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VA seeks tribal government cooperation in reaching vets

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Amador TANF

Ancient Nevada - #6 in series

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This Year's Ozone Hole Is the Smallest It's Been Since 1988

Atmospheric CO2 Reaches Highest Level in Nearly a Million Years

On an Uninhabited Caribbean Island, a Trove of Pre-Columbian Cave Art

In a Victory for 26,000 Penguins, Locals and Activists Defeat Giant Mining Project

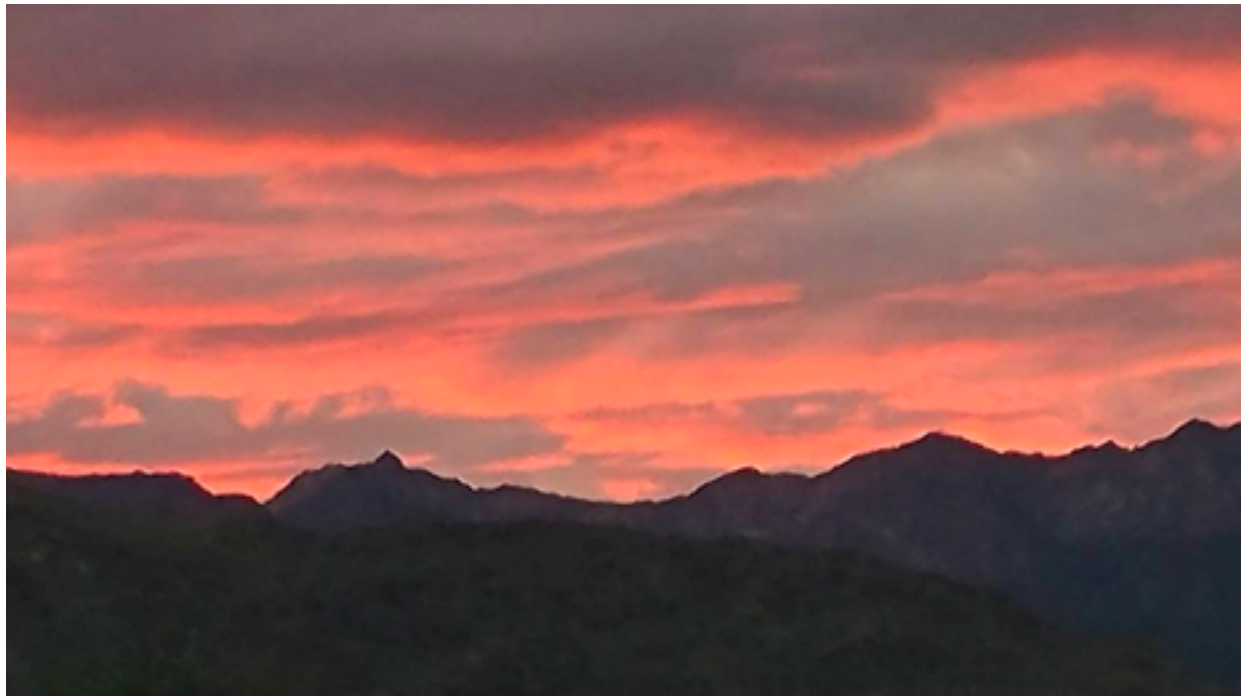
New Aerial Images Show Mysterious Lost City In The Middle Of The Pacific Ocean

Gold Bar Project Gets Green Light from BLM

Lawsuit targets Willamette dams, says steelhead and salmon at risk of extinction

Hoopa Valley Tribe, Huffman decry Westlands Water District settlement

Richmond powwow to feature dance, drums, contests and gifts



Dear Tribal Leader: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS 810 VERMONT AVENUE,
NW WASHINGTON DC 20420

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is writing to ask tribal governments, interested

in participating in a nationwide outreach campaign, to reply to this letter within 30 days receipt. The focus of the outreach campaign will be identifying and assisting Veterans across Indian Country with presumptive disabilities and Veterans who may have non-compensable disabilities (VA pension claims). Reaching these Veterans could have a direct, tangible impact on the lives of thousands of previously unreached Veterans and their spouses.

Presumptive Conditions and VA Pension Benefits are defined as:

A. Veterans with presumptive disabilities. Veterans may not realize that VA presumes that certain medical conditions are related to military service, although these conditions may first appear after discharge from the military. These conditions may qualify for compensation payments.

See the enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>.

In addition, surviving spouses may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), when Veterans die as a result of these presumptive disabilities. See the enclosed fact sheet or visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/dic.pdf> for additional DIC eligibility.

VA can pay special monthly compensation additional allowances, to a Veteran who, as a result of military service, incurred the loss or loss of use of specific organs or extremities, and to a Veteran or Survivors who need regular assistance with activities of daily living, or when they are confined to their immediate premises because of disabilities i.e., an Aid and Attendance or Housebound allowance. See the enclosed fact sheets for more information, or visit

<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/smc.pdf>

Veterans who may be eligible to receive VA pension benefits. VA pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or non-service connected disability requirements. See the enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit

<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/livepension.pdf>

VA can pay special monthly pension additional allowances, when a Veteran or surviving spouse need regular assistance with activities of daily living, or when they are confined to their immediate premises because of disabilities i.e., an Aid and Attendance or Housebound allowance. See the enclosed fact sheet for more information, or visit

<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/limitedincome/EnhancedorSpecialPension.pdf>.

QQf

VA will work with local service providers to ensure interested tribes receive the information listed above, and more general information, via:

1. **Claims and health fairs** --These on-site events may include: accepting claims; checking the status of claims; processing specific types of claims (identified beforehand); health eligibility screening; health benefits enrollment; blood pressure checks; and other medical screenings.

2. Teleconferences - The services offered on site during claims fairs may be available through such technologies as video teleconferences, conference calls, Telehealth, etc. While access to such technology may be limited, where available it can still greatly assist with access to benefits for Veterans and their Survivors living in Indian Country.

If your tribe is interested in participating in this focused outreach campaign, please reply to tribalgovernmentconsultation@va.gov no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. VA will consider all tribes that express interest, and it will consult tribal leadership as it plans and coordinates all outreach events.

Veterans Benefits Administration

Enclosures

Thayer V schoor

Executive Director

Intergovernmental Affairs

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ITEP/EPA Webinar Series : Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke

This webinar series will provide attendees with an understanding of the impacts of wildland smoke on the health of tribal communities and strategies to minimize exposure. Each 90-minute webinar will feature multiple presentations on the topics listed below. The webinars are free and open to anyone; registration for the webinars will be available in late November. The webinars will be recorded.

- **Webinar 1 – January 18, 2018, 2:00 pm EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

We will explore the components of wildland smoke, how much is produced under different circumstances, and how the components of smoke affect our health.

- **Webinar 2 – February 1, 2018, 2:00 pm EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

This webinar will look at modeling of smoke movement, the role of air resources advisors (ARAs), and the use of portable monitors or sensors to collect data.

- **Webinar 3 – February 15, 2018, 2:00 pm EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

Gathering and disseminating information to our communities before, during, and after a smoke event is critical to ensuring the health and safety of our communities. This webinar will provide tips and strategies for finding information, using social media, and developing outreach products.

- **Webinar 4 – March 1, 2018, 2:00 pm EASTERN STANDARD TIME**

In this webinar, Tribal presenters will describe how smoke events impacted their communities, how utilizing monitoring data during a wildfire can help identify health risks, and how tribes can better prepare for wildfire seasons.

- **Webinar 5 – March 15, 2018, 2:00 pm EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME**

With smoke events increasingly common, the final webinar will provide information on preparing homes for smoke intrusion, using air scrubbers, creating community cleaner-air shelters, and protecting the health of pets and livestock.

Tribal staff have an opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop designed to reinforce the concepts presented in the webinar series. Workshop participants will learn and practice additional skills that will aid in preparation for wildland smoke events. **All webinars must be completed prior to the in-person workshop (scheduled for Boise, Idaho, March 27-28, 2018).** The in-person workshop application will be available in mid-December on the ITEP website: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air.

If you would like additional information please contact Pat Ellsworth, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, at patricia.ellsworth@nau.edu or 928-523-672.

A fire raged some 15 million years ago that still glows to this day. Though the embers are now cool enough to hold in your hands, the colors are as bright as it was lit, northwestern Nevada volcanic viciousness. The atom bombs often destroyed them, and the resulting slurry of clay bed of Nevada's prehistoric lakes.



hands, the colors are as bright as it was lit, northwestern Nevada volcanic viciousness. The atom bombs often destroyed them, and the resulting slurry of clay bed of Nevada's prehistoric

Attachments: [Amador Nov 2017 Fliers.pdf](#) [Amador Nov 2017 Calendar.pdf](#) [Amador November 2017 Newsletter.pdf](#)

Attached please find our agency's newsletter, calendar of events and fliers. Please share.

"The sun shines not on us, but in us. The river flows not past us, but through us."

"My words are tied in one with the great mountains, with the great rocks, with the great trees, in one with my body and heart. All of you see me, one with this world."

Sincerely, Joni Drake, Site Manager, Amador County- **California Tribal TANF Partnership**
601 Court Street, Suite #106 Jackson, CA 95642 (209) 257-6150 Phone (209) 257-6149 Fax
jdrake@cttp.net email www.cttp.net

Ian Zabarte

Shoshone appointed to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

As a tribal community stakeholder group, the Native Community Action Council (NCAC) continues to advocate on behalf of the land the people of the Great Basin. Today, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission appointed two Shoshone to the Yucca Mountain Licensing Support Network Advisory Review Panel. NCAC board member, Joe Kennedy Shoshone from Timbisha in Death Valley commented:

“The Department of Energy has failed to protect Native Americans leaving us unprotected, if not for the Native Community Action Council intervening in 2008, and now, against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to protect the land and people of the Great Basin.”

Last year the NRC admitted that radiation will be discharge into the groundwater from the proposed Yucca Mountain high level nuclear waste repository currently undergoing licensing. The NRC Staff were directed to consider disproportionate impact to low income and minority populations such as the Shoshone at Poohabah in Tecopa and Death Valley Shoshone Indian Village at Furnace Creek. Without further fieldwork research, the NRC found that impacts to Native Americans will be minimal.

The Shoshone experience is as down-winders, victims of testing of WMD's, and as stakeholders in the siting of the proposed Yucca Mountain high level nuclear waste repository. The DOE cannot meet the requirement of ownership, a “significant legal encumbrances,” disqualifying the site under the NRC regulation, 10 CFR 63 Land Ownership. Yucca Mountain is Indian country defined by the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley and the US cannot prove ownership.

“The proposed repository is Indian country and we believe that the pattern and practice of the US in the siting of Yucca Mountain to be legislative malpractice and institutional racism,” said Ian Zabarte, Secretary of the NCAC.

The NCAC is the only non-federally funded party to the Yucca Mountain proceedings asserting ownership under aboriginal occupancy. Since selection of Yucca Mountain in 1987 by Congress, the DOE has not considered any argument made by the Shoshone that does not support licensing by the NRC.

Grand Canyon development project rejected by Navajo Nation

Lawmakers on the country's largest American Indian reservation have shot down a measure to build an aerial tram to take visitors to a riverside boardwalk in the Grand Canyon, with stores, hotels and restaurants above on the East Rim. <http://strib.mn/2iTVFkZ>

Caitlin Keliiaa, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley
ckeliiaa@berkeley.edu

This paper examines the ways Native women domestic workers negotiated and challenged – in subtle and overt ways – the **Bay Area Outing Program**. First I examine federal Indian policy that paved the way for “outing” and illuminate the connections between outing, allotment and Indian boarding schools. To this end, I historicize both the

national and local forms of outing while revealing the gendered, settler colonial effects of this imposing domestic institution. To provide a point of comparison, I consider other forms of domestic service performed at the time, including those found in Americanization programs of the early twentieth century.

Second, I elucidate the contours of the Bay Area Outing Program, describing its official operation and process while highlighting the policing and surveillance of Native women in the program. I then analyze Native women's resistance in fighting for commensurate wages and fighting Indian child removal. My final section, informed by early 20th-century Bay Area newspapers, examines a series of articles on outing runaways. Here I consider runaways in early iterations of the program, while examining how localized rhetoric sought to justify the control of Native women. I thus examine how local social discourse shapes material conditions for Native women.

[Unsettling Domesticity: Native Women Challenging US Indian Policy ...](https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3md8r7hh.pdf)
escholarship.org/uc/item/3md8r7hh.pdf by K Keliiaa - 2017

May 8, 2017 - "Dr. Eagleton to Ray R. Parrett, Superintendent of Walker River Agency,"
October 21, 1933, File: Hazel. Emm, Relocation, Education, And ...

Announcing America's Most Endangered Rivers® of 2017

Drinking water source for 30 million people. Growing 90% of our nation's winter vegetables.
The Lower Colorado River is America's Most Endangered River of 2017.

[Amy Souers Kober](#) | April 11, 2017

https://www.americanrivers.org/2017/04/most-endangered-rivers-2017/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI6_mklZql1wIVCaxpCh2E2QBDEAMYASAAEgLCSvD_BwE

Mille Lacs County's fight with Indian community hurts tourism industry

Board's actions are out-of-touch in an era of socially-conscious consumers. <http://strib.mn/2h62E6r>

Federal Water Tap, November 6: Government Report Highlights Human Causes of Climate Change

U.S. government report warns that what we don't know about **climate change** is perhaps more worrisome than what we do. **Dam regulators** make changes to the federal licensing process. The EPA spotlights **innovative design and financing** of sewer, septic system, and stormwater projects that use federal loans. The U.S. Geological Survey again finds **household water use decreasing**. NASA scientists study rainfall and runoff from **atmospheric rivers**. The House schedules debate for **drinking water and hydropower bills**. And lastly, the **National Drinking Water Advisory Council** holds a public meeting in December to discuss health advisories while the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works questions the Trump administration's pick to lead the **Council on Environmental Quality**.

“The human effect on recent major U.S. droughts is complicated. Little evidence is found for a human influence on observed precipitation deficits, but much evidence is found for a human influence on surface soil moisture deficits due to increased evapotranspiration caused by higher temperatures.” — Key finding on drought from the fourth [National Climate Assessment](#), a comprehensive U.S. government report on climate change science. The science suggests there is high confidence that temperature is affecting water availability because of drying soils and increased evaporation. The report explains that [drought is a complex phenomenon](#) with multiple definitions. Because drier conditions may become more common, the report notes that assumptions about what constitutes a “drought” may need to change.

83 gallons: Daily average household water use per person in the United States in 2015, a decrease of seven percent from 2010. That figure represents households who get water from a utility. For households that supply their own water, usually via a well, the average daily use per person was 77 gallons, a five percent decrease. ([U.S. Geological Survey](#))

28: Wastewater, septic system, and stormwater projects identified by the EPA as particularly innovative in their design or financing. Five of the 28 — such as a homeowner reimbursement program in Little Rock, Arkansas, for sewer line replacement and a treatment system targeting de-icing chemicals at the Warwick, Rhode Island, airport — earned “exceptional” honors. Projects funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, a federal low-interest loan program, were eligible for recognition. ([U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#))

22: Percent of global river runoff attributed to moisture-heavy air currents called atmospheric rivers, according to an estimate by an international research team that included NASA scientists. Atmospheric rivers play an outsize role in water supply in California, with just a handful of storms bringing the lion’s share of the state’s annual precipitation. If a few storms fail to land, drought may be at hand. Conversely, if a parade of atmospheric rivers marches in, as happened last winter, floods may result. ([Geophysical Research Letters](#))

41: Percent of historical stream length in Pittsburgh that was buried or incorporated into the city’s sewer system. ([U.S. Geological Survey](#))

Dam Regulator Changes Licensing Policy

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [announced that the default length](#) of a license at a non-federal dam will be 40 years. Under current policy FERC can license dams for 30 years to 50 years, depending on planned investments. If a company is spending money to upgrade a dam, usually they seek a longer license to recover the costs.

The 40-year default is a compromise between industry groups, which supported a 50-year default, and environmental groups, which sought a 30-year term because it would allow for more frequent evaluation of dam impacts.

Hypoxia Task Force Report

The state-federal-tribal collaborative that is working toward reducing nutrient pollution in the Gulf of Mexico released its [second report](#) on actions in the Mississippi River basin.

Formed in 1997, the task force has been largely ineffective in its primary mission: reducing the size of the annual low-oxygen dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. A 2001 “action plan” aimed to

cut the dead zone to 5,000 square kilometers by 2015. That did not happen. The task force, which has no enforcement power, is now working to cut the dead zone to 5,000 square kilometers by 2035.

The dead zone's current five-year average size is 14,000 square kilometers, nearly three times the target.

House To Debate Drinking Water, Hydropower Bills

Two water bills have been placed on the House's calendar:

- The [Drinking Water System Improvement Act](#), sponsored by Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS), which orders a number of policy changes: it gives states the authority to merge a failing system with a better managed neighbor; increases authorized funding for the state revolving fund, a loan program; expands the uses of the fund; and requires assessments of data collection, monitoring, and reporting.
- The [Hydropower Policy Modernization Act](#), sponsored by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), which defines hydropower as renewable energy and seeks to quicken the approval process for dams renewing their operating licenses.

CEQ Confirmation Hearing

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works [holds a confirmation hearing](#) on November 8 for Kathleen Hartnett White, the fossil-fuel promoting Texan picked to lead the Council on Environmental Quality, which is in charge of overseeing federal agency environmental reviews.

National Drinking Water Advisory Council Meeting

On December 7 and 8, the council, which consults with the EPA on drinking water policy, will [hold a public meeting](#) in Washington, D.C. The meeting will focus on communicating health advisories, which are the EPA's non-enforceable guidelines for contaminants in drinking water.

The meeting is timely. A May 2016 health advisory for two compounds used in firefighting foams and nonstick cookware resulted in widespread confusion from local officials and the public.

If you can't travel for the meeting, you can dial-in via teleconference: the phone number is 866-299-3188, and the conference code is 202-564-7347.

Lead Testing Webinar

EPA scientists will hold a webinar on November 28 to discuss two topics: testing for lead in schools and how to purchase lead-free plumbing products. Sign up via [this link](#).

Representative Tom Emmer has just introduced a misguided bill that strips Minnesota of bedrock environmental protections and presents a direct threat to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This bill would make it easier for a foreign company to mine sulfide-ore copper along lakes and rivers that flow into the Wilderness. The bill is co-sponsored by Minnesota Congressmen Collin Peterson and Jason Lewis.

[**The Boundary Waters needs your help right away. Please send a message to your Representative today and tell them you are opposed to this bill and want to see the Boundary Waters protected, not put at risk from sulfide-ore copper mining.**](#)

This unprecedented bill would completely circumvent a proven environmental review process that has been in place for nearly 50 years, flout nearly 126,000 public comments in support of mineral withdrawal in the Boundary Waters, and allow for a foreign mining company with a terrible history of environmental violations to build dangerous sulfide-ore copper mines on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

If passed, this legislation would endanger the Superior National Forest, protected for more than 100 years, and put Minnesota's national treasure, the Boundary Waters, at risk. This project could destroy America's most visited Wilderness area, which is why it was included as one of *America's Most Endangered Rivers®* of 2013.

The proposed bill would undermine years of existing law by requiring congressional approval for any mineral withdrawal or National Monument designation in the Superior National Forest and retroactively grant the renewal of two mineral leases held by Twin Metals Minnesota, a subsidiary of Chilean mining giant Antofagasta, despite these leases previously being denied due to the extreme environmental risk they posed to the Wilderness. This bill would also set a harmful precedent for all of our nation's special wild places.

[Take Action »](#)

For the rivers, Jessie Thomas-Blate, Most Endangered Rivers Coordinator, American Rivers



This Year's Ozone Hole Is the Smallest It's Been Since 1988

Lorraine Chow, EcoWatch

Chow writes: "The hole in Earth's ozone layer is the smallest it's been since 1988, NASA satellite estimates observed." [READ MORE](#)

Atmospheric CO2 Reaches Highest Level in Nearly a Million Years

s.e. smith, Care2: Given that the Trump administration has adopted aggressively anti-environmental policies, including placing climate change deniers in key policymaking positions, this announcement is especially alarming. The US is responsible for 29 percent of greenhouse gases emitted worldwide in the last 150 years. The US has contributed heavily to the Earth's burden, and now it must be part of the solution. [Read the Article](#)

On an Uninhabited Caribbean Island, a Trove of Pre-Columbian Cave Art

https://www.livescience.com/60851-on-an-uninhabited-caribbean-island-a-trove-of-pre-columbian-cave-art.html?utm_source=ls-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20171106-ls

In a Victory for 26,000 Penguins, Locals and Activists Defeat Giant Mining Project

https://www.ecowatch.com/chile-andes-iron-2505425407.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=2f915ce909-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-2f915ce909-85895669

New Aerial Images Show Mysterious Lost City In The Middle Of The Pacific Ocean

Nan Madol is an ancient and remote city that has long been out of reach for archaeologists. Now, new tech has given scholars unprecedented access to the site. [siifscience.com](https://www.siifscience.com)

Gold Bar Project Gets Green Light from BLM by Steven Field

The Bureau of Land Management, Mount Lewis Field Office (MLFO) has completed its analysis of McEwen Mining Inc.'s proposal for the Gold Bar Project (Project). The Project will be located approximately 30 miles northwest of Eureka in the Southern Roberts Mountains in Eureka County, Nevada and is expected to create 120 new jobs. The Record [...] [Read more of this post](#)

Lawsuit targets Willamette dams, says steelhead and salmon at risk of extinction

Zach Urness, Statesman Journal The decline of native salmon and steelhead in the Willamette River Basin has been documented for decades, but this year brought particularly bad news.

Hoopa Valley Tribe, Huffman decry Westlands Water District settlement Will Houston,

Times Standard Tribes, fishermen and a North Coast congressman are decrying an effort by Congress to pass a settlement agreement that they say would give away Trinity River water to Central Valley water suppliers without considering local environmental effects.

Richmond powwow to feature dance, drums, contests and gifts

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/11/04/native-american-powwow-in-richmond-to-feature-dance-drums-contests-and-gifts/>



Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe

Honoring our Native Warriors

10:30am – 1:00pm Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017

Honor Song by Young Chief Drum group

Posting the Flags by FPST Police/Veterans

Opening Prayer by Ernie Hooper

Welcome by Chairman Len George

Veteran Introductions

Guest Speaker: Truckee Bob

Gifts provided by FPST Tribal Health Clinic

Lunch catered by Susie's BBQ

Location: Tribal Gym, 8955 Mission Rd, Fallon, Nevada