

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

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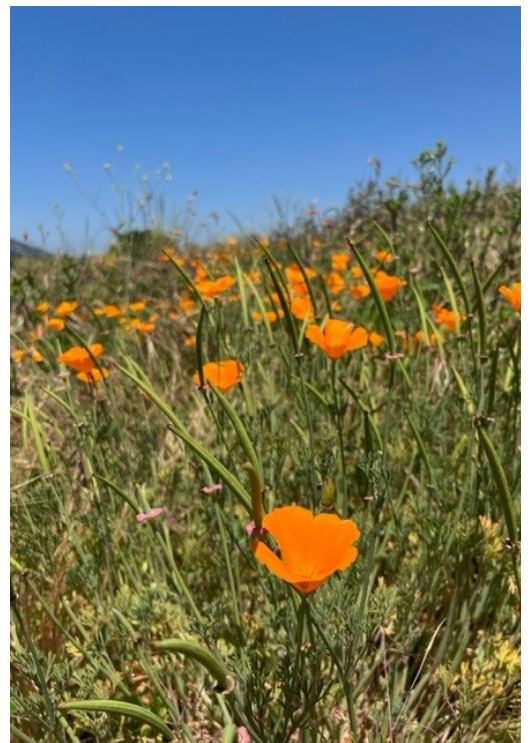
Musings from U.S. EPA Staff

Dear Tribal Partners in Region 9,

It was wonderful to see many of you in person at the Spring Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting in San Francisco. I am truly honored to have this opportunity to share an update from Region 9's Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division. I've had the great privilege of working in many U.S. Environmental Protection Agency programs over the years, and in my time as deputy and acting director of the Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division, I've come to deeply appreciate the big environmental impacts that EPA grant programs can have in communities on the ground. From Brownfield

redevelopments and pollution prevention projects to pesticide and underground storage tank program implementation, I'm amazed by how much is being accomplished!

In the past year, we've been fortunate to receive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law resources that expand highly successful programs like Brownfields and create new ones like Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling and Recycling Education and Outreach. These programs invest in assessments and cleanup of Brownfields properties, waste reduction, recycling, composting, and sustainable materials management. The need for these resources is great, and the EPA received strong interest and applications for funding from tribes in Region 9 and across the country. The EPA recently announced the FY23 Brownfields grant recipients, and we expect solid waste grant announcements soon. We anticipate more Brownfields opportunities in the fall and hope that EPA will offer similar solid waste and recycling opportunities again in the future. Information on these and other specific EPA grant programs and assistance can be found on the EPA's grant programs website. The EPA and Region 9 have also been focusing resources on assessing and remediating leaking underground storage tank sites on tribal lands. The EPA's Underground Storage Tank Finder web map contains comprehensive underground storage tank and leaking underground storage tank data from across the country and will help in disaster response planning and in developing geographically specific climate adaptation strategies.



Golden poppies on the Pechanga reservation.

The Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division team is eager to get new grants, as well as existing program resources, out the door and into communities as quickly as possible. We expect a very busy summer! We're looking forward to connecting with colleagues at the National Brownfields Training Conference (more information under "Brownfields 2023" in the Training and Technical Assistance section below) in August and seeing everyone at the annual Tribal/EPA Region 9 Conference in October.

Sincerely,

Claire Trombadore, Acting Director
Land, Chemicals, and Redevelopment Division
U.S. EPA Region 9
trombadore.claire@epa.gov

[Grantees Selected for FY23 Funding | U.S. EPA Brownfields Grant Programs and Other Funding Opportunities | U.S. EPA Office of Grants and Debarment Underground Storage Tank \(UST\) Finder | U.S. EPA](#)

Program Updates



TRIBAL CHILDREN'S HEALTH SYMPOSIUM
Environmental Health & Lead Poisoning Prevention

SAVE THE DATE 

SEPTEMBER 19 - 20, 2023

Isleta Resort & Casino
11000 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87105

U.S. EPA | Tribal Children's Health Symposium: Environmental Health & Lead Poisoning Prevention
Save the date for the Tribal Children's Health Symposium: Environmental Health & Lead Poisoning Prevention hosted by the EPA at the Isleta Resort & Casino from September 19 to 20, 2023. Limited travel scholarships to cover airfare and hotel will be available. Online registration will be coming soon.

For more information, contact Margaret Chavez at mchavez@enipc.org or (505) 692-8774.

U.S. EPA | Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program
The EPA has selected 17 Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (EJ TCTACs)

in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy that will receive \$177 million to help underserved and overburdened communities nationwide. Each technical assistance center will receive at least \$10 million to remove barriers and improve accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns. With this critical investment, these centers will provide training and other assistance to build capacity for navigating federal grant application systems, writing strong grant proposals, and effectively managing grant funding. In addition, these centers will guide community engagement, meeting facilitation, and translation and interpretation services for limited English-speaking participants, thus removing barriers and improving accessibility for communities with environmental justice concerns. Technical assistance centers will also create and manage communication channels to ensure all communities have direct access to resources and information.

We anticipate services to be available to tribes in Region 9 this fall.

AWARDEE	PARTNER LIST
<p style="text-align: center;">University of Arizona</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonoran Environmental Research Institute (Arizona, nonprofit) • Public Health Institute (California, nonprofit) • University of Southern California (academic) • Larson Institute for Health Impact and Equity (Nevada, academic) • Hawaii Public Health Institute (nonprofit)
<p style="text-align: center;">San Diego State University</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDSU Community Climate Action Network (academic) • Environmental Protection Network (industry) • Center for Creative Land Recycling (nonprofit) • University of San Diego’s Energy Policy Initiatives Center (academic) • Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (tribal) • Desert Research Institute (nonprofit) • Climate Science Alliance (nonprofit education) • Pacific RISA (research) • University of Guam’s Center of Island Sustainability (academic) • Public Health Alliance (nonprofit) • Arizona State University (academic)
<p style="text-align: center;">International City/County Management Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (academic, tribal) • National League of Cities (elected officials, local government) • National Forum for Black Public Administrators (local government) • Urban Sustainability Directors Network (local government, community organizations)
<p style="text-align: center;">Institute for Sustainable Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atma Connect, a nonprofit technology organization • American Society for Adaptation Professionals, a nonprofit association
<p style="text-align: center;">National Indian Health Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 574 federally recognized tribes. The board works closely with each of the 11 American Indian health boards across the country, tribal epidemiology centers, and tribal governments.

U.S. EPA | *New and Updated Grants Resources*

The EPA Region 9 Grants Handbook has been updated. It addresses the needs of grant applicants and recipients, including key topics related to applying for, managing, and closing out an EPA grant. It is intended to complement the EPA Grants Management Training and help establish a solid foundation for understanding the EPA’s grant requirements.

The new How to Fast-Track Your Grant Application Package document provides a checklist for an efficient application process.

[Supplemental Regional Information | U.S. EPA Region 9 Grants Information](#)

Tribal Success Stories

La Posta Band of Mission Indians: Air Program

My name is Heidy Estrada, and I am an environmental technician for the La Posta Band of Mission Indians focusing mainly on air quality. The La Posta Indian Reservation is in a rural area in the southeastern part of San Diego County. The reservation lies north of Interstate 8, about 44 miles east of San Diego, 10 miles west of the Imperial County line, and 9 miles north of the Mexican border and ranges in elevation from about 3,440 to 4,534 feet.



Close up of the thermos science 49i O3 filter pack.

The La Posta Indian Reservation is not affected by major emission air pollution sources, but the reservation is situated in a high-fire risk area and is often affected by fires in the surrounding areas and across the border in Mexico.



Environmental technician, Heidy Estrada, changing the filter on the thermos science 49i O3 that captures data to be used in CASTNET.



Close up of the AMoN instrument.

The air program uses a BAM 1020 and a Teledyne T400 Ozone Machine. Our most current project is working with CASTNET, which has been very exciting for us as it provides a regulatory ozone monitor. CASTNET is currently a 100-site network, with 31 of them in national parks. La Posta will be the 8th tribal CASTNET site and the first tribal site in EPA Region 9.

With CASTNET, we can now monitor Air quality monitoring towers. ambient, sulfate, nitrogen, chloride, ozone, and average hourly temperatures. Data is uploaded and available on AirNow and the



U.S. EPA's Air Quality System, also known as AQS. Another Feature of CASTNET being on the La Posta site is the AMoN instrument. AMoN stands for the Ammonia Monitoring Network, the only network that provides a consistent, long-term record of ammonia gas concentrations across the United States.

I am excited to continue working with CASTNET and improving our air quality program here on the La Posta Indian Reservation.

For more information on the projects at the La Posta Indian Reservation, reach out to Heidy Estrada at hestrada@lptribe.net.

For more general interest on CASTNET and the EPA's Tribal Air Programs, contact Kate Harper at harper.kathryn@epa.gov.

[Website | U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Air Programs in the Pacific Southwest](#)



AMoN instrument on an air quality monitoring tower.

RTOC and Tribal/EPA Annual Conference

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a working committee of the EPA and tribal personnel co-chaired by an EPA representative and a tribal representative. The EPA designates its RTOC representatives through internal mechanisms. All tribes within Region 9 are considered members of the RTOC. Tribal representatives to the RTOC are selected through government-to-government communication, by tribal leaders in various geographical areas within Region 9.

Spring RTOC Recap

During the week of April 17th, Region 9 RTOC Co-Chair Mervin Wright Jr. (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) and Co-Chair Laura Ebbert (EPA) convened the hybrid Spring 2023 RTOC meeting at EPA Region 9 headquarters in San Francisco. This was a well-attended RTOC with over 150 participants, including the EPA Region 9 Regional Administrator. The three-day meeting included a tribal caucus, a water quality certification workshop, a tribal consultation policy workshop, an Earth Day event mixer, greetings from the new American Indian Environmental Office Director, and several technical break-out sessions.

The Spring RTOC presentations and meeting materials are available online:

[Region 9 RTOC Meeting Materials: Spring 2023 | U.S. EPA](#)



RTOC attendees get creative to celebrate Earth Day.



RTOC Co-Chair Mervin Wright, Co-Chair Regional Administrator Martha Guzman, and RTOC Co-Chair elect Roman Orona pose for a picture.

Summer RTOC Information

The summer RTOC is scheduled to be a hybrid meeting, which will take place at the Peppermill Casino in Reno, NV, the week of August 7. Please check the RTOC website to register and for details.

Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Updates

The Tribal/ EPA Region 9 Annual Conference cosponsors, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, and the EPA are pleased to announce this year's conference theme will be "This Land We Love" or "Mutt Peyii Uumirrp" in Kumeyaay, as translated by Chairman John Christman. The conference brings together up to 500 participants from tribal nations located across Arizona, California, and Nevada, and representatives from federal, state, and local agencies, nonprofits, and academia. Plans are in place to hold this year's conference at Viejas Casino and Resort in Alpine, California, October 24 – 26, 2023. Conference organizers are planning a hybrid event so attendees can participate in person or virtually.

Registration is open now! Early-bird pricing will be available until July 31. Visit the registration page to get your ticket for in-person or virtual attendance.

Session submissions are now being accepted! The deadline to submit session proposals is September 18. To find out more and submit your proposals, please visit the Call for Submissions webpage.

Nominations are being accepted for the Connor Byestewa Jr. Award! Would you like to nominate someone for their outstanding work as a Tribal environmental professional and have their hard work and dedication be publicly honored? Please visit the Connor Byestewa Jr. Award webpage to find out how to nominate one of your colleagues by August 31.

[Conference Registration Page | Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#)
[Call for Submissions | Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#)
[Connor Byestewa Jr. Award | Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference](#)



EPA staff and RTOC attendees enjoying Jeopardy at lunch.

Tribal Resources

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals |

Quality Assurance Project Plans: TurboQAPP

Turbo-QAPP is a free program enabling tribes to write their own Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP) interactively and asks users a series of questions to create a Quality Assurance Project Plan. The software guides the user and writes user-entered material into a text file that can be printed and modified. It includes extensive help files, definitions, and lists of options. It adds repeated text in multiple locations in the finished document, thereby guiding users through tedious and repetitive sections that are often cited as stumbling blocks to completing a Quality Assurance Project Plan.

Turbo-QAPP

Quality Assurance Project Plan



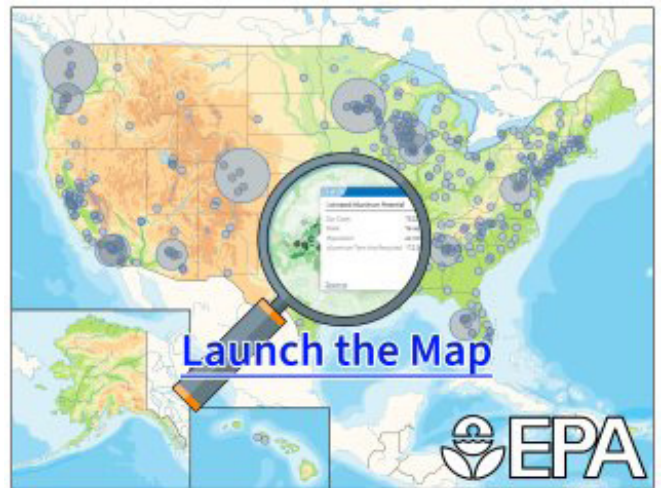
It is and will stay consistent with the Quality Control requirements for the criteria pollutants in EPA guidance and regulations. Turbo-QAPP focuses on the important aspects of the program first (e.g. “why are we making these measurements?”) but then places this material in the appropriate elements of the Quality Assurance Project Plans. The program suggests options for parameters that are commonly used for that type of monitoring, pollutant, etc., while always allowing users to enter their own text. The software also provides a platform for additional types of programs, such as water quality or radiation monitoring, however, no calculations or guidance documentation is provided for other media.

[Request Software | Quality Assurance Project Plans: TurboQAPP](#)

U.S. EPA | *Recycling Infrastructure and Market Opportunities Map*

In support of the National Recycling Strategy and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the EPA developed an interactive map highlighting existing infrastructure, per capita generation and recycling of post-consumer material, and other relevant market factors.

By providing a comprehensive resource for understanding opportunities related to post-consumer materials management, this first version of the Recycling Infrastructure and Market Opportunities Map can help develop and strengthen primary and secondary end markets for materials, support cleaner communities by reducing the amount of plastic and other waste entering landfills, and provide opportunities to address climate change by diverting more materials from landfill. This tool visually presents data estimates from all phases of the recycling process, including generation, collection, sortation, and end-use.

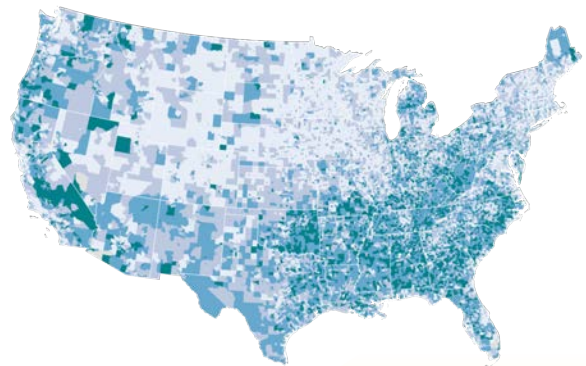


Launch the map at the link provided.

[Map | Recycling Infrastructure and Market Opportunities](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | *Environmental Justice Index*

The Environmental Justice Index is a tool designed to measure the cumulative impacts of environmental burden through the lens of human health and health equity. The Environmental Justice Index uses data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the EPA, the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to rank the cumulative impacts of environmental injustice on health for every census tract. Census tracts are subdivisions of counties for which the Census collects statistical data. The Environmental Justice Index ranks



Access the Environmental Justice Index at the link provided.

each tract on 36 environmental, social, and health factors and groups them into three overarching modules and ten different domains.

[Information & Tool | Environmental Justice Index](#)

U.S. EPA | *Disaster Resilient Design Concepts*

The potential for disaster increases as communities expand into hazard-prone areas, and climate change alters the frequency, severity, and locations of threats. The disaster-resilient designs showcased in this document can help communities reduce the impact of disasters, recover more quickly, strengthen local economies, and create safer, more equitable places to live by reducing hazards, especially for those most vulnerable. The document is organized by hazard type:

- Wildfire
- Hurricane and Coastal Flooding
- Inland and Riverine Flooding
- Extreme Heat
- Drought
- Landslide and Mudslide
- Tornado and Earthquake

This engaging, easily accessible resource complements more detailed policy guides and planning resources in the links included. The design solutions are offered to inspire a range of stakeholders to come together and invest in projects and infrastructure to achieve multiple benefits. In addition to sparking awareness among community stakeholders, this document can bridge a larger discussion with emergency managers, land use planners, utility managers, forestry and parks departments, watershed managers, and community-based organizations.

[Website to Download Document | Disaster Resilient Design Concepts](#)

Tribal Consultation

A full list of active U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation opportunities are available on the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) webpage: [TCOTS Webpage](#). If interested, join the TCOTS Listserv by sending a message to Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov to receive email notifications on the latest EPA Tribal Consultations.

U.S. EPA | *Revised Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes and Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights*

The EPA has extended consultation and coordination opportunities with federally recognized Indian tribes to receive input on proposed revisions to the EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (EPA Consultation Policy) and the companion Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights (Treaty Rights Guidance). The consultation period began on March 1 and now closes on July 21.

Please do not hesitate to contact Felicia Wright, Deputy Director, American Indian Environmental Office at 202-566-1886 or wright.felicia@epa.gov, or Zoe Ruge, AIEO staff lead for consultation, at 202-566-1695 or ruge.zoe@epa.gov if you have any questions about this consultation and coordination opportunity.

Detailed information about this. EPA consultation opportunity is available on the Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website:

[Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System Website | U.S. EPA](#)
[Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes \(2011\) | U.S. EPA](#)
[Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights \(2016\) | U.S. EPA](#)



The rain garden at the Cabazon Reservation funded by Clean Water Act 319 funds.

U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division | Tribal Engagement Opportunities for National and Regional Water Actions Visual Calendar

In response to requests from tribes in Region 9 for more outreach on current tribal consultations, we have compiled a schedule of upcoming consultation engagement opportunities for various EPA proposed water actions. This document provides both a visual calendar to track important consultation dates and includes a narrative that summarizes all current actions with more specific resources. This visual calendar is available on Region 9's website.

[Tribal Engagement Opportunities for National and Regional Water Actions Visual Calendar | U.S. EPA](#)

U.S. EPA Region 9 | Tribal Operations Committee Consultation Workgroup

Each month, the Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee (ROTC) Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and discuss consultation topics of interest. This workgroup has been jointly chaired

by Kelcey Stricker, Environmental Director of the Pechanga Environmental Department, and Rubén Mojica Hernandez, EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch Manager.

Starting in May 2023, Cliff Banuelos from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada has agreed to be the new ROTC Consultation Workgroup Co-Lead. A special thanks to Kelcey Stricker for her amazing leadership and positive focus over the years to improve how EPA respectfully consults with tribal governments!

For more information and/or to become involved in this interactive workgroup, please contact Cliff at cbanuelos@itcn.org or Rubén at Mojica-Hernandez.Ruben@epa.gov.

Funding Opportunities

Stay up-to-date on federal grant opportunities by using the [Grants.gov](#) search page.

U.S. Department of Energy | Energy Improvement in Rural & Remote Areas Fixed Award Grant

- Funding: \$500,000 to \$5 million per award.
 - Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments and tribal organizations.
-

- Purpose: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act commonly referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy to invest \$1 billion in energy improvements in rural or remote areas. The Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program is managed by the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations. The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations will provide financial investment, technical assistance, and other resources to advance clean energy demonstrations and energy solutions that benefit rural and remote communities. Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program aims to fund clean energy projects with three specific goals:
 1. Deliver measurable benefits to energy customers in rural or remote areas by funding replicable energy projects that lower energy costs, improve energy access and resilience, and/or reduce environmental harm.
 2. Support new rural or remote energy system models using climate-resilient technologies, business structures that promote economic resilience, new financing mechanisms, and/or new community engagement practices.
 3. Build clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance in rural America.
- Applications due date: Pre-applications due **July 13, 2023**, full applications are due by **October 12, 2023**.

[Application | Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas Fixed Award Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Transportation | *Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant*

- Funding: Up to \$125 million for the whole program per year over five years. There is no minimum award amount.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments owning and operating a natural gas distribution system and others.
- Purpose: The goals of the NGDISM Grant Program are to:
 1. Advance the safe delivery of energy through reducing the risk profile of existing municipal- and community-owned natural gas distribution infrastructure that contains high-risk, leaking, and/or leak-prone pipe.
 2. Focus on projects that will have the greatest benefits for communities of all sizes needing the most support to make their natural gas distribution pipelines safer for their residents and businesses and to protect our environment from dangerous incidents and leaks.
 3. Benefit underserved and/or disadvantaged communities, in both rural and urban areas, by reducing incidents and fatalities, and avoiding economic losses caused by natural gas distribution pipeline failures.
 4. Protect our environment and reduce climate impacts by remediating aged and failing natural gas distribution pipelines and distribution pipes prone to leakage.
 5. Provide positive economic impact and growth.
 6. Create and sustain good-paying infrastructure-related jobs.
- Application due date: **July 24, 2023**.

[Application | Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant](#)

U.S. EPA | *FY24 Brownfields Job Training Grants*

- Funding: Up to \$500,000 per grantee.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and consortia and nonprofit organizations.
- Purpose: To deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and retain a local, skilled workforce by prioritizing unemployed and under-employed residents to obtain the skills and credentials needed for pathways into full-time employment in various aspects of hazardous and solid waste management and within the larger environmental field, including sustainable cleanup and reuse, and chemical safety.
- Application due date: **August 2, 2023.**

[Application | FY24 Brownfields Job Training Grant](#)

U.S. EPA | *2023 Clean School Bus Grant Program*

- Funding: \$400 million available in competitive funding.
- Eligibility: Includes Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and tribal schools that are responsible for:
 - Providing school bus service to one or more Bureau-funded schools.
 - The purchase, lease, license, or contract for service of school buses; nonprofit school transportation association; and eligible contractors.
- Purpose: To incentivize and accelerate the replacement of existing school buses with clean and zero emissions school buses. Eligible activities include:
 - The replacement of existing internal-combustion engine school buses with electric, propane, or compressed natural gas school buses.
 - And the purchase of electric vehicle supply equipment infrastructure and EVSE installations.
- Application due date: **August 22, 2023.**

[Application | Clean School Bus Grant Program](#)

NOAA | *Tribal Engagement in Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities*

- Funding: \$50,000 to \$200,000 annually for up to two years.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations.
- Purpose: This program complements a separate funding program for established Regional Ocean Partnerships, which seeks to enhance and sustain the efforts of those Regional Ocean Partnerships to coordinate interstate and intertribal management of ocean and coastal management issues. The scope of work under this program focuses on encouraging or enhancing tribal involvement in or engagement with established Regional Ocean Partnerships, and/or tribal activities related to Regional Ocean Partnerships priority actions. Proposals submitted under this competition must directly relate to priorities of established Regional Ocean Partnerships, either through tribal engagement in or with Regional Ocean Partnerships, or tribal activities closely aligned with Regional Ocean Partnerships priorities.
- Application due date: **August 30, 2023.**

[Application | Tribal Engagement in Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities](#)

U.S. Department of Energy | Section 40101(d) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes

- Funding: As decided by the allocation formula.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribes and states who may allocate to eligible entities.
- Purpose: To improve the resilience of their electric grids. These grants offer a unique opportunity to advance the capabilities of States and Indian Tribes and their communities to address current and future resilience needs.
- Application due date: **August 31, 2023.**

[Allocations & Application | Section 40101\(d\) Formula Grants to States & Indian Tribes Information | Grid Resilience State/Tribal Formula Grant Program](#)

U.S. EPA | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: General Assistance & Low-Income & Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program

- Funding: \$19.97 billion total.
- Eligibility: Includes tribal nonprofit organizations that:
 - A. Are designed to provide capital, leverage private capital and provide other forms of financial assistance for the rapid deployment of low- and zero-emission products, technologies, and services.
 - B. Do not take deposits other than deposits from repayments and other revenue received from financial assistance using the grant funds.
 - C. Are funded by public or charitable contributions.
 - D. Invest in or finances projects alone or in conjunction with other investors. The U.S. EPA expects to award between 2 and 15 grants through this program.
- Purpose: To implement Clean Air Act Section 134(a)(2) and Section 134(a)(3) for the purposes of providing financial and technical assistance in low-income and disadvantaged communities in alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative. Additionally, this program will support the creation of high-paying jobs.
- Application due date: The EPA anticipates announcing the competition **early summer 2023.**

[SAM.gov | General Assistance & Low-Income & Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program](#)
[U.S. EPA Website | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund](#)

U.S. EPA | Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Zero Emission Technologies Grant Program

- Funding: \$7 billion total.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized tribal governments and tribal nonprofit organizations. The EPA expects to award up to 60 grants through this program.
- Purpose: Grantees must direct all funding to provide financial and technical assistance to enable low-income and disadvantaged communities to deploy or benefit from zero-emission technologies, in alignment with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative. This funding will prioritize delivering financial and technical assistance to projects that deploy residential and community solar, associated storage technologies, and related upgrades. Additionally, this program will support the creation of high-paying jobs.
- Application due date: The EPA anticipates announcing the competition **early summer 2023.**

[SAM.gov | Zero Emission Technologies Grant Program](#)

Governor of California Office of Planning & Research | *Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program*

- Funding: Planning - \$150,000 - \$650,000; Implementation - \$800,000 - \$3,000,000.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized and non-federally recognized Native American tribes in California as well as community-based organizations.
- Purpose: Funds regional-scale climate change resilience planning activities and implementation projects.
- Application due date: **Late summer 2023**.

[Application | Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program](#)

California Strategic Growth Council | *Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program*

- Funding: Up to \$100,000-\$150,000 per grant. Amount is subject to change.
- Eligibility: Native American tribes in California, including federally recognized and non-federally recognized tribes. A non-federally recognized tribe is eligible to apply if they are registered as a nonprofit.
- Purpose: To provide funding and technical assistance to tribes to build staff capacity and fill gaps to advance the tribe's climate-related work. This pilot program will fund staff salaries and activities that include planning, securing funding for, and implementing projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. This pilot program will also offer no-cost technical assistance that will be flexible and responsive to each tribe's needs, including, but not limited to: trainings; grant application and management assistance; planning and implementation support; partnership building; peer learning; and leadership and economic development.
- SGC has released a request for tribal consultation and a Request for Information for public comment to inform the development of this program. Public comment due date: **August 22, 2023**.
- Application due date: **November 2023** (exact date to be announced soon).

[Public Comment: Request for Information and Draft Grant Guidelines | Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program](#)

Training & Technical Assistance

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with the EPA. Any links to websites outside of the U.S. EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The U.S. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, or applications.

U.S. EPA & International City/County Management Association | *Brownfields 2023*

Brownfields 2023 is the largest gathering focused on brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. With over 180 educational sessions, exciting mobile workshops, and inspirational speakers, this event offers a unique opportunity to learn about the latest trends and best practices in brownfields remediation, redevelopment, environmental justice, and sustainability for both seasoned professionals and newcomers in the field. In addition to the incredible learning opportunities, the conference also offers unparalleled networking opportunities with other like-minded professionals. Participants will have the chance to connect with peers from across the country and forge new relationships that could lead to future collaborations and projects.

The conference will take place on **August 8-11, 2023** in Detroit, Michigan.

[Registration | Brownfields 2023](#)

ITEP & U.S. EPA | Tribal Lands and Environment Forum

Connect with colleagues across the country as we address tribal waste and response issues. This is the thirteenth annual forum for environmental professionals from tribes, the EPA, state, local, and federal agencies, community organizations, and other interested parties to meet, share knowledge, and learn from one another how to improve management, protection, and restoration of tribal lands.

Please register by **July 31, 2023**. This conference will take place on **August 14-17, 2023** in in Syracuse, New York and will also be available online.

[Website | Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#)

U.S. EPA | Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands: In-person Training

The EPA is offering a free, in-person training on how to plan, develop, and operate small-scale transfer stations. Are you considering building a transfer station or looking for ways to improve the functionality of your current transfer station? Join this in-person training workshop that will cover fundamentals and tips for developing a transfer station from planning to operations. Plus, participants will be able to tour the San Pasqual Band's transfer station. Hear about their experience and others to gain useful ideas to take back to your site or facility.

This training workshop is organized by EPA Region 9, with the support of Booz Allen Hamilton. For questions regarding the workshop, please contact Jenny Stephenson at stephenson.jenny@epa.gov. This training workshop is intended for employees of federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia. Participants from outside of Region 9 are welcome, though travel stipends will not be available for those parties or individuals.

This training will take place from **August 22-23, 2023** and will be hosted by the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians at Valley Center, California.

[Registration | In-person Training: Developing Small-Scale Transfer Stations on Tribal Lands](#)

U.S. EPA | Overview of SPCC and CAMEO Software Suite Webinar for Tribal Partners

This free 90 min. session will provide a basic overview of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) oil spill prevention program and how the Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Software Suite can be used to help communities prepare for and respond to chemical and oil spills. The session will also include a question-and-answer segment where participants can interact with the SPCC national program manager and the EPCRA program coordinator that oversees the CAMEO Software Suite. The target audience for this session includes:

- All tribes (including state-recognized) that have any petroleum production, above-ground storage, processing, or transportation (pipelines) within, through, or adjoining their tribal lands.
- Tribal owners/operators of regulated oil facilities.
- Alaska Native Corporations with regulated oil facilities.
- Tribal environmental management agencies.
- Tribal Emergency Response Commissions & Tribal Emergency Planning Committees.
- Tribal first responders.



Signage at the rain garden on the Pechanga Reservation funded by competitive Clean Water Act 319 funds.

- Tribal environmental nonprofit organizations.

This session will take place on **August 24, 2023, September 7, 2023, and September 22, 2023.**

[Eventbrite | August 24 Registration for SPCC and CAMEO for Tribal Partners Session](#)

[Eventbrite | September 7 Registration for SPCC and CAMEO for Tribal Partners Session](#)

[Eventbrite | September 22 Registration for SPCC and CAMEO for Tribal Partners Session](#)

U.S. EPA | *Starting Community Composting Programs on Tribal Lands: In-person Workshop*

This free training workshop, facilitated by the EPA, will teach how to compost and chart a path towards developing a community composting program.

This training will take place from **September 19-20, 2023** and will be hosted by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, in conjunction with the Intertribal Council of Nevada in Fall.

For more information and to register, please email Jenny Stephenson at stephenson.jenny@epa.gov.



U.S. EPA | *Tank Talk: SPCC Overview Webinar for Tribal Partners*

This four-hour session will provide an in-depth overview of the oil program, regulatory requirements, program implementation (inspections), and federal oil spill reporting requirements. This webinar will assist tribes with SPCC compliance and the opportunity to view EPA inspector photographs showing common violations observed in the field. This SPCC webinar is part of the external Tank Talks series that the EPA is offering to tribal partners and stakeholders with the objective of increasing awareness and compliance with EPA's oil program regulations. The target audience for this session is the same as stated in the previous training and technical assistance listing.

This session will take place on **September 21, 2023.**

[Eventbrite | Registration for Tank Talk: SPCC Overview Webinar for Tribal Partners](#)

Climate Science Alliance & ITEP | *Fire & Climate Change: Adaptation Planning for Tribes*

This course will provide an overview of planning for climate change impacts, with an emphasis on fire, highlighting the work of Tribes that have completed an adaptation plan or vulnerability assessment. Since the course will focus on climate change impacts in California, we especially encourage tribal environmental staff and community members from this region to apply to attend. This workshop will incorporate presentations, tribal case studies, and small and large-group discussions and activities. Lodging and a meal stipend will be provided for participants. Participation in the workshop is on a first come, first served basis.



Snapshot from a previous composting in-person workshop.

The application will close when the course is full. Topics include:

- Overview of climate change and impacts in the West with an emphasis on fire and cultural burning.
- Process of developing climate change adaptation plans, from getting started, to impact and vulnerability assessments, to developing adaptation strategies.
- Tools, resources, and partnerships for adaptation planning.

This training will take place in Santa Cruz, California, from **September 26-28, 2023**.

[Application | Fire & Climate Change: Adaptation Planning for Tribes](#)

U.S. EPA | *Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous People*

The Environmental Justice (EJ) webinar series for tribes and indigenous peoples seeks to enhance EJ integration, build capacity, raise awareness of EPA and other federal programs and resources, and provide technical assistance to tribes and indigenous peoples on priority environmental, public health, and other EJ concerns. The following sessions were recently uploaded to the EPA website:

- Food Sovereignty – Healthy Foods, Cultural Practices and Food Security.
- EPA EJ Funding and Technical Resources (Part 1) & Experiences of an Indigenous Community-Based NonProfit.

[Website | Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)

Environmental Protection Network | *Free Technical Assistance*

The Environmental Protection Network harnesses the expertise of over 550 former EPA career staff and political appointees from across the country to serve as a trusted resource, answering calls for objective analysis, scientific rigor, and a vision for a transformed 21st-century EPA. The mission is to preserve and advance the nation's bipartisan legacy of progress toward clean air, water and land, and climate protection in the United States by providing **free consulting services, organizational support, and help accessing foundation and government funding**.

The Environmental Protection Network's core work includes detailed analyses of proposed EPA budgets and appropriations bills, rulemakings, and other administration activities related to the EPA's work; pro bono capacity-building technical assistance to under-resourced communities, NGOs, and state, local, and tribal agencies; and building a diversified EPA workforce ready to confront 21st century health and environmental challenges.

The EPA American Indian Environmental Office and the Environmental Protection Network have a memorandum of understanding that is focused on helping tribes address their climate adaptation priorities. Tribes have told the American Indian Environmental Office that technical assistance to address their climate priorities is much needed, and that ranges from interpreting scientific data or requests for proposals to developing vulnerability assessments and integrating climate resiliency into an infrastructure project. The Environmental Protection Network can assist at no cost to the tribe!

And while climate is a much needed and welcomed focus area, the great news is that the technical assistance isn't limited to climate adaptation and this memorandum of understanding.

[Website | Technical Assistance Inquiries](#)



Pechanga staff Eddie Hernandez and Kelcey Stricker give a tour of the reservation during a site visit.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services | *Understanding Single Audits*

The Single Audit Act requires an annual audit of non-federal entities, including tribes, that expend \$750,000 or more of federal financial assistance in a fiscal year. The Single Audit must be performed by an independent auditor and the reporting package (which includes the audit report) must be submitted to the federal audit clearinghouse within 30 days after your organization receives the audit report or nine months from your organization's fiscal year end.

The Single Audit is a tool to help program and tribal management monitor federal program activities. A Single Audit includes an audit of both your organization's financial statements and compliance with federal award requirements for those programs identified as "major programs" (based on the application of the risk-based approach and criteria outlined in 2 CFR § 200.518 and .519) for the audit. Through the audit process, the auditors determine whether your organization's financial statements fairly present the organization's financial position and whether they are presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or another comprehensive basis of

accounting. Both the financial statement audit and the compliance audit provide information on the internal controls design appropriateness and operating effectiveness, which enables management to identify systematic weaknesses in a timely manner.

This course introduces key concepts of the Single Audit process and is designed to help you gain knowledge of how a Single Audit can be used as an effective management tool to help your organization manage Federal funds.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- procure quality Single Audits,
- explain the Single Audit Process, and
- describe the types of opinions and findings in a Single Audit.

[Training Course | Understanding Single Audits](#)



Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 Tribal Branch
Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division

75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA. 94105

Get in Touch!

Do you have an idea for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter? Do you have a question or comment about an article in this issue? Please submit ideas, questions, tribal success stories, original photos, or other feedback to the R9 Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, Mark Rayos, at:

R9Communities@epa.gov

R9 Tribal Programs: www.epa.gov/tribal/epaspacificsouthwest-tribal-programregion-9

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EMERGENCIES



Report oil or
chemical spills at:
800-424-8802

To report environmental violations, please call 1-800-300-2193, operational during normal working hours, Monday through Friday. **To report oil or chemical spills**, please call the emergency line. More information on reporting spills and environmental violations could be found here:

[How to Report Spills and Environmental Violations](#)

Protecting Human Health and the Environment