

...working together

## Opportunities for Tribal Governments



The California Water Boards are committed to improving our communication and working relationships with California Indian Tribes. The Water Boards fully support the Cal/EPA Policy for Working with Tribes. This policy guides Cal/EPA and all its Boards, Departments, and Offices in their daily operations to ensure that they work with Tribes in a knowledgeable, sensitive, and respectful manner. For a full text of the policy, see <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Tribal/2009/CIT01Policy.pdf>

CalEPA has instituted a Tribal Advisory Committee to enhance its ability to communicate and work effectively with Tribes. The Water Boards will be participating in the committee meetings to continue to learn more about how to better serve Tribal needs. Tribal members with concerns are encouraged to contact committee members. For further information, see [www.calepa.ca.gov/tribal](http://www.calepa.ca.gov/tribal)

California Tribes are particularly interested in the Water Boards' work related to watershed protection and restoration, salmon habitat protections, Tribal water rights, and funding programs for water quality improvements, as well as the development of basin plans, including the setting of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). In addition, much can be done to integrate Tribal data, such as Tribal land boundaries, into the GIS layers used by the Water Boards.

Training for Tribes on the Water Boards' water quality, water rights and funding programs is planned. Additionally, the Water Board is expanding its outreach efforts, especially in the area of TMDLs and statewide policies, such as the upcoming wetlands policy. Tribal representation on various Board advisory groups is helping to strengthen the Boards' understanding of Tribal concerns.

