

Compliance Assistance

The TWP helps to ensure that Tribal enterprises, development projects, and other regulated entities are in compliance with Federal and Tribal environmental regulations.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the main law that addresses surface water. It establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

- The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System is a permit program for point sources
- The Army Corps of Engineers permits dredging and filling surface waters
- The Endangered Species Act protects vulnerable animals and their habitats

Education and Outreach

One of the most important roles of the TWP is to provide education, outreach, and resources related to a variety of water issues.

Outreach includes:

- Annual Earth Day Event
- Environmental Education at Morongo Schools
- Monthly Public Service Announcements
- Quarterly Environmental Department Newsletter
- Other Morongo Events

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Morongo Environmental Protection Department

Tribal Water Program



**MORONGO
BAND OF
MISSION
INDIANS**



A SOVEREIGN NATION



The Tribal Water Program

Water is one of the most important natural resources that exist. The Tribal Water Program (TWP) exists to monitor surface water on the Morongo Reservation, assist in preventing water pollution, identify potential or existing contaminant sources, and provide outreach/resources to encourage conservation and responsible management of water.

Water Quality Monitoring

Quarterly surface water monitoring provides baseline information on the condition of springs, streams, and other waterbodies. Quarterly sampling also establishes water quality trends and can signal when there is an issue.

The parameters monitored are temperature, turbidity, pH, specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids, barometric pressure, and salinity. Annually, samples are taken to a lab to test for additional parameters including metals, nutrients, and bacteria. Other qualities such as flow, physical habitat, and benthic macroinvertebrates are also monitored.

The water quality data is managed and analyzed. Each year, the results are summarized in a Water Quality Assessment Report produced by the TWP.

Nonpoint Source Pollution Management

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from runoff rather than a specific source (like a pipe).

- Stormwater is managed to reduce the amount of sediment and chemicals transported to waterbodies in runoff.
- Erosion control is carried out to reduce excess sediment that can disrupt aquatic systems and to protect streambanks.
- Water conservation helps manage NPS pollution by reducing runoff and wastewater.
- Forest management, native species planting, and invasive species removal are also conducted to promote functioning of plant communities on the Reservation. This helps keep water balanced in natural ecosystems, filter pollutants, and reduce runoff.