



Region 9 Tribal Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 9

November 2024

The Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Emerging Contaminant (EC) Program provides new funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Tribes within Region 9 to address emerging contaminants in wastewater. Below, you'll find information about the program, project examples, eligibility, and how projects can be considered for funding.

What is an emerging contaminant in wastewater?

An emerging contaminant (EC) in wastewater refers to substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials known or anticipated in the environment that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. Consumers can find ECs in personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics.

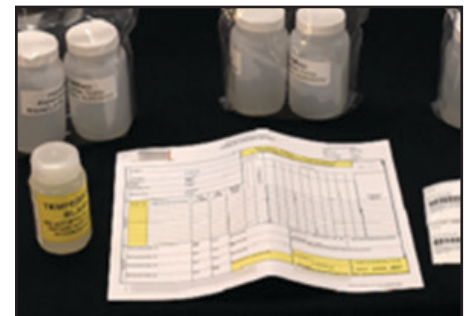


Navajo Nation's Tuba City Lagoon System

Contaminants with water quality criteria established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under [Clean Water Act](#) section 304(a), except for PFAS, **are not considered** ECs. This includes nutrients, certain organics, and certain metals.

What are eligible CWISA Emerging Contaminant project types?

- **Project assessment monitoring:** for field testing an innovative or alternative technology (e.g., PFAS monitoring).
- **Planning and design:** preliminary engineering activities that may lead to well-scoped and ready-to-fund projects (e.g., Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) development).
- **Potable and non-potable water reuse:** water reuse or reclamation projects that might use advanced treatment to remove ECs.
- **Wastewater treatment facilities:** pilot or demonstration projects to evaluate the efficacy of a wastewater treatment technology for ECs.
- **Biosolids:** sampling and analysis of biosolids for ECs.
- **Stormwater** projects that address ECs.
- **Other projects** that address ECs (e.g., surface water protection, landfill projects, etc.).



Proposed projects **are not required** to be identified in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) database.



Scan to learn about eligible EC projects starting up across the country.

Who is eligible to receive funding?

Federally recognized Tribes within EPA Region 9 are eligible for CWISA EC funding.

How much funding is available?

A total of **\$6.8 million** will be available through FY26 to support eligible projects in Region 9 that address emerging contaminants in wastewater.

How can my project be considered for funding? When can I submit proposals?

Please submit a project proposal form and any supporting documentation by email to Amita Muralidharan (muralidharan.amita@epa.gov). Project proposals will be accepted throughout the year and will be evaluated as they are received. If you have questions related to a specific project proposal, please contact your Project Officer.

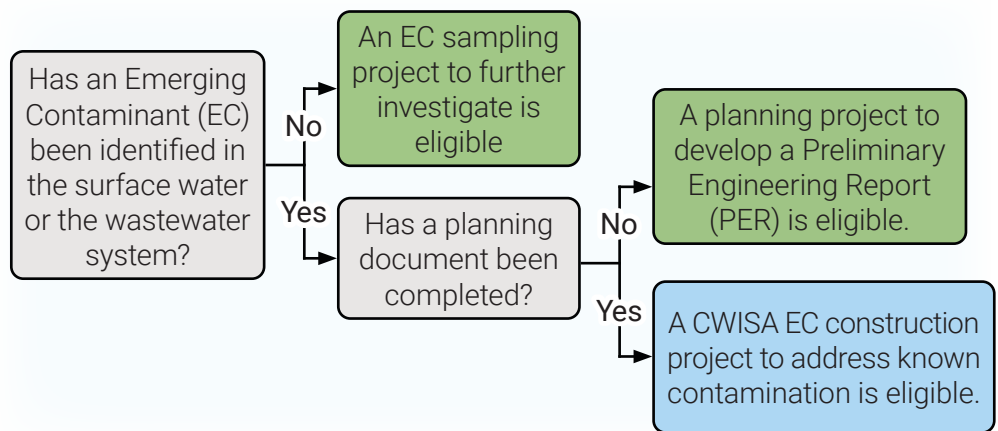


Scan for program guidelines and procedures.

Program guidelines and procedures for funding can be found [here](#).

How are projects selected for funding?

Region 9 anticipates sufficient funding for eligible projects to investigate and plan for addressing ECs in wastewater. If a CWISA EC project is fully scoped, planned, and ready for construction, Region 9 will consider that project for funding. The funding flow-chart outlines the process of determining project eligibility.



How is funding awarded?

Funds are generally awarded through direct grants to Tribes or interagency agreements with IHS. For certain projects, Region 9 is offering EPA-directed in-kind assistance to Tribes to provide more flexibility and reduce administrative requirements. Through these services, our contractors can assist with tasks such as EC sampling, Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) development, and PER development.

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