



# Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Emerging Contaminant Program

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • Region 9 • May 2024

Region 9 provides annual funding opportunities for [federally recognized Tribes](#) to support their wastewater infrastructure needs. The Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Emerging Contaminant (EC) Program provides new funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to Tribes within Region 9 to address emerging contaminants in wastewater. Below, you'll find program information, project examples, and eligibility.

## What is an emerging contaminant in wastewater?

An emerging contaminant (EC) in wastewater refers to substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials known or anticipated in the environment that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment. Consumers can find ECs in personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics.

Contaminants with water quality criteria established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under [Clean Water Act](#) section 304(a), except for PFAS, are not considered ECs. This includes nutrients, certain organics, and certain metals.



Navajo Nation's Tuba City Lagoon System



Scan to learn more about the Clean Water Act.

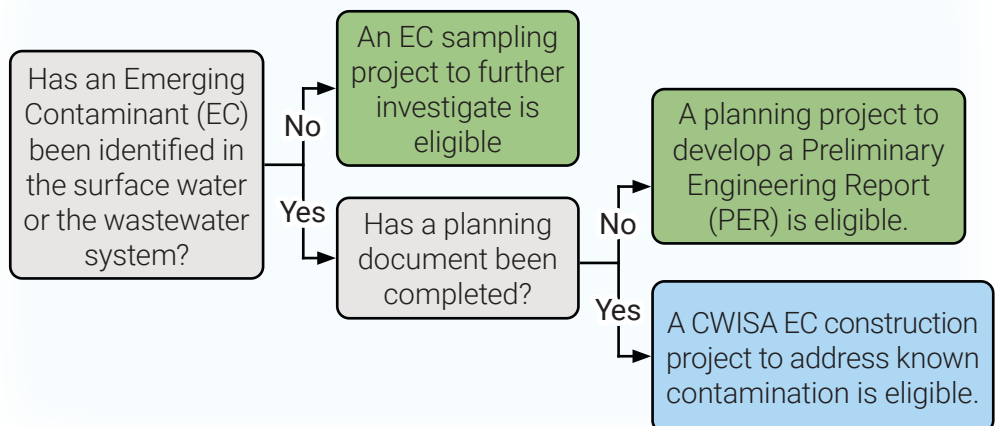
## How do I apply for funding?

Please submit a project proposal form and any supporting documentation by email to Nancy Sockabasin ([sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov](mailto:sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov)).

## How are projects selected for funding?

Region 9 anticipates sufficient funding for eligible projects to investigate and plan for addressing ECs in wastewater. If a CWISA EC project is fully scoped, planned, and ready for construction. Region 9 will consider that project for funding. The funding flow-chart outlines the process of determining project eligibility.

Scan below for [program guidelines and procedures for funding](#).



## What are eligible CWISA Emerging Contaminant project types?

- **Project assessment monitoring:** for field testing an innovative or alternative technology (e.g., PFAS monitoring).
- **Planning and design:** preliminary engineering activities that may lead to well-scoped and ready-to-fund projects (e.g., Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) development).
- **Potable and non-potable water reuse:** water reuse/reclamation projects that might use advanced treatment to remove ECs.
- **Wastewater treatment facilities:** pilot/demonstration projects to evaluate the efficacy of a wastewater treatment technology for ECs.
- **Biosolids:** sampling and analysis of biosolids for ECs.
- **Stormwater projects** that address ECs.
- **Other projects** that address ECs (e.g., surface water protection, landfill projects, etc.).



Scan to learn about eligible EC projects starting up across the country.

Proposed projects **are not required** to be identified in the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) database.

## Who is eligible to receive funding?

[Federally recognized Tribes](#) within EPA Region 9 are eligible for CWISA EC funding.



Scan to learn more about Region 9's federally recognized Tribes.

## How much funding is available?

Approximately **\$3.8 million** in funds are currently available to support eligible projects in Region 9 that addresses emerging contaminants in wastewater. Region 9 anticipates receiving up to **\$3.1 million** in additional funding through Fiscal Year 2026.

## How is funding awarded?

Funds are generally awarded through direct grants to Tribes or interagency agreements with IHS. For certain projects (e.g., EC sampling and PER development), Region 9 plans to offer EPA-directed in-kind assistance to Tribes to provide more flexibility and reduce administrative requirements.

## EPA Program Contacts

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