

**Tribal Communications Committee  
California Water Plan Update 2009  
Highlights from 10.3.07 Meeting**

On October 3, 2007, the first meeting of the California Water Plan Update 2009 Tribal Water Committee was held in Sacramento. Mark LeBeau , spokesperson for the host California Rural Indian Health Board welcomed participants, and stated that the gathering is about water, which is necessary for all life. In attendance were Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff, facilitators, and some 18 Tribal affiliated participants.

After an opening prayer by Gen Denton ,an Ione Band Miwok Elder, participants introduced themselves and their affiliation, and explained their wishes for the meeting and the Committee. Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR program manager for the Water Plan Update, indicated that this Committee's work is not formal consultation, and that it is not a representative body. DWR is seeking this Committee's input on three aspects of Update 2009:

- How to encourage Tribal participation in Regional Workshops throughout California.
- Tribal review of draft documents before final publication.
- Design a statewide Tribal Water Summit which would address larger Tribal water issues (not only planning)

The meeting included lengthy questions, answers, and discussion about water issues, planning processes, State funding, and potential roles for Tribes. DWR proposed a draft Initial Concepts document which seems to encompass these ideas.

For future communications, participants asked for notices of future meetings, agendas, and notes that accurately reflect what was stated. There was a clarification made that the Water Plan Update 2009 is not the same as the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. Tribes may wish to have separate caucuses at regional Water Plan meetings to discuss Tribal water issues. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to move forward with the Tribal communication effort.

Action items and suggestions voiced include:

- Contact CalEPA on the status of a Tribal Consultation Protocol that had been developed with involvement from California Tribes. [Note: Cal/EPA issued a counter-proposal draft on October 17 to its Tribal Stakeholder Group. Comments are due to Cal/EPA Deputy Secretary by November 30, 2007.]
- Develop options for posting Tribal Committee materials to a website.
- Create a handout or brochure to explain the Water Plan to Tribal Councils and constituencies.
- Develop a graphic for the timeline of key events for Update 2009, as it relates to the work of the Tribal Committee.
- There should be a California Indian page on the State website.
- Don't schedule a Tribal Water Summit in May; that's when roundhouses open.
- Create a map that juxtaposes Tribal areas over hydrologic regions.