

**STATE OF CA-CAL2-OFC OF EMERGE**

**Moderator: Randy Gonzales  
March 21, 2014  
2:30 pm CT**

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you for standing by. At this time all participants are in a listen-only mode.

During the question-and-answer session you may press \* one on your touchtone phone if you would like to ask a question. Today's call is being recorded, if you have any objections you may disconnect at this time. Now I would like to turn the meeting over to Cynthia Gomez the Governor's Tribal Advisor.

Cynthia Gomez: Good afternoon everyone, I want to welcome you and thank you very much for taking the time to join us on this drought response telephone call - conference call.

We know many of you are busy and we are having the conference calls because it's very difficult for everyone to travel on a regular basis to get updates and to have these kinds of conversations. So we appreciate your patience with us as we try to get it right and we try to provide a red - a forum so that we can have this kind of interaction.

I'd like to say thank you to all of the chair people and councilmen that have joined us today, we really appreciate you taking the time particularly out of your schedule so that we can have your input. I'd also like to thank the state and federal agencies who have offered to join us and are here today to also answer questions and provide information.

So we have a full schedule so we're going to start out by asking Tom Howard the Executive Director for the State Resources Control Board to give us an update on Federal Reserve water rights and curtailment.

Tom Howard: Oh hi this is Tom Howard; well there were a couple of topics I was going to cover just real quickly.

The two main things that the Water Board is doing is doing temporary urgency change petition processing and also at least investigating presently the need for curtailments around the state of water rights based on the water right priorities that exist. With respect to the first issue when somebody feels like they aren't able to meet their water right permit terms because of the shortage of water they can file a temporary urgency change petition with us.

And we look at it, make sure that it's urgent and that other people won't be injured and fish and wildlife are reasonably protected and then we try to process it. And we can move on them very quickly, we've done a number of them - the most prominent were a couple of ones for the state water project in the Central Valley Project in the Central Valley.

And so to the extent that anyone has water rights from the state that they are concerned about being able to conserve water for one purpose or another or even for fishery protection the temporary urgency change petition is a process that's available.

The second thing is curtailments, we - I think the last call we had I had indicated that curtailments might be eminent and - eminent rather and because after that call it's been raining quite a bit and so we haven't issued any curtailments at all at this point. The areas we're focusing in are the Central Valley, the Russian River and we're starting to look at the Eel River presently.

And the way that they would go is just basically pure water right priority and we'd be trying to determine the supply available and the demand and then curtailing people to make sure that senior water right holders have their rights satisfied. In that regard tribal - water used on tribal land is based on a Federal Reserve right which is only - essentially is always the most senior right and one that we have no authority to curtail in any event.

And that was the sum of my comments for right now but I'd be happy to answer questions if people have any.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Tom, we'll hold our questions and comments at the end. Our next presenter is Chuck Bonham from California...

Chuck Bonham: Hi Cynthia and everyone on the phone, my name Chuck Bonham and I'm the Director of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

And I thought I could just quickly run through an example of a tribal department - we got experience with fish rescue just this week to provide some guidance to those on the phone on how you may wish to consult and coordinate as we're going through this difficult period. So earlier this week our department, kind of in collaboration with the Pomo of Upper Lake and the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, conducted a fish rescue for Clear Lake hitch in Lake County.

So this is a pretty unique fish, the Clear Lake hitch, it's also a candidate for listing as an endangered or threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act and its culturally significant to multiple tribes in the region. The fish were stranded in a tributary to the lake, Adobe Creek and the flows in that creek have been significantly reduced.

And the isolated pools with the fish were disconnecting from the lake, so the Department initiated a fish rescue to move stranded fish to another tributary that was hydrologically connected. The two tribes assisted in several ways, they - their tribal members and our staff netted the fish, tribes provided equipment for holding the fish after removal. Tribal members assisted in taking biological data on the fish and tagging the fish to monitor the success of the transfer.

When we put them in the more wet tributary, you know, they were examined and tribal members also provided assistance in getting the effort access to properties surrounding the areas. And as a result we moved about 200 or so of these Clear Lake fish and we think that's going to contribute significantly to the ongoing survival of them.

We've got a couple of other examples - we're working currently for example with the Karuk Tribe and local landowners in the Shasta River and the climate system around potential moving of coho which are also protected and culturally significant. And we're engaged with the Yurok in the lower climate system, you know, running up pretty extensive water quality monitoring effort to track for disease and Thermal Refugia issues.

So did I - I'd also just add this doesn't run just the fish, so I know tribes care like our Department a lot about Bighorn sheep and we'll have similarly

persistent challenges around water supply for wildlife and disease outbreak and drought conditions.

And then the last thing I'd just add is we at the department need this kind of collaboration with you all in areas. And it will be difficult because we will face hard decisions whether always we would move fish or sometimes may elect to let nature take its course and those will be difficult kind of decision-making processes for which we kind of seek input and collaboration from tribal members on.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chuck, you know, I - I'm going to go ahead and move on. We had Mark Ghilarducci on the next - as the next speaker, he's unable to be here today.

However we have Nancy Ward, we want to welcome her to California. She was the former Regional Director for FEMA and we're very thankful to have her here today.

Nancy Ward: Thanks Cynthia, well on behalf of Director Ghilarducci I'd like to welcome you to the call and also thank you for your participation today.

I would say that the Governor really has positioned the state very, very well by identifying programs and allocating funds to programs by signing the recent emergency drought legislation that I'm sure you're all very aware of. The funds that have been allocated in the Governor's recent emergency legislation will be distributed to various state agencies for a variety of projects and programs.

And quite honestly these projects and programs are still being identified. It is still being worked out how to focus on those critical impact areas and we'll be

working with the Governor's - not only the Governor's task force but by filling out and completing the tribal survey that was sent to you all as well as a study that is being done by UC Davis on drought impacts for the entire state of California. We'll be looking at ways to best allocate the money for what types of programs and to prioritize and focus in those high impact areas.

I would like to encourage you all to stay apprised of all the ongoing activities for drought impacts and situations regionally where your tribal lands are by participating on the weekly drought calls that are being hosted by the OES regional offices.

Local governments that I know , as tribal chairman have been given access to these calls that is a really good way for you to hear what's going on regionally around you and the impacts that are being identified and bubbling up as they happen in real-time as well as being able to provide your impact and your cost that you're incurring for these tribal nations that are - impacts that you're having specifically.

And these calls are held by OES, they're weekly but we are really trying to encourage you all to call in to those and to report what your activities are, what your costs are so that we can have a total picture of what's happening throughout the states. So with that Cynthia, thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Nancy, our next speaker is Paul Helliker from - he's the Deputy Director at the Department of Water Resources of Delta and Statewide Water Management - Paul are you there?

Paul Helliker: I am here.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you.

Paul Helliker: Thanks Cynthia, good afternoon everyone and thanks for the opportunity to give you a quick update on what we're doing with one of the elements of the Governor's drought action plan.

This has to do with barriers that we're proposing to install in the Delta this summer to prevent water that highly saline from intruding into the middle part of the Delta. We did this back in 1977 - actually both 1976 and 1977 and it was very successful that year in helping to preserve fresh water for uses in the Delta as well as people that take water from the Delta for supplies in other locations.

So the locations we're proposing this year are Sutter Slough and Steamboat Sough in the northern part of the Delta. And then on West False River in the central part of the Delta. And the combination of those three locations will allow us to save more water in the upstream reservoirs rather than having to release it down through the Delta to keep salinity at bay.

And the benefit of that of course will be that we'll have water for other uses later in the summer and possible into 2015 if it is also a dry year. And salmon will need those water resources later this year to be able to survive during the summertime - especially so that we can provide low temperature water supplies for them. So we're planning on moving ahead on this project as soon as we can.

Our goal is to have them installed sometime between early May and June 1. And we will be going through all the permitting process and consulting with the State Water Board and with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Federal Fisheries Agencies and the Corp of Engineers to get permits as

necessary. So we're looking forward to working with them closely and having a successful implementation of this particular project.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Paul, we're going to move on to our federal coordination and we are very pleased and honored to have Margo Kerrigan from the California Area Director of Indian Health Service from Region Nine here and also (Danny Bradford) - (Donnie Bradford) who is working on drinking water surveys and also drinking water availability, so Margo.

Margo Kerrigan: Yes good afternoon, we are pleased to be involved in this multiple government agency approach to working on this problem.

We remain concerned that tribal community water systems could be impacted by one of the driest winters on record here in California. And the precipitation was just 20% above average - 20% of average, okay (I got) above. In the IHS's Division of Sanitation Facilities construction which (Don Bradford) oversees has taken a proactive approach to plan for these drought conditions and its possible impact to Indian community water systems.

The first thing that we have done is to conduct an inventory or an assessment of all tribal community water systems to determine drought impacts. The second activity that we're involved in is identifying water systems that are considered to be at higher risk of drought impacts. And then the process we're in now (with staff) which is communicating with tribal governments and tribal utility operators.

Lastly (Don Bradford) offers technical assistance to develop a drought contingency plan for tribal governments. With this multi-prong approach we feel we're in a better situation to assist as to where resources might be focused. The drought assessment that I spoke assessed 148 tribal water systems, there

were 41 assessed in the Redding District, 50 assessed in the Sacramento District and 57 assisted in the Escondido District Office.

And so we have this picture that shows the most intense aspects of the drought fall into the Central Valley and the coast - have you seen this one before?

Cynthia Gomez: We will - for the callers, you don't have that in your packet we will put it on our Web site shortly after the call you'll have it on the Web site early next week.

Margo Kerrigan: We've distributed water conservation literature and have the Tribal Health Programs such as head start, day care, senior centers and food service operations to ensure minimal impact from the drought.

And we're providing technical assistance upon request to tribal governments that would like to see their water system assessed and for the Indian Health Service to be able to determine what level of risk they actually sit at.

Cynthia Gomez: All right thank you Margo, we appreciate all of that information. We have another federal partner with us today - we have Randy Brawley who's the FEMA Tribal Branch Chief for Region 9 - Randy.

Randy Brawley: Good afternoon everybody, I'd like to thank you for including us on this call today and in particular I want to thank the state of California in particular the Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs for coordinating this.

I have to tell you this (mutamy) and I've really - I've learned a lot over the past few days as I've gotten ready for this and especially thank all the great people I've met as USDA. And because as I found out for drought conditions as we

stand right here in our region the US Department of Agriculture is really probably is our first, you know, stop to look for assistance.

They have multiple vehicles for declaring disasters from Secretarial to Presidential and they have actually modified the procedures to kind of fast track how they can distribute assistance. And I particularly found that they have a Web site for drought model year for those who aren't available and they've already essentially pre-designated counties, you know, and their drought conditions.

So it looks like jurisdiction (over with) in those pre-designated counties can actually get assistance on an expedited basis. Now before I get - and it looks like the person - and again I'll share all this - I won't talk about email addresses and all these other things because we can pass it to (Heather Hostler) and she can then post it on site.

But for those who haven't met her yet or know of her it looks like Renee Russell from USDA should be our first point of contact for seeking federal drought assistance. Now the USDA may not have all of the, you know, programs and assistance that may be warranted but if we start there then we can kind of figure out if it's not the USDA than we can figure out what Federal agency would handle that.

In addition if we - if it's outside of their scope we have within Region 9 Steve DeBlasio, one of our Federal Coordinating Officers and our Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator. And Steve is - would be the one-stop shop for, you know, the general I guess federal aid to try to figure out where, you know, assistance might come from. And that - I guess I'll just leave it at that and perhaps wait for questions later.

You know, the big picture is right now it looks like the USDA is probably - is the first place to stop under Renee Russell to seek out drought assistance.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much Randy. I would like to point out a few things before we get into our comments and questions.

One is that we have a Web site that has - is a collection of all the information for the states called drought.ca.gov that you can go to get the weekly updates. We also have a Tribal Affairs Web site that you can also go to that links to the various agencies and has - and will have all of this information. It does have much of this information already on our Web site that has to do specific with Indian country and drought.

So we will proceed to our tribal comments and the way that we're going to do this is I'd like to have our chair - chairman and council members speak first and then we'll go with the tribal designees and then we'll have an open forum. So I have a list of our tribal chairs and I'll just go down the list. First I have the Honorable Garth Sundberg, Chairperson for Trinidad - are you there?

Coordinator: Mr. Sundberg's line is open

Garth Sundberg: Yes - no I'm here, can you hear me?

Cynthia Gomez: Oh there we go, thank you for joining us Chairman.

Garth Sundberg: Thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Do you have any comments or questions?

Garth Sundberg: No but I do have - I'm going to be leaving here in a few minutes but I want Jacque if she has any questions that she could ask.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay.

Garth Sundberg: I don't have anything right now, no.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairman - Jacque would you like to go ahead and make any comments?

(Jackie): Yes thank you very much Cynthia. We are very pleased to see the responses from all of the California agencies working together on this.

And I just want to share that we were contacted by Indian Health Service and had a lengthy conversation yesterday. We are concerned about long-term drought conditions and how that's going to impact Trinidad around Cher Ae. We have - we are dependent on the city water system. We're looking at ways to be able to be self-sufficient and have water from another source.

The water service that we have is extremely expensive and very difficult for a very disadvantage community - economically disadvantaged. So here in Northern California we are really working hard to take advantage of all of the resources that are available. It's difficult to understand how to access the technical assistance. So hearing a little bit more I think having those contact people as Randy just indicated Renee Russell being the first contact.

The only other question I have and I'm hoping it may come up at some point is the difference between the proclamation and the declaration.

Cynthia Gomez: Well thank you Jacque, we are going to have follow-up if necessary for any of the questions if we're not able to answer that today.

I think this question came up regarding the difference - differences in the proclamation and the declaration. And I think what we'll do is we'll go ahead and put up a PowerPoint that explains those differences that OES has prepared for us. And so we'll have that put up on the website. And then we'll have someone from OES give you a call as well.

(Jackie): Thank you very much.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you. Our next chairperson is the Honorable Harvey Hopkins from the Dry Creek Rancheria, Chairman Hopkins are you there?

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Coordinator: I don't see a line with Mr. Hopkins name.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay thank you operator, we'll go to the next chairperson that we have listed, The Honorable Dale Miller, Chairperson for the Elk Valley Rancheria.

Coordinator: I don't see a line for Mr. Miller either.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much operator. The next person that I have listed is The Honorable Yvonne Miller, Chairperson for the Ione Band of Miwok Indians.

Coordinator: I do not see a line with that name either.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you. The next Chairperson on my list is The Honorable Buster Attebery, Chairperson for the Karuk Tribe.

Buster Attebery: I'm here - can you hear me?

Cynthia Gomez: Yes Chairman, it's good to hear you.

Buster Attebery: Yes, yes, how are you?

Cynthia Gomez: Good.

Buster Attebery: I'm here with Jaclyn Goodwin.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay, good morning Jaclyn.

Buster Attebery: And I have just a couple questions, they said something about a survey being sent out, I - have they already been sent out or should I look for something...

Woman: For IHS.

Buster Attebery: For IHS?

Cynthia Gomez: Donnie's here - Donnie Bradfford from IHS, so I'll direct that call to him.

Buster Attebery: Okay.

Don Bradfford: Yes in the middle of February the in-house sort of sent out a - an assessment survey and we've also had EPA and some other partners help us distribute this survey out. What I can do is I can make sure to send you one directly on Monday.

Buster Attebery: Great, that would be great.

Cynthia Gomez: It should also be in your meeting attachments too Chairman Attebery...

Buster Attebery: Okay.

Cynthia Gomez: ...(I did send out).

Buster Attebery: Okay and I'll check with our director too.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairman, do you have any other comments?

Buster Attebery: Yes I did, I was curious about the state's distribution of funds they set aside for the drought whether there's going to be a priority system.

I know our area up in Northern California with (Monahue) it will be the first time ever they probably won't have city drinking water. We've been collaborating working with them on some grants to see if we have any sort of length - any length. I guess the question is, you know, how do they - do they do an analysis of the area and in order to figure out the priority or who needs it most?

Nancy Ward: Chairman Attebery this is Nancy Ward with California OES.

Yes what we're trying to glean all of - get back all of the surveys from the tribal governments, we're also waiting for a study that's being done by UC Davis to give us statewide impacts of the critical areas throughout the state. And once those tools - once we have those tools they will be what informs how the programs and projects are prioritized for the Emergency Drought Legislation funding.

Buster Attebery: Perfect, we'll look for those.

Cynthia Gomez: Is there anything else Chairman that you would like to ask or comment on?

Buster Attebery: No, thank you very much.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairman for joining us.

Cynthia Gomez: We have a comment from our tribal advisor for the Department of Water Resources, Anecita Agustinez.

Anecita Agustinez: Chairman in reference to the Department of Water Resources' ability to distribute the Integrated Regional Water Management grant fund to the top 84 funds as part of that legislative package our department now is fast-tracking the grant process.

We are going through Round 3 as the last program solicitation package, it's going to be set up for public comment in early May or April and the - it will be up for public comment. The program guidelines will be finalized in June; we'll have the solicitations out and be getting grant proposals by August and hopefully issuing out awards by October. This is a fast track four month of a probably an eight month process in order to get funds out to the communities.

What's important to our tribal government has been in the past the water code not being fully inclusive of some tribal concerns in terms of stakeholder and local agency language. That is being looked at internally to address that issue and hopefully will be included in the April 1 public comment. I'm assessing that with our tribal advisory committee through our council in Water Plan in Department of Water Resources.

We're having a public advisory and tribal advisory joint meeting next week, March 26 and we're going to have a tribal conference after the meeting to look at these two particular issues and also the labor code compliance issues that have been raised through the Tribal Advisory Committee. I'll do a more detailed information on that and have that posted to the Tribal Advisor's Web site.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Anecita.

Buster Attebery: Thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairman, our next - the next tribe that's listed is The Honorable Reno Franklin, Chairman of the Stewarts Point Rancheria.

Reno Franklin: Hello, hello.

Cynthia Gomez: Good afternoon Chairman.

Reno Franklin: Oh good - good afternoon, thank you guys for putting this call together it's really informative and of course it's all a little scary for us as well.

So we are - 1916 they shoved us up there at Stewarts Point Rancheria, we've been up there ever sense and we've got a couple of issues and concerns. The first being that, you know we have a domestic license and not a municipal and that we're a junior water right holder because we got our first water system in 1970.

And so our concern is that if we're not using our maximum amount of water that we're allowed that they're going to reduce that amount in a time of drought and that could have some pretty negative effects on us. And if they do

go after the junior water right licenses and holders and do some reductions or in any way tamper with that what recourse does the tribe have to protect our water for our residents on the reservation?

Cynthia Gomez: Excellent question - Tom are you there?

Tom Howard: Yes if we send out curtailment notices and, you know, I don't - I kind of suspect we won't be sending out any curtailment notices in the area I think you're talking about.

But if we did then we would also include a provision that said for - and you could continue to divert for domestic supplies. So if that was what the water was being used for we aren't going to tell people that they can't have water in their homes. But, you know, the water right priorities the system says that, you know, curtailments occur when there's not enough water for everyone and senior water right holders, you know, have first priority.

Reno Franklin: Okay that's always a little frustrating as a tribe to hear that.

Tom Howard: Well if it's a Federal Reserve right then of course it's - that is the senior right.

Don Bradfford: (Unintelligible).

Cynthia Gomez: Chairman (Donnie Bradford) from IHS has something that he might - would like to ask.

Don Bradfford: Chairman Franklin, I believe your water line date goes back to when (ranch railroads) were supposed to established, not when we put the water system in for beneficial use, so you probably have a lot more senior rights then what you referred to.

And I can give you ca call on Monday, I have some other information regarding that.

Reno Franklin: Yes thanks Donnie thanks a lot man I really appreciate it. And by the way how are you doing? Long time no see.

Don Bradfford: I'm doing fine.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay so we - so Donnie will get back to you and follow-up with you next week Chairman.

Reno Franklin: Yes Donnie when you call if you could talk to our tribal administrator that would be great - (Teresa), I'll let her know to expect a phone call from you.

(Don Bradford): Okay.

Reno Franklin: And I just need to - I had one more question or IHS really quick too. I just - it was - I was happy to hear that they're looking at some possible contingency planning from tribal governments.

And I just wanted an update on the status of that and then also on the (von) - excuse me, on the water assessments that was attached to the email that was sent out for this meeting. Is there a contact person that we should email that to as well?

(Don Bradford): That would be (Chris Brady).

Cynthia Gomez: (Chris Brady)?

(Don Bradford): Out of the California Air and Indian Health Service Office.

Cynthia Gomez: Out of Region 9, the California Indian Health Service?

Cynthia Gomez: Oh Sacramento IHS Office.

Reno Franklin: Donnie can you email that out to us, is that too much to ask?

Don Bradfford: Yes I will do that.

Reno Franklin: Thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Also (Donnie) if you would provide that to (Heather Hostler) and we'll make sure that it also gets up on our Web site as part of the information that Indian Health Service has provided for us.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairman, is there any other comments or concerns?

Reno Franklin: Just on that contingency planning, I'd heard Margo mention it a second ago and but the first time I had heard that IHS was considering that. But she said that it was also - she mentioned some other agencies so just for point of clarification is IHS doing contingency plans for tribes for water use or is it - am I doing that now?

Don Bradfford: (General) what Ms. Kerrigan was talking about was the drought contingency plan that when we did our survey we found that only 10% of the 148 tribal water systems had drought contingency plans.

And so we have a Web site and we have a template of a drought contingency plan that tribes could use. And we're going to be working with all the tribes to develop a drought contingency plan.

Reno Franklin: Okay if you guys could forward us the information where that template is at it would be appreciated.

Cynthia Gomez: We'll make sure we do that.

Reno Franklin: Thank you.

Tom Howard: Just one additional comment by the way that tribal water rights can be a complicated subject. I have a memo from the Chief Council at the Water Board on Tribal Water Rights that I can have sent to everyone if you'd like.

Cynthia Gomez: That would be excellent Tom - and that was Tom Howard from the State Water Resources Control Board. Thank you Tom we appreciate that offer and if you could send that to (Heather) we'll make sure that that gets on our Web site.

Tom Howard: Okay.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you, our next chairperson on our list is The Honorable Eloise Oropeza, Chairperson for Manchester Band of Pomo Indians.

Coordinator: We don't have a line with that name on it.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay, the next chairperson that we have listed is The Honorable Robert Smith, Chairperson for Pala.

Coordinator: I don't see Mr. Smith's name on the list of participants.

Cynthia Gomez: The next person is The Honorable Nicholas Medina, Chairperson for Robinson Rancheria.

Coordinator: Mr. Medina has disconnected.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you, the next person that we have on the list is The Honorable Thomas O'Rourke, Senior Chairperson of Yurok.

Coordinator: I don't have Mr. O'Rourke.

Cynthia Gomez: The next person we have on our list is The Honorable Bo Mazzetti, Chairperson for the Rincon Tribe.

Bo Mazzetti: Yes he's here.

Cynthia Gomez: Oh great, hello Chairman.

Bo Mazzetti: Can you hear me?

Cynthia Gomez: Yes we can hear you.

Bo Mazzetti: (I don't think you can hear) - I'm going down the road so I don't know how loud I am or how clear I'll be, but several things I heard were encouraging.

First in reference to the web site if you could send that out (unintelligible), the one that consolidates all of the information - maybe I missed that but if that could be sent out by maybe email or something so the tribes will have that site address. I've been out of the office quite a bit so we may have and if we do I

apologize but if we don't have it I'd like to get that. The other things that I heard that were real encouraging is people understanding and talking about reserve water rights and priority rights.

And understanding what are sovereigns - all of those things need to be on the table right up front with the state and working together so we understand them and we don't get into some very uncomfortable situations when we talk about cutbacks and different things. I did hear a gentleman from the Water Resources Commission I thought it was - Tom I believe his name was that they have a memo on that subject - on those subjects, I think that's real important.

My other concern is that on these calls who is representing - I've been to a few meetings on water and issues and you basically have Indian groups that are just groups - organizations and individuals that do not represent tribes speaking and so they're the experts on tribal water rights. I want to assure that the state is in fact doing a government-to-government discussion which means tribe-to-tribe, not tribal organizations and individual Indian folks claiming to be the experts on water.

That's something that needs to be done strictly with a government-to-government relationship with the tribes - like a lot of those who are on here today that have identified themselves. I just want to make sure that the state doesn't just take a group or an individual that that then represents Indians' positions on water. So a lot more complicated and I'm concerned about that, I've seen that occurring.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay thank you for your comments Chairman, is there any other questions or comments?

Bo Mazzetti: No it's - I'm really enjoying what I'm hearing so far. All the other chair people have been on there and the state folks that needed to hear are there.

Now is there - my understanding is that there is a program too - let me ask this, maybe I missed it I got cut out a little bit, but is there a program, a grant program coming up where we can get some (assistance) in deepening wells? Some of our tribes down here - wells need some help as far as increasing depth of additional water - is there a program for wells deepening? I know there's not one necessarily for drilling new wells, but it...

Cynthia Gomez: I'll let Indian Health Services direct that question Chairman.

Don Bradfford: Good afternoon Chairman, this is Don.

Bo Mazzetti: How are you doing Don?

Don Bradford: How are you doing? I'll have...

Bo Mazzetti: Good.

Don Bradfford: ...I'll have (Sean Bush) give you a call, but we do - we're assessing wells throughout the state in places where the water level is dropping and if it needs to be deepening we're doing that. We've done that at two tribes so far, so I'll have the (deal) district give you a call on Monday.

Bo Mazzetti: Okay yes, it was (from our other tribe) - we're okay, but some of our other sister tribes and other tribes around are having some issues.

Cynthia Gomez: Donnie could you send that information to us and then we'll go ahead and put that on our Web site as well. I know you probably have it on yours too, but because of the specific follow-up.

Don Bradford): Sure.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you, Donnie) will send that information and we'll also send that out and put it on our Web site - thank you Chairman.

Bo Mazzetti: Thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: The next Chairperson on our list is The Honorable LaVonne Peck, Chairwoman for the La Jolla Band.

LaVonne Peck: Good afternoon.

Cynthia Gomez: Good afternoon Chairwoman.

LaVonne Peck: Thank you for the coordination of this call and everyone's effort in giving out the information.

The information that Chairman Mazzetti just requesting I think will be helpful as we continue to monitor our wells as I mentioned on the last call. And other than that I don't have any additional comments or question, I think they've been answered this afternoon, so thank you so much.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Chairwoman, have a wonderful day. The next Chair is Chairwoman Cynthia Naha and she's from the Kashia Band of Pomos.

Cynthia Naha: You already spoke with our Chairperson Reno Franklin and I was just calling in as a staff person not as a chair.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay Cynthia we'll get back to you in just a moment, okay?

Cynthia Naha: Thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you - do we have any other chair people on the line?

Coordinator: We do have participants listed as chairpersons - if you are a chairperson and you would like to make a comment or ask a question you can press \* one and I will open your line. One moment to see if we have any comments or questions - and we do have a question or comment from Rosemary Morillo, your line is open.

Rosemary Morillo: Good afternoon everyone, this is Chairwoman Rosemary Morillo from Soboba and I thank you all for putting this together Cynthia to coordinate all this.

I don't have any questions at the moment and because I haven't participated on the first phone calls that you had put out there. It gives me a lot of thought though to see where we are at on our water system. And so far, you know, we've been doing improvements through the years and everything but I'm really interested to see where we're at if we do have a drought contingency plan of ever put in place.

And I know we have quite a few tanks for water storage but this is good to know where everybody's at on what they're trying to do to face this drought that we have right now. But just to comment, you know, to thank you for putting all this together.

And I'm going back to that question, I know someone asked on the survey that was sent out at the end of February, I would like to see if that could be sent out again or maybe accessed on your Web site to help print that out to see if we're - anything affects us in that survey. That's all, thank you.

Cynthia Gomez: Chairwoman thank you very much for joining us. We'll also follow-up on the survey and (Donnie Bradford) from Indian Health Service will give your office a call next week and we'll also have it on our Web site - the survey on our Web site.

Rosemary Morillo: All right thank you so much.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much. Operator do we have any other chairs that would like to address the forum?

Coordinator: We have no further chairpersons in queue.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay, next we'd like to hear from the delegates from tribes that have been designated by their tribes to speak if they would like to open their lines we'd be happy to hear from them.

Coordinator: Once again if you would like to make a comment or ask a question and you are a designee you may press \* one on your touchtone phone - one moment to see if we have any questions or comments. We do have a questions or comment from Brad Cass - Mr. Cass your line is open.

Cynthia Gomez: Good afternoon Brad.

Coordinator: Please un-mute your phone.

Brad Cass: Is that better?

Cynthia Gomez: Yes we can hear you now.

Brad Cass: Okay I'm sorry, it is Brad Cass and I'm from the Smith River Rancheria.

On the previous conference call and on this one Nancy Ward mentioned weekly calls to OES that there was a weekly conference - I think a weekly conference call. And I'm not really clear on that - is that - do we call in or is that something that's announced? I haven't seen anything since our initial meeting.

Cynthia Gomez: Brad let me have Eric Lamoureux our Regional Administrator talk to you about the calls that have been set up.

Brad Cass: Okay.

Eric Lamoureux: Hi, my name's Eric Lamoureux, I cover our Inland Region Administrator. We have three regions in California that we break up our operations into, our Southern Region, Coastal Region and Inland.

Each of those regions holds a weekly conference call; they're all scheduled on Monday. We invite the tribal governments within our regions to those calls. So my recommendation would be if I can get your contact information I'll ensure that you're invited to that call and let you know if we've had someone else representing your tribal government that's currently being invited. But those are held on a weekly basis. Whereabouts are you located?

Brad Cass: We're - I'm with the Smith River Rancheria which is up Northern California, almost to the south to the Oregon border on the coast.

Eric Lamoureux: So you're part of my region, the Inland Region and our call is held at 11:00 AM...

Woman: (Unintelligible).

Eric Lamoureux: Oh I'm sorry I've been corrected you're within our coastal region. I will get your contact information and we'll get the information for the coastal region call to you so you can participate on that.

Brad Cass: Excellent, thank you.

Eric Lamoureux: Yes.

Cynthia Gomez: Brad could you please give us your - the best number to get ahold of you?

Brad Cass: Sure, right now?

Cynthia Gomez: Yes.

Brad Cass: Okay it's 707-487-9255 and the extension is 3155.

Cynthia Gomez: And what's your position there Brad?

Brad Cass: I'm the Natural Resource's Director.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay thank you very much Brad, we'll have Eric get back to you.

Brad Cass: Thank you I do appreciate it.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much - did you have any other comments or concerns?

Brad Cass: No thanks.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much - operator do we have any other comments or concerns?

Coordinator: We do have a question or comment from Sid Morris - Mr. Morris your line is open.

Sid Morris: Hi this is Sid Morris with the Sycuan Band in San Diego County.

Cynthia Gomez: Hi Sid thank you for joining us.

Sid Morris: Thank you for putting us on it's been very informative. So I had a couple of comments that have already been raised but just to put us on the same page, I'd also like to participate or at least be made aware of the OES calls. And my contact information is 619-445-4564, extension 1060 and I am the Director of Planning and Development.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Sid we'll have - Eric you'll be able to respond to that? Eric will follow-up with you.

Sid Morris: Great, thank you. Second comment is on the wells, the majority of Sycuan Reservation is served by a well community system, although we do have some homes that are on Federal land so that when they were brought into the tribal trust were part of a district and have access to district water.

The original reservation does not have any access and in fact by district law is prohibited from access to district water. So - and we did look at annexing to the local district but the cost were extremely prohibitive and the tribe took action not to pursue that action. So we are in the midst of doing a well management effort that not only looks at our - all of our wells, the health of those wells; the maintenance of those wells.

But part of that is to deepen those wells because some of our wells are running dry. And in fact we have one production well that serves the majority of all of our tribal residents. And what I did hear and I wanted to get confirmation on, the only funding that's available through IHS is for deepening of wells but not the pursuit of a new well, is that correct?

Don Bradfford: That's not correct - it's a (bill) for both. It's - these are both to drill a new well instead of deepening well because sometimes there's problematic deepening a well and so it's only on certain occasions that we actually deepen the well.

Sid Morris: Okay because for Sycuan the majority of a tribal residents are served by a fractured rock well system whereas it has a resort that is served by an alluvial base, but all of those wells are 90 feet or less in depth.

But our biggest concern is that since we're on a fractured rock system for the tribe if you have a major event that changes that fractured rock configuration you could lose - or we could lose our water system. So we're very interested in identifying and pursuing an additional well, especially since we don't have access to district water.

Don Bradfford: I will have our district engineer get in contact with you to see, you know, look at the data and work with you about, you know, whether it's easier to deepen a

well. You are correct, any time you get into a fracture the (deeper the well) sometimes there's less fracture and water is not as plentiful.

Sid Morris: And then finally I would add I am receiving notification of this conference call and maybe futures second hand through - by accident in all honesty and I would love to be able to be put on as a direct link to these so that I can stay in touch with what's happening.

Cynthia Gomez: I'll let my deputy director address that. Hi Brad I sent that information directly to you but in order to be able to (unintelligible) - oh I'm sorry Sid I haven't received your information, would you email me directly?

Sid Morris: Sure.

Cynthia Gomez: All right, what we're doing right now is we're directing it to Chairman (Tucker)...

Sid Morris: Right and they for example have been out of town on business so if he's receiving it and somebody's not monitoring his emails it may get to me after the fact.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay great and if you are his designee - and I know it was hard to hear in the first call and it might have been missed, but we will need just an email or a letter from the chairperson of your tribe to indicate that you're the designee they'd like to receive the information as well.

Sid Morris: All right perfect, we'll do - I'll have him just reply to the email you sent out then?

Cynthia Gomez: That would be great, yes simple as that is just fine.

Sid Morris: Okay perfect, thanks.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay thank you Sid, did you have anything else?

Sid Morris: No ma'am that will do it.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you very much for joining us. Operator do we have any other calls?

Coordinator: We do have a question or comment from Rob Mendes, Mr. Mendes your line is open. Mr. Mendes has disconnected, so our final comment or question is from Mona Bontty, Ms. Bontty your line is open.

Mona Bontty: Yes thank you good afternoon, I'm the Southern Regional Administrator for CAL OES and I wanted to add to Eric's comment to Sid, we do have our weekly drought calls in the Southern Region every Monday at 2:00 PM.

I have your contact information so I will reach out to you directly and ensure that you are invited. We have an agenda that goes out weekly including the minutes from the previous call. And we also distribute throughout the week various key highlights regarding the drought such as the weekly drought update and other key information that we are asked to distribute to our operational area partners including tribes.

So we welcome you to join and I'll be in contact with you. Thank you for asking.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Mona, would you please make sure that the tribes in your region are also getting the information?

Mona Bontty: Yes, yes we have been working through our operational areas so we will work on that to ensure that all of them are getting the information.

Again our calls are at 2:00 PM on Mondays. The coastal region calls are at 1:00 PM and Inland as Eric has noted are at 11:00 AM every Monday.

Cynthia Gomez: Thank you Mona and thank you for joining us.

Mona Bontty: Thank you.

Coordinator: There are no...

Cynthia Gomez: Oper...

Coordinator: Oh I'm sorry, there are no further questions or comments in queue.

Cynthia Gomez: Okay I want to thank everyone who are still on the line for joining us and we will have another monthly call that will be announced coming from Heather Hostler.

It will also be noted on our Web site and we thank you very much for all of your comments and we will follow up on the various concerns that you had - thanks again. Have a good afternoon and a wonderful weekend.

Coordinator: Thank you for your participation, this concludes today's conference and you may disconnect at this time.

END