As the Chairman of National Tribal Water Council, I welcome you to NTWC’s inaugural e-Newsletter.

Hello, my name is Ken Norton and I am an enrolled member of the Hoopa Valley Tribe and serve as the Director of the Hoopa Valley Tribal Environmental Protection Agency, in Hoopa, California.

I’d like to briefly share about the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC/Council). The NTWC was established to advocate the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water. It is the intent of the NTWC to advocate for the health and sustainability of clean water, and for the productive use of water for the health and well-being of Indian Country, Indian communities, Alaska Native Tribes, and Alaska Native Villages.

The NTWC is a technical and scientific body created to assist the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native Tribes, and their associated tribal communities and tribal organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water issues and water-related concerns that impact Indian and Alaska Native tribal members, as well as other residents of Alaska Native Villages and Indian Country in the United States.

Recently our Council grew with two new members of the Council. We’d like to welcome Lee Anna Martinez-Silversmith of the Navajo Nation EPA, and Ann Wyatt of Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe, in Alaska. In subsequent issues of this publication, we will be featuring a couple members of the Council so you get familiar with each of us and you may reach out to a regional representative.
respective to your region. A list of the full membership is on the last page of this newsletter.

Tribes across the country are facing challenging times in protecting their tribal environments. The NTWC is committed to working through the framework of the federal government’s trust obligation to Indian tribal governments to protect tribal resources and assets, one of them being our water resources, which is held as sacred all across Indian country. We hope to keep you apprised of the latest information as it relates to tribes, water resources, water policy and EPA’s Office of Water proposed rulemaking initiatives.

The NTWC e-newsletter will be a monthly publication containing a compilation of NTWC updates and resources and announcements of interest to those working in tribal water resource protection and restoration.

Sincerely,

Ken Norton, Chairman
National Tribal Water Council

In the News

NTWC Fact Sheet: Waters of the U.S.
On February 14, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Army published the proposed rule, Revised Definition for the Waters of the United States. Tribes that are interested in commenting on the proposed rule should submit comments by the April 15, 2019.
The NTWC developed a fact sheet on the proposed revised definition. The fact sheet provides a brief overview of the proposed rule, how it may affect tribes, and how tribes can submit comments. To access the fact sheet, visit http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/PolicyResponseKits/Index

A template comment letter will be released later this month for tribal use. The fact sheet and template letter are components for the NTWC’s policy response kit. The NTWC will be developing these kits as needed.

Visit https://www.epa.gov/wotus-rule for more information on the proposed revised definition and the public comment process.

U.S. Court of Appeals Decision – Hoopa Valley Tribe v. FERC
On January 25, 2019, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit concluded that states cannot use Section 401 authority under the Clean Water Act to delay hydropower relicensing. The continuous action of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to withdraw and resubmission of water quality certification does not reset the one-year period of review. Here is a news article on the decision: https://www.environmentallawandpolicy.com/2019/01/d-c-circuit-strikes-withdraw-resubmit-practice-state-quality-certifications/

U.S. EPA Memorandum: Water Quality Trading Policy
On February 6, 2019, the EPA announced a new water quality trading policy memorandum to help tribes, states, and stakeholders use market-, incentive- and community-based programs to reduce excess nutrients and improve water quality. https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/water-quality-trading-memos

Tribal Consultation for WIIN Act
The EPA is seeking input on the development and implementation of two new tribal drinking water grant programs as authorized by the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. The new grant programs will include a tribal set-aside to support access to safe drinking water on tribal lands. Visit https://tcots.epa.gov/ for more information.

The consultation process will end on March 22, 2019. Two informational webinars will be held:

- Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 2PM-3PM EST
- Thursday, March 14, 2019, 2PM-3PM EST

https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wiingranttribalconsultation/

Funding Opportunities

Aquatic Invasive Species Grants to Great Lakes Tribes
A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant to support development and/or implementation of Great Lakes Tribal Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plans. Close date: April 2, 2019
Visit www.grants.gov for other federal grant opportunities.
**Events**

**Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance 2019 Spring Water Conference**
Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance are hosting a 2019 Spring Water Conference “Foundation for Our Future: Lifelong Contributions to Water Sovereignty” on April 9-10, 2019, in Rapid City, South Dakota. Visit [www.tribalwateralliance.org](http://www.tribalwateralliance.org) for more information.

**U.S. EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series**
Upcoming webinar topics include:
- March 26, 2019 *Lead Management in Homes and Buildings*
- April 30, 2019 *Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule and Simultaneous Compliance*
For more information, visit [https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series](https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series)

**Tribal Lands and Environment Forum**
This year is the 10th anniversary of the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF). TLEF is collaboratively sponsored by ITEP, the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee and US EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management. It will be held at the Palm Springs Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center in Palm Springs, California, **August 19-22, 2019**.

The TLEF will feature special trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on the conference theme: *A National Conversation on Tribal Land and Water Resources*. Topics highlighted at the TLEF include solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response. Tribal water program topics – water quality, drinking water, and habitat restoration (e.g., wetlands, streams and fisheries) will be included in breakout sessions, training and field trips.

The registration fee is $25 for the 2019 TLEF. To get the latest information, you may visit [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confir_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confir_tlef), or you may contact Todd Barnell, Project Director at Todd.Barnell@nau.edu, or Julie Jurkowski, Program Coordinator Sr., at Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu.

**NTWC Members**

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