

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES

Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series

S U M M A R Y P R O C E E D I N G S

MAY 19 & 26 | JUNE 2, 2020



Preface

At all levels of management, the Department of Water Resources values the positivity of people coming together in conversation. This webinar series demonstrates an opportunity for new ways of virtual communication made necessary by the global pandemic. This virtual platform does not diminish DWR's commitment to continuing and improving open and ongoing engagement in-person with the communities we serve. We also recognize that there is great benefit to understanding the lay of the land through on-site visits which we will resume once public safety is assured.

The Integrated Regional Water Management Program provides one of the best opportunities for Tribal engagement and for decision-making as it relates to investing in your communities. All of our communities need to better understand not only the differences, but also the similarities that connect us. We can be creative together as we integrate programs, leverage good the work of others to move forward. Your participation in this webinar series models what it looks like to make these vital connections, and to work towards improvement and betterment of all communities.

As a state agency, transparency, is a key element of DWR's Strategic Plan. In all facets of our work in service to California, we wish to weave an understanding of how decisions are made into everything we do. This is an ongoing process, but evidenced by the posting of these Proceedings. Thank you, everyone, for this wonderful discussion.

Cindy Messer
Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Water Resources



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Introduction

Purpose & Background

The Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series was developed to further Tribal engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and increase access to information and funding for Tribes.

Integrated Regional Water Management is a voluntary, collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale. It intends to increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. It began in 2002 with the passage of the Integrated Regional Water Management Act and now exists through the activities of 48 established Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) and the support of Department of Water Resources (DWR), with funding through Proposition 50, 84, and 1 voter-approved bonds.

With the implementation of DWR's Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program, additional focus was given to ensuring the involvement of disadvantaged communities (DACs), economically distressed areas (EDAs), and underrepresented communities in IRWM planning efforts. Native American communities are historically underrepresented in California and should be given the opportunity to participate in IRWM as sovereign nations. With the Proposition 1 grantees at various stages in their implementation of the DACI Program and in engaging Tribes, the Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series was an opportunity to consider how California Native American Tribes have been and should continue to be involved in IRWM.



Highlights

The historical and contemporary context, from displacement to institutional distrust, must be considered when communicating with and engaging Tribes. In order to successfully and authentically communicate and engage with Tribes, a basic understanding of the history of Tribes in the state and by region is important. Building on this understanding will allow for the development of more resilient and collaborative relationships with Tribal communities.

California Native American Tribes are sovereign nations and deserve to be involved as such in IRWM. Tribes are not and should not be considered public stakeholders in resource management. They have unique jurisdictions, responsibilities, and capabilities. Tribes have inherent sovereignty and government structures that call for government to government collaboration and communication.

While the practice of IRWM has led to successful projects and water management in many regions, not all regions of California have matured at the same rate and improvements can still be made. Each IRWM region, including the Tribes in the region, face unique challenges and circumstances. By examining the successes of several IRWM regions and examples of projects with Tribal benefits, the review of development of best practices will provide a benefit to all.

The future of IRWM funding is uncertain, but the regional relationships built through the program can have lasting benefits. IRWM has resulted in increased collaboration and social resilience and could allow for collaboration in other programs, grants, and opportunities. Some Tribes have reported that the IRWM process has been the only place where they have been able to engage in regional water planning. However, regional collaboration is still yet to be achieved across other program platforms such as in sustainable groundwater management and Tribal participation in groundwater sustainability plan development. Despite the uncertain future of IRWM, it is acknowledged that California Native American Tribes are critical partners in future regional water management to achieve resilience and sustainability.





Planning Team

Department of Water Resources

The Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series was hosted by the California Department of Water Resources. The Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor and the Division of Regional Assistance collaborated in the development of this webinar series. DWR representatives included Cindy Messer, Chief Deputy Director, Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Kristopher Tjernell, Deputy Director for Integrated Watershed Management, Carmel Brown, Manager of the Financial Assistance Branch, Division of Regional Assistance. Additional staff included Barbara Cross, Craig Cross, Marissa Perez-Reyes, and Brandon Fore.

California Indian Environmental Alliance

The California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) is a Native environmental health non-profit which, among other things, has been involved in IRWM in multiple regions of Northern California, including their continued role as the Tribal Engagement Coordinator for the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP). CIEA was an instrumental partner in the planning and implementation of the webinar series. CIEA staff joined planning meetings, provided direction and guidance, presented relevant information, and assisted in facilitation of the webinar series, including the facilitation of the Tribal Caucus. CIEA staff included Sherri Norris (Executive Director), JoJoe Lee, Joel Sedano and Alex Tavizon.

Stantec

Stantec is a global design and delivery firm with a focus on innovating at the intersection of community, creativity, and client relationships. Stantec provided planning, facilitation, and technical support for the webinar series. Stantec staff included Michael Antos and Lisa Beutler.



Tribal Representatives

A planning and advisory committee composed of Tribal representatives from across the state participated in the planning and development of goals and themes expressed throughout the webinar series. These individuals provided time, expertise, and valuable input in ensuring Tribal perspectives were at the forefront of planning. They were instrumental in the success of the event, and DWR is grateful for their commitment to the health and sustainability of their communities, regions, and the state of California.

Alan Bacock, *previous Water Program Coordinator, Big Pine Paiute Tribe*

BryAnna Vaughan, *Water Quality Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe*

Columba Quintero-Cruz, *Tribal Grants Administrator, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians*

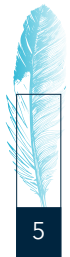
Dirk Charley, *Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians*

Dore Bietz, *Planner/Emergency Manager, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians*

Javier Silva, *Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians*

John Flores, *Environmental Director, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians*

Kenneth McDarment, *Tribal Council Member, Tule River Tribe*



CivicSpark Fellows

The Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series was developed as part of the Building Capacity and Water Resiliency for Tribal Governments and Disadvantaged Communities Project through the CivicSpark Program. The CivicSpark Program is administered by the Local Government Commission and is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local public agencies to address community resilience issues.

Within DWR, the Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor and Division of Regional Assistance are the sponsors of the CivicSpark Fellows. Throughout their 2019-20 service year, the Fellows assisted in engagement of underrepresented communities and review of needs assessments from throughout the State of California. The Fellows worked to increase the participation of Tribes and disadvantaged/underrepresented communities in regional IRWM programs that build water resiliency and sustainability.





Speakers/Panelists



Mike Antos

Senior Integrated Water Management Specialist, Stantec Consulting

Mike Antos specializes in supporting the integration of physical and social systems by aligning technical experts to achieve multiple benefits or facilitating open and trustworthy dialog between agencies and communities. He is an established thought leader on how water policy and planning can be opened to members of overburdened communities to yield empowerment and justice. As a social scientist with over seventeen years of experience in integrated watershed management and planning, Mike is a key member of the Stantec water planning and management team. A consummate team member or team leader, Mike enhances the effectiveness of multi-party planning and implementation efforts.

Mike is a fellow of the Robert & Patricia Switzer Foundation, and serves as co-chair of the American Water Resources Association Integrated Water Resources Management Technical Committee.



Javier Silva

Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership, Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians

Javier Silva is a Tribal Member with the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo, a Northern Pomo Tribe located in what is now Mendocino County. He currently resides at the mouth of the Noyo River, where his family has resided since time immemorial. He has worked for his Tribe and several other Tribes for over 25 years in water resources and environmental planning. He is currently working in the North Coast with Tribes on water issues ranging from drinking, wastewater, surface/ground water management, watershed planning, and fish and wildlife protections. Javier promotes utilizing traditional ecological knowledge and is an advocate for sustainable management of the environment. Javier enjoys his time fishing and gathering foods, medicines and materials for family members and elders.

**Karen Gaffney**

West Coast Watershed, North Coast Resource Partnership

Karen Gaffney is the co-founder and CEO of West Coast Watershed, and staff to the North Coast Resource Partnership since its inception in 2005. Raised in Mendocino and Sonoma counties, she values working with a diverse array of North Coast Tribes, counties, agencies, RCDs, NGOs and community members to support regional collaboration, economic vitality, healthy communities and watersheds. Karen is the past president of the California Society for Ecological Restoration, is a Switzer Environmental Leadership Fellow, and has served on the board of directors of the Watershed Management Council and Conservation Corps North Bay. A graduate of UC Berkeley, she has a master's degree in ecology from Sonoma State University, has published peer reviewed papers on riparian corridors, ecological restoration, watershed assessment and invasive species, and is the principal author of several guides to watershed assessment and ecological restoration, including the riparian restoration chapter of the CDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Manual.

**Leaf Hillman**

Vice Chair & Tribal PRP, North Coast Resource Partnership, Karuk Tribe

Leaf G. Hillman was born and raised in the heart of the traditional Karuk homeland. Leaf Hillman has spent his entire career working in one capacity or another to protect, preserve, and restore Klamath River fisheries and Karuk cultural resources. The Karuk have subsisted physically and spiritually on the bounty of the Klamath River and its watershed since time immemorial. To protect and restore these natural resources, Leaf started the Karuk Tribe's Fisheries Department in 1990 and served as its director until 1994. At this point, under Leaf's leadership, the department expanded to become the Department of Natural Resources. Leaf served as Director of Karuk Natural Resources Department until 2003. From 2003 to 2009 Leaf served as the Vice-Chairman of the Karuk Tribal Council. He has now returned to his post as Director of the Karuk Natural Resources Department.

Leaf Hillman is a descendant of a Karuk dance owning family and serves as a ceremonial leader during Piky'avish, the Karuk World Renewal Ceremonies. Over the past twenty years, Hillman has also taught the Karuk language at all levels of public education including adult community classes.

**Holly Alpert**

Program Director, Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program

Holly Alpert, Ph.D., lives in Bishop, California, and works on California water issues in two capacities: Director of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program in eastern California and IRWMP Coordinator for the California Rural Water Association. Within these two roles, Holly has been working with small, rural, and disadvantaged communities for the past 12 years with the goal of building capacity and increasing self-sufficiency with respect to water resources. Holly also works on the intersection of water resources and climate change and served on the California Department of Water Resources' Climate Change Technical Advisory Group. Holly has served on the boards of Sierra Classic Theatre, Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and Amargosa Conservancy. Holly holds a B.A. in Environmental Science and American Studies from Wellesley College and a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. In her leisure time, Holly enjoys skiing, hiking, traveling, and eating chocolate.

**BryAnna Vaughan**

Water Quality Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe

BryAnna Vaughan coordinates the Bishop Paiute Tribe's Water Quality Control Program located in the Owens Valley, along the east side of California's Sierra Nevada Range. The main goals of the program are water quality monitoring, data management, educational outreach, and environmental order in relation to the surface waters within the Bishop Reservation boundaries. BryAnna has worked to modernize the Bishop Tribe's water quality monitoring program and data management capabilities since 2007. She often collaborates with environmental managers throughout the Owens Valley, the state of California, and throughout the nation on water-related issues.

**Mark Stadler**

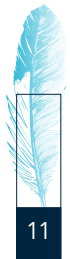
IRWM Program Manager, San Diego County Water Authority

Mark Stadler, a principal water resources specialist at the San Diego County Water Authority, has managed the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Program since 1997. He is most proud of how the program has brought together diverse interests to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to achieve their water-related objectives.

The San Diego IRWM Program recently published the 2019 San Diego IRWM Plan Update. The program has been awarded \$96 million in state grant funds to support 67 high-priority water management projects that help achieve the goals established in the plan.

Mark also supervises the Water Authority's IRWM grant administration program, which administers the grant funds for individual IRWM projects with respect to reporting progress and submitting invoices and distributing funding to the project sponsors.

In addition, Mark is co-chair of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions, a voluntary collaboration of IRWM regions that provides an opportunity for planners to share ideas and information and provide feedback to the state of California about the IRWM Program.

**John Flores**

Environmental Director, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

John Flores began his career with the San Pasqual Environmental Department as Environmental Coordinator in 2011, he transitioned to Manager of the San Pasqual Domestic Water Department in 2013 and became Director of the Environmental Department in 2015. John previously held a position with the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians in 2006 as the Non-Point Source Coordinator. John has worked in Indian Country for over 11 years on Tribal Environmental, Water, and Waste Water Issues ranging from Water Quality to Water Quantity, and Renewable

Energy. John holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and U.S. History from the University of California, Berkeley in 2004. He also received his GIS Certification from Mesa Junior College in San Diego in 2009.

**Sherri Norris**

Executive Director, Acting Board Treasurer, California Indian Environmental Alliance, and North Coast Resource Partnership Tribal Engagement Coordinator

Sherri Norris has been doing advocacy work for over 25 years and received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Policy and International Relation Policy from San Francisco State University. She grew up in West Sonoma County and now lives in the East Bay of the San Francisco Bay Area near CIEA Central Offices. She has eleven years of experience working as a Tribal health and environmental advocate at the local level and at international fora. She has given hundreds of presentations and training on the cycle and health effects of mercury on environmental health, exposure-reduction strategies, solution development and opportunities for advocacy related to mining issues in California. She is the primary contact for CIEA's Tribal Engagement responsibility under the North Coast Resource Partnership.

**JoAnne "Jo-Joe" Lee**

Central Valley Tribal Engagement Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California

Jo-Joe Lee is the Central Valley Coordinator at CIEA. She is a member of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California and is from the Coyote Clan. Jo-Joe joined CIEA part-time during her final semester at UC Berkeley where she served as the Executive Director of Indigenous and Native Recruitment and Retention Center and the Program Coordinator for the Native Student Development Office. As an undergraduate, she participated in the Public Policy and International Affairs Junior's Fellow Program (PPIA) which is a program to empower and better address the needs of historically underrepresented communities. She received the EOP Achievement Award for her work in advocacy while maintaining her status as an outstanding student. She graduated in 2017 with her B.A. in Rhetoric with a minor in Native American Studies. She became a full-time employee at CIEA after graduating, with responsibility for the Mountain Counties and Sacramento River Funding Areas under the Proposition 1 IRWM DACTI program. She is looking forward to transition into a part time at CIEA to begin pursuing her Master's in Social Welfare from Columbia University. She aspires to be a lawyer to help Native Peoples at a policy level to implement positive change in a system that has treated our sovereignties and autonomies unjustly.

**Joel Sedano**

Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance

Joel Sedano is the Communications and PR Coordinator at CIEA. During Joel's time at UC Berkeley, they were a co-Executive Director and Transfer Coordinator of the Indigenous and Native Coalition Recruitment and Retention Center, one of the inaugural co-leaders of the Native American Trip through the Alternative Breaks program through the Public Service Center. Previously the PSC trip was led by non-Native students before partnering with INC-RRC to ensure that Native and Indigenous students can gain leadership roles while bringing Indigenous knowledges and perspectives to issues affecting our communities. That year's trip focused on environmental issues affecting Indigenous, with on location focus on the Campo Kumeyaay Nation. Joel was an intern at CIEA during their final year at Cal before joining full time in 2019. Joel graduated from UC Berkeley with Bachelors of Art in English and Gender and Women's Studies with a minor in Creative Writing. With the assistance of CIEA's IT Management Coordinator, they revitalized CIEA's monthly newsletter, which features a multitude of news articles, funding opportunities, and various Tribal related issues to CIEA's Tribal members. Joel is currently applying to MFA programs, and plans to do a dual JD/PhD program in the hopes of working on policies that affect LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit activists, as well as those affected by homelessness.

**Dirk Charley**

Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians

Dirk Charley currently serves as a Tribal Liaison for the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians Tribe and has been a Tribal Council member since 1996. He handles all Tribal Land Management, Natural & Cultural Resources Ordinance(s) and is the Tribe's Liaison for the US Census 2020. Since 2016 he serves as an On-call Tribal Liaison for the Emergency Command Center of the Sierra National Forest. Has 13 years of wild land firefighting experience; served as a Supervisory Forestry Technician (Hotshot Crew Foreman) for the Horseshoe Meadow Hotshot crew, and in other leadership roles with the Sierra and Arrowhead Hotshot crews. He has experience on vegetation management projects (i.e. fuels reduction/prescribed fire). Is a qualified instructor and served on training cadres. Dirk is a member of the North Fork Mono Tribe's Cultural Resource Team specializing in cul-

tural monitoring, cultural burning, oak tree monitoring and meadow restoration practices and techniques at various traditional cultural landscapes/areas of tribal importance. Dirk is currently a training cadre member for the California Indian Manpower Consortium, Inc., "Leadership/Entrepreneur Training" program. He has served as an Executive Director for the Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, Historical Preservation Society. As former Owner/Operator of "Common Grounds", an Italian Deli Coffee shop in Reedley, CA, he gained knowledge and experience of the food service industry's employment laws, rules, and regulations. Dirk served honorably in the U.S. Navy (Vietnam Veteran, 1975-79, Machinist Mate/Fleet Sailor). He is a member of the Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Color Guard; performs Color Guard/Honor Guard duty.



Dore Bietz

Planner/Emergency Manager, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Dore Bietz (Northern and Southern Me-Wuk) resides on the Tuolumne Rancheria in Central California. After receiving a degree in Landscape Architecture, Ms. Bietz has worked for tribes specializing in realty, land use and environmental and natural resources protection for 25 years. As an enrolled member of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and a former tribal council secretary, Dore understands the complexities of tribal governments and the need to foster better communication between tribes and outside agencies. Ms. Bietz currently works as the Planner and Emergency Manager for the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council where she is involved in every aspect of community development, environmental and natural resources protection. She also serves on the Cal Trans Native American Advisory Council, Cal EPA's Tribal Advisory Committee, on the Governor's Tribal Task Force for FirstNet, Cal Fire's Native American Advisory Council, Tribal Team Chair for the California Landscape Conservation Partnership and tribal representative to California Forest Management Task Force. She participates with local government entities as a member of the Tuolumne County Transportation Advisory Committee, the Tuolumne County Drought Task Force, the Tuolumne County Tree Mortality Task Force, the Tuolumne County Public Health Emergency Coalition and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee.



Alex Tavizon

Bay Area Tribal Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance, Choctaw Blackfoot

Alexander Tavizon is the Bay Area Coordinator for the California Indian Environmental Alliance, a Native-run Environmental Justice nonprofit working with California Native Americans Tribes. Alex provides tools, information, and resources for Bay Area Tribes to advocate for themselves to be included in various local and state environmental issues that affect them and their traditional territories, including the governance structure of their local IRWMs.

He currently joins On The Move as its newest board member. Alex earned his B.A. in Social Welfare with a minor in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. Alex has worked with various nonprofits across the United States. Alex is an advocate who works with underrepresented communities in order to help bring awareness, information, and representation to the public. Alex has worked with Voices Aftercare programs, John Burton's Advocates for Youth, Children's Defense Fund, and his former Foster Youth Group, Children's Home of Stockton in various positions to discuss his personal experiences in Foster Youth, advocate at benefits for funding for organizations like Voices, Children's Home of Stockton, and Berkeley Hope Scholar, guest speaker at a multitude of events to bring awareness to the need to support aftercare programs in California, groups homes, benefits and ability of people who just take the time to support a youth in need in anyway they can, helped youth at high schools and junior colleges apply for colleges and develop their story, worked on the east coast as a Cultural Heritage Mentor to empower African American youth in discussing their narratives.



Adam French

DACTI Program Coordinator, Amah Mutsun Land Trust

Adam French works with the Amah Mutsun Land Trust as the Program Coordinator for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Tribal Involvement Program. Additionally, he has long worked with Indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the Peruvian Andes on issues related to climate change and integrated water resource management. Adam holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



Angela Mooney D'Arcy

Executive Director, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, Acjachemen Nation, Juaneno Band of Mission Indians

Angela Mooney D'Arcy was born in her ancestral homelands whose traditional territories include the area now known as Orange County and raised in the ancestral homelands of the Osage, Kaw and Wichita Peoples. She has been working with Native Nations, Indigenous Peoples, grassroots and nonprofit organizations, artists, educators and institutions on environmental and cultural justice issues for nearly twenty years. She is the Executive Director and Founder of Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, an Indigenous-led, grassroots environmental justice organization dedicated to building the capacity of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples to protect sacred lands, waters, and cultures. She co-founded the United Coalition to Protect Panhe, an alliance of Acjachemen people dedicated to the protection of the sacred site Panhe and served on the Board of the Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum & Acjachemen Cultural Center for nearly a decade. She received her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. with a concentration in Critical Race Studies and focus on federal Indian law from University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. She currently lives and works in unceded Tongva homelands now known as Los Angeles, California and teaches Indigenous Environmental Law, Indigenous Land Use Planning and Indigenous Environmental Justice courses at Pitzer College.



Kenneth McDarment

Tribal Council Member, Tule River Tribe

Kenneth McDarment is an enrolled member of the Tule River Indian Tribe of California. He is currently a sitting member of the Tule River Tribal Council. Kenneth is married with four children and they reside on the Tule River Indian Reservation located in the foothills of Central California. Kenneth is a cattle rancher and is passionate about the Natural Resources here on the Reservation. In his spare time, he hunts, fishes, works his cattle and loves to spend time with his family. Kenneth is a member of the Tule River Tribal Water Team which has spent a lot of time working to implement the Tribe's Water Settlement Agreement. The Settlement Agreement was negotiated in 2007 with downstream users on the South Fork Tule River. In working to improve the water-related infrastructure on the Tule River Reservation and provide

the community with safe and clean water, Mr. McDarment's focus has been on the maintenance and improvement of the Tribe's existing water distribution system, storage tanks, dam projects and the Tribe's wastewater treatment plants. He has been working diligently on the Tribe's Beaver Restoration Project.



Tom Keegan

Tribal Specialist Lead, California Rural Water Association

Thomas Keegan is a Tribal specialist with the California Rural Water Association. He has a geology degree and California water operator certification. He has experience in both public and private sectors of the environmental field, including 15 years as director of environmental departments for tribal governments. In his current position, he provides technical assistance to Tribes throughout California on water-related issues.

DWR Staff



Kelley List

Senior Engineering Geologist, Financial Assistance Branch, Division of Regional Assistance, Department of Water Resources

Kelley List worked for a geotechnical engineering firm in El Dorado Hills, CA between 2004 and 2008 where she performed a wide range of field activities from slope failures to drainage mitigation plans, mapping naturally occurring asbestos, and hazardous waste cleanup mitigation. Kelley worked at the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) for 10 years in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) until 2012 and the Stormwater Grant Program Unit until 2018. In DFA, she worked with multiple local and governmental agencies to implement IRWM projects and planning and implementation grants focusing on stormwater capture projects and Stormwater Resource Plans. She moved to DWR in July 2018 to manage the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans.



Simar Dhanota

Senior Engineer, Communication & Engagement Section, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, Executive Division, Department of Water Resources

Simar Dhanota is a Senior Water Resources Engineer in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office's Outreach and Engagement Section and works closely with the DWR Region Offices. She is also the DWR lead for the Facilitation Support Services.

**Carmel Brown**

*Branch Chief, Financial Assistance Branch, Division of Regional Assistance,
Department of Water Resources*

Carmel Brown manages the Financial Assistance Branch with the Division Regional Assistance at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Her multi-disciplinary team administers and delivers millions of dollars in grants made possible by voter-approved bonds. The funding targets multi-benefit projects planned and conducted through integrated, collaborative, watershed-based processes, with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of traditionally underrepresented vulnerable communities and Tribes. The funds enable local and regional communities and water organizations throughout California to manage water resources more sustainably and become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including drought, floods, wildfires, sea level rise and ecosystem degradation. Prior to joining the State in 2013, Carmel worked for nearly 30 years in the private environmental consulting world. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and is a registered Civil Engineer in California.

**Kristopher Tjernell**

Deputy Director, Integrated Watershed Management, Executive Division, Department of Water Resources

Kristopher A. Tjernell was appointed Deputy Director of the Integrated Watershed Management Program on May 14, 2018. This position is responsible for advancing policies and programs that integrate and provide multiple benefits including flood management, local water supply, and ecosystem restoration. He oversees the Division of Integrated Regional Water Management, the Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management, the Climate Change Office, and DWR's EcoRestore Program.

In 2014, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Tjernell to the position of Special Assistant for Water Policy at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) where he accelerated and coordinated implementation of Yolo Bypass flood and habitat restoration projects, California EcoRestore projects and related planning, and other actions to further the California Water Action Plan. He worked closely with Secretary John Laird to develop and negotiate proposed voluntary settlement agreements for each of the major Delta tributaries as part of the State Water Board's ongoing Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan process.

Prior to his appointment with CNRA, Tjernell was a policy consultant for Conservation Strategy Group, LLC, where he specialized in integrated water management, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta restoration and governance, ESA/CESA issues, land conservation, water supply, ecosystem conflict resolution, and public finance. He advised a broad array of local public water agencies and non-governmental organizations to advance their federal, state, and local natural resource funding and policy objectives.

Tjernell graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.



Cindy Messer

*Chief Deputy Director, Executive Division,
Department of Water Resources*

Cindy Messer was appointed Chief Deputy Director in February 2017. Prior to her appointment, she served as a subject matter expert and policy advisor to the Director and others on a broad range of issues impacting statewide water management. She was the deputy director of the Planning, Performance, and Technology Division at the Delta Stewardship Council from 2012 until her appointment with DWR. As deputy director, she coordinated the preparation and implementation of the Delta Plan. Prior to this position, she served as the Assistant Executive Officer for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy where she provided oversight for development of the Delta Conservancy's Interim Strategic Plan. She also worked for more than 10 years in various technical and managerial roles in DWR's Division of Environmental Services. She is a graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in environmental policy analysis and planning. She also earned a Master of Science degree in conservation biology from California State University, Sacramento.



Anecita Agustinez

*Tribal Policy Advisor, Executive Division,
Department of Water Resources*

Anecita Agustinez has served as our tribal policy advisor since August 2013. She has over 30 years of advocacy experience on behalf of California's Native American tribes. Currently she provides policy support and recommendations regarding tribal issues to the Director and Chief Deputy Director and has been actively engaged with DWR projects and programs, assisting with tribal consultation and development of the DWR

Tribal Consultation Policy. Before joining DWR, Anecita served as the Native American liaison and manager of the Office of Legislative and External Affairs and the Office of Health Access at the Department of Health Care Services. She previously served as the assistant director of the Office of Native American Affairs at the Department of Justice in the Office of the Attorney General. Her experience includes developing and conducting training in the areas of tribal consultation and cultural competency. She studied political science at Stanford University and is a tribal citizen of the Dine (Navajo) nation.



Rebecca Berg

CivicSpark Fellow

Rebecca Berg served as a CivicSpark Fellow during the 2019-2020 service year with a focus on enhancing disadvantaged community engagement in the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program and IRWM in general, through the Financial Assistance Branch. She has a bachelor's degree in Environmental and Sustainability Studies from Indiana University with minors in Political Science and Nonprofit Management. Previously, Rebecca has worked with a city government in Indiana to expand sustainability policies. She is

expecting to continue working on water needs in state and local government.



Emily Ontiveros

CivicSpark Fellow

Emily Ontiveros served as a CivicSpark Fellow during the 2019-2020 service year with a focus on bettering Tribal engagement in IRWM through working with both the Office of the Tribal Policy Advisor and the Financial Assistance Branch. She has a bachelor's degree in Sustainable Environmental Design from UC Berkeley with a minor in Landscape Architecture. Previously, Emily served as an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley in order to bring solar power to the Big Pine Reservation and increase energy sovereignty. She is moving on from CivicSpark to pursue a Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of New Mexico.



Webinar Summary

Part 1: Tribes & Regional Water Management

May 19th, 2020

Introduction & Overview of Integrated Regional Water Management

Welcome – Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources

Objectives

Webinar Series Objective: Improve opportunities for Tribal engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and provide more access to funding for California Native Tribes.

Part 1 Objective: Create a common understanding of IRWM by hearing about how Tribes have engaged with IRWM throughout California.

IRWM from a Tribal Perspective

Javier Silva – Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership

Javier Silva, a member of the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians and highly involved in the North Coast IRWM Region, gave an introductory look at IRWM from a Tribal perspective. He explained that IRWM is guiding water management practices into being more cooperative and furthering public safety, a healthy economy, and ecosystem vitality. He said that IRWM has historically been lacking the Tribal perspective and it's time for Tribes to start participating at the level that they need to in each region. Tribes have aboriginal ties to every region and territories which cross jurisdictional lines, and they need to be actively involved in resource management in their



territories. Tribes are especially suited to integrated management because they can bring a unique perspective and knowledge of water management, increase communication and trust, and bring additional resources to the table. Tribes need to be involved as decision makers, not just stakeholders, because they are independent and sovereign governments.

IRWM Overview from DWR

Carmel Brown – *Manager of the Financial Assistance Branch, Division of Regional Assistance, DWR*

Carmel Brown gave an overview of IRWM and how the program came to be. She explained what an IRWM region is, how regions are formed through the Regional Acceptance Process, and what a Regional Water Management Group is (there are 48 established IRWM regions and Regional Water Management Groups in California today). IRWM Plans are living planning documents that describe voluntary regional strategies for water resources management. These plans are required, and must be updated per DWR standards, in order to apply for IRWM State Funding. Ms. Brown gave an overview of the history of Proposition 1 IRWM funding. She said that Round 1 implementation grants were being finalized now (with several Tribal beneficiaries) and the solicitation for applications for Round 2 implementation projects will be released in 2021 and awards will be made in 2022.

Tribal Engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (Panel 1)

North Coast Resource Partnership (North Coast IRWM Region)

Leaf Hilman – *Vice Chair, North Coast Resource Partnership*

Karen Gaffney – *West Coast Watershed, North Coast Resource Partnership*

Leaf Hilman and Karen Gaffney presented on the Tribal engagement taking place in the North Coast IRWM Region, also known as the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP). Leaf Hilman, Vice Chair of the NCRP Policy Review Panel, shared the story of Tribes getting involved in NCRP. He said Tribes did not have much of a voice in the process at the beginning of IRWM, until a group of Tribal representatives attended an IRWM meeting in 2010 to demand Tribes be involved in the program. They were asked to provide a proposal on how they would like to be involved, and ended up with 6 seats in IRWM leadership, and an alternate for each position, to represent 33 Tribes.

The success of Tribal involvement in NCRP is furthered by having a consistent Tribal coordinator to organize and communicate among the Tribes. Karen Gaffney shared that NCRP is vastly improved with the involvement of Tribes at the leadership, governance, and decision-making level, as well as in technical review.

Inyo-Mono IRWM Region

Holly Alpert – Program Director, Inyo-Mono IRWM

BryAnna Vaughan – Water Quality Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe

Holly Alpert and BryAnna Vaughan discussed what Tribal engagement looks like in the Inyo-Mono Region. The region includes 7 federally recognized Tribes and 1 non-federally recognized Tribe. From the beginning of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program in 2008, Tribes were involved and attended meetings. Specific Tribal outreach from the IRWM Program was directed at Tribal environmental departments and Tribal Councils and involved visiting Tribes in their communities to learn their individual needs and practices. All signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding, including 5 Tribes and the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, have an equal seat at the table, and all decisions are made by consensus. The Inyo-Mono IRWMP has been able to serve in a liaison-type role between DWR and Tribes and has built trust and relationships in the region. Although regional relationship building has been successful, it is important to note that inequities have existed at the state level, for example, the inability for a Tribe to be a project sponsor under Prop 84 funding and requirements that may infringe upon sovereignty. Nevertheless, two Tribal projects were completed under Prop 84, and 15 Tribal projects remain in the IRWM Plan.

San Diego IRWM Region

Mark Stadler – IRWM Program Manager, San Diego County Water Authority

John Flores – Environmental Director, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians

The San Diego IRWM Region was represented by Mark Stadler and John Flores in a presentation about Tribal engagement. San Diego IRWM realized early on the need for other perspectives outside the main agencies and created the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC). Tribes have been involved in the region to some extent for some time and are currently represented on the RAC with 3 voting member

seats that are appointed by the Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. Apart from the 3 Tribal seats, Tribal representatives and staff from the 18 federally recognized Tribes in the region attend RAC meetings and/or sit on ad hoc committees. The San Diego IRWM Plan includes a separate chapter on water management issues of Tribes in the region and incorporated information from the 2019 San Diego Funding Area Needs Assessment. Six Tribal projects in the region have been funded. Tribes in the region still encounter hurdles such as delayed reimbursement of funds, the struggle between urban and rural needs, and a need for more representation.

Prop 1: Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

Joel Sedano – *Communications & Public Relations Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

Information on the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program was provided by the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA). Ten percent of each of the 12 Funding Area's Proposition 1 IRWM allocation was reserved for the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACI) to ensure the involvement of underrepresented communities. Some Funding Areas re-titled this program as the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTI or DACTIP). The program provides an opportunity to increase Tribal engagement at the regional level, identify Tribal needs through the Needs Assessment, and provide opportunities for technical assistance and funding. Joel Sedano of CIEA described eligibility requirements for technical assistance under Proposition 1. Through the DACI program, Tribal engagement in governance has improved in the Sacramento River Funding Area. CIEA also shared the metrics they have identified for success in engaging Tribes in IRWM, which includes Tribal goals and objectives in IRWM plans, representation in governance and committees, Tribal implementation or pilot projects funded, and consistent engagement in IRWM at the regional level.

Needs Assessments, Capacity Building, and Technical Assistance for Project Development

Sacramento River Funding Area

JoAnne "Jo-Joe" Lee – *Communications & Public Relations Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

The Sacramento River Funding Area, through CIEA, held DACTI informational meetings which were hosted by Tribes and distributed

surveys to Tribes. A Tribal Advisory Committee was developed to review the Tribal Needs Assessment for the Funding Area and guide the Tribal Program. Support was also provided to develop technical assistance recommendations and increase Tribal representation in governance structures.

Mountain Counties Funding Area

Dirk Charley – *Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians*

Mountain Counties Funding Area's DACI Program was described by Dirk Charley, who has been involved in conducting outreach and Tribal interviews for the Needs Assessment process. In doing Tribal outreach, he found that trust was built through understanding each Tribe's culture, land, and leadership. It was important to be clear about the purpose and use of the Needs Assessment while hearing about a number of water issues from a variety of Tribal representatives. This is an important opportunity for knowledge transfer, as Tribes work with various resource management agencies and can help with that management. Mr. Charley also described recognition status, land issues in the rancheria system, and Tribal organizational capacity issues as challenges for Tribes.

North Coast Funding Area

Javier Silva – *Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership*

Javier Silva spoke about the DACI Program in the North Coast. The Tribal portion of the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program was overseen and directed by Tribal representatives in the region. Tribal representatives and CIEA revised the Needs Assessment survey to fit a Tribal focus, while keeping in mind that Tribes are continuously surveyed by agencies and the results would need to be useful for Tribes.

Implementation Prop 1

Sherri Norris – *Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

Sherri Norris presented information on Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation funding. She clarified who can be "eligible grant applicants" and the limitations for non-federally recognized Tribes, who cannot be direct recipients of grant funds unless they partner with other Tribes,



nonprofits, or others. She described that IRWM Regions self-define project selection criteria based on regional priorities and DWR statewide requirements and priorities, then regions solicit for projects and develop a suite of projects to submit. Tribes have the benefit of leveraging other sources of funding to make their projects more likely to get funded by DWR.

In part successful engagement can be measured by whether or not Tribes are participating in the governance structure of their regional IRWM(s), and if projects are not just being submitted by Tribes, but that they are being funded by their regions. The DACTI program was created to elevate Tribes to be successful in IRWMs.

Part 2: Tribal Engagement in Regional Water Management

May 26th, 2020

Tribal Caucus

The Tribal Caucus was provided as an opportunity for Tribal representatives to speak among themselves regarding their experiences with IRWM. The conversation was facilitated by the California Indian Environmental Alliance, who reflected the comments made during the Caucus in later parts of the webinar series.

Introduction

Welcome – Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources

Objectives

Webinar Series Objective: Improve opportunities for Tribal engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and provide more access to funding for California Native Tribes.

Part 2 Objective: Considering successes and challenges Tribes have experienced in IRWM, discuss and record methods to improve opportunities for Tribes.

Evaluating Tribal Opportunities in IRWM

Southern Sierra IRWM, Tulare Kern Funding Area

Kenneth McDarment – Tribal Council Member, Tule River Tribe

Council Member Kenneth McDarment of the Tule River Tribe provided some information on what the Tribe's experiences have been in IRWM. The Tribe had some projects that they were already beginning to work on when they first got involved in IRWM but did not initially realize how thorough the process was or how many people would need to be involved. The Tribe received project development funds through the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program but needed consultants with the appropriate expertise to get the work done. They found that it was very important to have the right people involved from the beginning. Now, the Tribe will be ready to submit for Round 2 Implementation funding for those same projects.

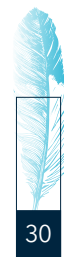
Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM, Mountain Counties Funding Area

Dore Bietz – Planner/Emergency Manager, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Dore Bietz shared about how the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians has been able to develop local relationships and become actively involved in the Tuolumne Stanislaus IRWM Region. The Tribe found that it was very important to share Tribal history, needs, and stories because there were a lot of assumptions about who they were at the beginning. Some challenges that they faced included educating fellow stakeholders, being present despite the many different priorities that had to be addressed by the Tribe and appealing to mutual benefits outside of just their land. Despite these challenges, the Tribe has been able to get support for their Tribal projects because of their continued and active involvement in IRWM.

San Francisco Bay Area IRWM/Funding Area

Alex Tavizon – Bay Area Tribal Coordinator, California Indian Environmental Alliance



Alex Tavizon, of the California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA), has been involved in the San Francisco Bay Area Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program. CIEA was tasked with outreach for the program and wanted to reach out to the Tribes that were the first people of the land for involvement in IRWM. Most of the Tribes whose ancestral land is in the Bay Area have membership who can live there and/or most of their territories are in urban areas. CIEA was able to identify eight Tribal organizations in the Bay Area and now works with four Tribal partners, who are leading the work and giving input on what they want to do within the Bay Area. Many Tribes in the region face recognition challenges, but local federally recognized Tribes in the Bay Area realized that those without recognition should have first opportunities for capacity building support. The Tribal Advisory Committee was a big success because it got many different Tribes in one room and working together. The region was able to carve out some of the DACTI money to make sure that the Bay Area Tribes in the region would be part of the governance structure to determine how those funds would be spent.

Adam French – *DACTI Program Coordinator, Amah Mutsun Land Trust*

The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band are a Tribal Partner in the Bay Area IRWM Program, and Adam French discussed the Amah Mutsun Land Trust's involvement in DACI and IRWM. The Amah Mutsun have been most engaged with the Bay Area IRWM process, but their ancestral lands span over 4 IRWM regions and most of the Tribal members no longer live on their ancestral territory. The Amah Mutsun Land Trust are not a land trust in the traditional sense, but their goals are to advance Tribal stewardship of the land. In the Bay Area IRWM, they have been included in the coordinating and project selection committees and have regained a voice in resource governance processes. Some of the challenges the Tribe and Land Trust face are the need to engage in multiple regions, reengaging displaced populations, and limited resources and capacity. They have some concerns about how Tribal involvement will be continued beyond Proposition 1 funding.

Greater Los Angeles IRWM & Santa Ana IRWM

Angela Mooney D'Arcy – *Executive Director, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples*

Angela Mooney D'Arcy, of the Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples, shared information from working in the Greater Los Angeles and Santa Ana regions. Water stories and struggles are multi-generational, and Tribes continue to strive for equal representation and a seat at the table to be actively involved. Non-federally recognized Tribes should be acknowledged, and their homelands recognized on maps and elsewhere. Tribal voices are resounding in their requests for equal representation in watershed management governance structures. Tribal peo-

ple in Orange County and Los Angeles have demonstrated interest in water management but that has not been reflected by the actions of agencies and in regional water management. Tribes may be included in the first page or first chapter of a report, but Tribal engagement often doesn't make it beyond that, and non-federally recognized Tribes in particular are often subject to erasure by agencies. There has been some local progress, including in the meaningful attempt to include Tribes in the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Revitalization Plan. There is a high level of interest among youth to be involved, and there are many opportunities to improve engagement if agencies are willing to provide meaningful engagement.

Santa Ana IRWM

Tom Keegan – *Tribal Specialist Lead, California Rural Water Association*

Tom Keegan works for California Rural Water Association and presented information from his work with the Santa Ana Water Project Authority (SAWPA). The One Water One Watershed Plan for the Santa Ana IRWM region included a Tribal Communities chapter. Outreach was conducted using contacts from the Native American Heritage Commission. This section of the plan included input from federally and non-federally recognized Tribes in the form of comments and language for the chapter. It identified a dozen recommendations and strategies regarding Tribal engagement. Currently, a Tribal Advisory Committee is being formed, which will draft the next update of the Tribal chapter and possibly weigh in on funding projects. SAWPA is still seeking to create more inclusive representation of Tribes, conduct more extensive outreach, and provide funding for Tribal projects.

North Coast IRWM/Funding Area

Javier Silva – *Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership*

From the North Coast region, Javier Silva shared information on the evolution of the extensive involvement of Tribes. It was very important for Tribes in the region to be able to get together and discuss among themselves first. Tribes had not been given a voice in the past with water management, and it was a challenge to get Tribes to discuss this historical mistrust. Establishing and strengthening relationships with cities and counties is important, but it has been a challenge to maintain engagement. The success of the North Coast Resource Partnership



was developed through dedication to a process that took over ten years to achieve and the commitment to include Tribal engagement and Tribal representatives into the governance structure. Despite the successes, it was suggested that DWR could serve a role in communication between Tribes and agencies by providing cultural sensitivity training.

Tribal Caucus Summary

Sherri Norris – *Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

Sherri Norris shared brief highlights from the morning's Tribal Caucus session. There were some Tribes who had not yet been engaged in their region and indicated this webinar series was their first introduction to the IRWM process.

Topics of discussion included:

- » The continued issues of landless and non-federally recognized Tribes
- » The need for long-term Tribal engagement funding
- » Tribal autonomy over such funds
- » Tribes need to be involved in decision-making roles
- » Tribes need support for Tribal project development in Round 2 of Implementation funding
- » There was a discussion on the possibility of creating a Tribal Caucus as part of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions

Part 3: The Future of Regional Water Management

June 2nd, 2020

Introduction

Welcome – Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources

Objectives

Webinar Series Objective: Improve opportunities for Tribal engagement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and provide more access to funding for California Native Tribes.

Part 3 Objective: Look beyond the scope of IRWM to consider the future of regional water management and how this intersects with other sectors and programs.

What We've Learned

Review of Parts 1 & 2

Javier Silva – *Tribal Technical Assistance Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership*

Javier Silva gave an overview of the topics covered in Parts 1 & 2 of the webinar series. He specified that the Tribal Caucus during day 2 was an important opportunity to have open dialogue, and those types of opportunities should be consistently provided. The process of improving Tribal engagement is a long one, and ongoing relationships need to be built with an understanding of what has happened in the past to cause distrust. Integrated Regional Water Management is not everything, but it is a key tool for Tribes to be actively involved in resource management with others.

Barriers and Challenges from Parts 1 & 2

Sherri Norris – *Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

Sherri Norris gave an overview of barriers and challenges that had been covered during the previous two webinar sessions. She emphasized the importance of understanding that Tribes are sovereign nations, no matter their federal or state recognition status.

The first step to include Tribes is improving communication. The Native American Heritage Commission lists are not always complete or up to



date, and agencies need to understand that Tribes should be engaged more than once, and the correct person is identified and contacted. Tribes may have traditional territory in multiple IRWM regions, increasing the capacity needed to stay engaged. Tribes need to meet regionally and coordinate with other Tribes in their area so that they have an opportunity to talk to each other and build consensus.

If Tribes are at the table for decision making, it is an indicator that they are involved at the highest level. IRWM Regional Water Management Groups need to ensure that current and future leadership know the Tribes in the area and are engaging with them frequently. However, this requires a significant time commitment that not all Tribes can afford. Tribes need opportunities to develop and maintain appropriate representation.

The Proposition 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program has been an opportunity to rebrand the IRWM program statewide with an emphasis on Tribal engagement. Some Tribes were not included in the Needs Assessments and were not provided with opportunities for technical assistance or project development through the DACI Program. Not all Tribes who were included were given adequate opportunity to review or interpret results. Additionally, Tribes should be invited by the IRWM Regional Water Management Groups to be involved in the development of IRWM Plan Updates.

Information from DWR on Sustainable Groundwater Management

Simar Dhanota – *Senior Engineer, Sustainable Groundwater Management Office, DWR*

Kelley List – *Senior Engineering Geologist, Financial Assistance Branch, DWR*

Multiple questions on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) were raised during the first two parts of the webinar series. Simar Dhanota from DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Office shared information on SGMA from programmatic and funding perspectives. She provided an overview of SGMA as well as some resources about Tribal engagement in SGMA and the Regional Points of Contact were included. The questions raised from the first two parts of the webinar series were addressed. If any Tribes have submitted public comments on Groundwater Sustainability Plans, DWR does consider those comments when reviewing plans. Kelley List from DWR's Financial Assistance Branch provided an overview of Propositions 1 and 68 funding for sustainable groundwater management plans and projects to help ensure compliance with SGMA. Two rounds of implementation funding under Proposition 68 are expected in the next few years; the first round is intended for critically overdrafted groundwater basins and the solicitation process will start late summer 2020.

Readers are encouraged to visit the slide presentations from these speakers for web site links and other details. Please also review the SGMA program website for Best Management Practices and Tribal Engagement Guidance Document that was prepared by the Tribal Advisory Group to the SGMA program.

Looking Forward: A Future Vision For Regional Water Management

Looking Forward: Major Takeaways (Panel)

During this panel discussion, panelists from the previous two parts of the webinar were invited to provide some of their major takeaways from the series and their involvement in IRWM.

Dore Bietz – *Planner/Emergency Planner, Tuolumne-Stanislaus Band of Me-Wuk Indians*

Dore Bietz spoke on the importance of Tribes being present and participating in order to have a voice in the IRWM process. IRWM regions should be encouraged to continue to make a place for Tribes and make sure they have a seat at the table. Tribes can appeal to mutual benefits in the region by understanding those around them and what their needs are.

Dirk Charley – *Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians*

Dirk Charley emphasized that the momentum needs to be sustained from this effort. Tribes have an opportunity to work with DWR in sharing the successes and challenges that have occurred for Tribes engaging in IRWM. He emphasized the importance of going out onto the land with Tribes to understand it. Tribes can share resources, particularly their local expertise. All projects must also consider Tribal emergency planning in water management. Maintaining close communication after this event is key.

BryAnna Vaughan – *Water Quality Coordinator, Bishop Paiute Tribe*

BryAnna Vaughan gave some key takeaways for Tribes who have not yet gotten involved in IRWM. Building relationship involves building trust, particularly where trust has been lost in the past. Tribes can find out what is common between them and other entities, including non-Tribal partners, in IRWM. Tribes can also set up a one-on-one meeting with IRWM staff and management to ask questions about becoming a new member. Tribes can talk to other Tribes, both inside and outside of the region, to see what challenges they have faced and what has been working.



Sherri Norris – *Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance*

Sherri Norris gave an overview of recommendations that had been identified throughout the webinar series. Recommendations were directed to Tribes, Regional Water Management Groups, and DWR/other state agencies. They covered topics such as communication, governance structures, needs assessments, IRWM planning, technical assistance, project development, and compliance and requirements. Please see the “Recommendations” section for a full account of identified recommendations.





Department of Water Resources Reflections

Following the overview and recap of the webinar series, Department of Water Resources leaders reflected what they heard and provided some additional perspective.

Carmel Brown – *Manager of Financial Assistance Branch, Division of Regional Assistance, DWR*

Carmel Brown, Branch Manager, recognized that DWR needs to continue to hear concerns and barriers that various communities are experiencing. Tribes understand land and human connections, so it is vital that DWR staff get out and visit sites when possible. The Financial Assistance Branch is also starting to look at metrics of successful engagement at three levels: having a voice at the table, planning that reflects the goals and values of Tribes, and identifying and developing Tribal projects to be eligible for state funding. The future of funding for IRWM is uncertain right now, but we need to build on the momentum from the Proposition 1 IRWM DACI Program and this webinar series while continuing to develop tools. DWR can play an important role in bringing other state agency partners to the table, as well as federal and local partners.

Kris Tjernell – *Deputy Director for Integrated Watershed Management, DWR*

Kris Tjernell, Deputy Director, acknowledged that he heard a lot of open and honest feedback, which DWR needs to continue to be open to receiving. Some of the key needs identified included: know the land in order to understand why we are doing this work, pursue active approaches to communication, and provide more of a step-by-step process guide to IRWM. Even with uncertainty for the future of IRWM, the fundamentals of the program serve as the biggest reason to continue into the future. For example, IRWM puts an emphasis on connectivity and provides some of the best opportunities for Tribal engagement. DWR needs to continue to learn and understand the different nuances that exist between different communities across the state.



Cindy Messer – *Chief Deputy Director, Executive Division*

Cindy Messer, Chief Deputy Director for DWR, emphasized that communication and engagement has been a focus for DWR. The implementation of SGMA has brought back to DWR's attention how important it is to have open and ongoing dialogue. It is DWR's intention to always do better and increase community interaction and participation in our programs. Sometimes we can forget the complexity of these initiatives at the ground level, but the Water Resilience Portfolio is one of those things trying to account for the complexity and need for integration to leverage resources and ideas. The solutions and suggestions raised over the course of the series are particularly useful and most seem possible, though they may take some time to implement, given funding and budget uncertainty. DWR's Strategic Plan identifies the need to increase transparency and have the public understand what DWR is doing and why. She appreciated the thoughtful and honest discussion, the questions raised and the suggestions that were brought to the attention of DWR through the panel presentations and the question and answer sessions.

"Ask DWR" Discussion

Is there any accountability for IRWM Regions on how well they are engaging Tribes?

- One of the challenges and beauties of IRWM is that it is voluntary in nature, as opposed to SGMA which is mandatory. DWR cannot force people to do anything but would like to look at how to encourage better practices. DWR can help identify gaps and bridge information/communication divides between Tribes and regional IRWM practitioners. In cases where gaps are due to limiting language in legislation, DWR can serve a role to inform future policy, legislation, and funding based off lessons learned.

How can we support a more holistic approach across various programs/plans/efforts?

- DWR has a responsibility to promote and incentivize more integration without adding an additional burden of planning at the local level. Climate planning is an opportunity to see and align overlaps.

Closing

Dirk Charley – *Tribal Liaison, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians*

Dirk Charley gave the closing for the webinar series. He reminded us all to have patience, share love and understanding, and remember that we are all going to need each other.





Questions & Answers

Further questions or clarifications can be directed via email to DWR_IRWM@water.ca.gov or TribalPolicyAdvisor@water.ca.gov.

IRWM Program & Tribal Engagement

How can DWR better support the involvement of non-federally recognized Tribes in IRWM?

- DWR encourages the involvement of all Tribal communities in IRWM, whether or not they are federally recognized. The leaders in each of the Proposition 1 Funding Areas are encouraged to involve all Tribes in their IRWM regions through the Proposition 1 IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement program. This webinar series has been part of a larger effort at DWR to provide more resources and support for Tribes looking to get involved in IRWM planning across the state.

Where should people turn when they realize that they have been overlooked by their funding area or IRWM Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)?

- If Tribes are having trouble communicating or engaging with the RWMG leadership, they can contact DWR grant managers, the Tribal Policy Advisor, or coordinate with other Tribes to approach the RWMG as a group.

How many non-federally recognized Tribes are involved in IRWM?

- While DWR does not have an exact number of non-federally recognized Tribes involved in IRWM, that engagement is occurring in some regions. For example, the Mountain Counties Funding Area has had non-federally recognized Tribes involved in and helping to coordinate the information gathered for the Needs Assessment and engaged as either representatives in the governance structures, as exemplified in the Upper-Feather River and in the Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba IRWM regions. The SF Bay Area has Tribal partners, all of which are non-federally recognized. While these examples exist, engaging non-federally recognized Tribes could be improved in many other parts of the state.



Does DWR evaluate/rate the IRWMs in regard to Tribal engagement?

- DWR does not currently evaluate Tribal engagement in the regions. However, the DACI Needs Assessments, and the resulting Statewide Needs Assessment, will provide an opportunity to examine how Tribes were involved in all 12 Funding Areas.

What will/can DACTI do to change the culture and funding priorities of DWR?

- DWR is developing an interim Statewide Needs Assessment Report, to present the key findings to date from the needs assessments completed by 9 of the 12 Funding Areas (the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have posed challenges to some areas completing their assessments at this point). The goal is to inform future policy, legislation, and funding based off lessons learned.

Are the IRWM plans referenced/used in any other funding program?

- Yes. IRWM plans can serve as functional equivalents for stormwater management plans or incorporate the plans by reference; the stormwater plans are required by the State Water Resources Control Board for some of their funding programs. The same information (risk assessment and projects-types) in IRWM plans can be added into a community's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan which will then enable the projects to also qualify for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. IRWM plans are often used as a resource by planners and resource managers.

What should Tribes do if their traditional territories overlap multiple IRWM Regions and/or Funding Areas?

- If Tribal territory crosses multiple IRWM Region boundaries, Tribes are encouraged to engage with all regions in which they have interest. If a Tribe has a potential project, they should prioritize engagement with the region where that project is located so that the project can be considered for future state funding.
- DWR acknowledged that it understands there is a capacity issue in requesting a Tribe to engage with multiple IRWM regions that have differing governing bodies and priorities.

How do you see the relationships that were established through IRWM benefitting Tribes outside of this program?

- IRWM has built relationships between local agencies and Tribal governments which better everyone's ability to take care of a watershed and provide for everyone within a watershed. These relationships have allowed Tribes and local agencies to work together on long term objectives. Tribes and local agencies have also been able to share and/or provide each other with resources.

IRWM Funding & Implementation

What funds are eligible as match funding for Proposition 1 projects?

- Matching funds cannot come from other state funds, only federal or local funds. Funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs would qualify as match funding. Funding from Federal Emergency Management Agency (administered by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services) is also considered as federal funds and can serve as match funding for IRWM grants such as Proposition 1.

Have Tribal allotment lands been able to receive IRWM funding?

- There have been none under DWR's Proposition 84 grant program in the past, however, per Proposition 1 grant eligibility, Tribal organizations or Tribal governments on allotment land are not precluded from receiving IRWM funding. Under Proposition 1, Tribes are eligible as project sponsors and grantees.

What information or resources, specifically, would be helpful for Tribes and underrepresented communities to better prepare them for the 2021/22 Proposition 1, Round 2 IRWM implementation grant solicitation?

- The first step is to engage with the IRWM Regional Water Management Group where the Tribal interest/projects are located, to let them know about potential projects and learn what can be done to develop those projects further as needed to be eligible for consideration in the regional project selection process. Review the regional IRWM Plan and offer recommendations about how to better incorporate the Tribal voices, as needed. The involvement of more Tribal representatives in IRWM regions will help increase Tribal participation and understanding of the IRWM grant process, and conversely, will help the regional groups to better understand the local Tribes and their needs.



- Second, get involved in the IRWM Roundtable of Regions; this group meets regularly and will be hosting meetings specifically focusing on disadvantaged communities and Tribes (<https://www.roundtableofregions.org/>).
- Third, stay apprised of all new state grant opportunities, by checking DWR's web site (<https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans>), by subscribing to the State Water Board notification email lists (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans), and by referencing the new State Library grants portal: www.grants.ca.gov.
- Finally, DWR is also considering development of tools and guidance to assist Tribes and underrepresented communities with future funding opportunities, such as a step-by-step work guide for grants, guidance on participation in local IRWM regions, and workshops focusing on grant applications and administration.





Recommendations

For Tribes

Communication

- ☉ Contact Regional Water Management Groups and self-advocate for your needs to participate fully.
- ☉ If challenges or barriers arise, contact DWR regional contacts and DWR Tribal Policy Advisor.
- ☉ Contact FEMA's Tribal Grants Coordinator for updates to new funding opportunities and special grant webinars for Tribes, (i.e., for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program).

Governance Structures

- ☉ With other Tribes in your region, collectively choose structure and method for selecting representatives who will enter into IRWM decision-making roles.
- ☉ Collectively establish how many seats (with alternates) would be equitable and that you can fill to maintain a quorum.
- ☉ Collectively advise your RWMG of your recommendations for Tribal leadership in governance structures and working groups.
- ☉ If RWMG members are unsupportive, seek support from adjacent regions, DWR staff, and the DWR Tribal Policy Advisor.

Needs Assessments

- ☉ Contact your RWMG and ask to be involved in the Needs Assessment and/or request a copy of the resulting report.
- ☉ Find out what the next steps are in your region's DACI program.



IRWM Plan Update

- ④ Review the IRWM plan for your traditional territory.
- ④ Find out from the RWMG when the next Plan Update will be; prepare and submit your Tribe's recommended goals and objectives.
- ④ Coordinate your submissions to the IRWM Plan with other Tribes in your region.
- ④ Conduct outreach to Tribes and invite them to contribute to the IRWM Plan Update.

Technical Assistance/Capacity Building/Demonstration Projects

- ④ Ask your RWMG what technical assistance is being provided through the DACI Program to address water and wastewater related issues, increase Tribal participation in IRWM, and prepare Tribes for project submission.
- ④ If minimal to none, contact DWR to provide status, seek outside funding sources, and collaborate with other Tribes in California to leverage funds and identify wider solutions.

IRWM Project Development

- ④ Create projects in partnership: widen project service areas and show multiple benefits.
- ④ Review Tribal projects in other regions and the IRWM goals and objectives in your region's IRWM Plan.
- ④ Ask for project development support from your IRWM region.
- ④ Remember that if your project is chosen, DWR can assist you in working through the compliance requirements and you may officially consult with DWR if needed.
- ④ Know that it may take 7-18 months for funding to be available, and plan accordingly.

For Regional Water Management Groups

Communication

- ② Create a Tribal contact list. Begin by contacting the Native American Heritage Commission, then research and continue outreach with Tribes in the region. Regional Tribes can help you by confirming that you are not missing information on additional Tribes in the region.
- ② Include all Tribes regardless of federal and state requirements.
- ② Outreach early and often.
- ② Seek funding for dedicated Tribal engagement, including consistent Tribal engagement staff that are chosen and guided by local Tribes.
- ② Support the convening of a Tribal Advisory Committee with Tribally chosen representatives.
- ② Consider the role and needs of developing a Tribal Coordinator position to assist with Tribal coordination and outreach treach

Governance Structure

- ② Provide a clear path to Tribal participation in all bodies and workgroups of governance structure.
- ② Remove barriers as they arrive and share solutions with fellow IRWM regions and DWR.



Needs Assessment

- ⦿ If the report called out the needs of specific Tribes, submit the draft report to named Tribes before submitting to DWR.
- ⦿ Support the creation of a Tribal Advisory Committee to interpret a Tribal Needs Assessment report, identify solutions by consensus, and confirm next steps to increase Tribal capacity, technical assistance, and Tribal engagement.

IRWM Plan Update

- ⦿ Outreach to Tribes and encourage Tribal updates to all sections of the IRWM Plan, not only the regional descriptions.
- ⦿ Encourage regional Tribes to develop key sections together so the document will have consensus.

Technical Assistance/Capacity Building/Demonstration Projects

- ⦿ Include capacity building in your DACI budget.
- ⦿ Evaluate the amount of funds that are available and reference Needs Assessment to create a draft Technical Assistance Workplan.
- ⦿ Distribute workplan to Tribes in region with budget and receive additional recommendations and/or Tribal approval of Workplan.
- ⦿ Hire technical assistance providers as recommended by Tribes to provide that assistance.

IRWM Project Development

- ⦿ Provide project development workshops, including on completion of compliance documents.
- ⦿ Incentivize Tribal projects to receive funds by adding points to project criteria.
- ⦿ Keep in mind that Tribal projects are often multi-benefit and can impact other parts of the region.
- ⦿ Create a shortened pre-application process.

For the State

Provide Guidance and Support to Tribes

- ⦿ Provide guidance on the difference of match and supplement funding. Clarify match funding requirements and limitations for Proposition 1 Implementation.
- ⦿ Consider how the DACI program and Needs Assessments can work to elevate projects on the Indian Health Services' Sanitation Deficiency System list.
- ⦿ Develop a matrix of success for evaluating Tribal engagement.
- ⦿ Request each RWMG to provide an updated list of steps that Tribes need to complete to prepare project submissions.
- ⦿ Provide workshops on project development, especially for regions that will not put funds into technical assistance.



- ⦿ Identify additional funds or resources for technical assistance for Tribes.
- ⦿ Support Tribes as IRWM leads and/or develop a Tribally-led program.
- ⦿ Identify where a legislative fix is required to address Tribal barriers to engagement.
- ⦿ Review the grant application process for ways to streamline.
- ⦿ Secure or develop funding mechanisms to support engagement of Tribes in multiple IRWM regions.

Compliance & Requirements

- ⦿ Reduce the time it takes for IRWM Project funding to be available.
- ⦿ Share templates for completing CEQA/NEPA hybrid documentation.
- ⦿ Provide instructions and templates for invoicing, reporting, project close out, and long-term project reporting and management.
- ⦿ Clarify limited waiver of sovereign immunity requirements and how DWR will be approaching it for Proposition 1 Implementation.
- ⦿ Provide examples of how Tribes utilized Tribal policies on Tribal Employment Rights with IRWM funded projects.
- ⦿ Encourage Tribes to submit a wide range of sources to determine eligibility outside of Median Household Income by US Census.

Statewide Coordination

- ③ Continue to work with other agencies, such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to provide information about how agencies and programs intersect with IRWM.
- ③ Support Tribal participation in the upcoming DACTI Lessons Learned Summit in development for October 2020.
- ③ Develop a Tribal Caucus of the Roundtable of Regions.





Next Steps/Conclusion

The momentum from this effort is expected to be continued in regional planning efforts and in statewide collaboration. At a statewide collaborative level, support and interest from the IRWM Roundtable of Regions is expected to lead to more Tribal outreach and engagement. A Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program “Lessons Learned” Summit, organized by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, will be taking place virtually in October of 2020, where discussions on Tribal engagement are expected to continue.

The Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Series was one step in a larger effort to better engage Tribes in IRWM. DWR, along with its regional partners, will continue to consider how programs and funding can be made more accessible to Tribes. DWR will be reviewing the recommendations in this document and will continue to support underrepresented communities and Tribal Governments in their involvement and participation in Integrated Regional Water Management.





To access the materials provided during this webinar series, please visit DWR's [Tribal Policy webpage](#).

Webinar Materials

Part 1

Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Part 1 Agenda
Part 1 Presentation

Part 2

Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Part 2 Agenda
Part 2 Presentation

Part 3

Tribal Regional Water Management Webinar Part 3 Agenda
Part 3 Presentation

Supplemental Materials

IRWM Background Information

- » How Tribes Can Engage in Integrated Regional Water Management
- » Example IRWM Funded Tribal Projects (Prop 84)
- » Example Tribal Projects (Prop 1) Implementation

Funding Area Information

- » Central Coast Funding Area Information
- » Colorado River Funding Area Information
- » Lahontan Funding Area Information
- » Los Angeles Funding Area Information
- » Mountain Counties Funding Area Information
- » North Coast Funding Area Information
- » Sacramento River Funding Area Information
- » San Diego Funding Area Information
- » San Joaquin River Funding Area Information
- » San Francisco Bay Area Funding Area Information
- » Santa Ana Funding Area Information
- » Tulare Kern Funding Area Information

Maps

- » IRWM Funding Areas Statewide Map
- » DWR Regional Offices and Tribal Liaisons Map
- » Central Coast Funding Area Map
- » Colorado River Funding Area Map

- » Lahontan Funding Area Map
- » Los Angeles Funding Area Map
- » Mountain Counties Funding Area Map
- » North Coast Funding Area Map
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- » San Diego Funding Area Map
- » San Joaquin River Funding Area Map
- » San Francisco Bay Area Funding Area Map
- » Santa Ana Funding Area Map
- » Tulare Kern Funding Area Map

Sustainable Groundwater Management

- » Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Engagement with Tribal Governments
- » Discussion Questions Relating to Tribal Governments Engagement with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Related Information Shared by Attendees

- » A Guide for Reporting Sanitation Deficiencies for American Indian and Alaska Native Homes and Communities (Indian Health Service)
- » Tribal Leaders Directory (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
- » Coastal Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Program (Department of Water Resources)

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