

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



February 25, 2008

Subject: Invitation to Important Water Plan Local Meetings

Dear Leaders, Members, and Staff of California Tribes (Recognized and Non-Recognized):

As you may know, the California Water Plan is being updated. This plan talks about what is happening and what should happen with water in California. It describes water amounts and management. One part, called "Regional Reports," explains what is happening in each region of California.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) wants Tribal water issues included in the 2009 Plan. Many tribes attended a Water Plan meeting at Big Valley Rancheria on January 28, 2008. DWR learned about critical issues such as:

- watershed health
- water and land use practices that affect fishing and gathering resources
- mercury levels and fish consumption
- impacts to ancestral lands
- identifying Tribal water needs
- and many more!

The ideas from the Tribal meeting are being carried forward into regional workshops. During **March and April**, the eleven meetings will be held about the Regional Reports. Each workshop focuses on a specific region or area. A map is attached. **DWR invites you to attend these important meetings.** The SAVE the DATE flyer and other materials are attached.

The first workshops will be March 4th (in Desert Hot Springs), March 5th (in Apple Valley), and March 6th (in San Diego). The workshops usually run from 10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., but **some workshops may vary the times.** Information on each workshop is at www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/regional/workshops/index.cfm.

Tribes have several ways to tell DWR their ideas. One is through formal government to government consultation. Another is to attend these public meetings. One important reason to attend the public meetings is to help local water agencies and groups learn about tribal water issues. Another is to find out how the plans of others may affect you. **The Workshops allow Tribal leaders, members, and staff, to bring their voices and concerns to discussions on local and regional water issues.**

Please join the conversation at the workshop for your area and share this information with others. If you have questions or need help in deciding which meeting to attend you may contact Barbara Cross, DWR Tribal Liaison, at phone (916) 653-5150 or email bcross@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John K. Woodling".

John K. Woodling, Acting Division Chief
Division of Planning and Local Assistance