

Morongo Compliance Assistance

Outcome: For the benefit of residents, employees, and visitors to Morongo Reservation, the Specialists will work with departments to identify and correct issues of concern. This will be accomplished by having scheduled assessments, disseminating information, and producing documentation.

Furthermore, advancing the sovereignty of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians is accomplished by eliminating the need for outside consultants and specialists.

Federal Laws

Clean Air Act

Regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources

Clean Water Act

Regulates discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters

National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System

Program making it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters without a permit

Resource Conservation Recovery Act

Controls hazardous waste from the "cradle-to-grave" including the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally-recognized Indian tribe exercising inherent sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Morongo Indian Reservation, finds that persons living on or doing business within the Reservation at times engage in acts that threaten the health and safety of tribal members and other persons within the Reservation; degrade or pollute the air, water, and land; contaminate the Tribe's aquifers, groundwaters, surface waters, drinking water supplies and other natural resources; and threaten to cause the deterioration of the environment, the Tribe's cultural and historic resources and the quality of life of the Tribe and its members. The Tribe finds that it is necessary to adopt standards and procedures by which the Tribe can take action to prevent such threats, pollution, and deterioration.

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Ordinance #12, February 2000

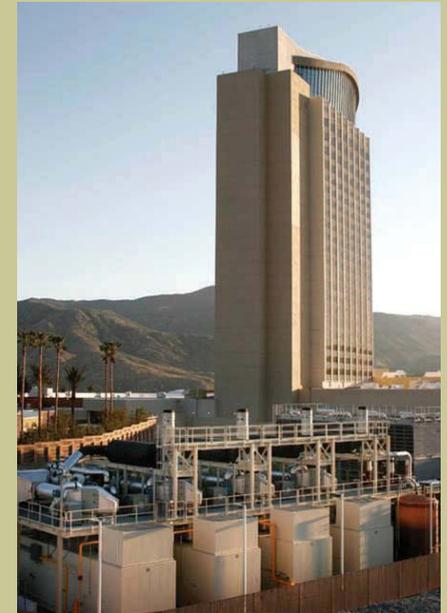
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*Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Environmental Protection Department*

Morongo Compliance Assistance Component

Protecting the air, earth and
water.



*Puhcha' shrevet, tirvac
ame paac.*

In the Serrano Indian Language

Morongo Compliance Assistance Program

Purpose: This program ensures that the Tribal departments, the Enterprises (Ruby's, A&W, Canyon Lanes, Travel Center, Hadley's, Arrowhead), and any other tribally regulated entity, would be in compliance with Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

Component Description: The Compliance Assistance Component is a process of working together with the Tribal Departments and Enterprises, providing information, developing

**MORONGO
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A SOVEREIGN NATION

procedures, and conducting assessments. Overall it is designed to assist other department in recognizing and eliminating any environmental risks.

The Compliance Assistance Component would be integrated into each existing environmental program; the Environmental Specialists would assist the aforementioned entities in meeting the regulations set forth by EPA. It is important to note that the program is centered on assistance, and not enforcement. All information is kept in-house and is not given to any outside agency without consent of Council.

Background: Regulatory Jurisdiction of tribal lands is administered by the tribe and the federal government. In the case of federal environmental laws, the EPA proclaimed "Indian policy" on November 8, 1984, stating EPA or tribes, rather than states will implement federal environmental statutes.

On May 18, 2004, Tribal Council passed a motion to revise a work plan and budget for a 100% funded EPA General Assistance Program Grant (GAP) for capacity building of an environmental department. On October 1, 2004, the department opened its doors located at 47350 Foothill Road next to the Public Works building.

The Environmental Protection Department programs include: Air, Water, Pollution Prevention (solid and hazardous waste management) and the Resources Conservation program. Each program is supervised by an environmental specialist who, using Geographical Information System (GIS) & Global Positioning System (GPS) to collect and analyze data specific to their program. The department also relies heavily on outreach and education opportunities to inform both staff and the reservation community regarding environmental concerns.

Strategy: The EPA publication *Guidance for Issuing Federal EPA Inspector Credentials to Authorize Employees of State/Tribal Governments to Conduct Inspections on Behalf of EPA* established a three-fold curriculum for Environmental Specialists/Technician. All Specialists/Technicians have completed two EPA assessment trainings -

- Basic Health & Safety
- Basic Inspector

In addition, required comprehensive training is taking place in which:

The Tribal Air Program focuses on:

- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Indoor Air Quality

The Tribal Water Program concentrates on:

- Clean Water Act (CWA)
- National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES)

The Pollution Prevention Program and the Environmental Technician focus on:

- Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)
- Underground Storage Tanks (UST's)
- Hazardous Waste.



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