

# 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,

As I booked my ticket to fly back home for the winter holidays, I was reminded of the place that first sparked my interest in Tribal matters. I am from Puyallup, Washington. My hometown is named after the Puyallup Tribe of Indians who have lived along the shores of Puget Sound for thousands of years, well before the first European settlers arrived. But most people associate Puyallup with the Puyallup Fair, an annual event the city hosts to recognize its agricultural past. It is one of the biggest fairs in the United States. Puyallup has become synonymous with the annual fair and not the Tribe who has fought for centuries to preserve its history, culture, language, and traditional homelands.

Like the Puyallup Tribe, many Tribes in Region 9 have experienced an erosion of rights post-European settlement. Against this backdrop, I recognize how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's commitment to Tribal sovereignty and self-determination becomes ever more important. I am hopeful that President Biden's new executive order directing federal agencies to increase access and transparency for Tribal funding opportunities will reinforce the principles of Tribal sovereignty that EPA has made a core part of its programs in Indian Country.

Early on at Region 9, I had the opportunity to work on issues of Tribal sovereignty in the context of drinking water compliance under the Safe Drinking Water Act. I provided a legal review of the Navajo Nation's application to expand its authority to implement its public water system supervision program on its formal reservation. As an ongoing matter, I provide legal support for a multi-billion dollar drinking water infrastructure project located within the New Mexico portion of the Navajo reservation that will provide a long-term, reliable water supply to Navajo members. Furthermore, in my management role in the Office of Regional Counsel, I supervise an incredible team of attorneys assigned to enforcement actions against public water systems in Indian country. Although compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act is central to these matters, the primary issue is navigating Tribal sovereignty, which includes Tribal consultation. Federally recognized Tribes have long fought for centuries for the right to govern themselves.

Tribes should have assurance that water systems that its members use comply with federal requirements. I take pride in knowing that EPA's work in Indian country reaffirms Tribal sovereignty and the right of Tribes to have a say in matters affecting its members.

The Office of Regional Counsel is more than ready to advise the divisions on Tribal issues. We are inspired by how the divisions treat Tribes as equal partners in all government-to-government relationships. I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Desean Garnett  
Manager, General Law and Cross-Cutting Issues Section  
Office of Regional Counsel

[President Biden Signs Executive Order to Usher in the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination](#)

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## Regulatory News

*The EPA provides external links in this newsletter for informational purposes only. EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of non-EPA information provided by any third-party sites or any other linked site. EPA does not endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, internet applications or any policies or information expressed therein.*

### **U.S. EPA** | *Revised EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes*

EPA released the revised EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes (EPA Consultation Policy) and the companion Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights in December 2023. The EPA Consultation Policy establishes national guidelines for consultation across the agency. The current revisions were initiated by President Biden's January 26, 2021 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships and further informed by the November 30, 2022 Memorandum on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation. Additional information can be found on the Consultation with Tribes webpage link below.

[EPA Consultation with Tribes webpage](#)

### **U.S. White House** | *Executive Order on Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations*

At the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 6, 2023, President Biden signed the Executive Order on Reforming Federal Funding and Support for Tribal Nations to Better Embrace Our Trust Responsibilities and Promote the Next Era of Tribal Self Determination. The executive order embraces the federal government's trust responsibilities by assessing unmet federal obligations to support Tribal Nations, creates a one-stop-shop for federal funding available to Tribes through the Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse, and requires federal agencies to take action to ensure federal funding for Tribes is accessible, flexible, and equitable. The clearinghouse was created from a multi-agency strategy to improve awareness of, access to, and utilization of federal funding resources for Tribal governments, and Tribal businesses.

The Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse was launched at the White House Tribal Nations Summit on December 6, 2023, to provide a one-stop-shop for Tribes to find federal funding. The clearinghouse was created from a multi-agency strategy to improve awareness of, access to, and utilization of federal funding resources for Tribal governments, and Tribal businesses.

[President Biden Signs Executive Order to Usher in the Next Era of Tribal Self-Determination](#)  
[Tribal Access to Capital Clearinghouse](#)

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## **U.S. EPA | *Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites***

The Department of Interior announced at the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit that the White House Council on Native American Affairs published a Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites. The guide provides best practices, procedures and guidance for the management, treatment, and protection of sacred sites. This guide is the product of the 2021 Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding that EPA and several agencies signed at the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit.

[Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites](#)  
[2021 Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding](#)  
[Department of Interior Press Release Announcing the Guide](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *National Climate Resilience Framework***

In September 2023, the White House released the National Climate Resilience Framework, a vision for a climate-resilient nation designed to guide and align climate resilience investments and activities by the federal government and its partners. The Framework identifies common principles and specific actions to expand and accelerate progress towards six objectives:

1. Embed climate resilience into planning and management.
2. Increase resilience of the built environment to both acute climate shocks and chronic stressors.
3. Mobilize capital, investment, and innovation to advance climate resilience at scale.
4. Equip communities with information and resources needed to assess their climate risks and develop the climate resilience solutions most appropriate for them.
5. Protect and sustainably manage lands and waters to enhance resilience, while providing numerous other benefits.
6. Help communities become not only more resilient, but also more safe, healthy, equitable, and economically strong.

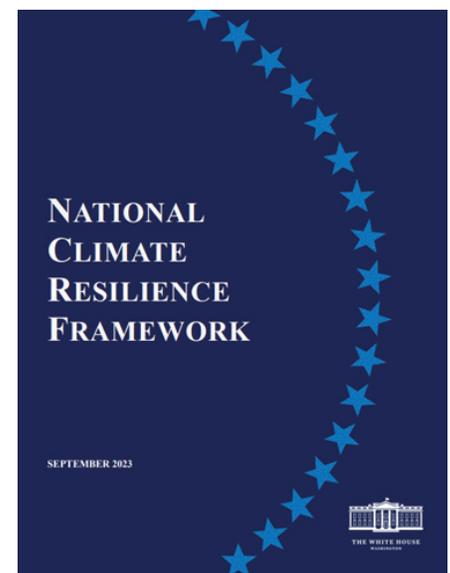
EPA also announced its Climate Enforcement and Compliance Strategy directing all enforcement and compliance programs to address climate change, wherever appropriate, in every matter within their jurisdiction.

[White House National Climate Resilience Framework](#)  
[EPA Climate Enforcement and Compliance Strategy](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Fifth National Climate Assessment***

The Biden-Harris Administration released the Fifth National Climate Assessment in November 2023. The Fifth National Climate Assessment is the U.S. government's report on climate change impacts, risks, and responses. The report shows a decline in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions even as population and GDP have grown. It is a congressionally mandated interagency effort that provides the scientific foundation to support informed decision-making on climate change. Chapter 16, "Indigenous Peoples," contains a section on federally funded Tribal renewable energy projects.

[Read the Fifth National Climate Assessment](#)  
[White House Fact Sheet summarizing the report and U.S. climate investments.](#)  
[White House Fact Sheet highlighting impacts on climate change on regions across the U.S.](#)



*Cover of the U.S. White House National Climate Resilience Framework*

## Climate Change Risks and Opportunities in the US

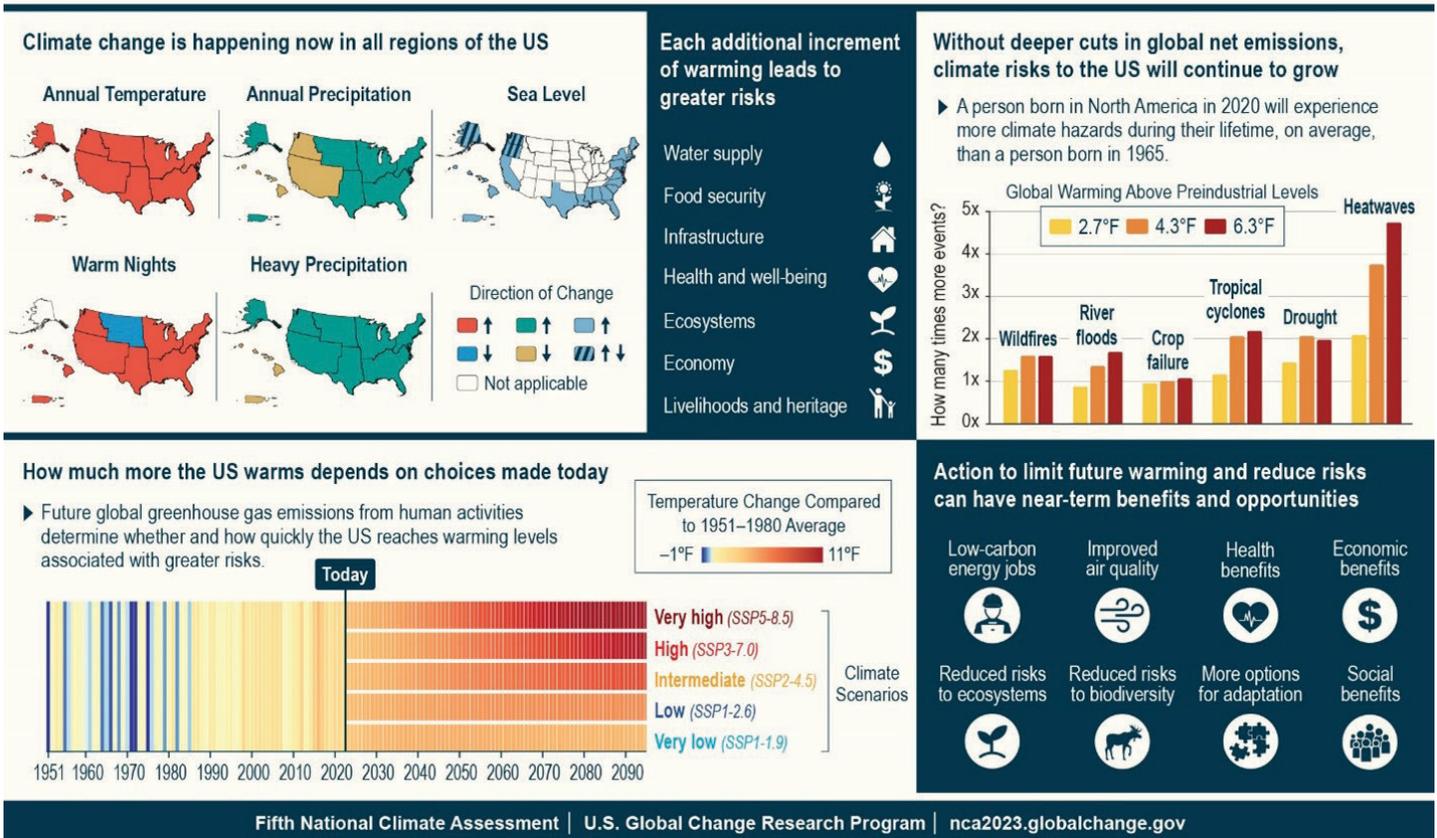


Diagram of Climate Change Risks and Opportunities in the United States

### U.S. Department of Labor | Updates to Davis-Bacon Rules\*

In August 2023, the U.S. Department of Labor published the final rule, “Updating the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations.” The final rule updates regulations issued under the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts that set rules for the administration and enforcement of the Davis-Bacon labor standards that apply to Federal and federally assisted construction projects. This is the first comprehensive regulatory review in nearly 40 years.

Revisions to these regulations will promote compliance, provide appropriate and updated guidance, and enhance their usefulness in the modern economy. The final rule is effective on October 23, 2023. EPA updated its Contract Provisions for Davis-Bacon and Related Acts on EPA’s Grants Policy Resource website to reflect the Department of Labor’s final rule. Additional information can be found at the websites below.

[EPA Contract Provisions for Davis-Bacon and Related Acts](#)  
[Summary of Key Changes to Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations](#)

\*These rules do not apply to the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program or Performance Partnership Grants

## Program Updates

### **U.S. EPA** | *Proposed Combined EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Work Plan Template*

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office is excited to announce that the proposed Combined EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program work plan template is now ready for review, with a 60-day comment period ending on February 2, 2024.

Please see the Tribal Consultation section for more information.

### **U.S. EPA** | *Clean Water Act Section 401 – Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule*

The new Clean Water Act Section 401 – Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule allows Tribes to apply for Treatment in a Similar Manner as State for Section 401 and/or 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act independently of the Water Quality Standards Program, among other changes. The rule went into effect on November 27, 2023. More information on this new rule can be found in the Clean Water Act Section 401 – Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule link below.

[Clean Water Act Section 401 – Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule](#)

### **U.S. EPA** | *Solid Waste Program Capacity Evaluation Form*

EPA released the updated Form for Evaluation of a Tribe's Solid Waste Management Program Capacity for Open Dump Cleanup (Closure) and Solid Waste Projects. This evaluation form will be used by a Tribe, with EPA support, to evaluate Tribal waste management program capacity relevant to Indian Health Service criteria. The Indian Health Service will use information provided in this form to determine if a solid waste project is eligible for Indian Health Service funding.

[Form for Evaluation of a Tribe's Solid Waste Management Program Capacity for Open Dump Cleanup \(Closure\) and Solid Waste Projects](#)

### **U.S. EPA** | *Strategic Plan to Rebuild Screening Program to Assess Effects of Pesticides in Humans*



*Fort Independence Community Garden*

In October 2023, EPA announced a strategic plan to ensure that its assessments of pesticides more closely, quickly, and effectively evaluate the potential for endocrine effects in humans. These strategies will also improve EPA's ability to protect against those effects as part of its pesticide decisions under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and to implement the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) under section 408(p) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA).

[EPA | Announcement of Strategic Plan](#)

## Tribal Project Success Stories

### **U.S Bureau of Reclamation** | *Reclamation Awards Region 9 Tribes for Water Infrastructure Development and Technology Projects*

The Bureau of Reclamation announced they awarded \$4 million to 11 Tribes in Western States for water infrastructure and technology projects through Reclamation's Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program on July 27, 2023. The funds support the implementation of the Biden-Harris administration's priorities increase opportunities for Tribes to develop, manage and protect their water and related resources outlined in Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, and Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. Six Region 9 Tribes were selected:

- **Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation** (Arizona), \$398,730 for the replacement of irrigation wells, lift station pumps, and motors to secure water access and improve system-wide efficiency and productivity.
- **Quechan Indian Tribe** (Arizona), \$400,000 for irrigation infrastructure construction, including a pump station, pipeline, structures, and solar panel installation for a system power supply to increase water accessibility and reliability.
- **Big Pine Paiute Tribe** (California), \$367,249 to replace deteriorated structures integral to irrigation water distribution systems for gardens, pastures, yards, and stock watering.
- **Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians** (California), \$358,411 to guide restoration for hydrologic functions within riparian corridors and evaluate groundwater production capacity to support future housing.
- **Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley** (Idaho), \$262,992 to rehabilitate stock-ponds structures, replant native plant stocks and improve the riparian habitat in the surrounding areas to benefit livestock and wildlife.
- **Winnemucca Indian Colony** (Nevada), \$400,000 for technical assistance to guide future planning for agriculture and economic development, housing community facilities, tourism, and recreation.

[News Release](#) | [Bureau of Reclamation](#)

### **EPA** | *Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants Selectees and Recipients*

On November 15, 2023, EPA announced the selectees for the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia and the selectees for the Recycling Education and Outreach Grant program. EPA selected nine Region 9 Tribes to receive funding for recycling projects and anticipates making awards once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied.

The following Tribes from Region 9 below were selected as recipients of the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants:

- Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation
- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
- Gila River Indian Community
- Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians
- Pechanga Band of Indians
- Cher Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program is a program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law providing funding to improve post-consumer materials management and infrastructure, support improve-

ments to local post-consumer materials management and recycling programs, and assist local authorities in improving their waste management systems. The law also focuses on improving the effectiveness of residential and community recycling and composting programs through public education and outreach.

[EPA | Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants Recipients and Selectees webpage](#)

## RTOC and Tribal/U.S. 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.*

### 2023 Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference

The 2023 Tribal/U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference was held from October 24-26 at the Viejas Casino and Resort and graciously hosted by conference cosponsors, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. Over 650 people from Tribes, the EPA, federal and state agencies, universities, and more attended in-person or virtually through the online conference platform. Over 550 people were on-site to take advantage of nearly 70 breakout sessions, delivered by over 150 speakers, covering various topics relevant to Tribal environmental professionals. Additionally, over 30 artists and vendors shared their talents and expertise with attendees.

On Wednesday, a luncheon banquet was held to honor this year's Connor Byestewa Jr. Award recipients. We had the privilege of recognizing three amazing environmental stewards who their peers nominated: Brenda Pusher-Begay (White Mountain Apache Tribe), Rob Roy (La Jolla Band of Indians), and Annette George (Duckwater Shoshone Tribe). Congratulations to this year's recipients, and a big thank you for all the work you do in your communities and beyond!

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians will again organize the 2024 conference, the date and location are to be determined. Please keep up to date on conference news and announcements by checking the conference website at the link below.



*Current & previous 3 RTOC Tribal co-chairs. From left to right: Cornelius Antone (Tohono O'odham, fiscal years 2010 - 2015), Alan Bacock (Big Pine, fiscal years 2016 - 2019), Mervin Wright (Pyramid Lake, fiscal years 2020 - 2023), Roman Orona (Ak-Chin, current RTOC Tribal co-chair).*

If your Tribe may be interested in co-sponsoring the 2025 and 2026 conferences, please find more information about this opportunity on the EPA Region 9 Tribal Environmental GAP Funding Page and the Funding Opportunity to Cosponsor the 33rd and 34th Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conferences document at the links below. Letters of intent are due by March 8, 2024.

[Tribal/EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Homepage](#)  
[EPA Region 9 Tribal Environmental GAP Funding Page](#)  
[Funding Opportunity to Cosponsor the 33rd & 34th Tribal/EPA R9 Annual Conferences](#)

### Fall RTOC Recap

On October 23, 2023, Region 9 RTOC Co-Chair Roman Orona (Ak-Chin Indian Community) and Co-Chair Laura Ebbert (EPA) convened the hybrid Fall RTOC meeting. This hybrid RTOC meeting was well-attended, with over

125 participants, including the EPA Region 9 Deputy Administrator. The meeting included a Tribal caucus and full plenary with a presentation from AIEO and in-depth discussions between the Caucus and EPA Region 9.

The Winter 2024 RTOC takes place in San Francisco & online on January 30 – February 1, 2024.

[Regional Tribal Operations Committee Website](#)

[Region 9 RTOC Meeting: Fall 2023](#)

[Region 9 RTOC Meeting: Winter 2024](#)

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## Tribal Resources

### **Department of Housing and Urban Development | *Funding Navigator Tool***

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched the Build for the Future Funding Navigator, which provides information on funding opportunities available under the Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and other federal programs. Find funding opportunities for climate resiliency, energy efficiency, renewable energy integration, healthy housing, workforce development, environmental justice, and community transportation.

[Build for the Future Funding Navigator](#)

### **U.S. EPA | *Creating Resilient Water Utilities Risk Assessment Tools***

EPA's Creating Resilient Water Utilities Initiative provides drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utilities with practical tools, training, and technical assistance to increase system resilience to climate change impacts. The Initiative features a step-by-step Resilient Strategies Guide and Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool to assess water utility climate change risks.

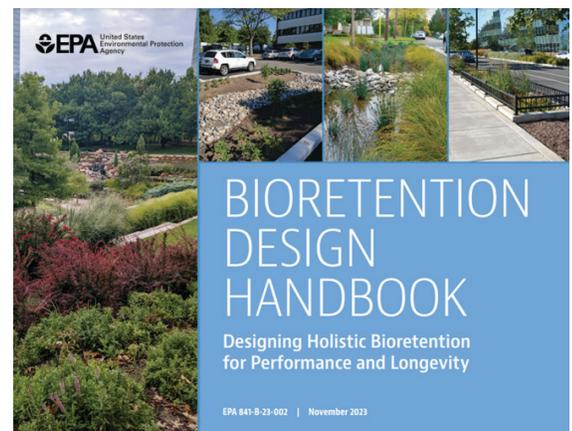
[EPA | Creating Resilient Water Utilities Website](#)

### **U.S. EPA | *New Bioretention Design Handbook***

In November 2023, EPA published a new "Bioretention Design Handbook" developed to inform stormwater management practitioners about the latest approaches and lessons learned for bioretention design, construction, inspection, and operation and maintenance. The handbook is part of several resources the EPA offers to assist communities with low-impact development.

[EPA | Bioretention Design Handbook](#)

[EPA | Low Impact Development Resources](#)



Cover of EPA Bioretention Design Handbook

### **U.S. EPA | *Wood Stoves Resources***

EPA's Burn Wise website encourages best practices for wood stove use. The website's Health and Safety Awareness Tool Kit includes some helpful resources, including a firewood storage video, graphics and photos, social media resources, a sample article, facts and figures, and health and safety tips.

[EPA | Burn Wise Website](#)

[EPA | Burn Wise Health and Safety Awareness Toolkit](#)

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## Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center | *Air Monitoring Equipment Loans*

The Tribal Air Monitoring Service Center loans air monitoring equipment to Tribes for up to 1 year. You can find an inventory of available equipment and additional information at the website below.

[Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center](#)

[Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center Equipment Inventory](#)

## U.S. EPA | *Report on Decision-Making and Social Processes in Disaster Debris Management*

EPA published a report in September 2023 on Disaster Waste and Debris Management to inform federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies involved with waste management, emergency response, and disaster planning. After a disaster or environmental emergency, debris removal and waste management can help avoid secondary environmental and health problems and support community recovery. The report provides:

- **Analysis of the social processes of waste management: who is involved, how they interact, and how and why they make the decisions they do during pre- and post-incident operational phases.**
- **Analysis of how institutional arrangements, relationships, values, cost and reimbursement, and other social processes affect waste management.**

[EPA | Decision-Making and Social Processes in Disaster Debris Management Report](#)

## U.S. EPA | *New Food Waste Reports*

EPA published two reports in October 2023 on food waste, quantifying methane emissions from landfilled food waste and updating recommendations for managing wasted food. The report presented a new Wasted Food Scale to help decision-makers understand the best options for managing food waste in terms of environmental impacts and trends in methane emissions from landfilled food waste.

[From Field to Bin: The Environmental Impacts of U.S. Food Waste Management Pathways](#)  
[Quantifying Methane Emissions from Landfilled Food Waste](#)  
[EPA Wasted Food Scale](#)

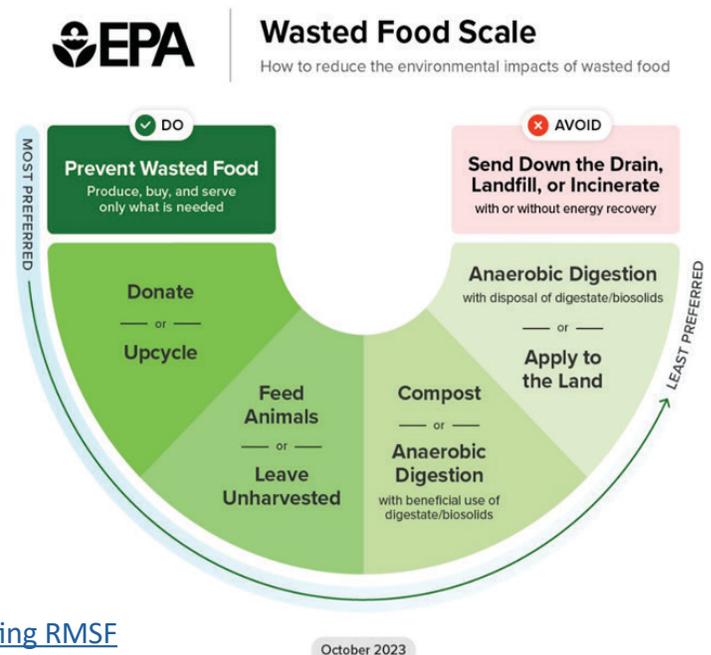
## U.S. EPA | *EPA Search Tool for Insect Repellents*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported a rise in the number of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) cases near the U.S.-Mexico border in Tecate, Mexico. Please refer to the CDC's information on preventing, recognizing, and treating RMSF. If you decide to apply pesticides, remember to read the label, and follow its instructions to protect your health. The EPA also offers a search tool to find the repellent product that is right for you.

[EPA | Insect Repellent Search Tool](#)

[CDC | Rise in Confirmed RMSF Cases](#)

[CDC | Information on Preventing, Recognizing, and Treating RMSF](#)



EPA Wasted Food Scale

## Tribal Consultation

*A full list of active 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](mailto:Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov) to receive email notifications on the latest U.S. EPA Tribal Consultations.*

### **U.S. EPA | Proposed Combined EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Work Plan Template**

EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) is excited to announce that the proposed Combined EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) and Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) work plan template to assist grantees and EPA with the creation of ETEPs and GAP stand-alone work plans is now ready for review. This template will provide a streamlined way to identify and report information that is already outlined in the 2022 GAP Guidance, 40 CFR § 35.507, and the 1992 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act. In the 2022 GAP Guidance, section 2.3, AIEO commits to providing templates to assist Tribes considering a streamlined format.

The Federal Register Notice is available to view at the link below. The proposed template, and other information, can be found at the regulations docket link below. Comments regarding the template can be submitted referencing Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OITA-2023-0383 online using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) (the preferred method), or by email to [docket\\_oms@epa.gov](mailto:docket_oms@epa.gov).

[Federal Register Notice on Combined ETEP and GAP Work Plan](#)  
[Regulations Docket on Combined ETEP and GAP Work Plan](#)

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

Each month, the Region 9 Tribal Operations Committee Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and discuss consultation topics of interest. This RTOC workgroup is jointly chaired by Cliff Banuelos, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, and Rubén Mojica Hernandez, EPA Region 9 Tribal Branch Manager.

For more information or to become involved, please contact Cliff at [cbanuelos@itcn.org](mailto:cbanuelos@itcn.org) or Rubén at [Mojica-Hernandez.Ruben@epa.gov](mailto:Mojica-Hernandez.Ruben@epa.gov).



*Owens Valley Indian Water Commission Three Creeks area*

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

In response to ongoing requests from Tribes in Region 9 for more outreach on current Tribal consultations, we have compiled a schedule of upcoming consultation engagement opportunities for all the various U.S. EPA proposed water actions on deck. This document provides a visual calendar component to track important consultation dates and includes a narrative component that briefly summarizes all current actions with more specific resources.

To access the most current and future visual calendars, please follow the links below.

[Tribal Consultation | EPA Pacific Southwest \(Region 9\)](#)  
[Tribal Clean Water Act Programs and Grants | EPA Pacific Southwest \(Region 9\)](#)

## **U.S. EPA Region 9 | *Air and Radiation Division Reviewing State Implementation Plan Submittals***

The EPA Region 9 Air and Radiation Division (ARD) is reviewing the following State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals from state and local air agencies. These SIP submittals address the Clean Air Act requirements related to plans to attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), New Source Review (NSR) permitting programs or rules, and prohibitory rules to reduce air pollutant emissions. The plans and rules submitted by states and local air districts would not apply in any areas of Indian Country. If you would like information on any of these SIP submittals, please email the point of contact for the submittal.

### **Plan Submittals**

Contact: Karina O'Connor, Acting Manager of the Planning Section, [Oconnor.Karina@epa.gov](mailto:Oconnor.Karina@epa.gov)

- Coachella Valley (California) Extreme Area Attainment Plan for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS
- Coachella Valley (California) Vehicle Miles Travel Offset for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS

Contact: Ashley Graham, Acting Manager of the Geographic Strategies & Modeling Section, [Graham.Ashley@epa.gov](mailto:Graham.Ashley@epa.gov)

- Arizona Infrastructure State Implementation Plan for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS

### **Rule Submittals**

Contact: Doris Lo, Manager of the Rules Section, [Lo.Doris@epa.gov](mailto:Lo.Doris@epa.gov)

- Clark County (Nevada) NSR Rules and Certification for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Feather River (California) NSR Certification for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Mojave Desert (California) PSD Rule
- San Diego (California) NSR Exemptions Rule
- San Joaquin Valley (California) NSR Rules
- Sacramento Area (California) Certification for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Tehama County (California) NSR Rule
- Yolo-Solano (California) Certification for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Maricopa County (Arizona) NSR Rule
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality NSR Rules
- Inspection/Maintenance Certification and Performance Standard Modeling (PSM) for the 2008 and/or 2015 Ozone NAAQS for West Mojave Desert, South Coast, Coachella, Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, Ventura, and Eastern Kern (California)
- Emission Statement Rules for San Diego, Tehama and Eastern Kern (California)
- 185 Fee Rules for Sacramento, San Diego, Feather River, and Mojave Desert/Antelope Valley (California)
- California Advanced Clean Cars Regulation
- Maricopa County (Arizona) Emergency Episodes Rule

Contact: Lisa Beckham, Manager of the Control Measures Section, [Beckham.Lisa@epa.gov](mailto:Beckham.Lisa@epa.gov)

- Maricopa County (Arizona) Rules for Gasoline Dispensing and Organic Liquids
  - Reasonably Available Control Technology for San Diego (California) for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone NAAQS
  - South Coast (California) Rule on Refinery Flares
  - Washoe County (Nevada) Rules on Open Burning and Prescribed Burning
  - California Oil & Gas Rule for Methane
-

## Funding Opportunities

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

### **U.S. Department of Energy and Internal Revenue Service | *Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program***

- Purpose: The Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program increases the amount of clean-energy investment tax credits for qualified solar or wind facilities that are in low-income communities or on Tribal land, are part of affordable housing developments, or benefit low-income households.
- Funding: Eligible applicants can apply to receive a 10 or 20-percentage point boost to the energy investment tax credit
- Eligibility: Solar or wind facilities must qualify under one of the four project categories:
  - » Category 1: Located in a low-income community.
  - » Category 2: Located on Indian land.
  - » Category 3: Part of a qualified low-income residential building project.
  - » Category 4: Part of a qualified low-income economic benefit project.
- Application due date: Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis through **early 2024**.

[Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Program](#)  
[IRS | News Release of the Investment Credit](#)

### **U.S. EPA | *Fiscal Year 2025 Indian General Assistance Program Funding***

- Purpose: To assist Tribes in building their environmental protection programs' capacity and developing and implementing solid and hazardous waste programs. The U.S. EPA Region 9 invites Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grant proposals from federally recognized Tribal governments and eligible intertribal consortia for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (FY25) workplan program development activities.
- Funding: Varies based on proposed workplans and budgets.
- Eligibility: Tribal governments and Intertribal consortia
- Application due date: **January 26, 2024**.

[Region 9 GAP National Notice of Funding Availability, Region-Specific Information, and More](#)

### **Department of Health and Human Services | *Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge***

- Purpose: Department of Health and Human Services is creating a national competition to identify innovative and effective approaches to enhance community-driven efforts to address the health consequences of communities burdened by environmental and climate change-related hazards. Desired outcomes include the development of community-driven strategies and application of data-driven tools to advance health equity and address environmental hazards including those related to climate change, and the cumulative impacts of environmental and other stressors.
- Funding: Prizes will be awarded in two phases. Phase 1 is Design of Concept (Idea) or Development of Approach (Pilot Project). Up to 12 submissions may be selected, each receiving up to \$25,000. Phase 2 is Small-Scale Testing or Implementation. Up to 10 submissions may be selected, each receiving a minimum of \$70,000.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribal organizations.
- Application due date: Applications due by **January 30, 2024**.

[Environmental Justice Community Innovator Challenge: HHS Competition](#)

### **U.S. EPA | *Small Communities, Big Challenge Competition***

- Purpose: EPA announced the launch of the Small Communities, Big Challenges: Rural Environmental Health Needs Competition, which invites local governments to demonstrate innovative strategies for engaging with rural communities to collaboratively identify their environmental health needs. Participants will demonstrate their innovative strategies for engaging rural communities and present their findings through a brief report and short video.
- Funding: Up to ten winners will each receive \$25,000.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribal and territorial government leaders.
- Application due date: Competition will close on **January 31, 2024**.

[Apply to the Small Communities, Big Challenges Competition](#)

### **U.S. EPA | *Clean School Bus Rebate Program***

- Purpose: EPA's Clean School Bus Rebate program provides funding to school districts, Tribes, and other eligible applicants for electric school buses and charging infrastructure.
- Funding: Rebate applications can request funds for replacing up to 25 buses.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes, Tribal organizations, or Tribally controlled schools.
- Application due date: Applications are due **January 31, 2024**.

[EPA | Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

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

- Purpose: The Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program provides funding and technical assistance to California Native American Tribes to build staff capacity to advance the Tribes' climate-related work. The goal of the program is to assist Tribes in developing long-term capacity to secure funding and implement Tribal-led climate solutions. The pilot program will award two-year grants to 4-6 Tribes and fund staff salaries and activities that advance each Tribe's climate-related work. Activities may include planning, securing funding for, and implementing projects related to climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- Funding: Strategic Growth Council will award between \$150,000 and \$250,000 to each Tribe selected for the pilot two-year grant term.
- Eligibility: Eligible applicants include all California Native American Tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission Contact List, including federally recognized and non-federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: Applications are due **February 5, 2024**.

[Tribal Capacity Building Pilot Program Webpage](#)

### **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation | *WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants***

- Purpose: Implementation of projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits.
- Funding: Up to \$5,000,000. Requires a 50% non-federal cost-share.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes.
- Application due date: **February 22, 2024**.

[Application | WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants](#)

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## **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation** | *Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program, Fiscal Year 2024*

- Purpose: To provide funding for projects that support Tribes in their efforts to develop, manage, and protect Tribal water and related resources.
- Funding: Up to \$400,000 per project.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes in 17 Western States.
- Application due date: **March 12, 2024**.

[Application](#) | [Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program, Fiscal Year 2024](#)

## **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation** | *WaterSMART Planning and Design Grants*

- Purpose: To provide funding for collaborative planning and design projects to support water management improvements. This includes funding for: (1) Water Strategy Grants to conduct planning activities to improve water supplies, (2) Project Design Grants to conduct project-specific design for projects to improve water management; and (3) comprehensive Drought Contingency Plans.
- Funding: Up to \$400,000 per project.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes.
- Application due date: **April 2, 2024**.

[Application](#) | [WaterSMART Planning and Design Grants](#)

## **U.S. Bureau of Reclamation** | *Native American Affairs Program, Inflation Reduction Act: Section 80004*

- Purpose: To provide funding for Tribes and Tribal organizations in the 17 Western States impacted by Reclamation water projects who seek near-term drought relief. Project proposals are sought that mitigate drought impacts, increase drought resiliency, reduce reliance on declining water sources, increase the efficiency of water deliveries, mitigate the loss of water and related Tribal trust resources, or address drinking water shortages.
- Funding: Up to \$500,000 per project, limit \$1,000,000 per Tribe.
- Eligibility: Includes Tribes in 17 Western States.
- Application due date: **April 11, 2024**.

[Application](#) | [Native American Affairs Program, Inflation Reduction Act](#)

## **U.S. EPA** | *Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grants (Phase 2): Implementation Grants Competition for Tribes and Territories*

- Purpose: To implement greenhouse gas reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures identified in a Priority Climate Action Plan developed under a Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant.
- Funding: EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 to 100 grants ranging between \$1 million and \$25 million.
- Eligibility: Tribes, territories, and coalition consisting of two or more eligible applicants.
- Application due date: **May 1, 2024**.

[Application](#) | [Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grants: Implementation Grants](#)  
[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Webpage](#)

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## **U.S. Department of Energy | *Rebates for Home Electrification and Appliances***

- Purpose: U.S. Department of Energy released application guidelines for Tribal governments to apply for \$225 million in funding under the Inflation Reduction Act's Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) program. Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate funds will provide rebates to low- and moderate-income households installing efficient electric technologies.
- Funding: This program will provide up to \$14,000 per eligible household.
- Eligibility: Rebate amounts vary depending on a household's income, the total project cost, and the technologies installed. Multifamily and single-family buildings, including manufactured housing, may be eligible for rebates. Eligible households may be owner-occupied or rented.
- Application due date:
  - » Letter of Intent to apply recommended due date is **May 15, 2024**.
  - » Application must be submitted by, and reviewed on a rolling basis until, **May 31, 2025**.

### [DOE | Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Lead Service Replacement program***

- Purpose: EPA is pleased to invite Tribes to apply for Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) Lead Service Replacement (LSLR) program funding available through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to support drinking water infrastructure projects at public water systems to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- Funding: Approximately \$26.5 million in FY24 funds will be available to support eligible projects to investigate and remove lead service lines.
- Eligibility: Federally recognized Tribes in Region 9 eligible to apply. Projects must be otherwise Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside eligible and be a lead service line replacement project or associated activity directly connected to the identification, planning, design, or replacement of lead service lines. This includes investigatory work to meet the compliance requirement for service line inventories for community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems.
- Application due date: Please make special note that for service line inventory projects there is an expected 6- month timeline from proposal submission to funds awarded and the inventories must be completed and submitted to EPA by **October 16, 2024**. Proposals for lead service line replacement projects will be accepted on a rolling basis.

### [DWTSA Lead Service Line Replacement \(LSLR\) Program](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance and Grants***

- Purpose: To provide free design and project development assistance, community engagement, and partnership development workshops. EPA launched a technical assistance program to help disaster prone and disadvantaged communities prepare to apply for Community Change Grants. Climate resilience projects that qualify for technical assistance include a focus on new or expanded green infrastructure, open spaces, and/or retrofits of existing community buildings or streets to address climate change impacts. Requests for technical assistance are now being accepted on a rolling basis until 50 recipients have been identified. Eligible projects must show the following:
  - » Intent and eligibility to apply for a grant under the Community Change Grant Notice of Funding Opportunity.
  - » Agreement to host EPA contractors for site visits.
  - » Project location in a disaster-prone area.
  - » Site description, ownership status, and environmental and land use information (if available).
  - » Potential resilience benefits for disadvantaged community.
  - » Engagement opportunities.

- Funding: Up to \$20 million.
- Eligibility: A partnership between community-based non-profit organization and a federally recognized Tribe.
- Application due date: Accepted on rolling basis until **November 21, 2024**

[Community Change Equitable Resilience Technical Assistance Website](#)

[Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

## **U.S. Department of Agriculture** | *Community Facilities Grants available to Rural Tribes*

- Purpose: Does your Tribe need equipment for one of your community facilities needs such as police cars, fire engines, furniture for your community center, or laptops for the teachers in the school? The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Grant program may be the funding program to meet those needs.
- Funding: Grants are up to \$50,000 and there is a cost share match which is determined by the population and Median Household Income of the service area. There is also special grant funding available to repair or replace buildings, equipment or facilities that were damaged in the 2022 federally declared disasters. This grant is 75% of the project cost with no maximum grant amount.
- Eligibility: Eligible entities include federally recognized Tribes, nonprofits and public bodies who cannot fund the project from their own resource or obtain a loan for the project. Eligible projects include essential community facilities located in rural areas of 20,000 population or less, such as health care, fire, police, day care, schools, animal shelters, museums, and more.
- Application due date: There is **no deadline to apply but there is limited funding available**, so we suggest applying early in the calendar year. More information can be found at the link below or contact Community Facilities Specialist, Sally Tripp at 559-909-0683 or [Sally.Tripp@usda.gov](mailto:Sally.Tripp@usda.gov).

[Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program in California | Rural Development](#)

## **U.S. Department of Agriculture** | *Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants*

- Purpose: This program helps eligible communities prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Events that qualify as emergencies include drought or floods, earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes, disease outbreaks, chemical spills, leakage, or seepage, and other disasters.
- Funding: Water transmission line grants up to \$150,000 to construct waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water source grants up to \$1,000,000 to construct a water source, intake, or treatment facility.
- Eligibility: Includes federally recognized Tribes.
- Application due date: **Applications accepted year-round.**



*Timbisha Shoshone land*

[Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants Webpage](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act***

- Purpose: To provide an overview of current and upcoming funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, EPA created this webpage. The page is frequently updated with new funding opportunities. Funding amounts and deadlines are tentative and subject to change. See the link below for the overview of funding opportunities.
- Funding: Funding amounts vary based on opportunity.
- Eligibility: Varies based on funding opportunity.
- Application due date: Varies based on funding opportunity.

[EPA | Funding Announcements from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act](#)

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## **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 EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, or applications.*

## **Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium | 2024 Tribal Self-Governance Conference**

The Tribal Self-Governance Conference, hosted by the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium, will be held April 15 – April 18, 2024, in Chandler Arizona. The conference features discussions, workshops, and opportunities around strategies to strengthen Tribal self-governance and improve the health and well-being of Tribal communities.

[2024 Tribal Self-Governance Conference Registration Information](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Region 9 Targeted Brownfields Assessments***

EPA provides assistance to research historic property uses, conduct environmental sampling, and identify potential environmental concerns. EPA can provide communities with free environmental assessments, cleanup planning, and visioning services for brownfield properties with redevelopment potential.

[Region 9 Targeted Brownfields Assessment Application](#)

## **U.S. EPA | *Pesticidal Air Treatment Devices: Webinar Recording***

On September 6, 2023, EPA hosted a webinar about research and regulation of pesticidal air treatment devices. The webinar provided an overview of EPA's role in regulating pesticidal air cleaning and treatment devices, research on the effectiveness of these technologies against infectious aerosols, and work on developing standardized test methods.

[Link to the Webinar Recording on YouTube](#)

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## U.S. EPA | *Grants Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs: Webinar Recording*

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment hosted the EPA Procurement, Subawards, and Participant Support Costs Webinar on June 27. Find the recording and presentation materials on the EPA Grants Webinars web page.

[EPA Grants Webinars webpage](#)



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

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### ***Get in Touch!***

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

[R9Communities@epa.gov](mailto:R9Communities@epa.gov)

**R9 Tribal Programs:** [www.epa.gov/tribal/epaspacificsouthwest-tribal-programregion-9](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/epaspacificsouthwest-tribal-programregion-9)

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*Please see and subscribe to our [U.S. EPA in the Pacific Southwest Newsletter](#) for more general news about the U.S. EPA in Region 9.*

### **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](#)

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*Protecting Human Health and the Environment*