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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 eagleeve@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,

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Natural Resources

Enclosures
Honorable Tribal Leaders and Council Members.

The California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team, in collaboration with the California Natural Resources Agency, formally invite you to a historic and unprecedented statewide California Tribal Water Summit on November 4 and 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 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. Around 200 participants are expected to attend the event. 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).

Proceedings from the Summit will be published as a stand-alone document, and also 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.

We 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 planning in California. We expect to have senior State officials and leaders at the Summit. We ask that the chair and/or council members attend on behalf of your Tribe. Please return the registration form as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about the Tribal Water Summit, please contact Ron Goode, Chairman, North Fork Mono Tribe, at (559) 365-1774 or eagleeye@cvip.net. You may also 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. We look forward to your participation at this event.

The California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team
California Water Plan Update 2009
October 7, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Adams,

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.
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
California Tribal Water Summit
Planning Team Members

1. **AmyAnn Taylor**, Tribal Attorney for Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians of California
2. **Atta P. Stevenson**
3. **Barbara Cross**, Government and Community Liaison, California Department of Water Resources
4. **Bruce Gwynne**, California Department of Conservation
5. **Chris Peters**, Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development, Inc.
6. **Chris Simon**, Middletown Rancheria
7. **Clifton Skye**, USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest Tribal Relations Program Manager
8. **Cuauhtemoc Gonzalez**, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research
9. **Cynthia Gomez**, Assistant Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
10. **Denise Banker**, Tribal Advocate, California Emergency Management Agency
11. **Donna Miranda-Begay**, Tribal Chairwoman, Tubatulabals of Kern Valley
12. **Jared Aldern**, Humanities and Environmental Studies Faculty, Prescott College
14. **John Tommy Rosas**, Tribal Administrator and Litigator, Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation
15. **Jonathan Whipple**, Tribal Administrative Assistant/NAGPRA Director, Buena Vista Rancheria
16. **Jonas Savage**, Environmental Director, Trinidad Rancheria
17. **Julie Griffith-Flatter**, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
18. **Kamyar Guivetchi**, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management, California Department of Water Resources
19. **Kimberly Johnston-Dodds**, Native American Liaison, California Department of Transportation
20. **Leslie Cleveland**, Water Resources Manager, US Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region
21. **Loretta Greycloud**, Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc.
22. **Marianna Aue**, Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board
23. **Mike Thornton**, Sierra Fund
24. **Oscar Serrano**, Colusa Indian Community Council
25. **Randy Yonemura**
26. **Ron Goode**, Tribal Chairman, North Fork Mono Tribe
27. **Ruthie Maloney**, Yurok
28. **Steve Archer**
29. **Tia Oros**, Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development, Inc.
30. **William Speer, Sr.**, Shasta Indian Nation

Additional members preferred to not be listed.
Financial Sponsors and General Supporters

The Summit is the result of a collaborative effort between California Native American Tribes, California State Agencies, the Federal Government, and Tribal and non-Tribal organizations.

The Planning Team is proud to identify the following sponsors of the 2009 California Tribal Water Summit:

- California Department of Water Resources - *Mountain Sponsor*
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians - *Salmon Sponsor*
- Seventh Generation Fund for Indian Development - *Salmon Sponsor*
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy - *Salmon Sponsor*
- Pala Band of Mission Indians - *Acorn Sponsor*
- Tubatulabals of Kern Valley - *Acorn Sponsor*
- Redding Rancheria - *Acorn Sponsor*
- Laguna Resource Services, Inc. – *Acorn Sponsor*
- Sempra Energy Utilities – *Acorn Sponsor*

(A Mountain Sponsor has contributed $20,000 or more to the Summit, Eagle is $10,000 to $19,999, Salmon is $5,000 to $9,999, and Acorn is $1,000 to $4,999)

In addition, the following Tribes and Tribal Organizations have expressed their support:

- Shasta Indian Nation
- Suscol Intertribal Council
- Inter-Tribal Council of California

Davis-King & Associates Heritage Resources Management is providing Summit attendees with a metal water bottle to remind people to think about where water comes from, why we should avoid plastic bottles, and to provide a clean and healthy alternative to drinking water containers.
## Agenda

### Day One: Wednesday, November 4, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM

**PLUS**

Evening Banquet and Tribal Water Stories: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>REGISTRATION and Continental Breakfast</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Opening Prayer</td>
<td>Caleen Sisk-Franco, Spiritual Doctor and Leader, Winnemem Wintu Tribe</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Don Hankins, Plains Miwok, Assistant Professor of Geography and Planning, CSU Chico</td>
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<td>Mark Cowin, Deputy Director California Department of Water Resources (DWR)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager Statewide Integrated Water Management, DWR</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Guidance for Issues and Positions Sessions</td>
<td>Britta Guerrero, Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Issues and Positions: Rivers, Streams, Dams, and Fish</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• River Restoration</td>
<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>• Dam Removal and Relicensing</td>
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<td>• Fisheries</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Issues and Positions: Watersheds</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Groundwater Management</td>
<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>• Forest, Fire, and Flood Management</td>
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<td>• Water Quality</td>
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<td>• River Restoration</td>
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<td>• Local Water Districts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Lunch and Luncheon Speaker: Tribal Water in the Future</td>
<td>Kimberly Johnston-Dodds, Native American Liaison, California Department of Transportation and Oscar Serrano, Colusa Indian Community Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Issues and Positions: Tribal Water Rights in California</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>• Questions</td>
<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>Issues and Positions: Institutions/Legal/Agencies</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Tribal Involvement in State and Regional Water Planning</td>
<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>• Tribal Access to Bond Funding</td>
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<td>• Statewide Consultation Policy</td>
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<td>• State Office of Indian Affairs</td>
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<td>• Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>5:15 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks for Day One</td>
<td>Chris Peters, Seventh Generation Fund, Yurok and Karuk</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>ADJOURN</td>
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Evening Banquet and Tribal Water Stories: 6:30-8:30 PM
### Agenda

**Day Two: Thursday, November 5, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION and Breakfast</strong></td>
<td>Governor Schwarzenegger Video Address</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Caleen Sisk-Franco, Spiritual Doctor and Leader, Winnemem Wintu Tribe</td>
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<td>Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency</td>
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<td>Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources</td>
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<td>Britta Guerrero, Facilitator</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency</td>
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<td>Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Britta Guerrero, Facilitator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Speaker: The History of Water in California</strong></td>
<td>Mark Franco, Headman, Winnemem Wintu Tribe</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Identifying Next Steps, Moving toward Solutions: Rivers, Streams, Dams, and Fish</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>10:45 AM</td>
<td>Identifying Next Steps, Moving toward Solutions: Watersheds</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Lunch and Luncheon Speaker: Water as Sacred</strong></td>
<td>Eagle Jones, Redwood Valley Rancheria, RCAC</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Speaker: Tribal Water Rights in California</strong></td>
<td>Monty Bengochia, Vice-Chairman, Bishop Paiute Tribe</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>Identifying Next Steps, Moving toward Solutions: Tribal Water Rights in California</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>2:45 PM</td>
<td>Identifying Next Steps, Moving toward Solutions: Institutions/Legal/Agency</td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>Senior State Officials</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>Roadmap for Addressing Tribal Water Issues</strong></td>
<td>Tribal Leaders</td>
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<td>Lester Snow, Director, California Department of Water Resources, and Senior State Officials</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>4:45 PM</td>
<td>Summit Proceedings</td>
<td>Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, Statewide Integrated Water Management, DWR</td>
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<td>Ron Goode, Chairman, North Fork Mono Tribe</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td><strong>ADJOURN</strong></td>
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Exhibits, including the *Tribal Water Stories Project* and opportunities for training and funding, will be on display throughout both days.
Select Biographies

Mark Cowin

Mark Cowin was appointed Deputy Director for Integrated Water Management (formerly Regional Water Planning and Management) of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on May 2, 2007. His primary responsibilities include overseeing DWR’s flood management and dam safety programs, implementing Integrated Regional Water Management, coordinating DWR’s efforts related to climate change, and updating and implementing the California Water Plan. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Cowin served for five years as Chief of DWR’s Division of Planning and Local Assistance, which is responsible for the State’s strategic planning for water management and for providing technical and financial assistance for water management to local agencies and communities. As Division Chief, Mr. Cowin oversaw development of the California Water Plan Update 2005, administered Propositions 13 and 50 grant and loan programs, and participated in development of the water management components of the Governor’s Strategic Growth Plan. In previous assignments, Mr. Cowin served as an Assistant Director for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. While at CALFED, he was responsible for the Bay-Delta Program’s water management planning activities and participated in developing the CALFED plan for restoring ecological health and improving water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta. Mr. Cowin has worked at DWR for over 25 years. He received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University in 1980.

Mark Franco

Mark Franco is the Headman of the Winnemem Wintu and Keeper of Ceremony for the Winnemem people. Married to Caleen Sisk, he is the father of two children, Mike and Marine. Mark is deeply involved in assisting his life partner in maintaining the Winnemem Wintu culture and ceremonies and acts as the government liaison and spokesperson for the Winnemem in protecting the cultural areas of tribe through his work on water, sacred sites, repatriation, and land management issues. Mark is a graduate of CSU, Sacramento.
Britta Guerrero
Britta Guerrero currently serves as the executive director of the Sacramento Native American Health Center, Inc (SNAHC), a community-owned and operated non-profit urban Indian health center. The health center plays a major role as part of the health care “safety net” in the Sacramento area. In a economically challenging time, where recent budget cuts have resulted in significant portions of the population left with little or no access to mainstream health care, SNAHC has emerged as a leader in the provision of quality health care delivered through a culturally competent, family-centered and wrap around delivery system. Britta takes the responsibility of representing an Indian organization very seriously, and has made it her personal/professional mission to insure Native American’s have access to healthcare in urban areas such as Sacramento, a population that is often over looked, tremendously underserved and is still suffering from disproportionate health disparities. Guerrero is an enrolled member of the San Carlos Apache Tribe, and a member of Kayhatin (Willow) Clan.

Kamyar Guivetchi
Kamyar Guivetchi was appointed Manager of DWR’s Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management in August 2008, and he managed the Statewide Water Planning Branch before that since November 2000. During his 31 years with DWR, Kamyar has worked on over 25 projects with the North-Central Region Office, Division of Planning, and the Division of Environmental Services as Program Manager of DWR’s Suisun Marsh Program. In his assignment with Statewide Water Planning, Kamyar managed DWR staff work and coordinated the participation of agencies, stakeholders and the public to update the California Water Plan in 2005 and again in 2009 using a collaborative, consensus-seeking approach. Kamyar has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, has completed post graduate work in Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis, and is a California-registered Civil Engineer.

Don Hankins
Dr. Don Hankins is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at California State University, Chico. His areas of expertise are conservation biogeography and pyrogeography. Don is of Miwko (Plains Miwok) descent, and is a traditional cultural practitioner. Combining his academic and cultural interests he is particularly interested in the application of indigenous land management practices as a keystone process to aid in conservation and management of resources where appropriate. His primary research focuses on the applicability and effects of prescribed fire (particularly those set by indigenous communities) as a conservation and management tool. He has conducted fire research among indigenous California and Aboriginal Australian communities. Dr. Hankins has been involved in various aspects of land management and conservation for a variety of organizations and agencies including federal and tribal governments.
Eagle Jones

Eagle Jones is a member of the Redwood Valley Rancheria band of Pomo Indians and, for the last 10 years, employed as the Southern California Tribal Circuit Rider for the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing training and technical assistance to tribal communities. Mr. Jones is a licenced water treatment operator in the state of California and has been in the water industry for the past 16 years. Eagle also serves as an instructor of water treatment courses at Palomar Community College in Escondido.

Caleen Sisk-Franco

Caleen Sisk-Franco, Winnemem Wintu, is the great niece and successor of Florence Jones, and is now the Spiritual Doctor and Leader of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Married to tribal member Mark Franco, she is the mother of two children, Mike and Marine. Caleen is deeply involved in maintaining the Winnemem Wintu culture and ceremonies and is the focal point for the Winnemem's tribal restoration efforts. Caleen received her BA from Chico State University, Chico, CA in 1975, and received her teaching credential, from CSU, Chico in 1976.

Caleen assumed partial responsibilities as the Spiritual and Tribal Leader of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe in 1995 during the tribal leadership transition period, and assumed full leadership responsibilities in 2000. For over 30 years, she was mentored and taught the traditional Winnemem ways by the late Florence Jones, the Winnemem Wintu Tribal and Spiritual leader for over 65 years. Caleen concentrates her time on maintaining the cultural and religious traditions of the tribe. Caleen is an internationally known speaker on traditional tribal issues having spoken on such diverse topics as global warming, the spirit of water, sacred sites protections and the responsibility of tribal people to honor their tribal lifeway. Caleen is deeply rooted in her spirituality, her family and her devotion to her tribal people!
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water is a coalition of more than 70 Tribes, community based, and non-profit organizations working together to achieve water justice in California. Specifically, EJCW works to build capacity in environmental justice communities so that we can work together to ensure that everyone in California has access to safe, affordable drinking water and sanitation, that sufficient water quality and supply are available to support cultural, sacred, and subsistence uses of water and fishery resources, and that EJ communities have equitable access to safe water resources for recreational uses.

Lois Conner

My name is L.C. I am a member of the North Fork Mono Tribe and I sit on the Tribal Council. I have been basketweaving for about 30 years. I learned from my mother, grandmothers, and aunts. I am past curator of the Sierra Mono Museum. The driving force in my life is to preserve my Mono culture, basketry, language, foods, and traditions.

North Fork Mono Tribe

The North Fork Mono Tribe has been engaged in restoration projects for the past thirty years. The Tribe has six projects from Mariposa to Madera to Fresno Counties. A meadow restoration up at Jackass Meadow near Florence Lake in eastern Fresno County. A sedge bed and trail restoration at Lost Lake on the San Joaquin River west of Millerton Dam. A native community garden that is being planned on the Jensen Ranch north of Woodward Park on the San Joaquin River. A large 1/4 mile by 100 yard restoration of deergrass and 24 other cultural resources on the Crane Valley Road west of Bass Lake, Madera County which feeds into the San Joaquin River. A private property of sourberry, elderberry and deergrass burning and horticulture being done on a property in Mariposa County. The Tribe has previously conducted restoration on sedge and elderberry areas in North Fork, Madera Co.

Inter-Tribal Council of California, Inc.

ITCC was established in 1965 with the following mission: The mission of ITCC as a consortium of tribal governments and Indian organizations is to unify tribes; provide an effective political voice; and achieve cultural, economic, educational, health, legal, and social justice for all Indians in California. One of ITCC’s several commissions is the Water Commission. The ITCC Water Commission provides a Tribal forum for California Tribes.
(both federally and non-federally recognized) and Tribal People residing in California to have a voice in water planning, protection of our sacred water, and advocating the public about Tribal water rights and water stewardship. ITCC recognizes its role in promoting self-sufficiency and local self-determination for California Indian people. For this reason ITCC continues to pursue the mobilization of California Indian people through programs designed to gradually shift control to the hands of local Indian Communities. ITCC currently administers a grant program through the California Emergency Management Association, the California Tribal Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program. This program was designed to build the capacity of Tribes in California and establish a governance structure for California Tribes to develop planning around Emergency Management and Homeland Security issues. The ITCC recognizes that Emergency Management Planning must include the protection of water quality and quantity for Tribal communities throughout California. The California Tribal Emergency Management and Homeland Security Program (CTEMHS) will also include planning for emergencies related to flooding, and will seek input from Tribal communities in this process. Information to be provided will promote the CTEMHS Program, as well as ITCC’s Water Commission.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

As directed by the state legislature of California, and in response to the federally administered State and Private Forestry Redesign Program of the USDA Forest Service (http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/index.shtml), CALFIRE is now conducting the Assessment 2010 of California forest and range lands. The Assessment 2010 report has three main themes divided into eleven subsections, on topics ranging from sustainable forestry to green infrastructure. The specific contents, analytical approaches, and methods CALFIRE is proposing for the Assessment 2010 report can be accessed online at http://frap.fire.ca.gov/assessment2010.htm. Each proposed section has a web page with a description of the USFS Redesign intent, and an explanation of CALFIRE’s current proposed approach. Where possible, CALFIRE will use spatial analyses and GIS to highlight areas of the state of particular concern for a given resource issue. Each page also has a link to a web survey with a set of questions related to the proposed section, and room for comments not captured in the survey questions.

California Department of Water Resources

California Department of Water Resources: DWR’s responsibilities cover a wide range of activities including the operation of the State Water Project, public safety programs including Safety of Dams and flood operations, water use efficiency assistance, and water planning. The exhibit features summary information on the upcoming final issue of the California Water Plan Update 2009, statewide and regional aspects of the FloodSAFE program, the Integrated Regional Water Management financial assistance program, and the State Water Project.
Planning and Conservation League
The Planning and Conservation League (the League) partners with hundreds of California environmental organizations, to provide an effective voice in Sacramento to ensure sound planning and responsible environmental policy at the state level. These partner organizations rely on the League’s presence at the Capitol to not only shape environmental policy, but also keep them informed about issues of concern. Every year, hundreds of laws are passed that affect our quality of life and the League has and continues to work to keep our cities livable and our wilderness pristine, among other things. We give organizations, great and small, a voice they might not otherwise have. We speak for you and the environment in the halls of California’s Capitol to protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the land we love. Our name also represents both our history and our mission. The League and all of its members and affiliates support effective planning for California’s future, and are committed to seeing conservation occur in California.

Sierra Nevada Conservancy
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates, encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region, its communities and the citizens of California. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy table will provide information on the Conservancy, its vision and program areas.

State Water Resources Control Board
The State Board’s mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. The five-member State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) allocates water rights, adjudicates water right disputes, develops statewide water protection plans, establishes water quality standards, and helps coordinate the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) located in the major watersheds of the state. The Regional Water Boards, each comprised of nine members, serve as the frontline for state and federal water pollution control efforts. State Water Board staff is available to answer questions regarding the California water rights process as well as provide information on how to file complaints and concerns regarding water quality.
The purpose of the Tribal Water Stories Project is to provide all California Native American Tribes with an opportunity to tell a story about how they have been connected with water in the past and continue to be connected with water in the present.

The California Tribal Water Summit Planning Team invites you to submit a story for your Tribe, Tribal community, Tribal organization, or yourself as a Tribal person as soon as possible; the original invitation with more detail can be found on the following pages. All stories will also be included as part of the Summit proceedings and part of the California Water Plan Update 2009, to be published in February 2010, and help to educate thousands of State agency officials, water district managers, non-profit organizers, and members of the public throughout California. By December 15, 2009, please submit your story to Chairman Ron Goode, North Fork Mono Tribe, 13396 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93619-9703 or by email at eagleeye@cvip.net
Dear Tribal Leader:

We are writing to invite you to submit a “Tribal Water Story” to the California Water Plan Update 2009 (CWP). This is an opportunity for your Tribe to explain – in its own voice – how you have been connected with water resources in the past and continue to be connected with water resources in the present. Your story will be included in a special section of the CWP Reference Guide, and help to educate thousands of State agency officials, water district managers, non-profit organizers, and members of the public throughout California.

The idea of having interested California Native American Tribes tell their own stories about water as part of the CWP emerged from the work of the Tribal Communication Committee (TCC). This voluntary committee was convened by the Department of Water Resources in October 2007, to help everyone involved in the CWP to communicate appropriately and effectively with California Native American Tribes. The Committee released a working draft Tribal Communication Plan in July, 2008 (see http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/tribal2).

Objective 8 of the Plan is to “educate State, local and federal government, and water purveyor executives and planners about the historical and ongoing relationships between California Native American Tribes and water, especially cultural and religious practices.” Related water management practices are also especially relevant and educational (for example, meadow restoration), as well as stories about how climate change has started to affect Tribal water resources. Stories were identified as a particularly powerful and effective tool for accomplishing this objective because they are about real people and places and histories. The CWP was identified as a major State plan with a very large distribution network.

The content and shape of your water story would be up to you.

- It can be about loss and struggle, hope and accomplishment, or anything you choose. The only requirement is that it says something about your Tribe’s historical relationships and something about current relationships with water. We want people to learn that Tribes were not just connected with water in the past, but continue to manage, depend on, and have a sacred relationship with water resources today.
- The story can be one or two pages, or a dozen or more.
- It can be written in your native language, or written in English, or written in both.
- It can include some sketches or maps or photos, or be plain text.
- It can be the product of one writer, or several members of your Tribe working together.
- Most importantly, if you want to make an audio or video recording, and have your voice heard and cultural landscape seen literally, we can accommodate this.

Please let us know if you are interested in submitting a story. We will be happy to answer any questions you have. Several Tribal members have already expressed interest, and we are hoping that there may be a dozen stories from across California that illustrate different Tribal relationships with water. We would ask that final submissions be complete by May 1, 2009, in order to leave adequate time for formatting and printing (the final Update 2009 will be published in December 2009).
Tribal Leader

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For more information, please contact either
(1) Bradley Marshall at (415) 260-7552 or bradleyhupa@hotmail.com
(2) Ruthie Maloney at (707) 502-9155 or rbeadster@yahoo.com or
(3) Dorian Fougeres at (415) 812-7819 or fougeres@gmail.com.

With respect,

Tribal Communication Committee Tribal Water Stories Sub-Committee Members

Atta P. Stevenson

Donna Miranda-Begay
Tribal Chairwoman
Tubatulabal of Kern Valley

Bradley Marshall
Hoopa Valley Tribal Member

Ruthie Maloney
Yurok Tribal Member
Humboldt State University

Irenia Quitiquit
Robinson Rancheria Tribal Member and Environmental Director

William Speer, Sr.
Shasta Indian Nation Council Member

Steve Archer
Big Valley Rancheria

California Department of Water Resources

Mark Cowin
Deputy Director

and
North Fork Mono Tribe

Stories Recorded in 1918
Edward Winslow Gifford
Researcher from Berkeley

Story tellers: Molly Kinsman Pimona, Mrs. George Teaford, Singing Jack an old shaman and Chipo an old man. Interpreter was Dan Harris a young man

Making of the World

The world was made by Prairie Falcon (yayu), Crow (sebitim) and Coyote (esha) damming the waters in the east and allowing this world to appear. The valleys were washed out by the water before it was held back. Prairie Falcon, Crow and Coyote made the creeks. These three are in the east now, watching the dam that they made, to see that it does not break and the waters would once again destroy the world.

Commentary:

This is a creation story. Gifford used the word impounding and impounded for damming and holding back. It changed the context but not the intent of the story. The early story tellers were telling of the great flood. Prairie Falcon, Crow and Coyote are all connected to creator’s spiritually. Prairie Falcon with his healing powers, Crow with his power to cross over, and Coyote, Creator’s mischievous pet.

The story not only tells of the power of water, power of creator, power of these three, but respect one must give to all. Disrespect to water, to Creator, to the animals, birds and reptiles will change the habitat and the environment, maybe one day releasing the dams and the water back over the land.

Ron W. Goode
April 22, 2008

Ms. Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N. E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Southern California Edison Alternative Licensing

Dear Secretary Salas:

On January 20, 2006 the North Fork Mono Tribe put in a Motion to Intervene regarding the relicensing of the six hydroelectric facilities including Mammoth Pool. That Motion to Intervene was on the relicensing for six hydro facilities on the Big Creek Drainage of the San Joaquin River in the territory of the North Fork Mono Tribe. These ALP Projects include: Big Creek 1 & 2 - FERC Project No. 2175; Big Creek 2A, 8 & Eastwood - FERC Project No. 067; Big Creek 3 - FERC Project No. 120; and Mammoth Pool Powerhouse - FERC Project No. 2085.

Once again the Tribe is submitting a memorandum to the “Motion to Intervene” on the relicensing of the above mentioned hydro projects. The Tribe as of this time is reiterating their stance on the licensing of these said facilities. Several stakeholders did not sign the Settlement Agreement including the North Fork Mono Tribe. Now that the EIS has been implemented and a draft is due out by September of 2008, it is imperative FERC staff and draft coordinators to review our “Motion to Intervene.” There are some very serious issues that need to be addressed in the upcoming EIS Draft.

It was earlier stated that SCE had until February of 2008 to garner signatures from the remaining non-signatory stakeholders. SCE has made no attempt to discuss settlement issues with non-signatory stakeholders. As a matter of fact, FERC staff visited with SCE in July of 2007. A meeting was held and only signatory stakeholders were invited. However, two non-signatory stakeholders showed up anyway.
FERC staff seem to be a little surprised as SCE was only announcing the signatures to the Settlement Agreement they did get. At no time did they mention how many stakeholders did not sign the Settlement.

We realize that the Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for Southern California Edison Company’s (SCE) Alternative Licensing Process (ALP) should have been dealt with by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Advisory Council. The Alternative License Process was an experimental process and we see it as an experiment that has gone awry.

At the beginning of this five year process SCE viewed the whole process as “status quo”. Meaning as long as SCE went through this alternative licensing process and they didn’t have to relicense each facility separately, licensing would be a lot simpler especially if they held their position of ‘minimum effort minimum loss’.

The North Fork Mono Tribe was one of several organizations at the table from the beginning to the end. A five year process that was set with issues and goals, a plenary committee and sub committees. The subcommittees encountered a few pitfalls along the way but more over good documented evidence was brought back to the table from the field, archives and human resources.

As negotiations opened up a year and half ago and settlements began to roll in by March/April, in June, important evidence became major discussion items. One thing became quite clear to all participants, stakeholders, and negotiators that their respective settlements were 180 degrees opposite of SCE’s settlement position. SCE set timelines and goals of when all settlements should have been settled, however SCE didn’t negotiate, they just kept submitting their stance and held their position of “minimum” output.

SCE was in such a hurry to get these documents done and into FERC but now it has jeopardized the positions of those whom they failed to negotiate and settle with. SCE said they want to negotiate, only ‘after the fact’. This attitude prevails because they were allowed to pull their settlement out of Powerhouse #4 Relicense on the San Joaquin River. It worked once - maybe it’ll work again. Only this time they’re laying the responsibility onto the federal and state agencies.

What you’re going to find buried in the HPMP is how over 100 archaeological sites are going to continue to erode and dissolve until they disappear over the next 40 years. Already after the last 55 years the integrity of the sites have been extremely compromised. (Included documentation evidences over 50-90% erosion from the reservoir impacts.)

The regulations optimize the protections of these sites with data recover. However, weak to poor recordation of the sites prior to licensing of these hydro reservoirs coupled with a minimum effort of shovel probes and an
archaeological genocide via paper work to categorize sites important and insignificant thereby down-playing the importance of these ancestral and ethnographic sites as a whole cultural area.

No serious testing was done to any important sites, thereby nullifying ‘data recovery’ as an option of protection. The HPMP will display years and months of discussion regarding many other protection mitigation measures however none of them will be effective enough to stop the eventual eradication of these sites.

The interesting thing about all this is that the United States Forest Service, Sierra National Forests, FERC, NAC, and SHPO have all been aware that this damage has been going on over the past 55 years, and did nothing about it. Now the Forest Service had the opportunity to make sure things were righted. Instead, they not only failed in their responsibility they ducked, shucked and hid sites from being evaluated, and wouldn’t ‘step-up’ to sites that needed actual phase I testing. They tried to put shovel probes and augering off as phase I testing. The Sierra National Forest has been conducting shovel probes and augering as a form of reconnaissance for the past three decades. By making shovel probes and augering as phase I archaeology, ‘real’ data recovery was deemed phase II and therefore never entered into.

During negotiations with SCE on Powerhouse #4, FERC put the kibosh on settlements and negotiations by stating, “that FERC would not go back to any damages caused by the initial licensing period including damages to cultural resources from impacts when the hydro facilities and system was being built.”

Now the tables are turned! Now each of your agencies know about the previous damage and the ‘continued’ damage that the relicensing is going to cause.

So now it is the responsibility of each reviewing agency to ‘step-up’ to their own mandated guidelines and not let this multi-billion dollar corporation get away with cultural genocide. While compensation is not going to protect the sites from further erosion ‘just compensation’ is what is called for according to the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution when Eminent Domain is in effect.

SCE has stated, “they are not changing their water management practices.” So if mitigation measures, negotiations and your respective offices can not create satisfactory settlements then the next step will be litigation.

The mussels are gone or like the arch sites are barely hanging on; the fish population is nonexistent therefore the eagles no longer return or stay; water flows are to low; only a handful of Native American cultural resources are prevalent and or accessible; and all the U. S. Fish and Wildlife is concerned about is the Valley Elderberry Beetle. The North Fork Mono Tribe made sure the HPMP did not conflict with the Native American Religious Rights Act of
1978. The local American Indian population has been taking care of the elderberry for centuries, pruning, trimming, gathering and harvesting, and today the elderberry flourishes because of it.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife does not have comparison data - only research of the Valley Elderberry beetle’s existence at 500’ to 3000’ elevation. Yet the North Fork Mono Tribe has three separate names for each elderberry - mountain, foothill and valley. Did the USFW ever consult with Native Americans - NO, because that wouldn’t be scientific. When a bush is trimmed USFW want seven new trees planted. I have transplanted elderberry three times in my life, in all cases one bush creates three to five more bushes in a two to five year period on its own. When the elderberry is not pruned or trimmed or gathered from it becomes a fire hazard. Its stalks become large, no succulent shoots come up, the berries are smaller but bunchier and it provides no stalks for hand clappers nor does it provide a home for the beetle. In North Fork the County and the local Forest Service have been trimming and burning the elderberry along road 274 from North Fork to Bass Lake for years, approximately every five years, and the bush is healthy, pretty, and are conducive to healthy harvesting by all species, human - animal and insects.

While we all like the conveniences of electricity, many mountain Mono have grown up without electricity and some still don’t have it. Some of our elders were born on ancestral sites and in ethnographic cultural areas that are now inundated by reservoirs providing today’s conveniences.

So we’re not going to do without conveniences, Edison is not going to change their water management, the federal and state agencies are not going to protect our cultural sites . . . . not many options left for the North Fork Mono Tribe whose territorial boundary SCE’s Big Creek Drainage, nine hydro projects and $23 billion comes from.

Respectfully,

Hon. Ron W. Goode

C:
National Advisory Council
California State Office of Historic Preservation
Native American Heritage Commission
Southern California Edison
ALP Stakeholders
Tubatulabals of Kern Valley

Tubatulabal Water Story:
“When the Earth Quaked”

Story from Francis Philips
Autobiography – record
by Erminie Voeglin
(Anthropologist) in 1933 –
Tubatulabal Ethnography
(published in 1938, UC
Berkeley Press).

Francis Philips (age 68 – Father: Tubatulabal and Mother: Koso)
provides the story and her
daughter, Legora Tungate (age 40: Mother ½ Tubatulabal and
½ Koso, Father: Tubatulabal) translates this story from
Pakanapul into English. Story
told in 1933.

“There was one time when we were living over at cuhka-yl
(no. 17, fig. 11) in a mud and brush house. That’s the way
the Indians used to do, they just moved all around; they’d
camp under some willows, anywhere; they’d keep moving
around all the time. A big earthquake came and frightened
everybody. I was a little girl then, about 7 yrs. Old (1872);
afterward my father used to tell me about that earthquake. I
remember only a little bit; the springs got white, like milk,
when that earthquake came. Everybody cried and went
around shouting; there were lots of people living at cuhka-
yl Pedra Netto was living there then. We had to get water
to drink from the river at Kernville; the water in the springs
was hot and white, just like milk, for about 3 days. Nobody
would drink it. I just remember a little bit about it; I know
all the children were frightened and cried when the earth
quaked”.

Francis Philips (1933) – Kern Valley, California
Tubatulabal and Koso

Current Tribal Perspective of our Tubatulabal Water Story:
“When the Earth Quaked”

Today, there is a dam that has created Lake Isabella. This
dam was built on a fault line. If the engineers of the 1940’s
had read our Tribal story about Kernville and earthquakes,
they may have picked a different location.

Because of the Lake Isabella dam location, there has been
on-going seepage and big concerns for the structure of this
dam. This had caused the release of a lot of water from the
Lake Isabella. Several of our old Tribal village sites and
burial sites are located under Lake Isabella. However, as the
water level drops, there is greater risk that our old village
sites may surface and requires immediate protection.

Today - quality drinking water is a major concern for our
Tribal people. Just as we know not to drink the water when
it is “milky” or “muddy” - we have also learn from recent
water project by U.S. Indian Health Services to not drink
water with arsenic or bad bacteria. We are working on
getting improved access to quality drinking water from
natural springs and underground water wells.

Our head waters are Mt. Whitney and through Yosemite
and the Sequoia National parks. Forest lands and meadows
wetlands need to be properly managed to help protect the
water, water flows, and water cycle. We believe that if there
are five good snows, we will have a good pinon (pine nut)
harvest and lots of acorns. We watch from Kern Valley for
the storms and the clouds that can come after a fire. Flash
flooding can be very dangerous in the mountains and desert
areas – we make sure to watch for these signs “sounds of
thunder, grey clouds, and smell of rain with winds”.

Sustainable water systems include the ability to plan,
develop, and manage the usage of this valuable cultural
resource: Water is “paal” – sacred and important to all. In the
past, we had spiritual rain-makers – today, we continue to
whistle for wind that may bring our rains.
The Indians of the Pacific Northwest and those of some other areas also, believed that before the first Indians were created, the world was inhabited by a race of animal people. In some tribes, chiefly those between the Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Range, the shrewdest and most powerful of these people was Coyote. For further explanation of this belief, see “The Animal People of Long Ago.”

Once Coyote was traveling around, carrying his bow and arrows with him, he came to a body of water where an evil spirit lived. Seeing Coyote, the evil spirit rose out of the water and said, “There is no wood.” Then the evil being caused the water to rise and overflow the land until Coyote was covered.

After a time, the water went down and the land dried off. Coyote sprang up, took his bow and an arrow, and shot the evil spirit. Then Coyote ran away.

But the water followed him. Coyote ran to higher ground. The water followed him to higher ground. He started up Mount Shasta. The water followed him up Mount Shasta. He ran to the top of the mountain. The water followed him and became very deep, but it did not quite reach the top.

On the top of Mount Shasta, Coyote made a fire, on the only ground left above the water. Grizzly Bear saw the fire and swam to the top of Fire Mountain. Deer saw the fire and swam to it. So did Elk, Black Bear, Gray Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, and Ground Squirrel.

Badger, Porcupine, and Raccoon saw the fire and swam to it. Fish, Wolf and Cougar swam there. All the animal people stayed on top of Mount Shasta until the great flood was over. At last the water went down, leaving dry land in the midst of lakes and marshes.

Then the animal people came down from the top of Mount Shasta and made new homes for themselves. They scattered everywhere and became the ancestors of all the animal people on the earth.
In the beginning, there was nothing. Three grew, Baby Sender, Daylight, and Thunder.

Daylight opened the Sweat House door and daylight became. Baby sender said, “Let's make the ocean first,” then he spat down. Then he asked Daylight, “Isn't there a world to come?” Daylight answered, “Yes.” The Earth came sliding from the South upon the watery deep. Baby Sender saw footprints in the new Earth. This would be the cause of trouble in the world. The Earth was going to be piled up in one place. Everything coming will grow there. A White Redwood tree stood there as the Earth slid forth. The first wave came and turned over upon the shore. The Fish swarmed to the surface of the water and departed into all forks of every river. The Birds came up together, the sound of the Geese echoed through the sky. Everything ran forth upon the Earth, Bobcat turned over first. Finally they succeeded in making a person. She was a beautiful Woman who became the Wife of Daylight. They and their sixteen children would become our ancestors. They would come to speak different languages. With the Waters and Earth placed, all things created, and his law set down, Baby Sender said, “Fair well,” and descended.

There was a time when the people did not obey the laws of God. The world was flooded with a great tidal wave, then torrential rains. Only a young man and a woman made it by orders of their adopted grandmother, to the top of EN-MI. The mountain top floated upon the waters. It came to rest in Elk Valley. The animals ran away and the couple returned to C’IT. There they found nothing of their prior life. Many lay dead upon the earth. They built a simple hut to live in. One day while fishing, a woman came paddling from the South. With these three people the new generations began. One time people came down from the North in great canoes. They subdued the warriors and made slaves of the people. The invaders became fat and lazy because they did not work. The conquered people became weary of their treatment. One evening during a large celebration, may packed and moved into the eastward mountains to learn a new life.
Quote from Atta Stevenson, 
Solstice Seaweed Protest

“To gather our seaweed, pick abalone from the rocks, dig for mussels, to surf fish, take the sea palm: that is why we meet at the ocean, together, as large tribal families. If Fish & Game or State Parks is successful in taking that away from us – limiting what we can gather as tribal people, imposing zero takes on what you call ‘nori’, or the abalone – like they did with sea palm – and begin to vigorously enforce harsher and harsher limits against tribal people, using as the excuse the protection of ‘endangered resources’; in the process, we will disappear as tribal families in any meaningful way. We, what we have remaining of our indigenous culture, will become extinct. Because we will have no reason to congregate as families.”

Atta Stevenson, Solstice Seaweed Protest, Saturday, June 21, 2003, at the place now known as Howard Beach, 4 miles north of Westport.
When I was asked to do this seal, I immediately thought of a circle and the different importances the shape held, of course, in our spirituality and our culture. It’s also ever-present in nature and the elements. Our Pala (water) is cyclical. It also doesn’t look too shabby on an envelope. The Avatwut (fish) or salmon is something that me and everybody else got to eat growing up. Traditionally it is a food source for most northern California tribes and I’m happy about that! The Humsat (feather) represents "medicine" which is what water is. I use Hicemal (hawk) and Aswut (eagle) medicine. The eagle feather I have was given to me by my friend Jack Alvarez, it is from a bald eagle. The golden eagles feathers are good medicine as well. In my tribe we use gourds as medicine and for utilitarian purposes as well. I think all Californian Indian folks used or use gourds, maybe all Indians for that matter. I like to use them Luiseño style and make pretty traditional Nexwut (gourd rattles) with them. I hope that this logo is something that will bring success somehow to our water battles. I also would like to bring honor and attention to my Great Uncle Henry Rodriguez who was very active in our native water rights battles and has since passed. Thank you!

**About the Artist**

Mike "Miguel" Rodriguez was born on 03/26/74 in the city of Stockton, CA. From there the Rodriguez family moved back to Rincon Reservation in San Diego, CA. For the most part of Mike's life, he grew up in Sacramento. He grew up making artwork as a kid, like his father, who was an art teacher in various prisons.

Mike became serious about art when his cousins got him into graffiti in the early 80's. After that it was on. Graffiti, punk & hip hop were a major influence on his work, in addition to vandalism & his California Indian roots. Then in the 90's he began expressing himself on canvas. He learned portrait drawing from Fred Dalke, Sculpture from his father "Larry Sr." & Yoshio Taylor. He says for the most part, he is a "self taught artist". He received his 1st show and write-up from Gale Hart and it went from there.

Mike went through a change in his life after numerous vandalism arrests and having his children. He attended Intertribal Friendship house, ending the use of alcohol and un-prescribed drugs. He is now making art and starting a small multi-media/ print business w/ the help of a few extremely talented friends (PrintZilla). He continues to instruct art (printmaking, sandpainting, sculpture, murals) to adults & kids both abled and disabled. Mike's work is collected by many well-known collectors such as the Crocker and the Eisenbergs (Phil & Maralyn). His latest work adorns the inside of Zambesie's Yogurt and Stonegate Elementary School.

Mike’s native themed art has been published in 5 books (all major publishing houses), shown in many U.S. Museums and galleries, in add to many European galleries (France, Germany, Japan). He has and continues to work with the California Arts Council, California Indian Basketweavers Association, HeyDay Books, Crocker Art Museum, the Black Panther Party, Zapatista Solidarity Coalition, Freedom Bound Center, Prop 215 movement, Camp Courage, SMAC, UFW, Free Peltier Movement, Native Water Rights Board, Crocker Art Museum, SNAHC, Peace Action, AAPRP, Washington Neighborhood Center, SIPR, Punkistas, Sac Chinese Community Center, La Familia, Sol Collective, On Native Ground, Raza Against War, United Auburn Tribes, Rincon Reservation, the MET Academy.

Mike has also taught at most area schools including the South Side Art Center.

Check him out at http://www.facebook.com/people/Miguel-Rodriguez/1651944937