



NORTH FORK RANCHERIA OF MONO INDIANS OF CALIFORNIA

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CalEnviroScreen
c/o John Faust Chief, Community Assessment & Research Section
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1515 Clay Street Suite 1600
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: OEHHA Second Draft of CalEnviroScreen

Dear John,

The North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California has reviewed the second draft of the CalEnviroScreen document. Our staff had participated in one of the workshops that were held in Fresno last year so we were glad to see some of the issues that the participants voiced had made it in the second document. We understand the value that this tool will have for environmental justice and other programming and have a few comments for your review and consideration. For you to become familiar with our tribe we have provided you with a short background;

Western Mono background: The Western Mono tribal people have utilized the Central Valley, outlying foothill areas and Central Sierra Nevada range of California for thousands of years. Our tribal aboriginal area is vast, but for a general geographical location we are located 30 minutes from the Southern Entrance of Yosemite National Park. Currently the tribe has a population of 1,900 people who reside throughout the United States. Our tribe is unique in that regard and other California tribes also have the same population scenario. The majority of our Tribal Programs are based in a four county service area consisting of Merced, Mariposa, Madera and Fresno counties. We provide a broad range of services that are funded through state and federal programs with two of our major programs funded for Social Services (Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and Housing (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development). Our tribe is a non-gaming tribe that pursues state and federal grant opportunities to meet the needs of the tribe. Many of the tribal people continue to practice traditional ways and protection of resources is important to the tribe. We continue preservation of our culture and promote the importance of natural resources through outreach and education efforts through our Tribal Environmental Protection Department and our Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program. Of course many of these values are instilled through family generational stories or practiced methods that are passed from our elders to our youth.

Comments regarding the second draft of CalEnviroScreen

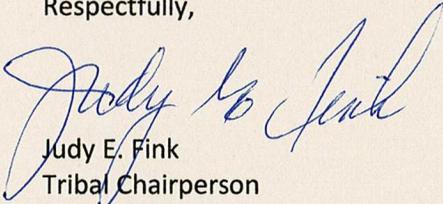
During the review of the document the tribe has several comments to submit.

some of the terms used in the document and also state that tribes have vulnerable populations in zip codes other than their tribal headquarters or something to that affect. The key here is to ensure that the reader, who uses the tool, understands that tribes are not boundary driven.

- Many of the tribes in California agree that the 2010 Census did not create accurate data for tribal populations and there was also concern from other minority communities at the workshop that staff had attended. With all of the indicators and data sets that you have available it would be interesting to use the tribal data from the tribes to show the risk to California Tribes. Of course this information process would be long, and would need various tribal government approvals from tribes, but should be considered because tribes have high unemployment rates, live in substandard housing, live in areas that are in non-attainment and other factors such as lack of immediate health care. Many tribal people live one hour or more from the nearest hospitals with many in the low risk areas having chronic asthma. *The tribe would recommend that a CalEnviroScreen be created specifically for tribes.*

The tribe believes that this tool could be a great asset to show community vulnerabilities whether they are tribal or Hispanic or Non-Hispanic. This document was a huge undertaking by California and the regional meetings were appreciated. We look forward to seeing the final document once all comments are received. If you have any questions please contact our Environmental Protection Department, Interim Environmental Director, Christina McDonald at 559-877-2461 or e-mail cmcdonald@nfr-nsn.gov

Respectfully,



Judy E. Fink
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