

### **Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals**

# Technical Assistance Program in the VW Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust **Agreement for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries**

Report of Activities for January 1 – June 30, 2018

**Technical Assistance** 

**Provider Information:** 

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Office of Native American Initiatives

Arizona Board of Regents for and on behalf of

Northern Arizona University

Post Office Box 15004 Flagstaff, AZ 86011

As per 2.1.1.4 of the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries (the "Indian Tribe Trust Agreement") filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on September 6, 2017 (Case 3:16-cv-00295-CRB), Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) submits the following semi-annual report. This report provides an overview of the progress of technical assistance activities provided by ITEP for the period of January 1 – June 30, 2018 (the "reporting period") in support of the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries (the "Indian Tribe Trust"). This report includes a description of the status, development, and implementation of the services. The report should be reviewed in conjunction with the Trustee-approved, first-year ITEP budget (the "first-year budget") for the period October 2017 – September 2018, which is available at

https://www.vwenvironmentalmitigationtrust.com/tribe-trust.

#### Summary

ITEP's Scope of Work to provide technical assistance to all federally-recognized tribes seeking to access the Indian Tribe Trust began on October 1, 2017. Specific project tasks for ITEP consist of the following tasks:

- 1. One-on-One Technical Assistance
- 2. Web-based Outreach and Education
- 3. Monthly Webinars
- 4. In-Person Trainings

#### Task 1: One-on-One Technical Assistance

ITEP staff provided email and phone-based technical assistance to tribes contacting ITEP directly. During the reporting period, ITEP focused its technical assistance efforts primarily into the two following tribal categories: 1) Tribes designated as beneficiaries for the first funding cycle under the Indian Tribe Trust Agreement ("first funding cycle"); and 2) Tribes interested in becoming beneficiaries for the second funding cycle under the Indian Tribe Trust Agreement ("second funding cycle").

A total of 29 federally recognized Indian tribes were designated by the Trustee as beneficiaries of the Indian Tribe Trust because they filed Certification for Beneficiary Status under Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement (Appendix D-3) by the January 2, 2018 application deadline for the first funding cycle. Of these 29 tribes, 26 also submitted accurate and completed Beneficiary Eligible Mitigation Action Certification (Appendix D-4) forms by the January 2, 2018 application deadline. A list of the 26 tribes is included in table 1.0 below. ITEP worked closely with each tribe to provide a thorough review of their Appendix D-3 and Appendix D-4 forms, and supporting documentation, in advance of filing. ITEP's review and technical support included:

- Appendix D-3 and Appendix D-4 were reviewed for completeness and accuracy
- Review and verification of vehicle and equipment to determine eligibility according to Appendix D-2 criteria
- Assisting with NOx emissions reductions calculations
- Review of budgets to determine eligibility according to Appendix D-2 criteria
- Review and feedback of project management plans, milestones, and reporting requirements of the Appendix D-4 forms

Table 1.0 – Tribes designated as Beneficiaries for First Funding Cycle

Native Village of Beaver	Bishop Paiute Tribe
Blue Lake Rancheria	Cherokee Nation
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Chickasaw Nation
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the	Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua
Yakama Nation	and Siuslaw Indians
Coquille Indian Tribe	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
	Chippewa
Fort Independence Indian Community of	Gila River Indian Community
Paiute Indians	
Hoopa Valley Tribe	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Mashantucket Pequot Indian Tribe	Mohegan Tribe of Indians
Muscogee Creek Nation	Native Village of Stevens
Oglala Sioux Tribe	Pala Band of Mission Indians
Pueblo of Isleta	Quapaw Tribe
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Reservation	

ITEP also provided technical assistance to federally recognized tribes interested in becoming beneficiaries for the second funding cycle. ITEP worked directly with seventeen (17) tribes holding conference calls, reviewing vehicles and equipment eligibility, and providing instructions on the application process. Tribes seeking ITEP assistance for the second funding cycle are provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2.0 - Tribes seeking ITEP technical assistance for Second Funding Cycle

Citizens Potawatomi Nation	Pueblo of Cochiti
Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Resighini Rancheria
Quileute Tribe	Swinomish Tribe
Red Cliff Band of Chippewa	Quinault Nation
Twin Hills Village Council	Native Village of Ambler
Sault Saint Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Village of Chefornak
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Confederated Tribes of the Colville
	Reservation
Big Pine Paiute Tribe	

#### Task 2: Web-based Outreach and Education

ITEP's VW Settlement Technical Assistance Program website

(https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/volkswagensettlement/) was kept updated with new information and resources during the reporting period. Training materials like recorded webinars, videos, and presentations were posted to the site. In addition, monthly notifications announcing upcoming calls, as well as providing notice of important Trust-related actions and timelines were sent out to 3,500 people currently listed in the ITEP database that have email addresses that are affiliated with a tribe, tribal office and/or tribal agency.

# Task 3: Monthly Webinars

During the reporting period, ITEP staff scheduled only one introductory webinar in the month of January for tribes. Monthly webinars for the remainder of the reporting period were halted in consultation with the Trustee due to the court ordered stay associated with the Trust Agreement.

DATE	Webinar Title	# Attendees
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January 4, 2018	The Institute for Tribal Environment Professional's	124 total attendees,
	VW Settlement Technical Assistance Program	of which
	Introductory Webinar For Tribes to Access the VW	100 were tribal
	Settlement	representatives
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ITEP staff also participated in conference calls and webinars of tribal organizations such as the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) to provide updates related to the Trust Agreement and ITEP's technical assistance efforts. A summary of the webinars / calls ITEP staff participated in is provided below.

DATE Webinar / Confe	rence Call # Attendees
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NTAA VW Settlement Work Group Conference Call	19
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	54
NTAA VW Settlement Work Group Conference Call	22
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	48
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	60
NTAA VW Settlement Work Group Conference Call	21
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	42
NTAA VW Settlement Work Group Conference Call	23
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	50
NTAA VW Settlement Work Group Conference Call	30
EPA Tribal Air Quality Policy Conference Call	50
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### **Task 4: In-Person Trainings**

ITEP staff conducted five in-person trainings for 240 attendees during the reporting period. These trainings were held at regional and national tribal environmental management conferences to leverage resources for the broadest possible application. A summary of in-person trainings conducted by ITEP project staff is provided below.

Date	Training Forum / Conference	# Attendees
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February 7, 2018	United South and Eastern Tribes Natural Resources	20
	Committee, Washington D.C.	
February 15, 2018	Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage, AK	15
March 20-21, 2018	EPA Region 5 Tribal Environmental Management	140
	Conference, Chicago, IL	
April 10, 2018	Alaska Rural Energy Conference, Fairbanks, AK	40
May 14, 2018	National Tribal Forum on Air Quality Management	25

# **ITEP Project Budget**

The table below provides a summary of ITEP's project budget and expenditures to date.

Table 3.0 Budget Summary - Transactions from: 10/01/2017 to 6/30/2018

Description	Project Budget	Transactions	Remaining Budget	
Salaries	\$178,387.00	\$52,162.85	\$126,224.15	
Other Wages	\$59,520.00	\$1,087.50	\$58,432.50	
ERE (Fringe Benefits)	\$72,586.00	\$19,074.71	\$53,511.29	
Operations	\$45,000.00	\$5,987.98	\$39,012.02	
Professional & Outside Service	\$50,000.00	\$35,850.17	\$14,149.83	
Domestic Travel	\$17,004.00	\$5,142.44	\$11,861.56	
Travel (Alaska)	\$10,360.00	\$3,209.15	\$7,150.85	
Indirect Cost	\$133,753.00	\$37,857.19	\$95,895.81	
Total	\$566,610.00	\$160,371.99	\$406,238.01	

## **Continuing Work and Future Activities**

ITEP will continue to provide outreach, training and technical assistance to tribes interested in becoming beneficiaries of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries. Future activities will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Development of webinars providing instruction and guidance on the application process
- Outreach at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, Spokane, WA August 2018
- Development of fact-sheets and brochures to federally recognized tribes
- Planning and development of the Tribal Advisory Council
- Hire additional project staff and contract support to further enhance administrative and technical support services

ITEP will also continue to seek feedback and comments from tribes on how to improve its services to better meet the training and technical assistance needs of tribes.

This report is submitted on July 30, 2018 to Wilmington Trust, N.A. as per Section 2.1.1.4 of the Environmental Mitigation Trust Agreement for Indian Tribe Beneficiaries filed with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on September 6, 2017 (Case 3:16-cv-00295-CRB). We attest that the information is true and correct and that the submission is made under penalty of perjury.

Mehrdad Khatibi

Director

Andy Bessler

**Project Director** 

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

END OF REPORT