**RTOC Tribal Caucus REPORT**
**Intertribal Resources Advisory Committee (IRAC) Meeting Update**
**December 1, 2020**

A. **Introduction:** Since the last RTOC Tribal Caucus on July 21, 2020, two (2) IRAC Meetings have been held. The IRAC Meetings were held on: September 24, 2020 via Zoom and November 19, 2020 via Zoom.

B. **1st IRAC Meeting Update**: September 24, 2020 via Zoom

   a. **Present**: ENIPC – Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, San Felipe, Sandia, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Zia, Picuris, Santa Clara, Tesuque, Y'sleta del Sur

      i. **Approval of Agenda & Minutes: Karmen Badonie, ENIPC-OETA Director—** Requested approval of Agenda for 09/24/2020 IRAC Meeting-Santo Domingo made 1st motion and Pueblo of Sandia made 2nd motion to approve Agenda. Requesting approval of Minutes from 07/14/2020 meeting—Zia Pueblo with 1st motion and Santo Domingo made 2nd motion to approve Minutes. Vote on the approval of July Minutes: 10 approved; 3 N/A

      ii. **The Wilderness Society**: **Juan Perez Saez, Energy & Climate Campaign Manager and Mallory Huggins, Senior Project Director for Keystone Policy Center** - People, Public Lands and Climate Collaborative—A shared national framework to make public lands part of the just and equitable climate solution. A climate plan needs to be developed for how we manage public lands. However, there is no clean plan or guidance for how we do this. The cultural heritages to the landscape representing communities are important. Reducing emissions from energy produced on public lands**.** The climate plan document is in draft form. Collaboration with more diverse voices like indigenous and black-led organizations is strongly being encouraged. Additional presentations are being conducted not just in New Mexico but in Montana, Alaska, California, and the Southeast region of the country. An opportunity for many of the Pueblos in New Mexico to join was offered. When it comes to the environmental movement there is a clear gap relating to climate action, addressing climate and having rural communities in the western states being a part of the conversation. The Wilderness Society meets once a month for an hour and half.

      iii. **Work Status Updates – Group Discussion:**

         1. **ENIPC** - We are still teleworking, however, if field work is to be conducted, it will be scheduled accordingly. UST continues to provide virtual training and scheduling for compliance assistance.
         2. **Laguna –** Some staff member report every day into the work place. Others report twice a week.
         3. **Santo Domingo —** Stay-at-home orders still in place for Santo Domingo. Natural Resource Department Director continues to report both in the office and teleworks from home. If need to report into the office, the schedule is 3 days out of the week for 4-hours. The Natural Resource Department assisting the Forestry staff by assisting projects, which were due to begin in March 2020.
         4. **Acoma—** The Pueblo is closed. Programs are still closed except for some essential employees working. One staff member reporting in for the Environment Office. Current schedule is working Monday, Wednesday and Friday for only 4-hours. When employees return to the office, a phase approach will be introduced. No date determine when full

employees will be returning. The casino remains closed. The Acoma business, Sky City Travel Center, is partially open. They do have their filling stations running.

5. **Santa Clara Pueblo -** Environmental Office continues to work in the office. Other offices started returning back to the administration building. The Pueblo community is still closed.
6. **Picuris -** Pueblo is still closed. Currently only two staff report to the Environment Office. There is no word when the Pueblo will reopen.
7. **San Felipe**— San Felipe is still closed.
8. **Sandia –** No change in their status. Still one way in, temperatures being checked, curfew still in effect, gas stations are open, casinos still closed and no word on reopening.
9. **Jemez** – Director is in the office two to three days a week. Other hours working from home.
10. **Tesuque**—Information coming from Greg, Pueblo Tesuque. No change in Tesuque status. We are in the office with masks and temperature checks.
11. **Isleta Pueblo -** Staff continues to work in the office, temperature checks daily, and curfew still in effect. Gas stations and main casino are still open. Palace West remains closed. Tribal offices are open generally with daily employee temperature checks, facemasks and office fogging. Traveling contact restrictions are in effect, curfew from 9 pm to 6 pm. Website is updated daily, website is ISLClinic.com. On September 22, the community was notified more positive cases were confirmed, a firm reminder about safety practices was addressed.
12. **Y'sleta del Sur -** Temperature screening at all buildings, temperature relocating staff members to other unused buildings to reconstruct office space for current work stations. Office hours are from 8 AM-5 PM, Monday through Friday. Few employees working remotely. Checkpoints have ceased for now at both districts.

**iv.** **RTOC Updates / Discussion for Upcoming Meeting / Topics, Issues, Concerns – Group Discussion:**
**Santo Domingo Cynthia Naha —** The November ROTC Meeting will be virtual. The Cherokee Nation is going to be hosting and using WebEx software for the meetings. There is plenty of time to work with your programs IT in downloading the software and getting familiar with the software. October RTOC Monthly conference call meeting, Randy Gee will have a discussion open on the agenda. Requests for the next RTOC Agenda call to have LANL provide an update on the tritium ventilation project was sent to Randy Gee, R6.

**v.** **NTOC Updates – Pinu'u Stout (Invited) / Group Discussion: San Felipe, Pinu'u Stout –** No updates. A normal in-person meeting be a ¾ day meeting, however, virtual meetings are an hour with the Executive Committee. Not sure if the interest from EPA is invested. A copy of the budget document was sent out; if you did not receive a copy, please email me. Other Natural Resources updates regarding oil and gas in the Four Corners and Chaco areas. The BLM is disregarding the APCG comments and moving forward. The Tribal comments are due September 25, 2020. The United States Forest Service has a proposed rule further opening forest service land to oil, gas and minerals. Comments are due on that action on November 2, 2020. The Matchilasol Forest is moving forward with their forest revision plan, which includes Bears' Ears. It is a joint effort between the Forest Service and BLM. Anyone requesting information about any of these upcoming deadlines, please send me an email and I will forward you the information I have.

**vi.** **OETA Updates:**

1. ***GAP* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** ENIPC GAP received a waiver for Letter of Support. We have not received our award letter but expect it soon. An email will be sent out for tentative dates for scheduling a strategic planning meeting. Again, this would be a good opportunity for me to get to know your programs and how we can collaborate on any future projects. ENIPC plans to start the Summer Camp meetings, which will be done virtual. Two ENIPC OETA Environment Department staff members resigned in July and September. As of right

now, I am temporarily overseeing the Information Exchange, and Margaret's temporarily assigned to the Pesticide Program.

2. ***EIEN* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** ENIPC EIEN received an award letter. We will be continually working with Gold Systems in helping with the database and their assistance in providing to all of your water quality data needs. If there is anything you want to bring up to my attention, just email me and I can provide information to Gold Systems. Continue to work with Mark LeBaron of Gold Systems on a weekly basis. ENIPC OETA will begin working on fall newsletter. Wrapping up all the EPA grants and providing the end of year reports are being completed.
3. ***UST* – Leonard Sabatino:** Conducting virtual training using Zoom software every Thursday from 3 PM to 5 PM. About 20 participants have participated with the virtual training. The consultation opportunity to improve UST compliance has been halted at this time. Time was spent putting together a position paper with regards to that opportunity. Basically, what the consultation opportunity involved is EPA trying to improve compliance rates at all Tribal UST facilities across the Nation. The current compliance rate across the Nation is 29%. Therefore, EPA wants to apply a stricter method of enforcement through field citations, expedited settlement agreements. If it is an extreme non-compliance issue, EPA will issue what is called a delivery prohibition. A draft comment in a letter template on the current timing of the consultation opportunity and the pilot project to improve compliance of the Tribal UST facilities is not good timing, since we are in a pandemic. Continual UST Compliance Assistance visit will be scheduled on Wednesdays. Currently, 9 scheduled, and one visit was completed with Tesuque Pueblo on September 16th. All safety precautions are taken. If there is compliance assistance needed, contact UST program.
4. ***Brownfields* – Margaret Chavez:** The Brownfields Program is working with the EDR who provides a lot of our information on a site when we are doing a Phase 1. They give us the general information surrounding a site, like the geography, hydrology—the basic information. EDR opened up their services to help out with incorporating information on a Phase 1. Therefore, we are not doing extra research and then rewriting it by copying and pasting. The Phase 1 report is generated by the provided information. A Phase 1 report is being drafted for San Felipe Pueblo. It has been difficult communicating with University of New Mexico on seeking aerial photographs. Project Officer approved a 1-year grant extension, which includes the small technical assistance grant awarded to us for Santo Domingo. ENIPC OETA will be providing outreach approach by informing the community about the Brownfields process, general information, no site specific, and information sharing. Brownfield has not received an award letter, however, it will be received soon.
5. ***Lead – Margaret Chavez:*** ENIPC OETA is working on a webinar under the Children's Environmental Health Tribal Webinar Series with collaboration efforts with EPA. The first web series will focus on the Tribal Lead Awareness Piolet Project Curriculum on October 27, 2020 at 11:00 AM. Save the Date flyers and agenda for the webinar have been sent out. If interested register soon, which will provide us an indication how many people are expected. Since EPA has provided funding for ENIPC OETA to provide web series of webinar in place of in-person symposium, we will continue to team up with EPA.
6. ***Pesticides* –Margaret Chavez:** Amity Furr made arrangements to purchase all the lumber to build pollinator gardens-- one in San Ildefonso and Santo Domingo. Santo Domingo picked up soil from Soilutions, plants from Santa Ana Nursery and mulch from Isleta Transfer Station. The pollinator garden is completed by Santo Domingo. Currently, working with San Ildelfonso in completing their garden. Next year, one more pollinator garden will be developed for the new grant year.

7. ***RCAC – Margaret Chavez***: With Jacqueline Shirley's assistance and provided funding by USDA, compost bins, fork to turn compost pile every so often, signs for Transfer Station, and alternative cleaning products (spray, sponge, cloth, hydrogen peroxide, baking soda) have been purchased. One compost bin can be distributed to each IRAC Tribes, which are about the size of a 55 gallon drums. However, signs for Transfer Station are limited. The different types of Transfer Station signs read, Stop, check in with attendant before unloading, No household hazardous waste, Keep children in vehicle at all times. Contact Margaret if you are interested in any of the provided items. Two days, October 6th and October 8th will be scheduled pickup requested supplies from the ENIPC-Albuquerque Office. N95 mask were ordered, which have been provided to solid waste workers, and wastewater/operators. Since all in-person trainings are cancelled, funding is currently spent on protective equipment, and compost bins items. Distributing USB drives will be provided by RCAC as another training approach for tribes to use and view.

**vii. <u>Additional Announcements</u>**

1. **Santo Domingo—Cynthia Naha:** The upcoming November IRAC Meeting needs to include the renewal or new selection of the 2-year term for Tribes/Pueblos ending their term. Reminder needs to be sent out to Tribes/Pueblos, if interested to be nominated or providing nominations for three (3) RTOC Seats. Leadership approval will need to be requested.
2. **ENIPC – Margaret Chavez:** Information from a recent conference call with the New Mexico Agricultural & Natural Resources is currently going to be a state funded program for conservation and restoration projects. The funded program request Tribe/Pueblo thoughts on the following: what are some of the conservation and restoration projects you are working on; what are your needs. A webinar is scheduled for October 28, 2020, if there are any interested Tribes/Pueblos willing to participate and provide feedback on proposal. Please contact Debbie Hughes, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, conserve@hughes.net, for any questions or comments.
3. **ENIPC - Karmen Billey- Badonie:** ENIPC-OETA has funding to support one Environmental Specialist position, due to budget constraints. The position will oversee 50% for the Information Exchange and 50% for Pesticide Programs. ENIPC-OETA filled Administrative Assistant position.

**C. 2nd IRAC Meeting Update:** November 19, 2020 via Zoom

a. **Present**: Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Santo Domingo, Zia, Tesuque, Y'sleta del Sur and Mescalero Apache Nation.

**i. <u>Approval of Agenda & Minutes</u>**: **Karmen Badonie, ENIPC-OETA Director—** Requested approval of Agenda for 11/19/2020 IRAC Meeting-Santo Domingo made 1st motion to approve Agenda. Santa Ana made 2nd motion to approve Agenda. Requesting approval of Minutes from 09/24/2020 meeting—Santo Domingo made 1st motion to approve the Minutes and Pueblo Zia made 2nd motion for approval. Vote on the approval of September Minutes: 10 approved; 10 N/A

**ii. <u>Work Status Updates – Group Discussion:</u>**

1. **ENIPC** – The New Mexico Governor has place a "shelter in place" for 2 weeks. We are still continually teleworking; however, Pojoaque Office is open with Administrative Assistant reporting. She is the only one in the office and taking care of day-to-day office duties. No one is reporting to the ABQ Office. UST updates where a few facilities at Isleta have postponed compliance visit for now. Safety precautions are being taken before scheduling any upcoming visits.
2. **Tesuque** – Everyone on shut down until the end of November. No visitors and daily curfews in place. Essential workers only are reporting to work.

3. **Santa Ana** – Tribal community is shut down and everyone working from home until further notice. No known date on reopening is determine.
4. **Picuris** – Essential workers only are reporting to work for Environment Department and Forestry. Re-opening date is unknown at this time. Tribal members are allowed to leave on Tuesday and Thursday for essential purposes. However, if any COVID-19 case occurs, the tribal community will go on a 72 hours lock down.
5. **Santa Clara** – Administration is closed for 30 days and check points are in place within the tribal community.
6. **Santo Domingo** – Weekend mandates of closure are being implemented. Shutdowns are extended into another weekend, only essential services are allowed. Stay-at-home orders remain in place. Forestry continues with working projects to be completed. No known date on when orders will be lifted.
7. **Y'sleta del Sur** – Essential workers only. Staff plans to return to worksites at the end of January 2021. Curfews are in place for El Paso, TX and Tribal communities from 10 PM to 5 AM. Outreach community projects are being conducted and taking precaution measures at the same time. Such as, storm water pollution prevention plan for energy efficient resource issues with air monitoring throughout El Paso, TX, Dona Ana County and within Mexico.
8. **Isleta Pueblo** – Currently, 80% of staff continue to work from home. About 78% COVID-19 cases within the tribal community. Only essential employees are working. Environmental Department providing services with community outreach, temperature checks for essential employees reporting to offices. Daily curfews in place from 9 PM to 6 AM, and weekend checkpoints in effect. Reported first passing of COVID-19 related within the tribal community. Sending condolences to the family.
9. **Zia Pueblo** – Non-essential working from home. Same situation as everyone updating with curfews, shut downs and unknown dates on lift of shelter in place.
10. **San Felipe** – Very limited access into tribal community. Same situation as everyone updating with curfews, shut downs and unknown date determine when shelter in place will be lifted.
11. **Laguna** - Spike increase in COVID-19 related cases of 160 active, 8 hospitalized and 7 passing. Everyone working from home with very limited access. Staff member continues to collect water samples.

**iii.** **<u>RTOC Updates / Discussion for Upcoming Meeting / Topics, Issues, Concerns – Group Discussion:</u>** **Santo Domingo, Cynthia Naha—** The November RTOC Meeting is still planning to move forward with virtual approach. Breakout sessions will be implemented for platforms to be discussed. A questionnaire will be emailed with questions regarding RTOC Tribal leadership, participation, thoughts about Charter process, any issues or concerns. RTOC is available to make sure solutions are provided and accomplished.

**iv.** **<u>NTOC Updates – Pinu'u Stout (Invited) / Group Discussion:</u>** **San Felipe, Pinu'u Stout –** Not available for any new updates. Current status remains.

**v.** **<u>OETA Updates:</u>**

1. ***GAP* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** ENIPC GAP received grant award letter from EPA R6. An End-of-year report extension has been requested and approved by Project Officer, Ira Hight. Any task not completed in third grant year due to COVID-19, can complete within the fourth year, which is noted in FY21. An email will be sent out for tentative dates for scheduling a strategic planning meeting. Again, this would be a good opportunity for me to get to know your programs and how we can collaborate on any future projects. ENIPC plans to start the Summer Camp meetings, which will be done virtual. Seeking to fill one Environmental Specialist position, who will oversee Information Exchange and Pesticide Programs.

2. ***EIEN* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** ENIPC Board of Governors was presented a resolution in approving contract for Gold Systems, Inc. from OETA. Board of Governors had questions, how Tribes/Pueblos used the access and implementation of water quality data into Gold Systems database. Answers were provided to Board of Governors and resolution was approved for Executive Director, Gil Vigil, to provide signature to contract with Gold Systems, Inc. If there is anything you want to bring up to my attention, just email me and I can provide information to Gold Systems.
3. ***UST* – Leonard Sabatino:** Currently, there are no virtual UST trainings scheduled at this time, but virtual UST trainings can be provided using Zoom software as needed and as requested. Follow-up phone calls and emails are being provided to the tribal UST operators as a method, to maintain compliance and remind operators about any upcoming inspection and testing due dates. In FY21, 6 UST compliance assistance visits have been completed for the following: Jemez Pueblo, Santa Ana Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, San Felipe Pueblo, and the Four Winds Travel Center. Two compliance assistance visits were postponed at Isleta Pueblo, and one postponed for Picuris Pueblo, due to new COVID-19 NM Governor's Health Orders. There have been no recent updates to the UST Pilot Project. Currently, no compliance assistance visits are scheduled. For the UST Criteria Ranking Project, nine (9) risk ranking (sites assessments) reports and aerial maps have been completed in FY 21. The GIS database is in the process of being updated, which maintains data and information for risk ranking UST equipment, surrounding community and environment. For FY21, EPA R6 has 34 EPA inspections scheduled. In the future, safety precautions will continue to be taken once health orders are lifted for compliance assistance visits.
4. ***Brownfields* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** Brownfields Program received an award letter from EPA R6. Any IRAC Tribes/Pueblos seeking assistance for Phase 1 assessment contact Margaret Chavez. A Phase 1 report is being drafted for San Felipe Pueblo and continual efforts towards seeking interviews will be completed.
5. ***Lead* – Karmen Billey-Badonie*:*** ENIPC OETA would like to thank all the participants who joined our 1st web series collaboration efforts with EPA R6 on October 27, 2020. We hosted a Children's Environmental Health Tribal Webinar, providing the release of the Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping our Children Healthy! Curriculum. About a little over 250 registered participants were noted. The curriculum is available for download. The planning committee is currently reviewing topics for the 2nd web series on wildfire effects on children health. If there are any available, interested or suggestions on presenters, please feel free to share with OETA.
6. ***Pesticides* – Karmen Billey-Badonie:** Two pollinator gardens were planned to be completed in FY20. Santo Domingo completed their garden just in time for seeding planting to be processed. San Ildelfonso is currently getting project constructed. Santo Domingo offers any helpful hints in developing a garden and providing coloring sheets used for outreach activities to the community. A power point presentation will be completed within the requested grant extension on outreach information in December 2020. ENIPC OETA is currently seeking any interested in a pollinator garden for FY21.
7. ***RCAC – Karmen Billey-Badonie***: ENIPC OETA is thankful for RCAC assistance in providing compost bins, transfer signs, and information on alternative product solutions. We have posted photos in recent newsletter. Pleased all safety measures were carried out.

**vi.** **<u>Nominations for RTOC Seats:</u> ENIPC, Karmen Billey-Badonie:** Three (3) RTOC seats are ending for Santo Domingo, San Felipe, and Zia. Therefore, ENIPC OETA received an email from Santo Domingo to be considered as a nominee, along with Letter of Support from Governor of Santo Domingo Pueblo. Pueblo of San Felipe also provided an email to self-nominate. Pueblo of Laguna nominated

Pueblo of Zia. Suggestions and recommendations were made to send an email to IRAC List Serve on the current three nominees received, and if any additional nomination to be received. Due to the upcoming RTOC meeting, selection for the three (3) RTOC Seats needs to be confirmed, as soon as possible.

1. November 19, 2020: An email sent to the IRAC List Serve requesting any additional nominee to be submitted by November 20, 2020 at 12 PM.
2. November 20, 2020: An email sent to IRAC List Serve, no additional nominees were received. Therefore, the email addressed seeking a concurrence of approval in the current three nominees to be selected for the RTOC Seats: Pueblo of Zia, Pueblo of San Felipe, and Santo Domingo Pueblo.
3. November 23, 2020: An email sent to IRAC List Serve, confirming approval in selecting of Pueblo of Zia, San Felipe Pueblo and Santo Domingo Pueblo to serve a 2-year term on RTOC.