California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Secretary
Tribal Affairs

TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY &
BEST PRACTICES IN WORKING WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS (Part 1)
3-hour Training

May 23, 2014
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Coastal Hearing Room (2nd Floor)
Cal/EPA Headquarters Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Audience: State Agencies and Departments: Executive Staff; Senior Management; and Counsel.

Background: On September 19, 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued Executive Order B-10-11, reaffirming the inherent right of Tribes to exercise sovereign authority over their members and territory. Executive Order B-10-11 also directs every state agency to, among other things, encourage communication and consultation with California Indian Tribes, and permit elected officials and other representatives of tribal governments to provide meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may affect tribal communities.

Training Purpose: To provide a better understanding of cultural and political workings of tribal governments in California in relation to Tribal sovereignty (part 1) and sensitivity to cultural resources (part 2). The training will present a brief historical and legal background of Tribal sovereignty in relation to tribal government operations, Federal Indian Law, cultural resources, and most importantly the unique relationship between Tribal and state Governments. This two-part training will include lessons learned and best practices in working in meaningful and effective relationships with California Native American Tribes and communities on state/Tribal issues. Cal/EPA Agency Secretary Matthew Rodriguez is hosting this training and is working in close partnership with the Governor’s Tribal Advisor Cynthia Gomez. The training will be presented by the Senior Staff Attorney Raquelle Myers of the National Indian Justice Center.

9:00 a.m. Introduction and the Importance of Working and Consulting with California Tribal Governments
Governor’s Tribal Advisor and California Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary Cynthia Gomez and Cal/EPA Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Arsenio Mataka

Training Agenda:

9:10 a.m. Historical and Legal Foundations that Shaped Tribal Governments in California
10:15 a.m. Break (15 minutes)
10:30 a.m. General Principles of Sovereignty and Tribal Jurisdiction
11:15 a.m. Modern Tribal Government – Cultural and Political Practices
11:35 am Best Practices in Understanding Tribal Sovereignty Can Improve Consultation and Working Relationships with Tribal Governments
12:20 p.m. Closing Statements
12:30 p.m. Training Ends - Governor’s Tribal Advisor and California Native American Heritage Commission Executive Secretary Cynthia Gomez or Cal/EPA Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Arsenio Mataka
Biographies

Raquelle Myers is a member of the Pinoleville Band of Pomo Indians. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of California at Berkeley and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah. She serves as Staff Attorney for the National Indian Justice Center and as the Chief Judge/Administrator for the Intertribal Court of California, a court of limited jurisdiction currently being developed in Northern California. She has served as a member of the National Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and also served on the CDSS Tribal Government Advisory Committee. She is currently a member of the California Judicial Council’s Committee on Racial and Ethnic Bias. Ms. Myers serves as a trainer for NIJC regional and on-site training sessions developed for tribal government personnel. She also teaches undergraduate courses on Federal Indian Law, California Indian History, and Tribal Government at the University of California at Berkeley.