



California Water Plan Update 2009
REGIONAL TRIBAL WATER PLENARY MEETING #1
Greater Kern, Kings, Tule, and South Central Valley Waters
Wednesday, March 4, 2009, 9 AM to 4:30 PM



The 2009 California Tribal Water Summit Planning Process

1. Work to Date

Planning for the 2009 California Tribal Water Summit began in the fall of 2008.

In October 2008, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Water Plan Update 2009's Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) invited all California Native American Tribes to join a Tribal Water Summit Planning Team.

In December 2008, the Planning Team met for the first time in Sacramento.

- The Team agreed that a two-day Summit would be held in 2009, with the theme being "Protect Our Sacred Water", and that proceedings will be included in the California Water Plan Update 2009.
- The Team recognized that materials for a Government-to-Government session will probably not be ready by August, but agreed that a Summit in 2009 is critical for beginning to build the relationships with State agencies and senior state officials needed for Government-to-Government sessions at future California Tribal Water Summits.
- The Team agreed that partnering with Tribes, Tribal organizations, and State agencies will provide many kinds of valuable support needed to make the Summit a success.

The Team also identified several concrete **goals for the Summit**, including

- Provide an opportunity for the highest Tribal and State government officials to discuss policy issues and explore common interests and solutions – including a clear understanding of how Tribal and State governments can work together to address pressing issues like emergency response to flooding and climate change
- Ensure that the water access, use, and priorities of Native Peoples and Nations are recognized and well preserved in California's strategic water planning efforts – including a declaration and chart a "roadmap" with strategies for preserving Native water rights and the sustainable management of water resources
- Increase the visibility of Tribal water concerns – including highlighting partnerships and successes, and educating state, local, and federal officials, and academic institutions about Tribal institutions, history, and relations with water
- Provide training for Tribes on critical issues like assessing water needs and testing water quality, as well as educating Tribes about state agency roles and responsibilities for water management and state grant programs

The Team has continued to meet monthly, with a few new people joining each time.

The Team involves around 30 people, including DWR's Manager for Statewide Integrated Water Management and Tribal Liaison; Tribal chairpersons; individual Tribal members; people from Tribal Organizations; people from other State agencies; and staff from the Center for Collaborative Policy, CSUS. Like with the TCC, all Tribal people serve as individuals providing advice and expertise, not as representatives of any Tribes.

2. Regional Tribal Water Plenary Meetings

At its December 2008 meeting, the Tribal Water Summit Planning Team agreed that California Native American Tribes have diverse concerns about water, and that regional meetings are needed to identify place-based issues and solutions, and to build broad interest and participation in the Summit.

In January and February 2009, the Team began planning the regional meetings. The Team identified four desired outcomes for each meeting:

- identify the key water issues that Tribes in each region are facing
- to discuss effective planning and management of water resources in each region
- formulate critical agenda topics for the Summit
- build new relationships between Tribes and between Tribes and other entities

The Team agreed that Tribes in each region should be contacted and invited to help plan the agendas for each meeting. In January 2009, DWR and the Planning Team invited all California Native American Tribes to help plan, host, and spread the word about the regional meetings.

Several dates and locations have been identified:

1. March 4: Greater Kern, Kings, Tule, and South Central Valley – Weldon
2. March 10: North Coast – Redwood Valley
3. March 24: Southern California – Temecula
4. April: Owens Valley – Bishop
5. May: Central California (location to be determined)
6. May: Far Northern California – Yreka
7. (possible meeting) June: Lower Colorado River (location to be determined)

The Team agreed that information from each meeting should be shared at all subsequent meetings.

3. Planning for the Summit

The Planning Team is also working on the agenda and design for the Summit.

- This includes identifying critical Summit topics and potential speakers through the regional meetings.
- This also includes planning for special events that may include things like an elder's panel, the Tribal Water Stories project, ceremonies, dances, concerts, films, art exhibits, poster sessions, a banquet, and a press conference.

The Planning Team will continue to meet regularly between now and the Summit, which will be held on August 26-27, 2009.

Your help is needed! You could help make the Summit a success by helping in the following areas:

- Recommending potential speakers, exhibitors, and vendors, and helping the Planning Team contact people as needed
- Serving as a financial and institutional sponsor for the Summit
- Joining the Planning Team and helping to plan and provide labor for special events at the Summit
- Spreading the word about the regional meetings and the Summit – share information with your friends and colleagues, Tribal council members, Tribal newsletters, Tribal organizations within California and neighboring states, and other forums you feel are appropriate

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