



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
MIKE CHRISMAN, Secretary for Natural Resources

October 7, 2009

Linda Adams, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
1001 I Street
Post Office Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812-2184

Dear Secretary Adams, *Linda*

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Lester Snow and I cordially invite you to a historic statewide California Tribal Water Summit on November 4-5, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. Your participation is critical to the success of this event.

The California Tribal Water Summit's theme is "Protect Our Sacred Water" and the leaders of the state's nearly 170 Native American tribes have been invited to attend. The Summit is a unique occasion for the highest tribal and state government officials to exchange ideas and consider strategies 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. Key issues for discussion include tribal water rights; water as a sustainable cultural resource; rivers, dams, and fish; institutions (e.g., state consultation policy, access to state bond funding); and watersheds (e.g., groundwater, floodplains, meadows). The summit proceedings will be incorporated into the Water Plan Update 2009 and also published as a stand-alone document.

DWR has convened a Water Plan Steering Committee to improve interagency coordination and collaboration in preparing the California Water Plan Update. The plan is updated every five years and provides a framework and roadmap for making strategic, long-term water policy decisions. As you are aware, Cindy Tuck, Cynthia Gomez, Darin Polhemus, Elizabeth Haven, Marianna Aue, David Edwards and Rob Duvall represent your agency on the active steering committee, which has been meeting monthly since March 2007. The Water Plan Update 2009 is furthering policy and providing new opportunities to involve California's tribal governments in statewide and regional water planning that affects their communities.

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Day 1 of the Summit will entail welcoming remarks by tribal and state leadership, followed by clarification of tribal water issues and interests. Day 2 will include dialogue between tribal and state leaders regarding how to address the same topics. A working draft agenda is included in the attached Summit Overview package. I strongly encourage your attendance, especially on the second day of the Summit.

Director Snow and I look toward the California Tribal Water Summit as a turning point in how state government engages and partners with tribes to protect our watersheds, water resources and water systems. To assist with planning for the Summit, you are encouraged to register online at www.cce.csus.edu/CTWS09 or coordinate your attendance with DWR's Tribal Liaison Barbara Cross. Your staff may contact Barbara at (916) 653-5150 or bcross@water.ca.gov. There is no cost to attend the Summit.

Respectfully,



Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Natural Resources

cc: Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency
Cynthia Gomez, California Environmental Protection Agency
Darin Polhemus, California Environmental Protection Agency
Elizabeth Haven, California Environmental Protection Agency
Marianna Aue, California Environmental Protection Agency
David Edwards California Environmental Protection Agency
Rob Duvall, California Environmental Protection Agency

Attachments:

State organization chart showing Water Plan Steering Committee members
Water Plan Steering Committee contact information
Tribal invitation packet