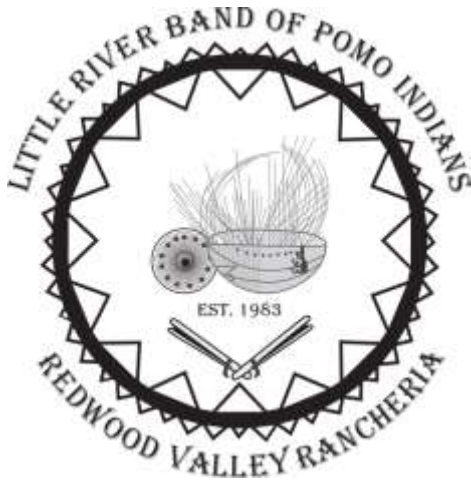


Redwood Valley Rancheria EPA Newsletter

April 2019



View of Redwood valley from top of hill east of the rancheria, RVR water tank, heavy rain impact

PG. 2

Proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule change, make a comment by April 15th!

PG. 3 & 4

Solid waste program update

Request for knowledge

PG. 5 & 6

Meet new staff

PG. 7 & 8

ICWA Program

EPA DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Tribal EPA Office was created in 1998 under the US EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) to build and maintain the capacity to implement environmental programs. The general goals are to maintain the present conditions of the environment, take positive steps towards improving conditions in priority areas, and prevent degradation of the environment in the future. This includes the following areas of responsibility: drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, household hazardous waste, emergency response, emergency response, groundwater protection, wetlands, floodplain management, non-point source pollution, and community educational outreach.

PG. 9

Damaged caused by off road vehicles

PG. 10 & 11

How to garden with utility lines and more/ community discussion on wildfire.





Little Bird Creek-March 19th 2019-Likely to be Impacted

To Submit Comments

The 60-day public comment period closes **April 15, 2019**. You may submit comments, identified by **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149**, by any of the following methods on or before April 15th:

➤ **Federal eRulemaking Portal:**

<http://www.regulations.gov/> (EPA's preferred method).

➤ **Email:** OW-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2018-0149 in the subject line.

➤ **Mail:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of Water Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

➤ **Hand Delivery/Courier:** EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except Federal Holidays).

Redwood Valley Rancheria is working on its comment as well, but the more comments received the better the chances are of blocking this rule change, delaying, or adjusting it to reduce its impacts. Simply maintaining the 2015 WOTUS definition-thus blocking the change proposal-is the preferred outcome, according to the National Tribal Water Council.

SEND A COMMENT!

WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) NEW RULE PROPOSAL



Background

On February 14, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of the Army (Army) published in the Federal Register a revised definition for “Waters of the United States (WOTUS).” According to the U.S. EPA and the Army, the revised WOTUS definition would “establish the scope of federal regulatory authority under the Clean Water Act in a clearer and understandable way.”

Possible Impacts in Indian Country

- Certain Waters Would Lose Federal Regulatory Protection
- Reduced Protection for Tribal Water Rights and Treaty Rights
- Reduced Protection for Tribal Water Quality Standards
- Diminished Trust Responsibility of the Federal Government and Its Agencies



Solid Waste Program Update



During the Last quarterly clean up event in February we wanted to create a new way for residents to drop Off their items. We purchased collapsible bins and Labeled them according to what we see regularly Dropped Off. For example, in the photos our two bins were for Metals, and large appliances. This not only helps organize our quarterly clean up area but also makes the disposal process easier and quicker for our EPA Staff. We will continue to use these bins for our clean up events they have been working out great and we appreciate the community participation.

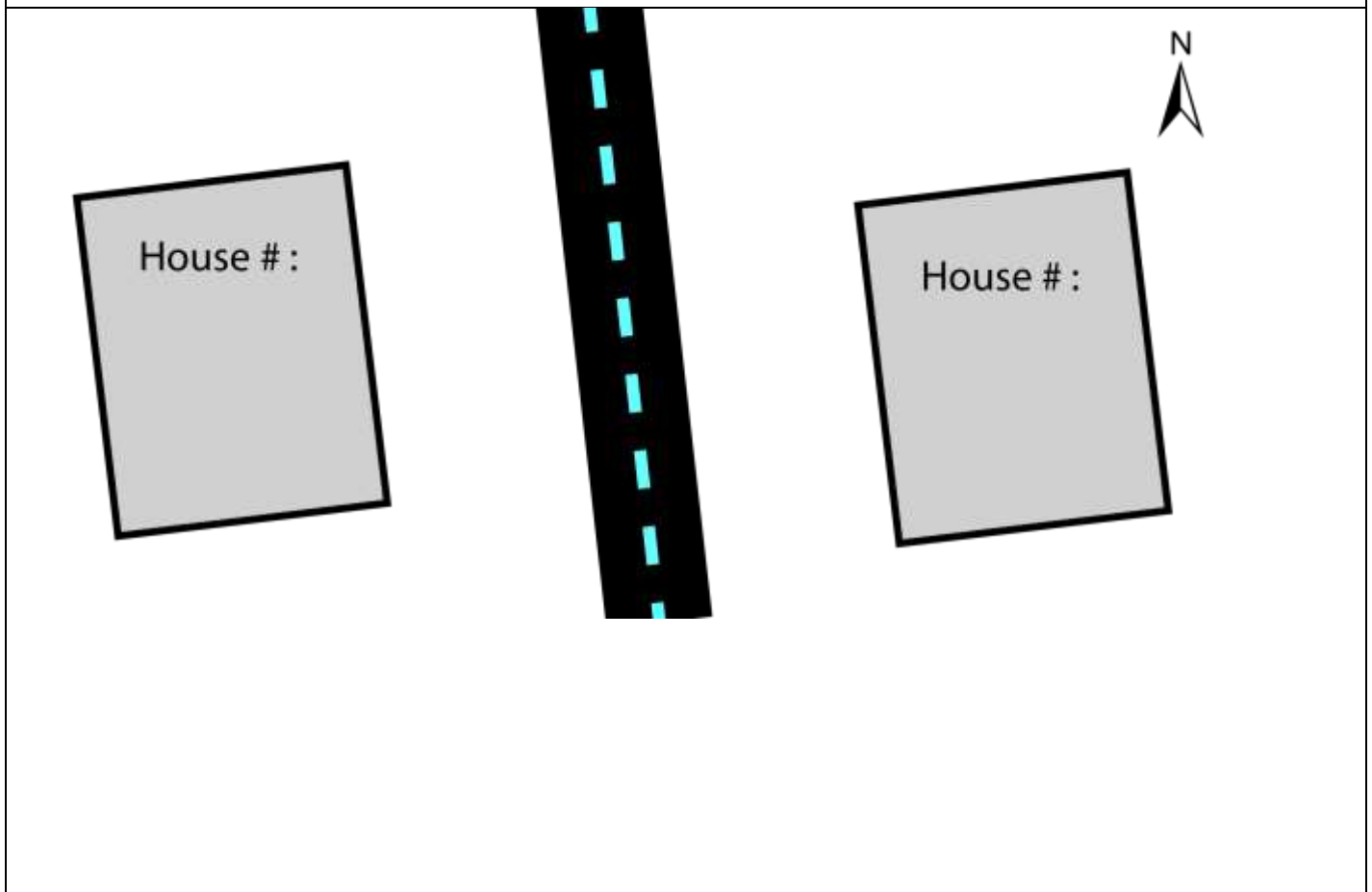


EPA Exchange Network

REQUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

Do you remember which side of the road the gas lines were buried?

We need your knowledge to locate these lines. If you remember where they were buried, please draw it on the map below and drop this off at the Tribal Office. Write the house number so we can put your information in a map.



Meet the New Staff Members

Water Resource Coordinators April 2019

Greetings, my name is Steven Elliott, I am the new Water Resource Coordinator. The position Allan Cooperrider recently vacated. I am a member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians. I have worked for a Tribe for over 18 total years. I am currently on my third week and 90-day probation period. I hope with my contribution and work ethic I am a good fit for the Tribe and kept on for long-term employment. It is an honor to work for the Tribe, I Thank you for the privilege and opportunity. I will do my best to keep a high standard of professionalism that has already been established here. I am always available to talk about issues regarding the department. I'll be working directly under the EPA director Eileen Nunez.



The **Water Tanks** purpose is to hold all of the Tribes drinking water and water we need in the event of another emergency. The water tank is over 30 years old, older than its life expectancy and is in severe need of being replaced. In order for the Tribe to get a new tank we desperately need your survey filled out and turned in for the grant funds to replace it. We do not receive the survey here at the Tribal Office however it is definitely needed for the grant.

The responsibilities of the Water Resource Coordinator are; manage clean water grant 106, and 319. There is a work plan and testing schedule in place that we abide by. We test for pollution and hazardous materials in our waterways and wetlands. We also rehab the creek banks of invasive species. We do this so we can bring back the native plants to the area. BIA water management plan grant, this grant is to help replace the water tanks, and storm proof and sedimentation reduction around the needed areas and tank road. We test the drinking water every month making sure it is bacteria free. We currently pursue funding through other grants we qualify for.

Testing schedule: monthly bacteria testing, we have lead and copper testing for homes built before 1986. We all know the importance of not having lead or copper in our drinking water. We are scheduled to test for lead and copper during the months of June 1 to September 30. We will send out instructions and go over them with all the homeowners. It is very important those instructions are followed to get an actual result of what is in the water. Past results are available upon request. Contact the EPA department regarding any of the testing results.

If you have any questions, you can call or stop by the office. Sincerely: Steven Elliott Water Resource Coordinator.



Greetings Tribal Members,

My name is Jasmine Billy, the Newly Hired Educational Coordinator for Redwood Valley Rancheria. My office is located in Building B, aka Learning Center. (707) 485-0361 ext. 113

All education services for the children is offered by the Education Department. If you have a child who is struggling in school in any grade, please send them to the Education Department in Building "B". My office hours are 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

Community activities shall be announced by the Education Office monthly. If you as a parent have any questions or want to keep your child from struggling in school homework come down and talk to me so we can work together to make sure none of the children fail in school assignments sent home with them weekly.

Please don't hesitate to come to Tutoring services and I look forward to hearing from you very soon. I'm very excited for the upcoming activities and what we have planned for the youth in school today.

Respectfully

Jasmine Billy, Education Coordinator
Redwood Valley Rancheria, JOM /Education Dept.



Howdy, my name's Ian. I started working at the Rancheria in January but I've lived in Northern California for 3 years now. My job is to assist Eileen with Tribal EPA responsibilities, manage solid waste, and manage roads. On my free time you may find me hiking in Low Gap Park, combat training in the gym, or crushing my adversaries at billiards in a local pub.



ICWA Program

New Parenting Classes

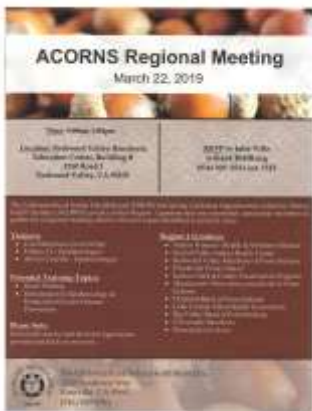
The Redwood Valley Rancheria ICWA Program is proud to offer “Fatherhood Is Sacred. Motherhood Is Sacred”, a 12-week parenting class instructed by Erica Carson, Jr., NAFFA Certified Facilitator.



This 12-Week program developed the Native American Fatherhood & Families Association (NAFFA), assists fathers, mothers, and families to fully realize their potential. It offers participants the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the importance of responsible fatherhood as reflected in Native American values and beliefs. There is an immediate need to bring men back to strengthening families - they are the greatest untapped resource. Fathers are the solution to the problems that face communities and must take the leading role in keeping their families together.

These classes occur every Tuesday from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm in the RVR Learning Center and is open to all. Dinner offered to participants.

Trainings



On March 22, 2019, the Redwood Valley Rancheria Learning Center hosted the ACORNS Regional Meeting and Training on Grant Writing, Epidemiology & Evaluation, Chronic Disease Prevention, and NARCAN Administration. All Learning Center staff members were certified in NARCAN Administration.

Meetings



On March 13, 2019, the Redwood Valley Rancheria Learning Center hosted the Inter-Tribal Council of California Annual Meeting and Election of the Board of Directors. Approximately 30 individuals attended this productive meeting.



Family Movies



The RVR Learning Center will continue to offer monthly “Family Movie Afternoons.” There will be plenty of fresh hot popcorn and hot cocoa served. We offer colorful new cushioned floor mats for you to relax on, so please remember to bring your pillows and blankets! Keep your eyes out for upcoming movie day flyers.

The Learning Center

Upcoming activities and events at the RVR Learning Center will be included on our monthly Learning Center calendars. Please post these on your refrigerator and feel free to call the Learning Center at (707) 485-0361 for more information.

Save the Date!

**Redwood Valley Rancheria
ICWA Program Presents:**
In Recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month
SPIRIT RUN AND WALK
Saturday, April 13, 2019, 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Redwood Valley Rancheria Learning Center, 3250 Road 1

- Registration Begins at 8:30 am
- Run and Walk Starts at 9:30 am
- Please Bring Extra Clothes with You as Running May Be Limited
- Breakfast and Lunch Provided
- T-Shirts for Runners and Walkers
- Raffles and Prizes
- South Basketball Tournament
- Traditional Dance
- Bounce House

-Local Artists, Agencies and Vendors are invited to participate-
•Please call to reserve a booth space. You must bring your own table & chairs.
•Booths open at 7:30 am

•Volunteers needed for set up, food preparation, driving & clean-up

Disclaimer: This is a Fundraising Event
We are only grateful for your participation and help, but please be safe.

•There is never any medical assistance that you might have and you yourself health. If you wish to have, make or volunteer all participants in business, make or volunteer will do so at their own risk.
•Thank you to all donors and sponsors

For More Information Contact:
Chris Piekarski, ICWA Coordinator
Redwood Valley Child Care
Board of Parents/Incarers
3250 Road 1, Redwood Valley, CA
(707) 485-0361, Ext. 113
Email: icwa@rvra.com

-This is an Alcohol and Drug Free Event-

The Redwood Valley Rancheria Annual Spirit Run will be held on Saturday, April 13, from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Crafts vendor spaces available and all volunteers welcome!

Please contact Chris at (707) 485-0361 for details.

-Chris Piekarski, Redwood Valley Rancheria ICWA Coordinator





Damage Caused by Off Road Vehicles

Community Notice

On Monday March 25, 2019 there were off road vehicles driving in prohibited areas. They were reported by witnesses and clear markings were created east of the leach field and behind new home construction sites.

If this activity persists not only may fines be issued but these areas may also be barricaded off to eliminate access.

To prevent more damage, **NO DRIVING IS ALLOWED** in these areas or other sensitive landscapes. All off road vehicles must stay on paved roads.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Gardening with Septic Tanks, Utility Lines, and Wildfire in Mind

Fire Resistance

- Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks
- There are no “fire-proof” plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant and aloe.
- Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac and shrub apples.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.
- For more info and images check out: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Fire-Safe-Landscaping/>

Tips for Planting Over Septic Tank and Utilities

- Shallow-rooted herbaceous plants like flowers and ground cover can help prevent erosion and expel liquid and nutrients from the soil
 - Pre-mixed eco-grass with fescues
 - Small grasses, including tufted fescues, feather grass, [pennisetum deschampsia](#)
 - Grass-like choices, including [mondo grass](#), [liatris](#), [liriope](#), [armeria](#), [microclover](#)
- Avoid thirsty plants that set deep roots, aggressive, dense ground covers that will interfere with the evaporation process, woody vines, any trees with particularly strong lateral root growth, water-loving large-scale pond grasses
- **A Few Native Edible Choices for Elsewhere:**
 - Evergreen Huckleberry, Thimbleberry, Salmonberry, Wild Radish, Wild Rose, Sunflowers, California Wild Grape, Yellow Sticky Monkey Flower

Community Discussion on Wildfire Home and Health Protection Strategy

Where: Building B

When: Wednesday April 24th
5:30pm-6:30



This casual informational gathering includes short slide show presentations, questions & answers, and discussions of fire safety.



Topics to Discuss:

- Barricade Fire Blocking Gel ←
- Wildfire Smoke: Cheap and Easy Ways to Clean Your Air, Low or No Cost Options
- Climate Committee Meeting and Survey

For any questions, please contact your friends in the EPA
Department @

(707) 485-0361