

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
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JUL 24 2008

Dear Tribal Leader:

In June 2007, I wrote to California Tribal leaders inviting them to join us in forming a Tribal water committee. This Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) has met regularly since October 2007, and its primary work has been to help the Department of Water Resources (DWR) plan and convene regional and statewide Tribal water forums to prepare the California Water Plan (CWP) Update 2009.

TCC's first task, to develop a Tribal communication plan for the CWP Update 2009, has been completed, and a copy of the July 10, 2008, Draft Tribal Communication Plan (Plan) is enclosed. This Plan includes comprehensive goals, objectives, and actions to improve communication and outreach between California Native American Tribes, DWR, and other State agencies. The ten objectives of the Plan were developed to expand Tribal participation in California water planning, and to incorporate Tribal water information, issues, and recommendations into the CWP Update 2009 and other State water planning documents. One of the objectives is to convene a high-level Tribal Water Summit in 2009 and to publish its proceedings in the CWP Update 2009.

TCC members have helped DWR with several CWP Update 2009 Tribal outreach meetings, including a Tribal Water Plenary hosted by Big Valley Rancheria in January 2008.

DWR looks forward to long-lasting relationships with California Native American Tribes through the CWP Update 2009 effort and other processes yet to come. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (916) 651-9202 or you may call our Tribal Liaison, Barbara Cross, at (916) 653-5150. To receive e-mail notices of upcoming TCC meetings, please contact Barbara at bcross@water.ca.gov.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Cowin".

Mark W. Cowin
Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc: Tribal Environmental Director
Tribal Administrator