

## **Tribal Water Committee INITIAL CONCEPTS**

### **Background**

In Update 2005, representation of Tribal water interests was represented on the Advisory Committee. For Update 2009, DWR believes that Tribal involvement can be better designed by the Tribes, Tribal communities, and Tribal organizations themselves. This would assist DWR staff, the Facilitation Team and the State-agency Steering Committee in organizing, designing, and delivering Tribal regional input into Update 2009 – including the overall strategic planning framework, as well as specific recommendations and content.

By establishing a Tribal Water Committee for Update 2009, DWR seeks to develop and enhance working relationships between DWR and California's Tribes and Tribal organizations to better address Tribal water needs and issues in water-related planning efforts and initiatives. This effort is not related to any negotiations on matters of Tribal sovereignty between Tribal and either Federal or State governments.

DWR hopes that the Tribal Water Committee approach would build and support the ongoing efforts of Tribes and Tribal organizations to advance Tribal water issues and interests, both at a Tribal and collective level. DWR proposes to work with the Tribal Water Committee to convene a California Tribal Water Summit during the Update 2009 process to bring California Tribes and Tribal interests together to identify Tribal water needs and issues, and to consider how State government leadership, programs, and initiatives could benefit Tribes on water-related matters.

### **Purpose**

The Tribal Water Committee (TWC) consists of various California Tribes and tribal organizations. The purpose of the TWC is for group members to develop a communication plan to:

1. Engage tribes in Water Plan activities and other State water planning & grant programs;
2. Identify the best approaches and methods for tribal involvement to develop findings and recommendations for Water Plan Update 2009;
3. Identify the types of information and advice that should be targeted for and from California tribes and tribal interests; and
4. Assist in organizing a California Tribal Water Summit.

Tribal Water Committee members are also encouraged to participate and perhaps occasionally present at Water Plan Update 2009 meetings, including Advisory Committee and Steering Committee meetings, regional workshops, plenary sessions, and/or working groups sessions. At all meetings, participants are asked to provide recommendations based on data and with the intent of creating an optimum Water Plan.

### **Importance**

The Water Plan Update calls for comprehensive and integrated regional management of California's water resources. The Update is a key document being used to define, outline and advance State government's leadership and role in the water community. In order to promote the *Water Plan's* framework, recommendations, and strategies, the State is committed to fully considering water issues, initiatives, and information from all potential partners, affected stakeholders, and the public at large. Update 2009 provides an important forum for Tribal water communities and issues to be raised, recognized, and addressed. The work of the TWC provides an essential link to establishing and maintaining Tribal outreach and involvement on Tribal water-related matters.