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EPA Hosts Webinar on Tribal & Indigenous EJ Policy

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Colombia: Four Indigenous Leaders Murdered in Last 24 Hours

Free green-industry class to discuss water awareness and conservation

· Maskokvlke! Tsalagi! Lookout, Muscogee People and all sovereignty champions!

**1619, Revisited*

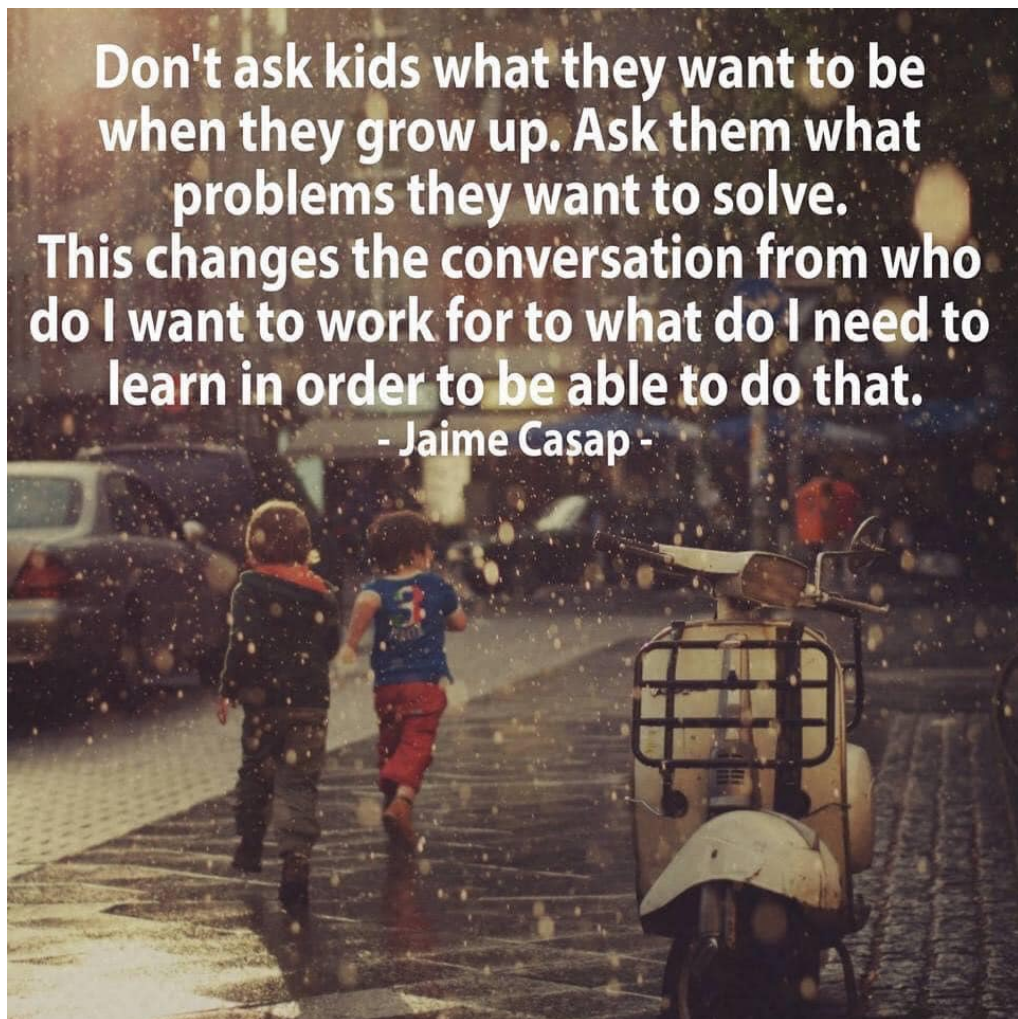
To Adapt to Changing Environment 400,000 Years Ago, Humans Developed New Tools and Behaviors

On a Philippine Island, Indigenous Women Get Their Say on Marine Conservation

Reports: Japan to Release Fukushima's Contaminated Water Into Sea Ancient

Maya built sophisticated water filters

Mexico asks Pope Francis for apology for church's role in Spanish conquest



EPA Hosts Webinar on Tribal & Indigenous EJ Policy, EJ Financial Assistance Programs, and Tribal & Indigenous Experiences Using the EJ Financial Programs

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

TIME: 11:30 am Pacific | 2:30 pm Eastern (1 1/2-hour Webinar)

EPA is hosting a webinar for federally-recognized tribes and indigenous peoples to learn about the [EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#) and EPA's EJ financial assistance programs. These programs are available to help tribes and indigenous peoples in the United States to address their EJ concerns and interests. The webinar will also include the experiences and projects of a tribal community-focused organization and an indigenous-based organization, each supported by an EJ financial assistance program. Specifically, the webinar will discuss:

1. [EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#)
2. EPA environmental justice financial assistance programs:
 - [EJ Small Grants Program](#)
 - [EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreements Program](#)
 - [EJ State \(Tribal and US Territories\) EJ Cooperative Agreements Program](#)
3. Grantee experiences:
 - [Kawerak, Inc.](#) and Zender Environmental Health and Research Group – [Backhaul Alaska](#), removing hazardous waste from rural Alaska through partnership with tribes, tribal communities, agencies, and industry stakeholders.
 - Tewa Women United - [Española Healing Foods Oasis](#), community transformation of a barren slope in downtown Española into an edible food garden utilizing traditional dry-land farming techniques and permaculture principles.

To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environmental-justice-tribes-indigenous-peoples-ej-policy-ej-grants-tickets-124114711443>

Following the webinar, the slides and webinar recording will be posted here under "Implementation of the Policy": <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>

For more information on the webinar, please contact: Danny Gogal, USEPA, Office of Environmental Justice, at gogal.danny@epa.gov.

Worried About Covid-19 in the Winter? Alaska Provides a Cautionary Tale

By Mike Baker

The state is seeing record case numbers, adding to evidence that the virus is poised to thrive as the weather grows colder.

The Sierra Club Embraces Environmental Justice, Forcing a Difficult Internal Reckoning

Evelyn Nieves, Inside Climate News

Nieves writes: "The Sierra Club, the oldest and largest environmental organization in the United States, is on a mission it is not known for - shining a light on environmental injustices."

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Colombia: Four Indigenous Leaders Murdered in Last 24 Hours

teleSUR

Excerpt: "Four indigenous community organizations were murdered during the last 24 hours in Colombia due to three violent events in the departments of Huila, Cauca, and Córdoba." [READ MORE](#)

Free green-industry class to discuss water awareness and conservation

Extension series teaches sustainable horticulture to local professionals

[Nevada Impact](#) | October 20, 2020

Hannah Alfaro

Extension's Watershed-Wise Residential Design class will cover strategies for fostering a healthy watershed. Photo by Wendy Hanson Mazet, Extension.

As part of the Green Industry Continuing Education Series, University of Nevada, Reno Extension is offering "Watershed-Wise Residential Design" noon-1 p.m., Nov. 4, at the Extension office at 4955 Energy Way in Reno, as well as via Zoom.

Related Program

[University of Nevada, Reno Extension](#)

"The Green Industry Continuing Education Series is a great way to maintain professional certifications conveniently during your lunch hour," Chad Morris, Extension Commercial Horticulture Program coordinator, said. "This workshop is meant to provide tips to landscapers to help them be a part of protecting our watershed."

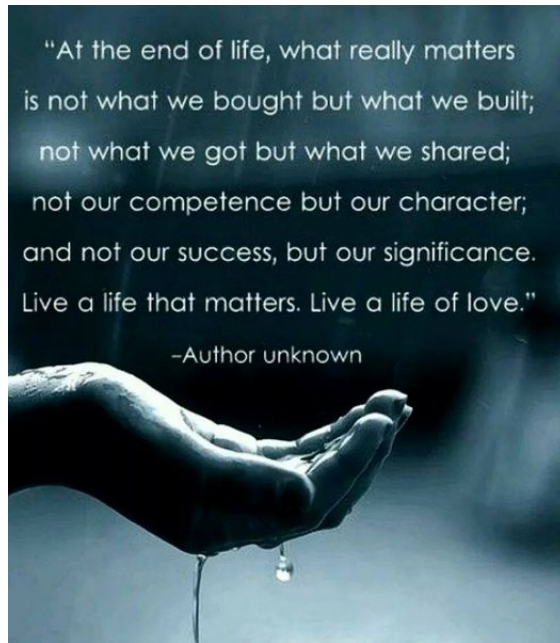
The class, taught by landscape architect Carrie Jensen, will discuss the local watershed, potential landscape management impacts, and how green professionals can implement residential Low Impact Development (LID) management strategies and technologies for fostering a healthy watershed. The class offers Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Register for the class:

- [Registration for the remote format can be done online.](#)
- [Registration to attend the class in person can be done by emailing Morris.](#)

The Green Industry Continuing Education Series provides current, research-based information to green-industry professionals. For upcoming classes, [visit the series website](#).

For more information on classes or certification, contact Morris at chadmorris@unr.edu. Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should contact Morris at least three days prior to the class.



The Sierra Club Embraces Environmental Justice, Forcing a Difficult Internal Reckoning

Evelyn Nieves, Inside Climate News

Nieves writes: "The Sierra Club, the oldest and largest environmental organization in the United States, is on a mission it is not known for - shining a light on environmental injustices."

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[Suzan Harjo](#) · **Maskokvike! Tsalagi! Lookout, Muscogee People and all sovereignty champions!** I am sorry to tell you that the Oklahoma Attorney General and the Cherokee Chief are at it again. This time, the danger is clear, present and cannot be explained away by sock puppets mouthing the word "sovereignty."

Begging your pardon for saying what's up in plain language: Today, now, this hour, Oklahoma is trying to win in the back rooms of Congress what it could not win in the high court. Straight up! This is no time to be polite about it or for being distracted by pearl-clutching gasps for unity at all costs—not when unity means don't speak out against those plotting mischief and harm to Muscogee (Creek) Nation. What would be a "win" for Oklahoma? Wiping out the Muscogee Nation's great victory for sovereignty, for all Tribal Nations' sovereignty!

Despite decades of Tribal Nations' functional agreements with Oklahoma and concerted efforts to retire Chief Justice Marshall's articulated model of states as the "deadliest enemies," the state that was built on Native lands in Indian Territory seems bound and determined to reclaim its title and, embarrassingly, while its governor is Cherokee.

Just yesterday, Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin, Jr., wasted no time in praising OK General Mike Hunter's "framework for federal legislation relating to McGirt." The OK AG (the state legal officer who lost the McGirt case—just saying) publicly announced his "proposal" by letter addressed to the leaders of all Five Nations (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, Seminole), as well as to the entire Oklahoma congressional delegation.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation—the only Nation whose Reservation was on trial before the Supreme Court in *McGirt*—was not invited to the Hunter/Hoskin conversations that led to this latest “proposal.” And the lobbying is fast and furious as the state of Oklahoma and its faithful Indian companions are trying to get Congress to undermine Muscogee Nation’s sovereignty and Treaty rights.

Feel like *déjà vu*? Seeing visions of what we’d hoped were bygone days of Andrew Jackson? Maybe you thought, after all the criticism, Hunter and Hoskin abandoned the “Agreement in Principle.” Maybe you were persuaded by fancy videos and repetition of the word “sovereignty.” But do not be fooled. Although Cherokee Nation’s attempt to voluntarily surrender the sovereignty that Muscogee Nation saved in *McGirt* failed this past summer, Chief Hoskin seems hell-bent on making it work this fall.

A brief review of what the Chief and OK AG have done before helps us understand what they are trying to do now, as their MO remains unchanged.

This past summer, the Cherokee Chief tried to peddle an “agreement” with the OK AG whereby the five Nations would “agree” to ask Congress to pass legislation codifying the Supreme Court’s harmful standard in Montana and making Oklahoma a P.L. 280 state when it comes to criminal jurisdiction. When Muscogee and Seminole Nations said no, and did not consent, Hoskin continued anyway.

Advocates working to end domestic violence and sexual assault against Native women, however, would not be silenced. They stood up and spoke out against the Hunter-Hoskin “agreement,” and explained how it would harm Native women and children. All of Indian Country (including the National Congress of American Indians and just about every other tribal organization) stood with MCN and spoke out against Hunter/Hoskin tribal sovereignty-sacrificing “agreement.” Hunter called our Native women DV advocates “sovereignty hobbyists.” Did Hoskin publicly reprimand Hunter for his attack? Did Hoskin tell Hunter it is not appropriate to refer to Native women advocating to end assault on Native women as “hobbyists?” No, he did not! I suppose it’s too much to expect Hunter and Hoskin to appreciate or value the connection between sovereignty and safety for Native women, or for them to understand why women of Native Nations are more likely to be raped, murdered, or assaulted than any other US population—when he does not understand or respect the concept of sovereignty at all.

Fast forward to October, after we survived the Hoskin/Hunter sovereignty lobbyists trying to sell or lease Muscogee Nation sovereignty to Senator Inhofe this past July and August. The Senator stated he would have a legislative “solution” to the Muscogee Nation victory in the Supreme Court by the end of August. It’s now October and they have come forward with nothing. Indian Country’s opposition to the Hunter/Hoskin “Agreement” stopped it, dead in its tracks. You did that! We did that. Maskokvlke and Seminole and Tsalagi and all Native Peoples, together, did that! Now, that’s unity!

But the Hunter/Hoskin team has not given up. This past month, Chief Hoskin welcomed U.S. Attorney General Barr (yes, that Barr, of the President’s lawyer fame) at Cherokee Nation for a private meeting to discuss post-*McGirt* legislation—a meeting that Muscogee (Creek) Nation was not permitted or even invited to attend.

There is no evidence that Hoskin attempted to reach out to, or invite, Muscogee Nation Principal Chief David Hill to this meeting. Wow. Can you imagine what would happen if the situation were reversed—what if the Muscogee Chief and the US AG huddled up to “fix” an historic Cherokee legal victory and the Cherokee Chief were locked out of the meeting? There would be tornado-topping howls from Tahlequah. As is, Chief Hoskin is playing the victim and saying that opposing the dastardly legislation is Indian-against-Indian, because Cherokee Nation is for the state legislation.

That is absurd. It is, as it has been through arduous litigation, Muscogee Nation versus Oklahoma. Cherokee Nation, by being the state’s sidekick is being led into a stronghold wall of nearly 600 Native sovereignties. Maskokvlke have worked very hard with Tsalagi to heal historical, ever-present wounds, and the Cherokee Chief’s siding with the state rips off the scab. We remember Horseshoe Bend. We also have grieved for the Jackson treachery of his allies, once they were no longer useful to him to kill or move the Creeks he despised. Turned out, he could not abide any Native Peoples and wanted our lands for his base of land-rushers and squatters, and for the states that maintained the Indians must be moved, in accordance with Manifest Destiny. This is happening again, and we will not abide.

Hoskin’s super exclusive (but no longer secret) meeting with AG Barr is offensive for many reasons. One is that it was the Attorney General’s first trip to Indian Country in an entire year, and Barr used it to visit one Tribal Nation to discuss how to legislatively “fix” the victory of another, without inviting the Tribal Nation they think needs fixing. Chief Hoskin’s refusal to invite Muscogee Chief Hill to be a part of that conversation is inexcusable. But this is how Hoskin operates. It’s not in secrecy, because we all know he is doing it. But it is exclusive. He’s constantly holding meetings and having conversations about Muscogee Nation’s sovereignty—and the inherent sovereignty of all Tribal Nations—that only he is invited to participate in. The meeting with Barr was not a secret—but Cherokee Nation waited until the last minute to announce it. And when they did, Native Peoples in OK questioned why Hoskin would do this and not invite a single leader from Muscogee Nation to sit at the table and be a part of the conversation. Did he respond to this criticism and invite anyone from Muscogee Nation? No. Their talk was private, without any attempt to involve the Nation whose Supreme Court victory they were planning to legislatively erase!

And why is Hoskin complacent with Barr discussing anything other than the national crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, about which Barr purports to care. Today, our Native women are more likely to be murdered than any other US population. If a tribal leader is going to meet with the US AG in Indian Country, that tribal leader must insist that the US AG not leave without first meeting with Native women advocates to discuss MMIWG. Hoskin did not do this.

Native women advocates lost an incredible opportunity to meet face to face—socially distanced of course—and discuss one of the most serious crises haunting our Tribal Nations today. All Hoskin had to do was insist that, while at Cherokee Nation, AG Barr meet with the Native women advocates working to address MMIWG in Oklahoma. Ironically, the President of the Native Alliance Against Violence is an Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizen, and the President of the Board of Directors of the National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center also is a Muscogee

citizen. Perhaps Hoskins' mission to silence our Muscogee People in this critical conversation is more important than the opportunity to address the crisis of MMIWG with the U.S. AG. This is very sad.

Of course, if Hoskin had any real interest in addressing MMIWG, he would stand with Muscogee Nation and the rest of Indian Country and make clear that nothing in McGirt requires "fixing." He would, like Principal Chief David Hill has done, tell Hunter, Barr, and Senator Inhofe that the Supreme Court's decision in McGirt must be protected and preserved at all costs. But of course, he is not doing that. Hoskin continues to work behind the scenes to push legislation premised on the false narrative that something is wrong with the Supreme Court's decision and it must be "fixed."

Today, AG Hunter announced his latest sovereignty-sacrificing concoction, outlining a three page plan for Congress that once again invites Congress to limit tribal sovereignty by making Oklahoma essentially a P.L.-280 State, thereby restoring the jurisdiction the Supreme Court just determined Oklahoma had been illegally exercising since colonially coming into existence in 1906. Almost immediately Principal Chief Batton of the Choctaw Nation stated:

"We oppose Oklahoma Attorney General Mike Hunter's proposal for congressional action following the Supreme Court's ruling in McGirt v. Oklahoma, because it is premature and may prove to be unneeded. We welcome, however, his proposal for additional dialogue. Before we discuss legislation at the national level, we must first lay the foundation for a future framework. The Five Tribes are already doing this through our individual sovereignty commissions, dialogue with elected officials and state agencies, and in partnership with the federal government. We are making substantial progress. We should take the necessary time to reason together through these issues and avoid repeating past mistakes in federal legislation regarding Indian Country." Bravo Chief Batton! Muscogee (Creek) Nation echoed these sentiments, stating:

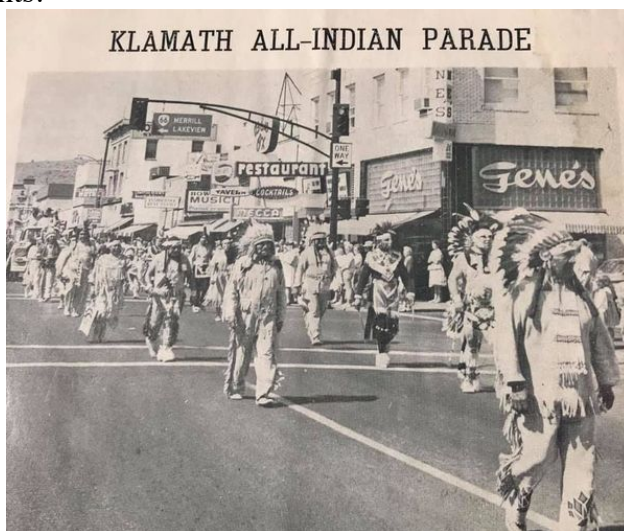
"We have yet to examine the details of Attorney General Mike Hunter's latest request for federal legislation responding to the McGirt decision, but we have still not found any compelling evidence demonstrating such a federal response is necessary. At first look, it appears that what AG Hunter is proposing already exists under federal law. P.L. 280, allows for the transfer of subject matter jurisdiction to the state. But the historical record shows that tribes that have voluntarily relinquished their authority have found themselves trapped and unable to ever recover their sovereignty."

And Seminole Nation had this to say:

"While the Seminole Nation appreciates the sentiment of consensus building and intergovernmental cooperation upon which we believe Attorney General Mike Hunter's proposal was premised, we oppose the recommendation for Congressional authorization of state-tribal criminal jurisdiction compacts. By way of example, the Seminole Nation, like all the Five Tribes, already has a state-tribal agreement on criminal justice in the area of policing through cross-deputization. These intergovernmental agreements demonstrate the effectiveness of existing state-tribal government-to-government cooperation and coordination, absent Congressional action. Further, any legislation enacted by Congress will deeply erode tribal sovereignty. There is simply no basis to request Congressional action because the law is clear under McGirt. It is the

responsibility of the federal government to handle certain crimes committed in Indian country by Indians. Any legislation providing the State with rights to exercise criminal jurisdiction on-reservation will come at the expense of other important attributes of sovereignty. For these reasons, the Seminole Nation opposes federal legislation relating to state-tribal criminal jurisdiction compacts.”

Chief Hoskin’s statement, in contrast to the other three Nations’ Chiefs, does NOT question the wisdom of sending a proposal to the Oklahoma congressional delegation that has not actually been discussed or reviewed by all Five Nations. Does the Chief not care whether the other Five Nations have been invited to weigh in on or consider this proposal? Does he care only for deals struck in the private meetings and discussions Chief Hill was not invited to. I hope that Chief Hoskin comes to his senses and soon, and that he finds a better class of advisers and a more ethical crowd, ones who can help with something other than playing fast and loose with the truth and other Peoples’ rights.



[Heidi Barlese](#)

Frank John, Grandpa Louie Barlese, ?, Mamie John. 1965. Klamath Falls, OR.

1619, Revisited by Nicholas Guyatt

Argument isn’t an obstacle to the work of historians; it is the work of historians. Public interest in 1619 has suggested something truly profound: that Americans have the capacity to think differently about their history.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201022151741.htm>

To Adapt to a Changing Environment 400,000 Years Ago, Early Humans Developed New Tools and Behaviors

When the East African Rift Valley transformed dramatically, new weapons arose and trade expanded

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-drastic-ecological-change-led-leap-forward-behavior-weapons-and-tools-180976101/?utm_source=smithsonianmag&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201021-daily-



Beryl Helen Keya Cargill

Hopi Kachina Dancers...c1880 ❤️ Hopi means Peace..blood cousins to the Haudenosaunee...we are the same tribe..and Polynesian, dna is Tahitian. escaping a continent as it sank in the western Pacific, we crossed the ancient Pacific together...

On a Philippine Island, Indigenous Women Get Their Say on Marine Conservation

Jen Chan, Mongabay

Chan writes: "Fifteen women from the Indigenous Tagbanwa group in the municipality of Calawit have been given ownership of more than 320 acres of ancestral waters where they harvest cachipay, a type of oyster." **READ MORE**

Reports: Japan to Release Fukushima's Contaminated Water Into Sea

Yuka Obayashi and Kaori Kaneko, Reuters

Excerpt: "Nearly a decade after the Fukushima nuclear disaster, Japan's government has decided to release over one million tonnes of contaminated water into the sea, media reports said on Friday, with a formal announcement expected to be made later this month."



Ancient Maya built sophisticated water filters

Maya imported zeolite and quartz to filter drinking water

Date: October 22, 2020 Source: University of Cincinnati

Summary: Ancient Maya in the once-bustling city of Tikal built sophisticated water filters using natural materials they imported from miles away, according to new research. A multidisciplinary team of anthropologists, geographers and biologists identified quartz and zeolite, a crystalline compound consisting of silicon and aluminum, that created a natural molecular sieve. Both minerals are used in modern water filtration.

Maya in the once-bustling city of Tikal built sophisticated water filters using natural materials they imported from miles away, according to the University of Cincinnati.

UC researchers discovered evidence of a filter system at the Corriental reservoir, an important source of drinking water for the ancient Maya in what is now northern Guatemala.

A multidisciplinary team of UC anthropologists, geographers and biologists identified crystalline quartz and zeolite imported miles from the city. The quartz found in the coarse sand along with zeolite, a crystalline compound consisting of silicon and aluminum, create a natural molecular sieve. Both minerals are used in modern water filtration.

The filters would have removed harmful microbes, nitrogen-rich compounds, heavy metals such as mercury and other toxins from the water, said Kenneth Barnett Tankersley, associate professor of anthropology and lead author of the study.

"What's interesting is this system would still be effective today and the Maya discovered it more than 2,000 years ago," Tankersley said.

UC's discovery was published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The Maya created this water filtration system nearly 2,000 years before similar systems were used in Europe, making it one of the oldest water treatment systems of its kind in the world, Tankersley said.

Researchers from UC's College of Arts and Sciences traced the zeolite and quartz to steep ridges around the Bajo de Azúcar about 18 miles northeast of Tikal. They used X-ray diffraction analysis to identify zeolite and crystalline quartz in the reservoir sediments.

At Tikal, zeolite was found exclusively in the Corriental reservoir.

For the ancient Maya, finding ways to collect and store clean water was of critical importance. Tikal and other Maya cities were built atop porous limestone that made ready access to drinking water difficult to obtain for much of the year during seasonal droughts.

UC geography professor and co-author Nicholas Dunning, who has studied ancient civilizations most of his career, found a likely source of the quartz and zeolite about 10 years ago while conducting fieldwork in Guatemala.

"It was an exposed, weathered volcanic tuff of quartz grains and zeolite. It was bleeding water at a good rate," he said. "Workers refilled their water bottles with it. It was locally famous for how clean and sweet the water was."

Dunning took samples of the material. UC researchers later determined the quartz and zeolite closely matched the minerals found at Tikal.

UC assistant research professor Christopher Carr, an expert in geographic information system mapping, also conducted work on the UC projects at Bajo de Azúcar and Corriental.

"It was probably through very clever empirical observation that the ancient Maya saw this particular material was associated with clean water and made some effort to carry it back," Dunning said.

UC anthropology professor emeritus Vernon Scarborough, another co-author, said most research on ancient water management has tried to explain how civilizations conserved, collected or diverted water.

"The quality of water put to potable ends has remained difficult to address," Scarborough said. "This study by our UC team has opened the research agenda by way of identifying the quality of a water source and how that might have been established and maintained."

Of course, reconstructing the lives, habits and motivations of a civilization 1,000 years ago is tricky.

"We don't have absolute proof, but we have strong circumstantial evidence," Dunning said. "Our explanation makes logical sense."

"This is what you have to do as an archaeologist," UC biologist and co-author David Lentz said. "You have to put together a puzzle with some of the pieces missing."

Lentz said the filtration system would have protected the ancient Maya from harmful cyanobacteria and other toxins that might otherwise have made people who drank from the reservoir sick.

"The ancient Maya figured out that this material produced pools of clear water," he said.

Complex water filtration systems have been observed in other ancient civilizations from Greece to Egypt to South Asia, but this is the first observed in the ancient New World, Tankersley said.

"The ancient Maya lived in a tropical environment and had to be innovators. This is a remarkable innovation," Tankersley said. "A lot of people look at Native Americans in the Western Hemisphere as not having the same engineering or technological muscle of places like Greece, Rome, India or China. But when it comes to water management, the Maya were millennia ahead."

To Adapt to a Changing Environment 400,000 Years Ago, Early Humans Developed New Tools and Behaviors

When the East African Rift Valley transformed dramatically, new weapons arose and trade expanded

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/how-dramatic-ecological-change-led-leap-forward-behavior-weapons-and-tools-180976101/?utm_source=smithsonianmag&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20201021-daily-responsive&spMailingID=43734940&spUserID=OTYyNTc5MzkyMTQyS0&spJobID=1861775378&spReportId=MTg2MTc3NTM3OAS2

Mexico asks Pope Francis for apology for church's role in Spanish conquest

Mexico's president says the Vatican should apologise for 'reprehensible atrocities' in colonisation 500 years ago

Read in The Guardian: <https://apple.news/A8Wkm49xnTRWD9FqH3W6slg>

