

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
Solid Waste Peer Match Program and Solid Waste Program Equipment
General Assistance Program (GAP) Program Supplemental Request**

Solid Waste Peer Match Program

U.S. EPA encourages tribal collaborative projects which facilitate capacity building and development of strong environmental programs. A “peer match” is a voluntary exchange of information between tribes where one tribe has technical assistance needs and one (or more) other tribe(s) has technical expertise in that same subject area. Upon agreeing to participate in a match, the tribe(s) with technical expertise mentors the tribe requesting assistance. The mentoring process is intended to complete a specific technical task, such as advising on the design and construction of a transfer station, or providing assistance in writing an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP) or enforcement code, etc. Since peer matching is done by voluntary participation, in most cases the only direct cost to tribes will be travel, either for the tribal members providing assistance, or those receiving it. Peer matching can be a productive, cost effective, culturally appropriate method of providing technical assistance to tribes on a wide range of waste related topics.

Peer assistance may be requested for a variety of technical needs. Including but not limited to: assistance in developing an IWMP or solid waste enforcement code, advising on the construction and operation of a transfer station, recycling facility, or landfill, or developing best practices for pollution prevention, greening government/businesses, increasing recycling rates, etc. Peer matches should aim to complete a project within a one-year timeframe. Matches will always be voluntary. A peer match is not intended to take the place of a general contractor, consultant or other services that are traditionally paid positions.

Tribes in Region 9 should contact the Tribal Solid Waste Team (see contacts below) when developing your proposal and work plan tasks and to request assistance in finding a peer match. Success stories will be documented and posted on a U.S. EPA maintained webpage that also contains general information on the program.

The tribe requesting assistance should provide the following information in their work plan task:

- 1)The point of contact/position for the project;
- 2)2-4 commitments describing the nature of assistance requested, including major milestones, interim deliverables and a final report for the project;
- 3)Time frames for assistance needed/project period, and
- 4)Estimated amount of hours/FTE to be spent working on project per week.

Solid Waste Management Equipment Program

For tribes to develop capacity to implement successful solid and hazardous waste programs, equipment is often needed. Key pieces of equipment that can be invaluable to tribal solid waste management programs include recycling balers and commercial trash compactors. In general, a recycling baler or commercial trash compactor is a wise investment with both environmental and economic benefits. Baling of recyclables will help your

community divert waste from landfills. Trash compactors can help reduce waste disposal costs and waste hauling requirements. Typical volume capacity, density, and other characteristics of waste streams vary from community to community. It is important to understand your tribe's waste stream and a waste characterization audit is required prior to purchase of equipment. The Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Team can provide you with tools to complete the audit.

Decisions to fund these equipment purchases will be based on: the availability of funding; the reasonableness of costs cited for the proposed purchase and description of how the equipment purchase fits into the tribe's overall solid waste management planning; technical review of the proposed purchase by the Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Team; and demonstration of how future funding for on-going operation and maintenance of the equipment will be secured.

The tribe requesting equipment should provide the following information in the supplemental work plan component:

- 1) 2-4 commitments describing the specific equipment they would like to purchase and their rationale for choosing that equipment; specific deliverables to submit to EPA
- 2) A cost estimate for the equipment;
- 3) Estimated time frame for purchase and use; and
- 4) If applicable, a final report with measurable results that could include: the amount of material diverted from the landfill, cost savings for transport/disposal of recyclables or trash, reductions in greenhouse gases based on transport of recyclables or trash, and/or revenue generated from sale of recyclables versus operating cost of the program.

Please coordinate with the U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste Team in developing your specific proposal and work plan commitments, for additional assistance in the peer match program or in selecting equipment.

Northern California Tribes: Michelle Baker, baker.michelle@epa.gov or 415-972-3206

Central California Tribes: Nova Blazej, blazej.nova@epa.gov or 415-972-3846

Nevada and Southern California Tribes: Nancy Sockabasin, sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov or 415-972-3772

Arizona and Colorado River Tribes and California Border Tribes: Charles Swanson, swanson.charles@epa.gov or 415-947-4219