

# Evaluating Bioassessment Needs in Indian Country

## Conference Call

*June 28, 2012 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM*

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### Purpose

1. To determine R9 Tribes' priorities in bioassessment sampling.
  2. To explore feasibility of a certified tribal laboratory for macroinvertebrate sampling and how EPA may assist in this endeavor.
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### Attendees

Christopher Chen EPA R9 Water Division Tribal Office	Eugenia McNaughton EPA R9 Quality Assurance Office
Robert K. Hall EPA R9 Standards and TMDL Office	David Taylor EPA R9 Quality Assurance Office
Tiffany Eastman EPA R9 Water Division Tribal Office	Alex Cabillo Hualapai Tribe
Lonnie Rodriguez Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Bill Patterson Yurok Tribe
Stephanie Suess Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	Tara Hess Washoe Tribe of CA and NV
Micah Gibson Yurok Tribe	

## Call Notes

- EPA wetlands development grant is a useful source of funds for macroinvertebrate sampling and bioassessments
  - o Funding is inconsistent though due to competitive aspect, leading to work stoppage and gaps in data
- Macroinvertebrate sampling requires strong regional/local knowledge of the area due to differing waterbody types and ecology
  - o This makes it more difficult for an agency such as EPA to provide the specialized assistance required
  - o Universities may be able to provide help
  - o Certain federal agencies could possibly provide some help as well
    - Tuolumne – working with US Forest Service
  - o Also consider non-profits, state agencies
- California's primary state contact for macroinvertebrate sampling is Jim Harrington of CA Department of Fish and Game
  - o [jharrington@ospr.dfg.ca.gov](mailto:jharrington@ospr.dfg.ca.gov) or 916-358-2862
- Arizona's state contact is Patti Spindler of ADEQ
  - o [psh@azdeq.gov](mailto:psh@azdeq.gov) or 602-771-4543
- Local partnerships seems to be the most effective
  - o Ex) Stream Team in Southern CA is a partnership of local tribes
    - Shared cost and expertise
    - Local organization (NAEPC) has helped organize trainings
- Supporting a tribally-run bioassessment laboratory is not a high priority
  - o CWA 106 funding is limited as is, and reluctant to try and take any funds away from that program
  - o Much knowledge is needed in order to successfully implement a certified laboratory. Would take too much funding to support this endeavor at this time.
- Yurok Tribe is amenable to training tribes if they are willing/able to make the trip to their reservation
- Follow Up
  - o A training at Annual Conference
    - Wetland macroinvertebrate sampling was mentioned as a potential topic
    - Stream Team possibly can give a presentation to demonstrate how they organized
    - Potential future training topic: Writing QAPPs for macroinvertebrate sampling
  - o Formation of a Bioassessment Workgroup
    - Meet semi-annually or annually, up to workgroup (can decide next call)
    - To share ideas, different experiences, sources of assistance or funding, possibly coordinate trainings