

Cleanup of the Celtor Chemical Works Superfund Site: How Tribal partnership improves Superfund cleanups

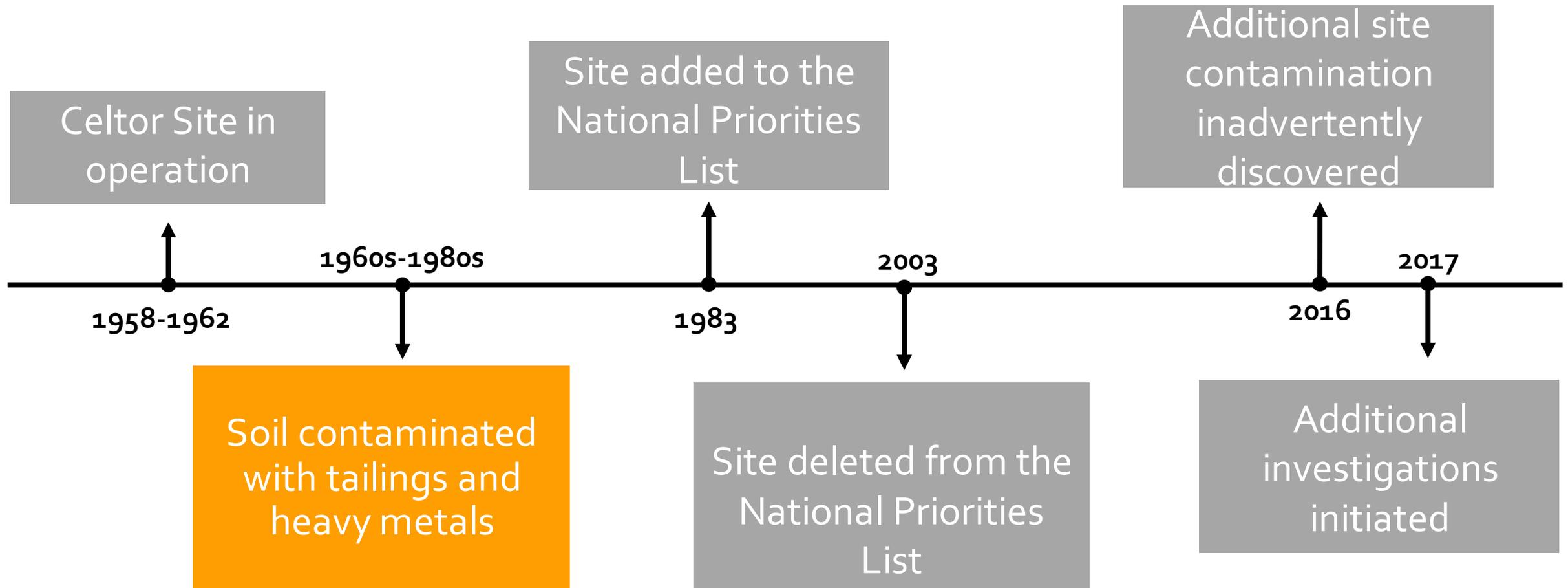


Regional Tribal Operations Conference
May 30th, 2024

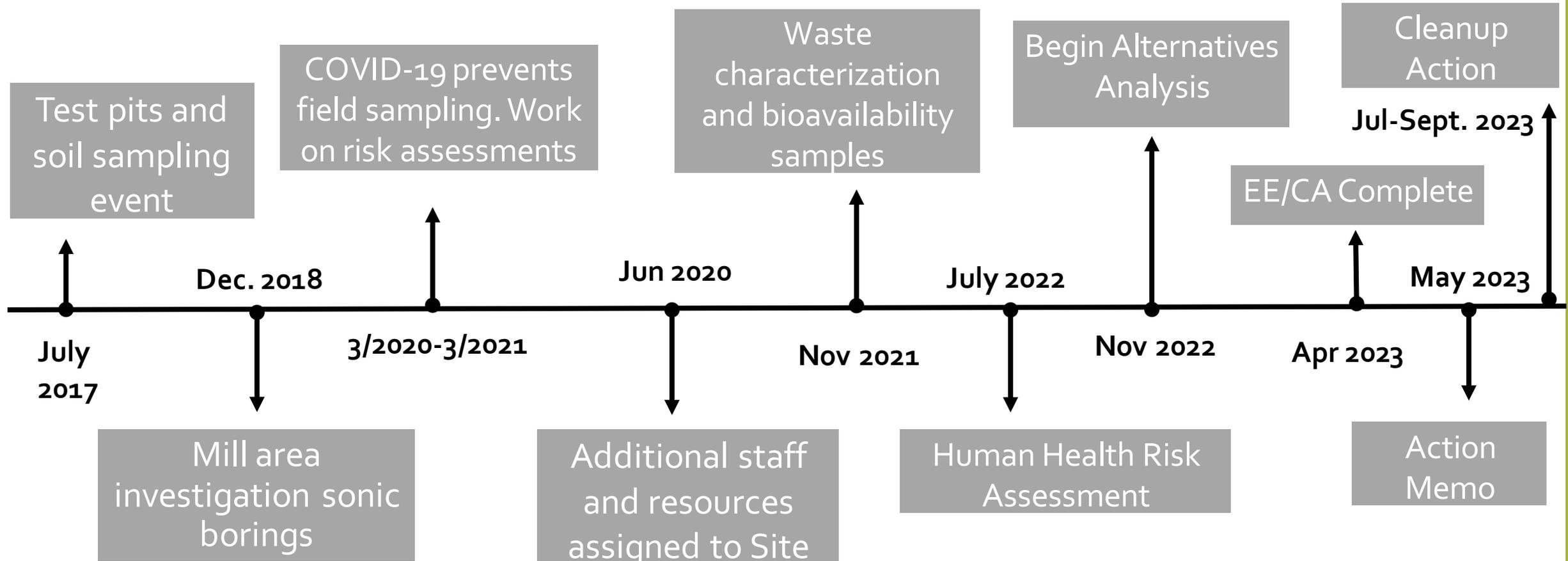
Tonya Lindsey, Environmental Investigator
Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA

Eric Canteenwala, Superfund Project Manager
U.S. EPA Region 9

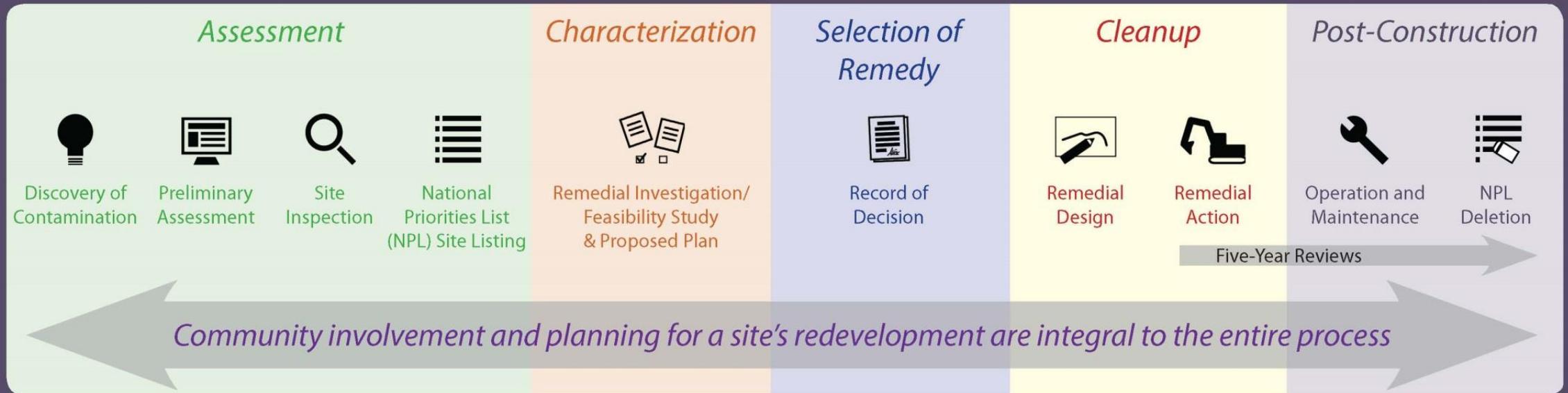
Celtor Chemical Works Site History



Project Timeline



THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS

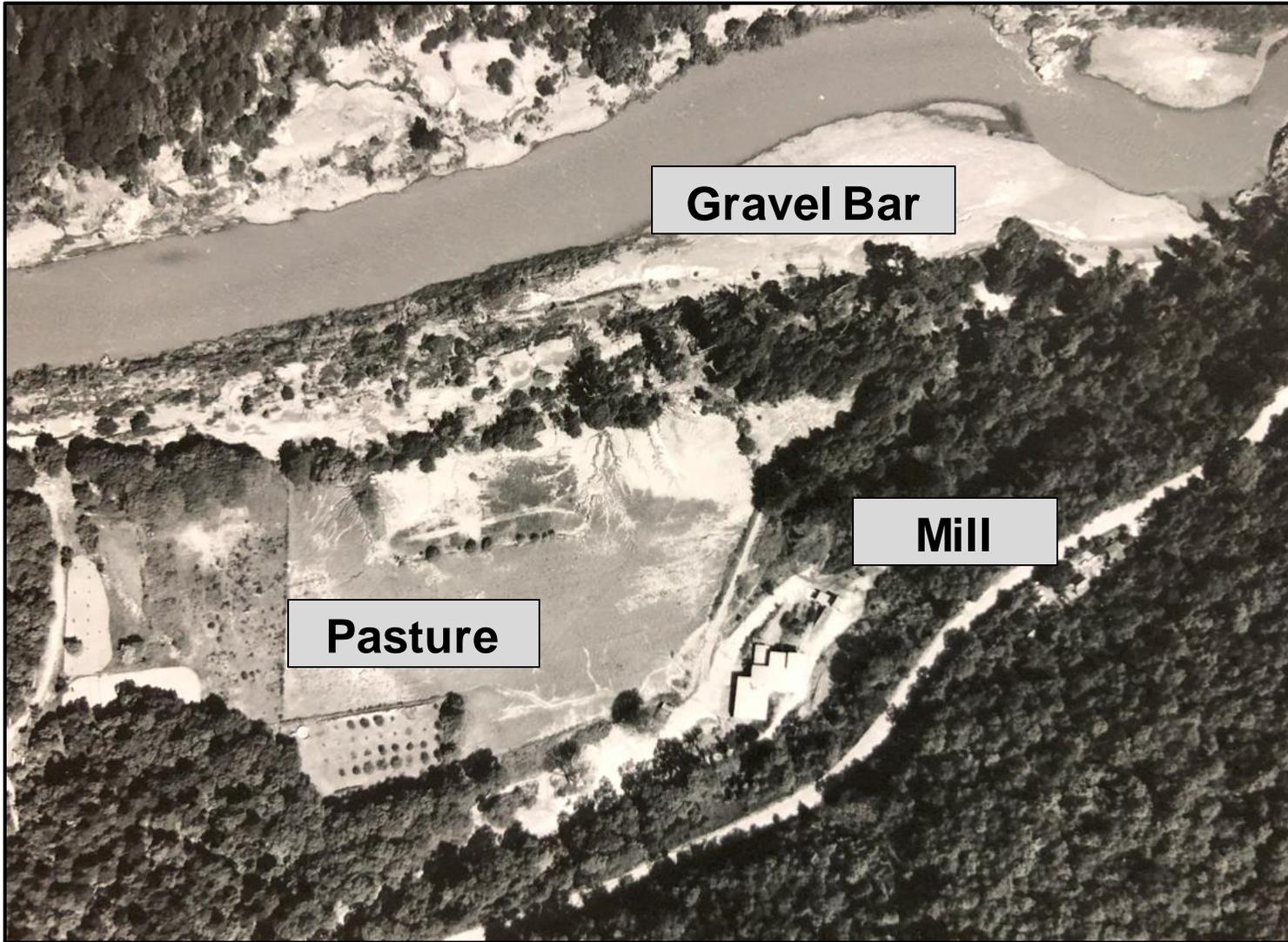


Government to Government Consultation

Tribal Partnership



RIVER POD TAILINGS



Gravel Bar

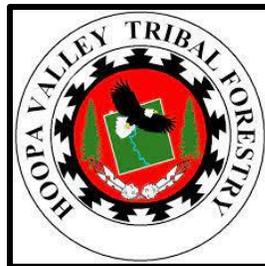
Mill

Pasture

**1964 Flood dispersed
contaminated soils in
pasture area**

Regulatory approvals

- Tribal Consultation- Both informal and Formal
- National Historic Preservation Act Sec. 106
- Endangered Species Act Sec. 7
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Sec. 7
- Clean Water Act Secs. 401 and 404





**GET EVERYBODY ON
THE SAME PAGE!**

Partnership with the Hoopa Valley Tribe

- Hoopa Tribal EPA
- Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District
- Hoopa Valley Roads and Aggregate
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Council
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Historic Preservation Office
- Hoopa Valley Tribal Forestry
- Local fishermen

Superfund Tribal Cooperative Agreement

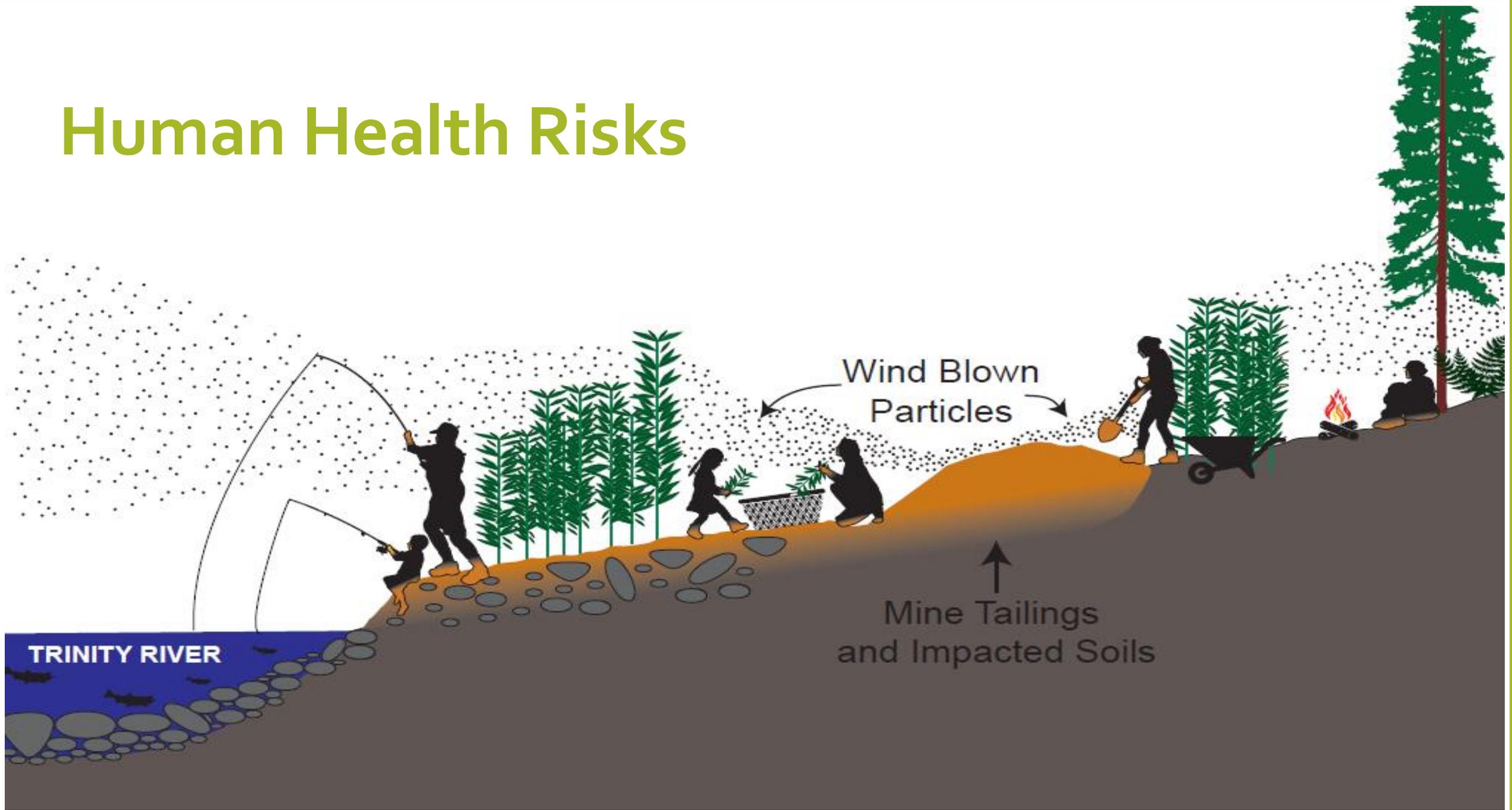
- EPA funded the Hoopa Tribal EPA to support work at the Copper Bluff and Celtor Superfund Sites.
- Independent Technical Consultant to review and comment on technical documents.
- Flexible-large range of activities are eligible.





RED ROCK IS POPULAR!

Human Health Risks





Red Rock Tribal Uses

1. Basket material gathering
2. Fishing/Family fishing holes
3. Acorn cooking rocks
4. Medicinal plant gathering
5. Camping

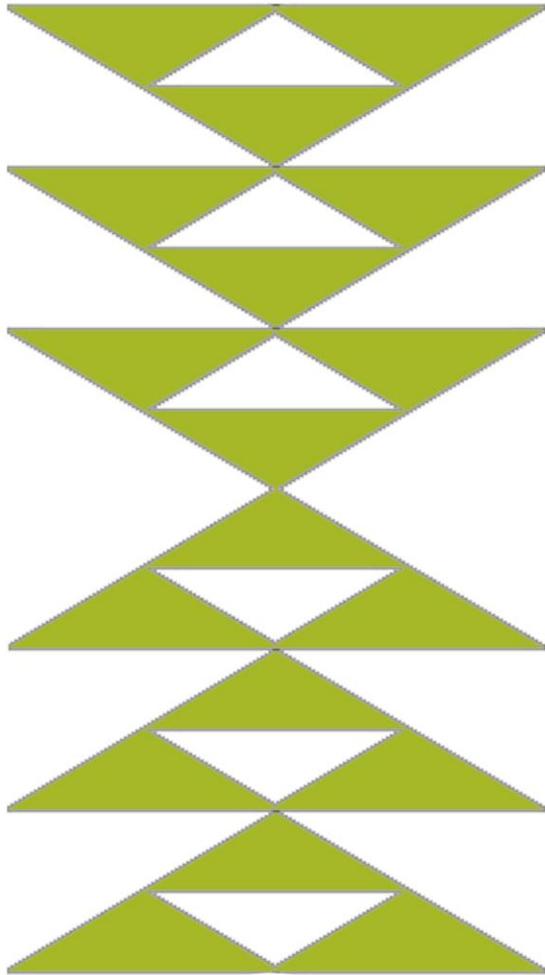


TRIBAL CONNECTION

Gathering willows, basket making, gathering cooking rocks



EVIDENCE OF CHILDREN PLAYING



Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Predicting when the river level would drop, making field operations possible.

Knowledge of salmon migration patterns and how to improve fishing habitat.

Revegetation with native species.

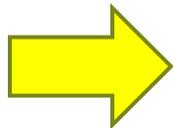
Unique tribal exposures addressed in risk assessment.

Ensuring field activities did not impact Tribal ceremonies.

Cleanup action steps



Site security and staging



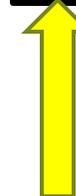
Coffer dam +Excavation



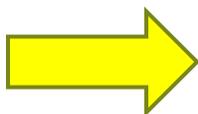
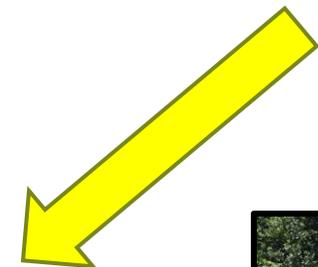
Site restoration



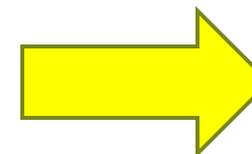
Confirmation Sampling



Temporary soil stockpile



Hauling



Offsite disposal

Summer 2023 Cleanup Action









**EXCAVATE CONTAMINATED MATERIAL AND PLACE IN
TEMPORARY SOIL STOCKPILE IN PASTURE**



CONFIRM EXCAVATION AREA WITH XRF



SURGICAL DIG AND DECONNING EQUIPMENT



LOAD HAUL TRUCKS FOR OFF-SITE DISPOSAL



BACKFILL AND REGRADE THE GRAVEL BAR

Tribal Fisheries/NCIDC

- Informed design to make sure actions did not impact salmon
- Assisted with ESA 7 consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service
- Performed a bathymetric survey of the Trinity River to guide coffer dam design.
- Transport field team to collect water quality samples on River
- Revegetation of the site with native species





Community Outreach

- Two Rivers Tribune
- Tribal Facebook page and website
- KIDE Radio PSAs
- Targeted outreach to fishermen
- Emails to listserv
- Door to door outreach to nearby residents
- Poster board at Sovereign's Day Fair
- www.epa.gov/superfund/celtorchemical



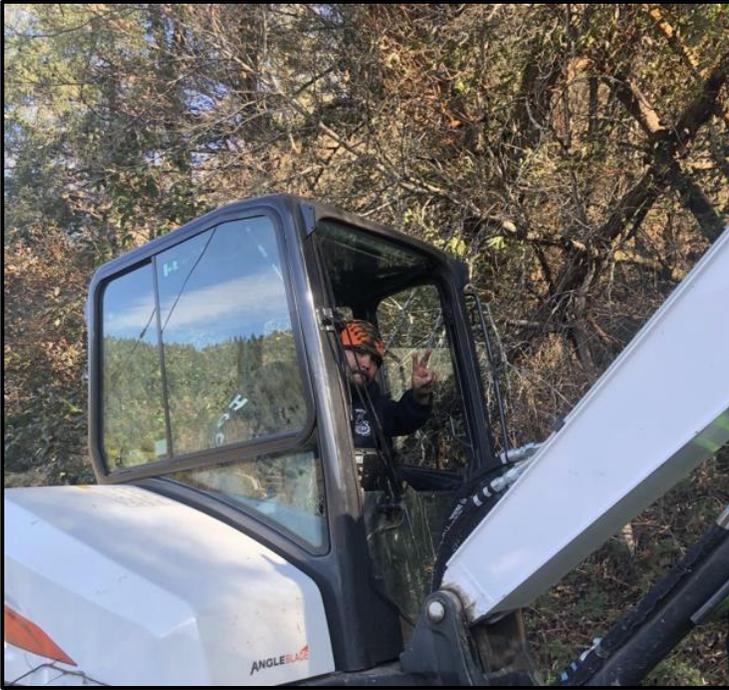


LOCAL FISHERMEN



Tribal EPA

- Driving force to make the project a Tribal priority
- Coordination with Tribal Council, community and other Tribal Departments
- Designated point of contact for informal Tribal Consultation
- Consistent monthly meetings with USEPA staff for over 7 years!
- Field oversight and support.



HOOPA VALLEY PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT AND HOOPA ROADS AND AGGREGATE

Local Economic Impact in Hoopa

- Hoopa Roads and Aggregate -fill material- \$55,700
- THPO/Tribal Forestry- Two Tribal cultural resource monitors- \$34,312
- NCIDC/TEPA Compliance Program - Riparian restoration and community outreach
- Tribal Fisheries Department- revegetation and restoration work- \$23,225
- Hoopa PUD - water- ~\$9,000
- Hoopa grocery store – food and supplies- \$2,922
- Hoopa gas station – gas & ice- \$2,213
- Posts in Tribal Newspaper-\$150

A total of approximately **\$127,522** of goods and services purchased directly from the Hoopa Valley Tribe within the project timeline of 3 months.

Local Labor Impact in Hoopa

1 Compliance Officer for community outreach

2 TEPA staff for periodic oversight

2 Cultural Resource monitors

4 NCIDC crew members for riparian restoration

8 Tribal Fisheries crew members for riparian restoration

1 Tribal Roads truck driver to load and deliver gravel

How can future EPA projects better benefit Tribal economies?

- Barriers
 - There are few tribally owned companies.
 - Need to be licensed and bonded.
 - HAZWOPER training and medical monitoring requirements.
- Opportunities
 - Site security, heavy equipment operators, local water truck vendor, funding Tribal Government workers through cooperative agreement.



Conclusion

- Tribal partnership was the key to overall project success.
- U.S. EPA would have taken significantly longer to complete a cleanup action without support from the Hoopa Valley Tribe.



THANK YOU!
