**WRP Tribal Engagement Temporary Working Group (TETWG) Call**

April 26, 2019

**Agenda Items:**

1. Mr. Clayton Honyumptewa welcomed everyone to this call and provided a brief overview of WRP’s Tribal Engagement
	* From the inception, WRP identified the importance of collaborating with Tribal Leadership, as noted in the WRP Mission Statement.
	* At the 2010 WRP Principals’ Meeting, WRP stood up a separate Tribal Relations Committee, which existed until 2014. After that the Tribal Relations Committee was integrated with the other WRP Committees; each of the WRP Committees have a Tribal Co-Chair.
	* At the 2018 WRP Principals’ Meeting, it was recommended this TETWG be established to encourage additional Tribal participation.
	* Discussed the importance of Tribal consultation and understanding Tribal government. Provided examples of critical issues for Tribes such as energy, transmission lines, etc. Noted the importance of Tribal involvement in WRP; WRP has proven to be an effective forum.
2. Ms. Duffy reviewed the agenda and action items and asked for input.
	* WRP Natural Resources Committee Webinar on Tribal/Cultural Resources
		+ It was recommended that this webinar also include the following GAO report: <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-22>
			1. Ms. Duffy to contact GAO to be part of this webinar.
		+ It was recommended that Darren Talayumptewa, Board of Directors, NAFWS, present.
		+ Mr. Honyumptewa noted there is a Native American Policy Working Group meeting (working with USFWS) in Phoenix on May 1-2 and he can share an update.
		+ Mr. Astor Boozer, NRCS, offered they can provide Tribal assistance (noted the Tribal advisory council.)
		+ Ms. Kathryn Becker provided information on two federal executive orders that are streamlining NEPA and planning-related processes. The state of New Mexico has noted that the federal agency that takes the lead oftentimes impacts the analysis and consultation process. She asked if this webinar might include some discussion on lead agency determination and offered that Felicia Wright, Acting Director, EPA’s American Indian Environmental Office, would be a good speaker on this topic.
			1. Ms. Duffy to contact Ms. Becker to learn more.
	* Mr. Moody noted the Network for Landscape Conservation five-year national grant provides a great opportunity to assist Tribes. He offered to provide technical assistance; please contact Mr. Moody for more information.
	* Mr. Moody asked if the WRP-related proposal to create opportunities for individuals representing their own tribe to travel to Federal agency regional offices in small groups was still being pursued.
		+ *The idea, as articulated to WRP SC members, was to:*
			1. *invite all tribes with interests in the WRP area to participate*
			2. *fund one or more train-the-trainer sessions for participating tribal representatives by Ms. FireThunder and other political advisors*
			3. *fund participant's travel to the train-the-trainer session; and*
			4. *fund travel by small groups of participants to various regional offices for half-day sessions with agency leadership. The sessions would highlight the diversity of tribal cultures and the need for Federal agencies to tailor their legal obligations to satisfy the cultures of each tribe.*
		+ Many of the Tribal members on this call were interested in learning more and cautioned that no Tribe can speak for another. One idea was to try to set up such meetings in sub-regions so that Tribes of a particular area could work together.
		+ Ms. Duffy was asked to contact Mr. Honyumptewa, Ms. Reitman, Ms. FireThunder and Mr. Moody to see if they would be ready for this to be an agenda item for the next call to provide more details on this funding opportunity and how it might work (funding through FHWA).
	* Ms. Duffy noted on June 19th there will be a WRP Tribal Working Group Meeting in Colorado (hosted by DHS/FEMA). Please provide your RSVP by May 29. Seeking input on agenda items for this meeting.
	* Mr. Ramirez noted he is continuing to work on a biomass project and is meeting with California leaders to advance issues.

The following agenda items were requested during the last TETWG call:

1. **California Energy Commission Tribal Outreach Activities** by Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission.
* There are five CEC Commissioners; she is point on Tribal outreach efforts.  In 2011, Governor Brown signed Executive Order B-10-11, requiring state departments to engage in effective government-to-government engagement and consultation with Tribes. CEC adopted a tribal consultation program that outlines a consultation process and developed a tribal program. Thomas Gates is the CEC Tribal Liaison. CEC works with Tribes (informally and formally) to address any issues and find ways to align mutual goals. California has aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals and renewable energy goals which can impact Tribes.  CEC has done significant renewable energy planning such as the DRECP and seeks to ensure Tribal input is incorporated.
* In November of last year, CEC cohosted the first California Tribal Energy Summit with the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, CPUC, and Governor’s Tribal Advisor. The outcomes of this summit included recommendations for CEC to: improve the relationship and synergies between the state’s energy agencies and tribes; and conduct a workshop on energy funding programs available to tribes and explore how those programs could be more accessible for Tribal priorities and needs.
* On May 14, 2019 there will be a CEC (public) workshop on energy funding opportunities including, a roundtable discussion with tribes and the Governor’s tribal advisor on Tribal priorities and how CEC can improve funding programs. Please see: [https://www.energy.ca.gov/tribal/documents/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.energy.ca.gov%2Ftribal%2Fdocuments%2F&data=01%7C01%7C%7Ca1c3d9358de9447b3e0908d6d32ef87f%7Cac3a124413f44ef68d1bbaa27148194e%7C0&sdata=80%2BH%2BBcppwTx8jnrSc4MvmnpOP%2BD94lXRGqOVMkFSrg%3D&reserved=0)
* There are ongoing mitigation efforts with Tribes and energy-related projects. Working to secure state funding to better support Tribal geospatial data.
* In July there will be an (invite only) Tribal Environmental and Cultural Resources Energy Conference to broaden dialogue between Tribes and the state concerning past and current projects, plans, and assessments in relation to tribal cultural and environmental issues.
* Mr. Ramirez thanked Commissioner Douglas for her efforts and offered his appreciation for her update.  He noted that there will be a meeting on May 6th on biomass project (working to secure funding to use forest waste; working with Tribes, etc.) and he invited CEC to be part of this meeting.  Commissioner Douglas noted she would like to learn more and asked Mr. Ramirez to follow up with her office.
* ACTION: CEC sent the cultural landscape protocol following request made on call:

***Cultural Landscapes****- Several large-scale solar projects licensed by the Energy Commission in the Chuckwalla Valley (Mojave Desert, eastern Riverside County) were determined to contribute to cumulative impacts on the Prehistoric Trails Network Cultural Landscape. Mitigation requires the development of field manuals for documenting the cultural landscape. The Tribal Liaison met with several tribes (Chemehuevi, Fort Mojave, Quechan, Soboba, Twenty-Nine Palms, Agua Caliente, and Morongo) affiliated with the Chuckwalla Valley during the week of 3/25/19 to discuss how to collaborate on the completion of the field manuals and related survey work to test the manuals’ proposed methods. All seven tribes are enthusiastic about the project. Specifically, tribal cultural resources staff of three tribes (Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Mojave and Soboba) will be collaborating with staff during field exercises. Staff conducted survey activities during the week of April 29th, and expects final project documents by December 2019.*

* ACTION: CEC shared to their tribal consultation policy, per request:

[2017 California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation Policy and Resolution](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.energy.ca.gov%2Ftribal%2Fdocuments%2F2017CEC_Tribal_Consultation_Policy.pdf&data=01%7C01%7C%7Ca9ad879dd23d4b737c1608d6d3ede895%7Cac3a124413f44ef68d1bbaa27148194e%7C0&sdata=lVxXuXqiWWfEuU4BACJPwLRqcckjoPNgat0XLyjGPnc%3D&reserved=0) and for more info: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/tribal/documents/>

1. **Transportation electrification efforts in the region** by David Bobzien, Director of NV Governor’s Office of Energy
	* Mr. Bobzien provided additional details on his recommendation (part of WRP survey) that the TETWG consider looking at transportation electrification efforts. His office is working on this issue in Nevada and is focused on rural areas and working with Tribes. The Nevada Electric Highway, initiated by then-Governor Sandoval, added five charging sites to US 95. Now with the Volkswagen settlement, Nevada has dedicated the maximum amount ($4 million) to expand to all five NV major corridors (I-80, I-15, U.S. 93, U.S. 50 and U.S. 95) and is working to have them completed by 2020. Nevada Governor Sisolak has a renewed focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; transportation sector is the largest greenhouse gas emitter. The process for additional charging sites is that once a site is picked an RFP is circulated. He noted that it is still the early days of how charging stations will be used and the potential economic development that might occur while the car is charging (for example, will there be signage opportunities, tourism, etc.).
	* Mr. Ramirez asked about the Pyramid Lake Peak Paiute Tribe and the synergies there. Mr. Ramirez and Mr. Bobzien to follow up after this call.
	* Ms. Thomas noted that the VW settlement provided $55 million set aside for Tribes and asked if Nevada was trying to leverage this funding so that state and Tribal funding could work together to assist efforts (easy infrastructure, de-carbonization of tribal fleets, etc.). Mr. Bobzien and Ms. Thomas to follow up after the call on potential further Tribal efforts. There were many questions on the settlement and outreach to Tribes.
		+ ACTION: Ms. Thomas sent additional information – please see ITEP Tribal VW Mitigation Fund website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/>
		+ ACTION: Ms. Thomas graciously agreed to do an update on this item during the next TETWG call.
2. **NRCS Funding/Tribal Assistance** by Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist-West, NRCS-USDA
	* NRCS works with Tribes and seeks ways to improve such engagement. Noted the new Farm bill provides many new opportunities. NRCS provides technical assistance and has many programs such as Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), Tribal Conservation Districts and other venues/programs/resources.
	* Mr. Honyumptewa encouraged Tribes to apply for NRCS grants. Mr. Ramirez complemented NRCS for the seed bank project they did for the Hopi Tribe and noted the importance of seeds. Mr. Honyumptewa detailed how NRCS funding assisted them to have a greenhouse and integrate that with the school curriculum.
	* Mr. Boozer offered that NRCS looks forward to additional opportunities to work with Tribes in the near future.
3. **Follow up from last call: DOI MOU Regarding Federal Consolidated Funding** byIda C. Doyle (Osage Nation), Workforce Development Specialist, U.S. DOI, BIA - Office of Indian Services, Division of Workforce Development
	* Ms. Doyle and Mr. Riley provided information regarding the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2017 (please see information emailed in advance of the call) and noted that Congress authorized a demonstration project (477 initiative) which allows Federally recognized tribes to integrate Federal grants into a single plan (477 plan) with a single budget which proves to be a much more efficient way to conduct Tribal training. Detailed how this process works and how DOI works with Tribes. This allows money to be provided up front and the plan lasts for three years. There are currently 350 Federally recognized Tribes under the 477 program; 66 contracts.
	* Mr. Ramirez described his efforts to train Tribal veterans and asked if this program could assist him. It was noted that veterans are a priority. (Follow up to occur between Mr. Riley and Mr. Ramirez).
	* Mr. Honyumptewa asked about 477 eligibility and Ms. Doyle provided details. (Follow up to occur with Mr. Honyumptewa).

Other discussion items/follow up

* Due to time constraints, the agenda item on collaboration to assist emergency management agencies to support disaster response to natural/cultural resources (in times of recovery, too) will be on the next TETWG call.
* Mr. Ruiz highlighted:
	+ On April 10th President Trump issued  [Executive Order 13868 – Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/15/2019-07656/promoting-energy-infrastructure-and-economic-growth)- aimed at streamlining the federal processes on energy infrastructure development. Among other things, the Executive Order directs EPA to consult with states and tribes in reviewing section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and to issue new guidance to states and tribes no later than June 9 (sixty days from the date of the Executive Order issuance).The Council of State Governments West wants to make sure officials are aware of this matter and are engaging with EPA directly due to the expediated time frame. For more information, please visit the EPA’s Clean Water Act Certification website at [www.epa.gov/cwa-401](http://www.epa.gov/cwa-401) CSG West has been working in partnership with other associations and developed process recommendations and correspondence [HERE.](https://www.csgwest.org/documents/CWA401_EPAProcessImprovementsFINAL.pdf)
* Please email Amy Duffy on your availability for the next call (looking at either May 31, June 4, 5, 6, or 7).
* Please calendar June 19 for the in-person TETWG Meeting.