

# U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) APPROPRIATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT OF TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS

## POSITION STATEMENT

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) support continued and increased funding for Tribal environmental programs.

## KEY POINTS

**Increase funding** for hazardous waste and electronic waste (E-waste) projects in Tribal communities.

**Increase Tribal set-asides** as grant programs become available and remove match requirements.

**Increase funding** for a regular baseline air quality needs assessment.

**Increase funding** to provide pesticide applicator training and technical assistance.



## BACKGROUND

Tribal communities throughout Indian Country are disproportionately impacted by pollution and the degradation of natural resources that threaten to destroy our air, lands, waters, and natural resources, which in turn, impacts our traditional ways of life, as well as our continued existence. Congress has expressly authorized the EPA to treat Tribal governments in the same manner as states, giving Tribes a major role in the administration of federal environmental programs and eligibility for federal grants and contracts. The need for clean air, effective waste management, fertile soils, bountiful wildlife and productive crops, and properly functioning ecosystems is fundamental to the health, safety, welfare, economic viability, and self-determination goals of our Member Tribes and Tribal communities across the United States.

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### **Position Statement**

The 21 Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA) support continued and increased funding for Tribal environmental programs.

### **Key Points**

- Increase funding for hazardous waste and electronic waste (E-waste) projects in Tribal communities such as clean-ups for illegal dumping and household hazardous waste as well as for tire recycling and tire re-use.
- Increase Tribal set-asides as grant programs become available and remove match requirements. Inadequate funding for Tribal air quality programs nationally (new and existing) limits hiring and maintaining staff for technical work, upgrading air monitoring equipment, and does not allow Tribal air quality programs to utilize funds in appropriate and needed areas. Additionally, while Tribal Air Quality Programs have grown in number, annual federal funding has not correlated and increased proportionally.
- Increase funding for a regular baseline air quality needs assessment as Tribes recognize the need for a national comprehensive air quality needs assessment.
- Increased funding for Tribal cooperative agreements to build enforcement capacity in the application/use of pesticides on Tribal lands and enforcing Tribal laws through the Pesticide Enforcement and Compliance Program.
- Increase funding to provide pesticide applicator training and technical assistance.
- Increase the number of Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) inspectors on/for Tribal lands.
- Increase Tribal-specific training on FIFRA, conducting inspections to include sampling during FIFRA inspections.

### **Background**

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Section 23(a) of FIFRA authorizes EPA to enter in EPA cooperative agreements to assist in ensuring compliance with FIFRA, conduct inspections, and recommend enforcement actions to EPA. Only seven Tribes in Arizona and one intertribal consortia (ITCA) have direct cooperative agreements with EPA Region 9. There is not adequate oversight or enforcement of pesticide use on Tribal lands due to lack of funding to implement pesticide enforcement programs. Funding comes from two different National Program Managers (NPMs) National Line Items- Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) and Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). There is limited additional enforcement and program implementation funds. Additional State and Tribal Assistant Grants (STAG) and other federal funding specifically and competitively need to be made available to Tribes to address pesticide-related issues on Tribal lands.