



October 5, 2009

Honorable Tribal Chairperson and Council Members:

The California Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team, formally invites you to a historic and unprecedented statewide California Tribal Water Summit. This Tribal Water Summit will be held November 4-5, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. Your participation is critical to the success of the Summit.

The Summit's theme is "Protect Our Sacred Water." The Tribal Water Summit will provide an opportunity for the highest tribal and state government officials to 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. The Summit includes all California Native American Tribes, both federally recognized and non-federally recognized. Key areas will include tribal water rights; water as a sustainable cultural resource; rivers, dams, and fish; institutions (e.g., access to state bond funding); and watersheds (e.g., groundwater, floodplains, meadows). Please find enclosed a Summit Overview package for additional information including a working draft agenda.

Proceedings from the Tribal Water Summit will be published as a stand-alone document, and incorporated in the California Water Plan Update 2009, which provides a framework for the water policy decisions of tribal, federal, state, and local governments well into the future.

I strongly encourage you and your council members to participate and make the Summit a turning point in the history of Tribal engagement in water issues and water planning in California. I have invited other California state officials and agency executives responsible for managing water in California to participate. I ask that the chairperson and/or council members attend on behalf of your tribe. To ensure a place for your tribe, please register on-line, by fax, or by returning the enclosed registration form as soon as possible. The conference web site is www.cce.csus.edu/CTWS09. As they become available, all conference materials will be posted to www.WaterPlan.water.ca.gov/tribal2.

If you have any questions about the Tribal Water Summit, please contact Ron Goode, Tribal Chairman, North Fork Mono Tribe, at (559) 355-1774 or eagleeye@cvip.net. Alternately, please contact Barbara Cross, Government and Community Liaison, Office of the Director, California Department of Water Resources, at (916) 653-5150 or bcross@water.ca.gov. I look forward to your participation at this important event.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Chrisman".

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures

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