

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MARTA FOR THE TRIBAL CAUCUS**

### **CONSULTATION**

The RTOC Consultation Workgroup is currently working on drafting a Region 9 Implementation document for EPA's new national consultation policy. On the Workgroup's last 2 calls, the only Tribal representation was the Tribal Co-Lead of the workgroup, Jackie & Marta. **WE NEED MORE PARTICIPATION TO ENSURE THE REGIONAL DOCUMENT BEST SERVES THE TRIBE'S NEEDS AND INTERESTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION POLICY.** Some of the issues we need input on include:

- How should R9 implement early and meaningful consultation for those actions that have a short deadline (such as court ordered actions)?
- How should R9 use consultation policies or procedures that have been developed by R9 tribes (for instance, those that designate a consultation officer or a specific procedure for consulting with federal agencies)?
- What's the best way to ensure the "follow-up" phase is implemented to the satisfaction of R9 tribes?

We will discuss a schedule for future Consultation Workgroup activities on Thursday at the full RTOC meeting, and hope we can encourage more participation from tribal representatives.

### **DRINKING WATER / WASTEWATER**

The National Infrastructure Task Force has created an O&M Workgroup Group to begin developing methodology to do a study regarding O&M costs and needs in Indian Country. The study will ultimately assist in advocating for funding as well as addressing technical assistance needs (such as circuit riders). We will be discussing details on the next RTOC Drinking Water/Wastewater Workgroup conference call in late May or June. If you are interested in participating, please advise Marta, Tom Keegan or Linda Reeves so we can be sure you get the information about the call.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

We are having an interactive breakout session on the RTOC Strategic Plan tomorrow (Wednesday) from 1:30 to 3 pm. The plan will guide the future work as well as operation of the RTOC. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO MAKE SURE THE PLAN REFLECTS HOW YOU WANT THE RTOC TO FUNCTION IN THE FUTURE,** so please come to the session and share your ideas with us!