

**RTOC Region 9 Meeting  
February 2-4, 2010  
Susanville Indian Rancheria**

**I. Tribal Environmental Managers Report**

*a. Arizona Tribal Environmental Manager's Report*

*i. Roman Orona, AZ RTOC Delegate*

1. **Region 2 Administrator** - During the last Environmental Managers meeting, the Region 2 administrator came to the Phoenix area. He spoke with the tribes in the area and looks receptive to the needs of the reservations.
2. **Air Quality Administrator** - The administrator for Air Quality came to the Tohono O'odham Nation in January. The impacts to tribal nations for air quality were discussed. This gave the administrator the opportunity to see what tribal have to put up with on a daily basis.

*b. Central California Tribal Environmental Managers Report*

*i. Cen. CA RTOC Delegates*

1. **Marine Life Protection Act** - A big issue for the Central California Tribes is the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). There has been little to no consultation or input with the tribes. The tribes would like to put in a request for tribal consultation.

**a. Action Item, \*What does the EPA feel about this?\***

*c. Northern California Tribal Environmental Managers Report*

*i. No. CA RTOC Delegates*

1. **Climate Change Budget** – Most of the tribes in Northern California are expressing concern for the Climate Change Report. They are requesting that it be further discussed.

*d. Eastern California Tribal Environmental Managers Report*

*i. Teri Cowelti, Ea. CA RTOC Delegate*

1. **GAP** – There have been problems with GAP online when trying to do quality reports and the tribes are requesting this be looked at.
2. **RTOC Structure** – The Eastern CA Tribes feel that the RTOC needs to do reservation tours again during RTOC's that are being hosted by a tribe. This will give the EPA the opportunity to see what the needs of reservations really are and also give tribal members the opportunity to share success stories for hard work that has been done by the tribes EPA departments.

*e. Southern California Tribal Environmental Managers Report*

*i. So. CA RTOC Delegates*

1. **Back-Up Generators** – The So. CA tribes would like to know if there is any funding available for back-up generator for wells.
  - a. **Action Item, \*How can we receive this funding if there is any?\***
2. **Fill-able forms** - The So. CA Tribes are requesting that fill-able forms be available for tribes to use when submitting anything to the EPA.
  - a. **Action Item, \*Can fill-able forms be made available?\***

f. *Nevada Tribal Environmental Managers Report*

i. *Annette George-Harris, NV RTOC Delegate*

1. **GAP Online** – Project officers are taking their vacations during the time GAP online applications are due. Many of the environmental managers have to call Veronica Swann during this time because she is the only project officer available. This is causing problems when turning in our applications and the No. NV tribes feel it needs to be brought to EPA’s attention.
  - a. **Action Item, \*Is it possible to change the time when GAP Online is due to after the holidays or can projects officers plan on not taking vacation when GAP is due?\***
2. **Ruby Pipeline** - The tribes are still working on Ruby Pipeline issues and are looking for support from the RTOC on this issue.
3. **Yerington Anaconda Mine** – The Yerington Paiute tribe is still having problems with the Anaconda mine. They still cannot drink any water located on the reservation. The NV tribes are concerned that the EPA staff is not being supportive.

II. **National Tribal Operations Committee Report (NTOC)**

a. Clay Buavo (Hualapai Tribe, AZ), Erica Helms Schenk (Soboba, CA)

i. 2010 Budget Increase of \$10 Million

1. Most of the funds increase went to Alaskan tribes.
2. Alaska tribes have been in really bad shape, so the extra funds for them is a good thing.
3. Additional money will be available to the lower 48 states.
4. Tribes asked for a 5% increase on the 2011 budget
  - a. \$560 Million
5. \$30 Million is going to the U.S. Tribes for implementation

ii. **Consultation Plans**

1. The NTOC is now working consultation plans planning conference calls.
2. This is not to replace any tribe to tribe consultation

3. This is to try and pin-point who your representative is or will be and when it is okay to speak on behalf of the tribes.
4. To develop a plan on how to finish their consultation policies.
5. This group will help with PLANNING to finalize and develop, not to finalize on behalf of the tribes.
6. Ron Johnny, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe – “I feel that outside consortiums such as ITCN should not be speaking on behalf of tribes during consultation calls. Face to face should be done, not dear tribal leader letters.”

### **III. Transition Document**

#### a. Marta Burg

##### i. Transition and Budget

1. The transition and budget presentation will be done together this year.
  - a. Try and not be repetitive when it is your turn to present.
2. 7 categories that are important to track with the new administration
  - a. GAP
  - b. Water
  - c. Waste Water and Drinking Water
  - d. Solid Waste
  - e. Air Quality
  - f. Climate Change
  - g. Mexico Border
3. Where do these categories fall into the budget report?
  - a. Oil Spills
  - b. Led
  - c. Pesticides
  - d. Environmental Health
  - e. Browns-fields
  - f. UST
  - g. Superfund
  - h. Food Sups sties
  - i. Enforcement
  - j. Implementation
    - i. All are separate budget needs
    - ii. This gives the tribes the opportunity to expand more on each individual need

### **IV. Work Group Reports**

#### a. Conference, Solid Waste, Other

##### i. Tribal EPA Conference

1. RTOC, October 19-20, 2010
2. Conference, October 21-23,2010

3. This year the conference will be held at Park 35 in San Francisco, California.
    - a. You can find more information on the website about this location.
  4. First 100 people to register will get \$25.00 off the registration
  5. The cost is \$250.00 at the door and \$100.00 to pre-register before the dead-line on the website.
- b. Tribal Science Council
    - i. National Tribal Science Forum
      1. June 6-10, 2010
      2. This year the forum will be held at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City, Michigan
      3. To register see handout
  - c. Air Workgroup
    - i. So far there has been one conference call with updates
    - ii. The group meet with Lisa Jackson, EPA
      1. NTAA Conference call is being set in light of the meeting
      2. The conference information can be found on the website
    - iii. TAMS award was due January 29<sup>th</sup> but was extended to February 26<sup>th</sup> for more nominations
    - iv. NTAA Released there air document and can be found on their website
    - v. Next NTAA face to face meeting is in March. Email Cindy for comments.
  - d. Pesticides Workgroup
    - i. Report can be found on their website
    - ii. Bed bugs are moving west. New pesticides are being used to control them
    - iii. [www.tppconline.org](http://www.tppconline.org)

## V. Tribal Caucus Report

- a. Who do the tribes need to contact for help in regards to Marine Life Protection Act?
- b. Mike DeSpane has a work sheet from Region 10 on GAP online which brought up complaints from the tribes about GAP. Comments are expected on this by Friday on GAP. Contact Corn.
- c. RTOC will be restructuring the format so that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day will be put aside for site tours when the RTOC is located on a Reservation. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day will be the full RTOC.
- d. Nevada Reported that they are still dealing with the Ruby Pipeline and Ron Johnny is concerned with how the EPA is dealing with Ruby Pipeline and hope the EPA will look into this issue more..
- e. Nevada reported that the Yerington Paiute tribe is still dealing with water issues. They are concerned that the EPA is ignoring them.
- f. Where is the funding coming from for GAP online?
- g. What is going on with the grants council?

- h. How much time will the tribes have with Jared the administrator? What day will the tribes meet with him?

**VI. EPA Comments**

- a. #2 Request for information of action items from tribal leader roundtable in Octobers' meeting. The tribes are not sure if these questions are being answered.
  - i. Answer: The EPA meets with individual tribal leader who brought up the conflict. This is the way EPA will continue unless asked differently or on case by case basis.
- b. #4 Request EPA assistance to ensure tribes are consulted when California Fish and Game designates preserves in traditional gathering areas.
  - i. Answer: EPA will work on trying to make further discussions with CA Fish and Game. We need to find a way to collaborate together.
- c. #5 Who at EPA reviews/oversees the Marine Life Protection Act actions?
  - i. Answer: ERO will apply a response on this. Will need to follow-up on this action item.
- d. #6 The Break out session for each division. How can we make this more effective?
  - i. Answer: The EPA will connect with each division, find out what the action items are, find out if they were completed, and contact Corn to send out the information.
  - ii. This new process will work fine to insure that it does not take too long to get the information back to the tribes before the next conference.

**VII. RTOC Workshop 2/3/10**

- a. Grants Management Workshop
  - i. Focus: To identify and work on "bigger picture" grant related issues; assist individual tribes in figuring out "who to talk to" when resolving issues; and make the grants process transparent.
  - ii. Review possible process for working on issues;
    - 1. At the tribal caucus meeting: Grants related issues.
    - 2. That evening: Workgroup leaders will meet and review issues.
    - 3. At all grants management workgroup meetings: Clarify issues, check in on issues raised, and answer questions that can be.
    - 4. Between meetings: Work on issues, follow-up, conference calls.
- b. Grants Action Items, Past issues and October RTOC only.
  - i. #2 EPA requests that a contact be added to each question raised and made into action items. This way an answer can come back quicker.