

CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009
TRIBAL COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE
Highlights from January 22, 2008, Meeting

The Tribal Communication Committee (TCC) held its fourth meeting on January 22, 2008, in Sacramento. In attendance were eight persons affiliated with Tribal organizations, along with staff from the Department of Water Resources and facilitators from the Center for Collaborative Policy. The meeting's objectives included (1) to discuss how to manage inter-group dynamics in the TCC; (2) to clarify roles and responsibilities of the TCC members during the Tribal Water Plenary on January 28; and (3) to continue developing the Communication Plan for Tribal outreach for the California Water Plan Update 2009 (CWP).

After discussion members agreed to a series of protocols for decision-making, membership, communication, and ground rules. It was emphasized repeatedly that the role of the TCC is not to promote the CWP or develop actual content for it; the TCC's role is focused on developing a communication plan that fosters interaction between Tribes and DWR, and helping DWR plan the proposed outreach events, where Tribal participants can then provide content directly to DWR themselves. Protocols included:

- membership will now be stabilized;
- draft materials resulting from TCC meetings will be sent to regular meeting participants with adequate time for review before they are posted and made available to the larger Tribal audience that has expressed interest in the TCC's work;
- the larger Tribal audience will still receive final notes and materials, and be welcome to observe meetings and make suggestions, but they will not receive draft materials.

The TCC also agreed that, while individual members are always free to have their own opinions and to disagree with others, if they want *the Tribal Communication Committee* to make a decision, that decision must be made by consensus. The TCC also accepted standard Ground Rules for engagement, including common conversational courtesy, recognizing that all ideas and points of view have value, honoring people's time, and avoiding editorial comments.

The TCC then spent significant time refining the plan for the Tribal Water Plenary on January 28. This included discussing what State Agencies should be represented on the Water Governance in California Panel; how the Tribal Water Panel and session on Tribal Water Issues would be facilitated; and how the Plenary would provide participants with an opportunity to start specifying regional Tribal outreach strategies for inclusion in a Tribal Communication Plan. Three TCC members volunteered to participate on a "Tribal Water Panel" during the Plenary – Atta Stevenson, Randy Yonemura, and Mark Franco.

The TCC spent the remainder of the afternoon developing the Tribal Communication Plan. Working from a draft prepared by the facilitation team, the TCC clarified objectives and audiences, and made several additional requests for revision. TCC members agreed to bring the first two pages of the draft Communication Plan, along with a blank worksheet for outreach, to the Tribal Water Plenary on January 28. The facilitation team was charged with making all revisions and bringing it back to the TCC for further work at their next meeting.