

ACTION ITEMS
REGIONAL TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

	REQUESTED BY	TASK	WHO	WHEN	STATUS
General					
1	Eastern California	Federal Interagency Group Potential Projects: How can Tribes get more engaged?			EPA has been welcoming senior leadership from the FRC to RTOC meetings in 2014, and we will continue to do so in 2015 as FRC members' schedules allow. The FRC itself is made up of senior leaders from federal agencies collocated in the western region, and exists to improve communication among those agencies on a variety of topics. The FRC does have a tribal workgroup, made up of staff representatives of the member agencies. EPA is not the lead for the FRC Tribal Workgroup, but is providing leadership in development of a 2-year strategic plan for that group. As that plan is developed, we will provide further updates to the RTOC, and will continue to seek opportunities to engage RTOC leadership with FRC leadership as possible! (Laura Ebbert)
4	Central California	Request for 2014 RTOC Reps Retreat minutes/agenda			This was posted in early 2014 on the RTOC website; we can re-send the link to central CA reps if needed.
5		Request for EPA to organize webinar on New GAP work plan to discuss such items as capacity building, indicators, outcomes, ETEP among others (All).			EPA presented seven sessions on these topics at the Annual Conference in October. We would be happy to re-deliver that content via webinar for those who were unable to attend. We will send out an invitation for grantees to sign up for those webinar modules.

6		Request for presentation on Grants and Management Office at Spring RTOC – Getting an updates such as new OMB circular 87, 133, etc.			Done! Sara Russell was here this morning! Please send any additional questions you might have to Mariela Lopez so she can pass those along.
7		Request for presentation on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) by APHIS (Sarah Ryan).			EPA is reaching out to USDA, with this request (APHIS is part of USDA). (Pam Cooper will respond)
8		Share RTOC Manual binder/Handbook and solicit comment from caucus (Nina Hapner).			Done!
9		What is happening to the data we collect using 106 funds? Tribal water quality data has possibly never been used by the State of California in the 303d listings (evaluations of waterbodies for impairment and the establishment of TMDLs). Currently, the state says there is a communication problem between CEDEN (the state database) and WQX. In addition, the CEDEN database incorporates a very small percentage of what is actually being monitored in water bodies i.e., it does not incorporate raw water data from surface drinking water data from water purveyors, it does not incorporate any Tribal data, it does not incorporate any stormwater monitoring data from any parties. How is this compliant with the Clean Water Act and what can be done to change this situation?			Gail Louis will respond.
10		“Request for a Revised Total Coliform Rule break-out session to allow time for EPA Drinking Water update on implementation of new rule requirements (Level 1 and 2 System Assessments and correction actions) and to prepare for what could be provided to Tribes at the upcoming May 2015 Drinking Water Conference.”			
11	Southern Ca.	All EPA grants must be submitted via grants.gov starting February 16th. The issue was brought up as to if all Tribes are aware			We encourage tribes to NOT wait until the day – or even the week – of a grant’s due date to make sure you have

		of this and are they ready?			everything you need to access grants.gov. Please see the checklist posted at EPA Region 9's grants webpage or contact the grants.gov helpline for assistance. (Sara Russell can assist)
12		Funding for drought and drought mitigation projects by the EPA?			EPA continues to make capacity building activities associated with drought mitigation assistance available through GAP, and this was a focused part of our FY15 notification document. Drought mitigation implementation activities were a focus of the FY15 SDWA solicitation, as well. More information about the type of project the requestor is interested in will be helpful; Several other federal agencies are also providing funds for short and long term mitigation activities. (Laura Ebbert and Gail Louis can assist)
13		Vacation pay on grants, is there a way to write vacation pay into a grants fringe benefits? If an employee hasn't taken a vacation during the fiscal year of a grant, can the vacation funds be drawn down and used at another time?			Benefits, including leave, are a component of a tribe's personnel policies; some tribes may allow employees to carry unused leave from one year to the next. For more information about personnel policies and questions about compliant approaches to leave, please contact your Grants Specialist. (Sara Russell can assist)
14	Eastern CA	They are in non attainment rightnow. Main goal is protecting cultural resources. EPA comes in and say will they have to be in compliance now with the standard of PM10?			Stephanie Valentine will respond.
15	Ronnie Ben	Website is not consistent when looking at notice of intent for contractors. Couple of years ago he asked EPA to provide clarity.			Further assistance on EPA contracting can be referred to Alex Kramer, our Contracting Officer. We will have Alex reach out to Ronnie to clarify the

					question and respond.
16	Emily Luscombe	Is there a pot of money that small land based tribes can go to with CWA 106 water issues?			Gail Louis will respond.

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