8026
Manzanilla.Enrique@epa.gov
Jean Gamache, Manager, Tribal Program Office
415 972-3554/415 947-3562
Gamache.Jean@epa.gov
Tina Davis, Tribal Program Office
415 972-3784/415 947-3562
Williams.Tina@epa.gov
Timothy Grant, Regional Indian Program Steering
Committee Coordinator
415 972-3783/415 947-3562
Grant.Timothy@epa.gov
Lilia Dignan, Regional Tribal Operations Committee
Coordinator
415 972-3779/415 947-3562
Dignan.Lilia@epa.gov
Erica Yelensky, Accomplishments Report Coordinator
415 972-3021/415 947-3562
yelensky.eric.a@epa.gov

Agriculture Program, Environmental Justice
Pesticides, Toxics, Toxics Release Inventory
Environmental Review/NEPA
Tribal Program
U.S.-Mexico Border Program
Stewardship/Performance Track

Management and Technical Services Division

Eugenia McNaughton, Quality Assurance Office
415 972-3411/415 947-3564
McNaughton.Eugenia@epa.gov
Susan Chiu, Grant Management Specialist
415-972-3674/415 947-3556
Chiu.Susan@epa.gov

Budget, Finance/Grants/Contracts
Strategic Planning, Science Policy
Laboratory & QA/QC, Facilities
Information Resource Management

Southern California Field Office (Los Angeles)

213.244.1800

San Diego Border Office (San Diego)

619.235.4765

Environmental Information Center

Web: www.epa.gov/region09
Email: r9.info@epa.gov
Phones: 866.EPA.WEST (toll-free)
415.947.8000



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