



Tribal Consultation Policy for the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

Who is OEHHA?

OEHHA's mission is to protect and enhance the health of Californians and our state's environment through scientific evaluations that inform, support and guide regulatory and other actions.



OEHHA is an office within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). We assess health risks posed by hazardous chemicals in the environment to inform the work of programs carried out by other CalEPA boards and departments. We measure the health and environmental effects of climate change, and identify communities that are especially vulnerable to the effects of pollution.

What does OEHHA's Tribal Consultation Policy mean for Tribes?

OEHHA's Tribal consultation policy provides a framework for OEHHA to establish and maintain effective government-to-government relationships and engage in meaningful consultation with California Native American Tribes. The policy demonstrates OEHHA's commitment to understanding the culture, history and practices of Tribes as these relate to their environmental and public health concerns. Our policy is very similar to the consultation policy CalEPA adopted in 2015.

Our consultation policy was released for public comment in draft form in late 2018, and finalized in early 2019. OEHHA's policy and Tribal Liaison contact information can be found on our Tribal Policy web page: <https://oehha.ca.gov/tribal-policy>.



OEHHA develops technical information that may be of interest to Tribes, such as advisories for safe consumption of fish from California's rivers, lakes and coastline, information on harmful algal blooms that can threaten the health of dogs as well as people, and guidance values, such as public health goals for drinking water contaminants.

The policy guides our efforts to share technical information and assist Tribes when requested. For example, we would like to collaborate with Tribes so that OEHHA develops and distributes fish consumption advisories for species and water bodies important to Tribal members.

Learn more about OEHHA activities: <https://oehha.ca.gov/tribal>.