

Response to Spring 2023 RTOC Action Items – Updated 8.7.23

Identifier	Action Items	Tribal Contact	Lead	Response
1	GAP: Request for in-person training on GAP Guidance for Tribes.	Rob Roy and Kerri Vera	Laura Ebbert, Ruben Mojica Hernandez	<p>Agree with the importance. AIEO put out virtual modules which is a good step but appreciate the value of in-person meetings to help tribes leverage the GAP program. The GAP workgroup will talk more about this request. Kerri and Ruben will be looking at the modules and thinking about the gaps and needs. Need to determine what is confusing from the modules and then follow-up (in-person) training can be planned. Kerri wants to get things moving on this.</p> <p>8/2/23 Update: Ruben and Kerri are working to set up trainings for R9. They have met to strategize the best way to do this. In July they developed a worksheet for tribes to complete, which the Tribal Branch will use to develop training materials. The worksheets are due to Ruben by 8/18/23. After the Tribal Branch is able to review them and develop trainings the next step is to schedule out when to visit Tribes to conduct trainings.</p>
2	Update on IRA Funding. Information to be shared with Tribes on funding opportunities.	Teri Red Owl & Lisa Gover	Elizabeth Adams	<p>IRA grants have been coming out sequentially. Associated webinars have also been coming out and are shared with our Tribal partners. Please let us know if there are additional ways to amplify these opportunities. Here is the current list of air grant announcements: https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding#open</p> <p>A handout was created that covers all Tribal-eligible IRA opportunities and will be provided on the RTOC website: Region 9 RTOC Meeting Materials: Summer 2023 US EPA</p>
3	Emergency Response and Water: What immediate funding opportunities are available for Drinking water and Wastewater during emergency situations?	Kerri Vera	Hector Aguirre, Mike Montgomery	<p>EPA has limited funding to support emergency drinking water infrastructure projects. Please work with your tribal drinking water and water infrastructure contacts to discuss project needs. Region 9 can also provide both onsite and remote technical assistance to Tribes to address water emergencies. Emergency wastewater infrastructure project needs are best directed to the Indian Health Service. EPA can often provide financial support via IHS for critical sanitation repairs. EPA understands more timely resources are needed.</p> <p>The National Response Center (NRC) hotline (1-800-424-8802) is the first step if a tribe is experiencing a release of oil or hazardous materials emergency where releases of a reportable quantity are to be made. Federally recognized tribes can seek assistance directly from FEMA when a disaster declaration has</p>

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				been made. The emergency response program doesn't directly provide support for drinking water systems in a disaster. The Water Division provides that support under an Emergency Support Function 3 (ESF 3) Mission Assignment from FEMA.
4	Update on when Project Officers (all Media) will be visiting Tribes	Tribal Caucus	Laura Ebbert	Internal to the Region, we have collected information from every program about what site visits they have supported and which are planned. A conversation among senior leadership about these plans and overall travel priorities is pending. Please carry this action item over to the fall RTOC for a more thorough report-out.
5	Request funding allocation in writing from AIEO.	Syndi Smallwood	Lisa Berrios	Syndi received via email on 4.19.23, Attachment 1 of the GAP Allocation Consultation Notice, which provided the current GAP allocation process.
6	Invite Kenneth Martin, AIEO Director to the next RTOC Meeting.	Annette George	Laura Ebbert	Kenneth Martin was invited during his presentation at the Spring RTOC Plenary and more detailed information on the Summer RTOC meeting was shared. He is unable to attend the Summer RTOC, but was invited to the Tribal EPA Conference.