

Designating Tribal Beneficial Uses In California's Central Valley

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Overview

- CA Water Boards overview
- Basin Planning Process
- Tribal Beneficial Uses Explanation
- Central Valley Regional Water Board TBU Designation Process
- Contact Information
- Questions



This is a photo of the Tubatulabal Tribe's Spring Ceremonial Basket, courtesy of the Tubatulabal Tribe.



Office of the
Tribal Advisor

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Department of
Toxic Substances
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CALIFORNIA WATER BOARDS

TRIBAL BENEFICIAL USES

State Water Board Authorities

- Establish Water Quality Standards
- Develop Statewide Water Quality Protection Plans and Policies
- Sets drinking water regulatory standards
- Regulates and ensures drinking water safety
- Allocates surface water rights
- **Coordinates Tribal Affairs throughout the State and Regional Boards**

What do the Regional Boards do?



Protecting Water Quality

- Develop and enforce regional water quality objectives
- Develop Basin Plans (utilizing beneficial uses)
- Monitor water quality

Regulate and Enforce Requirements

- Determine compliance with requirements
- Issue waste discharge permits
- Take enforcement actions against violators

Basin Planning

- Designates beneficial uses for all water bodies in the Region
- Establishes water quality objectives (WQOs) to meet those beneficial uses
- Describes implementation plans to achieve WQOs
- Describes needed surveillance and monitoring plans



This photo is taken from the front of the [Pit River Water Quality Study](#) (2001-2002)

Tribal Beneficial Uses


Tribal Tradition and Culture (CUL)

Uses of water that support the cultural, spiritual, ceremonial, or traditional rights or lifeways of California Native American Tribes including, but not limited to: navigation, ceremonies, or fishing, gathering, or consumption of natural aquatic resources, including fish, shellfish, vegetation, and materials.

Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB)

Uses of water involving the non-commercial catching or gathering of natural aquatic resources, including fish and shellfish, for consumption by individuals, households, or communities of California Native American Tribes to meet needs for sustenance.

*Subsistence Fishing (SUB)

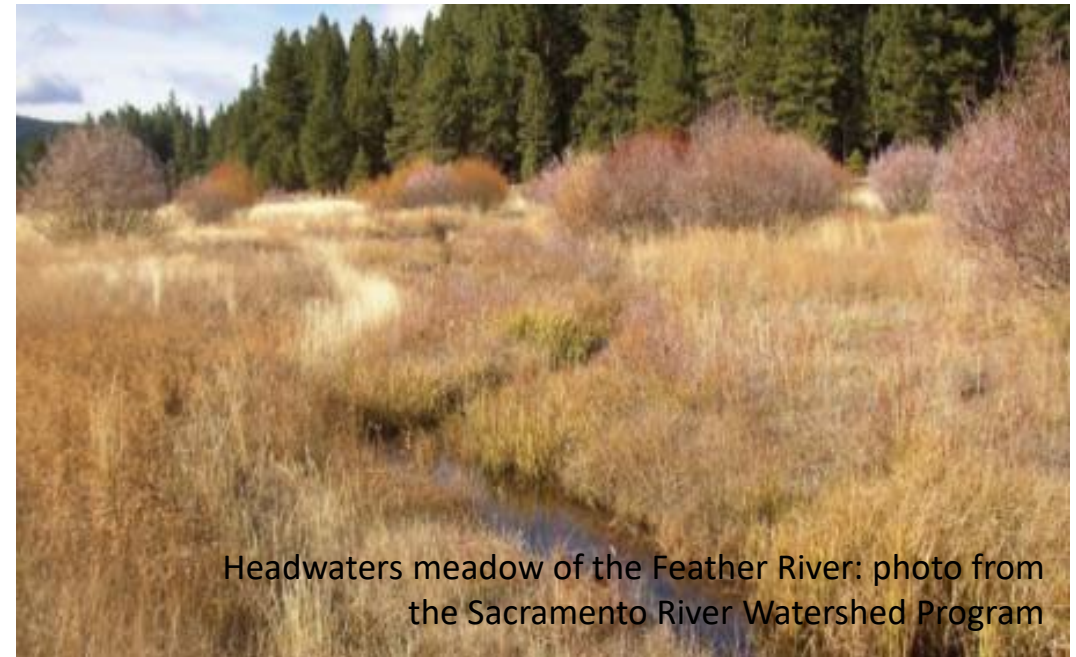


Planned Activities for Designating TBUs in the Central Valley

Why be involved?



Marble Fork of the Kaweah River; photo by Justin Johnsen:
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1917481>



Headwaters meadow of the Feather River: photo from
the Sacramento River Watershed Program



McCloud River; photo by Jessica Abbe: <https://sacredland.org/mccloud-river-watershed-united-states/>

What's Happening Now?

The Central Valley Water Board is beginning the process of designating TBUs

- **Upcoming virtual (Zoom) meetings:**
 - **March 18th: 2:00-4:00 – focus on the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Basin**
 - **March 25th: 4:00-6:00 – focus on the Tulare Lake Basin**
 - Attend either meeting you can (or both) – the content will be very similar
 - Target audience: Tribal members and staff
 - Want to participate? E-mail Elizabeth Betancourt:
Elizabeth.Betancourt@WaterBoards.CA.gov

March 18th and 25th Meetings: Content

- Tribal presentation of the importance of TBUs
- Proposed TBU designation process
- Establishing a Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Inter-agency collaboration

The McCloud River, from [Wikipedia](#)



The Cosumnes River, from [TNC](#)



The Merced River, from the [NPS](#)



Working with the Central Valley Water Board

- **Sign up for our e-mail listserv** Go to our website and follow the prompts on the top right:
- **Contact me (Elizabeth!) with questions:**
Elizabeth.Betancourt@waterboards.ca.gov | 530-224-4845 (office)
- **Attend our March 18th and 25th virtual (Zoom) meetings**
- Apply to be part of the TAC (coming in July!)
- Start thinking about the Cultural Use designations that would be helpful to your Tribe
- If Tribal Subsistence Fishing is a designation your Tribe is interested in, contact me (Elizabeth!) about how to go about collecting data

Water Board Contact Information

State Board Tribal Affairs

- Website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/
- Tribal Liaison: Adriana Renteria Tribal-Liaison@waterboards.ca.gov or Adriana.renteria@waterboards.ca.gov

Central Valley Regional Board Tribal Affairs

- Website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/
(TBU page will be added the week of February 1, 2021)
- TBU project manager: Elizabeth Betancourt:
Elizabeth.Betancourt@waterboards.ca.gov or 530-224-4845



Questions?

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