



NTAA Monthly Update JUNE 2025

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National Tribal Forum on Air Quality Feedback

On behalf of the NTFAQ planning committee, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who attended the 2025 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality in Southern, California. Your presence, participation, and shared commitment to protecting air quality in Tribal communities made this year's forum an inspiring and impactful gathering.

We are grateful for the knowledge, experiences, and perspectives that each of you brought to the event. Your engagements in the sessions, panels, and discussions enrich the forum and strengthened our collective efforts to support healthy air and vibrant environments for our current and future generations.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Rincon Tribe for graciously hosting this important event on their beautiful lands. Their hospitality, culture, and leadership were central to the success of the forum.

To help us continue improving future conferences, we kindly ask that you take a few moments to complete our [feedback form](#). Your insights are valuable in shaping the direction and quality of future conferences. Please submit your feedback by June 10, 2025.

Thank you once again for your dedication and time. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you!

NTFAQ Planning Committee

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Newsletter:

The NTAA Monthly Update is a monthly e-newsletter providing updates and resources to Tribes regarding air policy, grants, and resources. To advertise an announcement, please email Miranda O'Neill Miranda.O'Neill@nau.edu
To subscribe or unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#).

Find us at:
www.ntaatribalair.org

Feature Article

NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY (NTFAQ) Recap

This year, we celebrated the 25th Annual NTFAQ Conference at Harrah's Resort and Casino, hosted by the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians. The Rincon Indian Reservation is located in northeastern San Diego County, along the San Luis Rey River. NTFAQ is a collaboration between NTAA, ITEP, TAMS, and EPA occurring in a different location every year, usually in late May. This year, southern California was the designated location for the conference and occurred on Monday, May 19th through Thursday, May 22nd.



On Monday, pre-conference trainings began, and participants had an opportunity to tour Palomar Mountain State Park, which included a guided nature walk and information on Luiseno culture, history, and important landmarks. The first day ended with a trivia game night and networking opportunity, lead by Angela Benedict from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and hosted by Zane Jacobs from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals.

The opening general session began with our keynote speaker, Michael Connolly Miskwish of the Campo Band of Kumeyaay Indians followed by breakout and networking sessions for folks to meet, learn and share with each other. On Tuesday, NTAA hosted our annual NTAA Membership Meeting and Luncheon, where members were updated on the State of Tribal Air Report (STAR). We ended the day with our 3rd Annual Film Festival, hosted by Roman Orona and Gabriel Ayala, where we featured eleven films on Tribal environmental issues.



The third day began with an opening plenary panel discussing collaborative government strategies for air quality protection, including Tribal, state, and federal partnerships. The plenary panel included Lisa Gover from the Gila River Indian Community, Miles Keogh from the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, and Josh Cook, EPA Region 9 Administrator. After morning break, the Eco Cafe offered more breakout sessions and conference attendees also had the opportunity to network and showcase their programs. Participants engaged in immersive workshops at the Wasxayam Pomki Museum, connecting history, nature, and hands-on learning, and took a field trip to the nearby Pala Band of Mission Indians air monitoring stations and the Tribe's new community garden. Hands-on workshops allowed attendees an opportunity to learn, create, and connect with the heritage of Native communities with basket making and creating shell necklaces, a craft rooted in cultural tradition and storytelling.



Wednesday evening ended with the Virgil Masayesva Awards Dinner honoring Ralph "Manny" Gomez and Roman Orona from the Ak-Chin Indian Community Air Quality Program. Every year, NTFAQ hosts the Virgil Masayesva Environmental Excellence Award, presented to an individual or program who is doing exceptional work in Indian Country. Manny is an EPA Region 9 Tribal Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Representative and an alternative steering committee member on the TAMS Steering Committee. Roman Orona is the current Co-Chair of

the EPA Region 9 RTOC. We recognized two, long-standing environmental professionals and members of the NTAA Executive Committee who will be retiring, Angela Benedict of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and Randy Ashley of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Thursday included more breakout sessions and educational tours, and we ended the conference with our annual Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run & Walk, raising \$1,710 for the Rincon Recreation, Education, and Youth Services Department (REYS). "The mission of REYS is to promote healthy living, wellness, and knowledge; build a culture that embraces education, recreation, and Tribal traditions; and offer diverse programs, provide Member use of recreational facilities, and develop community activities with the vision to improve the quality of life for all Tribal Members." All in all, there were over 30 breakout sessions throughout the week covering a range of topics from air quality monitoring and technical assistance, climate change, indoor air quality, air policy, grant writing and management, wildfire smoke, and more. Overall, the conference was a huge success, and we are extremely grateful to our sponsors, to those who presented, to the Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians for sponsoring us, and to our attendees!

NTAA and the NTFAQ Planning Committee.



NTAA Announcements

The 2024 State of Tribal Air Report (STAR) is complete! The report will soon be available on our website. Stay tuned!

Office Hours with the Policy Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 11, 2025 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. MTN

Join Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting ID: 896 5415 2145

Password: 791811

EPA Policy Call

Thursday, June 26th 11:00 - 1:00 p.m. MTN

Join Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting ID: 896 5415 2145

Password: 791811

Wildfire Smoke Working Group

Thursday, July 10th 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN

Join Zoom Meeting [Link](#)

Meeting ID: 879 9794 4373

Password: 300095



Itep and TAMS Announcements

2025 ITEP Office Hours

Each month ITEP partners with EPA, Tribes, and other content experts to have a lively discussion on a specific topic. Please join us via Zoom. Each month participants will hear a short presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions of the host and audience.

Zoom Meeting ID is 659 096 3943

Password: AIAQTP

For more information please contact:

Christal Black Christal.Black@nau.edu

[TAMS Steering Committee Air Monitoring Workgroup](#)

Tuesday, June 10th 11:00 a.m. Pacific

[Indoor Air Quality Office Hours](#)

Thursday, June 18th 11:00 a.m. Pacific

[Outreach & Education Office Hours](#)

Thursday, June 18th 12:00 p.m. Pacific

New Online Course: Connecting Culture and Brownfields

Brownfields: Land Restoration Using Traditional Foods, Plants, and Culture will provide Tribal environmental professionals with four examples of how Tribes have incorporated traditional food, plants, and culture into their restoration work on contaminated lands.

ITEP's [online courses](#) are free and self-paced, meaning you can take each course at your own speed. Course participants are welcome to complete as much or as little of this 8-hour course as meets their professional needs. Participants who complete the full course will receive a certificate. You can request enrollment into this course [here](#). We hope you can take advantage of this new course offering and come away inspired by these excellent speakers and resources.

Air Quality Monitoring Data Management

Register [here](#)

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

Equipment Loan Program

Equipment for Ambient Air Quality, Indoor Air Quality, and Calibration

OH QAPP Office Hours

Join Meeting [Link](#) Meeting

ID: 865 1626 9184

Password: QREST

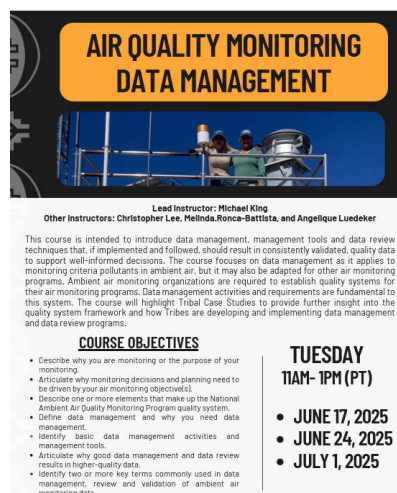


OH QAPP OFFICE HOURS
Hosted By: Melinda Ronca - Battista

The TAMS Center is hosting office hours every Thursday from 11am-1pm EST, when we will be available to discuss your questions and share our experience regarding everyone's favorite topics! These hours are intended for assisting you with your work on QAPPs, data management and reporting, and using the tools in the Quality Review and Exchange System for Tribes (QREST.net) to manage review, and send data to AQS.

Every Thursday
11am-1pm EST

Click [ZOOM Link HERE](#)
Meeting ID: 865 1626 9184
Password: QREST



AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA MANAGEMENT

Lead Instructor: Michael King
Other Instructors: Christopher Lee, Melinda Ronca-Battista, and Angelle Luedeker

This course is intended to introduce data management, management tools and data review techniques that, if implemented and followed, should result in consistently validated, quality data to support well-informed decisions. The course focuses on data management as it applies to monitoring criteria pollutants in ambient air, but it may also be adapted for other air monitoring programs. Ambient air monitoring organizations are required to establish quality systems for their air monitoring programs. Data management activities and requirements are fundamental to this system. The course will highlight Tribal Case Studies to provide further insight into the quality system framework and how Tribes are developing and implementing data management and data review programs.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Describe why you are monitoring or the purpose of your monitoring.
- Articulate why monitoring decisions and planning need to be driven by your air monitoring objectives.
- Describe one or more elements that make up the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program quality system.
- Define data management and why you need data management.
- Identify basic data management activities and management tools.
- Articulate why good data management and data review results in higher-quality data.
- Identify two or more key terms commonly used in data management, review and validation of ambient air monitoring data.

**TUESDAY
11AM- 1PM (PT)**

- JUNE 17, 2025
- JUNE 24, 2025
- JULY 1, 2025



SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 18-21, 2025
TRIBAL LANDS & ENVIRONMENT FORUM

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

In-Person attendance: \$175.00
Virtual attendance: \$25.00

For more information please contact:
Todd Barnell
Project Director
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Tribal Lands & Environment Forum (TLEF) Click [here](#) to register

New Virtual Course: An Intro to AI in Tribal Environmental Programs

Must be willing to participate in six hours of virtual training via Zoom on Wednesday, July 16 and Thursday, July 17, 2025 with your camera turned on.

Click [here](#) to register
Limited availability

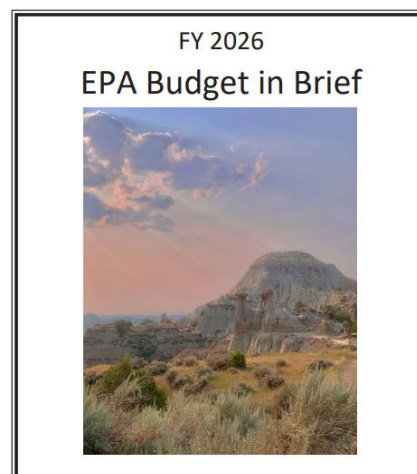
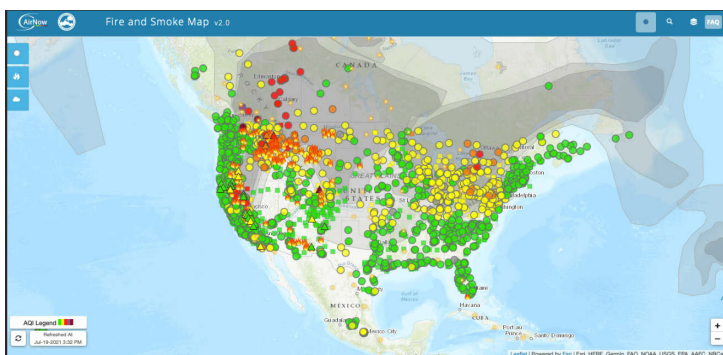
EPA Announcements

EPA's 2026 Budget in Brief is now available

Click [here](#) to review the document

[EPA's AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#)

Help prepare yourself and your community this fire season with realtime fire and smoke data.



United States Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

EPA Smoke-Ready Toolbox for Wildfires

Preparation is key to effective response to wildfire smoke events. Wildfires can start and spread rapidly, and a smoke event may impact a community in a matter of hours. Smoke can travel hundreds of miles and can impact the air quality and public health of communities far from the fire.

Communities should assess vulnerabilities in advance, plan for appropriate responses, and take action during a smoke event. This [toolbox](#) includes resources and information that communities can use to help them prepare for smoke events.



Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Response Technology (WSMART)

EPA is loaning specific air monitoring technologies to state, local, and Tribal air organizations to support supplemental air monitoring in areas that experience wildfire smoke and with observational data coverage gaps.

Click [here](#) for more information.

EPA's Flood Cleanup Resources: Promoting Community Resilience through Risk Communication

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

[Register for the EPA's Flood Cleanup Resources: Promoting Community Resilience through Risk Communication webinar.](#)

Other Announcements

NOAA National Integrated Drought System - Drought conditions for Tribal Nations.

Drought is a challenge most Tribal nations face. Even small changes in the timing or amount of precipitation can induce drought conditions that negatively impact tribal communities, traditions, ecosystems, and economies. Click [here](#) to view drought in your area.

Environmental Law Institute

Click [here](#) to view ELI's Calendar of seminars, courses & special events

Comparing State Hardrock Mining Regulations

Thursday, June 12, 2025 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET

Click [here](#) to register

Cumulative Impacts Policies Across the United States

Monday, June 16, 2025 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. ET

Click [here](#) to register



ASHRAE Annual Conference

Saturday, June 21 to Wednesday, 25, 2025

Phoenix, AZ

Click [here](#) to register

50th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

Sunday, July 13 to Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Broomfield, CO

Click [here](#) to register



National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference

Monday, August 4 to Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Kansas, MO

Click [here](#) for more information



U.S. Department of Interior Indian Affairs Tribal Consultation Sessions

Indian Affairs -which includes the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA), and the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs seeks to engage directly with federally recognized Tribes to receive formal input on critical needs as they develop plans to implement operational improvements. Click [here](#) to learn more and to register for a Tribal Consultation Session.

National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)

Click [here](#) for the Week in Review *Washington Update* and more information on any of the items below.

EPA's 2026 Budget Request Would Eliminate State and Local Air Pollution Funding, Dramatically Cut Staff, and Terminate Programs

EPA has released its budget proposal for fiscal year (FY) 2026, in a recommendation to Congress that would cut its budget from \$9.14 billion in FY 2025 to \$4.16 billion in FY 2026 and reduce its workforce by around 11%. The State and Local Air Quality Management Categorical Grant Program, which provides \$235.6 million annually to support state air quality management efforts and the development of State Implementation Plans (SIPs), faces total elimination under the proposal. All funding for the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Grant Program would also be eliminated. The budget proposal recognizes that states and local governments “are best positioned to address the unique environmental challenges facing their communities” but also concludes that “many programs are mature or have accomplished their purpose” with previous federal funding.

Senate EPW Releases Reconciliation Bill Text; Includes IRA Repeal, Grant Funding Recissions, and Repeal of EPA Multipollutant Vehicle Regulations That Were Passed in the House

Republicans from the U.S. Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) have released, for Senators' consideration and markup, proposed bill language for their sections of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA, HR 1) bill being considered using Reconciliation. The U.S. House of Representatives passed their version of the OBBBA bill on May 22, 2025. As proposed, the House bill would repeal all of the sections of the Clean Air Act amended by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and rescind any unobligated funds for programs like the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, Clean Ports, Clean Schoolbuses, and funding for state and local air pollution monitoring and mitigation programs.

EPA Submits Extension for Oil and Gas Methane Reporting Requirements for Interagency Review

EPA submitted a proposal to the Office of Management and Budget Thursday titled “Extension of Deadlines in Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review.” EPA Administrator Zeldin announced on March 12 that the agency intends to reconsider regulations “throttling the oil and gas industry,” including the Methane Rule. The proposed rule extending the rule's reporting deadlines will be issued publicly at the conclusion of interagency review.

Report Links EPA De-Regulatory Push with Increase in Americans with Asthma

A new report from the Center for American Progress (CAP) finds that the added pollution attributed to rolling back air regulations could cause people with asthma to experience more asthma attacks and more people to develop asthma. CAP is a nonpartisan policy institute that focused on progressive ideas and concerted action to improve the lives of Americans. Air pollution is a major cause of asthma, with over 30 million Americans currently affected. CAP researchers analyzed eight EPA pollution standards targeted for reconsideration or rollback that have asthma data available, and concluded that if left in place, these standards would prevent over 100 million asthma attacks over the next 25 years.

National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) cont.

EPA To Reconsider 2025 Ozone NAAQS Reclassification Requirements Rule

EPA announced on its “Ozone NAAQS Implementation Regulatory Actions” webpage that it intends to reconsider the 2025 State Implementation Plan Submittal (SIP) Deadlines and Implementation Requirements for Reclassified Nonattainment Areas Under the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), a rule that it finalized in January 2025.

EPA Releases 2024 Criteria Pollutant Design Value Reports

EPA’s Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards released the 2024 air quality design value reports. Design values describe the air quality status of given locales relative to the level of each National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), based on monitoring data reported by state, local and tribal air agencies. The design values are updated each year when new, quality-assured monitoring data becomes available.

EPA Requests Air Agency Input on Proposed Renewal of Air Emissions Reporting Requirements Information Collection Request

EPA published a notice in the Federal Register (90 Fed. Reg. 23,932) requesting public comment – in particular, from state, local and territorial air agencies – on its forthcoming proposed renewal of the information collection request (ICR) for the existing Air Emissions Reporting Requirements (AERR) Rule (a 2023 proposal to revise the AERR was never finalized). The AERR requires agencies to submit emissions data every three years for all point sources and some non-point, and mobile sources of volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), ammonia and lead. Agencies must also submit annual emission data for point sources with the potential to emit at greater than specified levels of those pollutants. The number and frequency of data collection and submittal is expected to remain the same for 2025-2027. The existing ICR for the AERR expires on October 31, 2025. For the ICR renewal, EPA is particularly soliciting input to enable it to 1) evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of EPA, including whether the information will have practical utility; 2) evaluate the accuracy of EPA’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; 3) enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and 4) minimize the burden of the collection of information on agencies that are to respond, including through the use of appropriate forms of information technology.