

Clean Water Act §106 Water Pollution Control Program Water Quality Assessment Report Requirement

A Water Quality Assessment:

- Is a narrative and graphical account of water quality within tribal boundaries¹.
- Includes the types of water sampled, sampling procedures, and resulting data summaries.
- Includes the program's interpretation of the data collected and the assessment methodology used.
- Should vary amongst tribes due to differing program objectives, program capacity, and resources available.
- Will help EPA measure success toward improvement of water quality in tribal waters¹.
- Must be submitted annually.



San Luis Rey River at La Jolla Indian Campground

Components of a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- **An atlas table of tribal water resources¹:** An atlas should include the estimated number of stream miles, lake acres, wetland acres, or estuarine square miles on the Tribe's reservation¹. This information will most likely stay the same from year to year unless the land base changes.
- **A narrative description of tribal water quality monitoring programs and assessment methods:**
 - Purpose of monitoring program
 - Number of stream miles/lake or wetland acres/estuary square miles monitored

¹ In some cases, a tribe might be monitoring off reservation if those waters influence reservation waters and the tribe has permission from that parcel owner. Results from this monitoring should be included in a WQAR.

- Parameters monitored
- Monitoring frequency
- Discussion of any applicable Water Quality Indicators (WQI), tribal goals, or standards
- Coordination or collaboration with other organizations
- Description of any lab support
- How data are interpreted and managed

This information will also most likely stay the same from year to year unless the land base changes.

- **Narrative description of results of water quality monitoring within tribal boundaries¹:** This is an interpretation and summary of the findings of tribal monitoring activities, including probable causes and sources of impairment. Depending on program capacity, summary tables should be included to show which water bodies meet tribal goals or designated uses.
- **Brief discussion of issues of tribal concern regarding water quality:** This discussion should identify any issues of concern or potential future impacts to the water bodies where the monitoring program is occurring. Examples include: outbreaks of waterborne disease, fish kills, flooding, cultural concerns, drought, fire, etc. As a program advances, tables should be developed to summarize various sources of impairment by stream miles.

Available Resources to use while developing a Water Quality Assessment Report:

- The [Tribal Assessment Modules on EPA’s Ambient Water Monitoring and Assessment](#) website have more information on Water Quality Assessments, including examples and technical guidance.
- Chapter 6 of the January 2023 [CWA Section 106 Tribal Guidance](#) includes information about all three reporting requirements (Monitoring Strategy/QAPP, Water Quality Data, and a Water Quality Assessment).
- EPA Region 9 [CWA Project Officers](#) are available to help.
- EPA Region 9 and tribal workgroup participants developed a WQAR template in excel to help streamline the water quality assessment reporting process. The template and resources such as interactive tutorials are available on our website: www.epa.gov/tribal-pacific-sw/r9tribal106#WQAR. Use of this template is not required, but it is strongly encouraged!

Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Water Quality Assessment Report Template (R9 Pilot)																	
Tribal: (Type Tribe Name)		Monitoring Period:	(Month Started)	(Number of months monitored)	ONLY FILL OUT COLUMNS 12-15 IF THE "CURRENT WATER QUALITY STATUS" IS MARKED AS "IMPAIRED"												
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Waterbody Name/Identifier	Waterbody Type	Monitoring Station Located On (Recreation)	Monitoring Station ID (WQID)	Distance to Area Monitored or Accessed	Unit of Measure	Frequency of Monitoring	Parameters Monitored	Tribal Goal or Designated Use for this Waterbody	Change in water quality since start of monitoring period	Current Water Quality Status	Impaired Parameters	Impaired Tribal Goals/Designated Uses	Source(s) of Impairment	Impairment Status	Waterbody restoration project at this monitoring station	Additional Comments	
Voodli/Vook	River/Stream	Paved	Voodli001	3.2	miles (mi)	Choose...	pH	Yes	Choose...	Choose...	Impaired	None improvement, some degradation	1) Agriculture (Livestock)	Year Round	Impairment	No	(Add other comments or information about this waterbody. E.g. No water to monitor, unable to monitor due to high flow, faulty equipment)
							Temperature	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Dissolved Oxygen	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Turbidity	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Total Phosphorus	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Total Nitrogen	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							E. coli	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Enterococci	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Microcystin/LR	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Basic Habitat	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
Voodli/Vook	Wetland	No	Voodli002	4.5	miles (mi)	Elevated	pH	Yes	Choose...	Choose...	Impaired	None improvement, some degradation	2) Wet Weather Discharger	Seasonal	Impairment	No	(Add other comments or information about this waterbody.)
							Temperature	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Dissolved Oxygen	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Turbidity	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Total Phosphorus	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							Total Nitrogen	Yes	Choose...	Choose...							
							E. coli	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Enterococci	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Microcystin/LR	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							Basic Habitat	No	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							
							(Additional parameter)	Choose...	Choose...	Choose...							