

**Tribal Communications Committee
California Water Plan Update 2009
Highlights from 11.07.07 Meeting**

On November 7, 2007, sixteen tribal participants attended the second meeting of the Tribal Water Committee (Committee) in Sacramento. Kamyar Guivetchi explained that the main purpose of this Committee is to develop ways, tools, and protocols for engaging Tribal governments and communities in the 2009 and future California Water Plan Updates. Secondly, this Committee will help organize a statewide Tribal Summit for identifying key water issues for tribes. The current meeting will begin to outline what a Tribal communication plan will look like. Kamyar noted that place-based regional water planning is a new feature of the Water Plan Update.

Following introductions there was a round-table discussion about expectations for the Committee, and a desired approach. There was general support for moving forward as described by the Department of Water Resources (DWR.) staff. However, the Committee will be free to recommend other processes and approaches. Participants pointed out that water and sacred sites have cultural, spiritual aspects which will be brought to the table, not only concerns about drinking water and growing crops.

There was a discussion about communications within the Committee. Staff demonstrated web pages which are being developed for sharing Committee meeting materials.

Participants in the first meeting asked DWR to develop a simple statement or brochure about the Water Plan Update 2009. Staff provided a rough draft and received comments for a re-draft.

Looking at the schedule of future Water Plan meetings, participants suggested that two Tribal Water Summits were justifiable as follows: (1) Process-oriented (communication plan, outreach, and initial discussion of tribal water issues); and (2) Finalize Tribal water issues, compile Tribal content for input to Water Plan Update 2009. The idea of a Tribal Plenary meeting to address (1) received support for early 2008. This would prepare Tribal communities to participate in the 2008 Regional Workshops, if they choose. It was suggested that there be a consultation track which could be incorporated into the Water Plan process. Many good suggestions were made for immediate changes to improve DWR's Tribal outreach. January 28, 2008, was suggested for the Tribal Plenary, in conjunction with the January 29-31 RTOC meeting in Lakeport, CA.