



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

November 14, 2022

Re: Closeout of Consultation and Coordination on Proposed Changes to the National Allocation of Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Funding

Dear Tribal Leader:

Thank you for your comments in response to EPA's consultation and coordination on proposed changes to the national Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) allocation. EPA received a broad range of input on the proposed changes. Some Tribes expressed support for changing the allocation methodology to increase funding for applying Tribes, while others expressed concerns about the potential impacts changes to the allocation methodology may have on Tribal environmental programs. Given the range of comments, EPA was requested to engage further on how regions, Tribes, and intertribal consortia utilize GAP and to further assess funding impacts prior to making a final decision. Accordingly, and after careful consideration, EPA has decided not to move forward with changes to the national allocation methodology this year.

Throughout the consultation process, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) received valuable input from Tribes to inform our forward-looking management of GAP resources. OITA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), as the National Program Manager, will ensure that GAP funding is allocated, awarded, and managed in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory provisions. In addition to fiscal management practices, OITA will continue to engage with Tribal partners on the uses of GAP and funding considerations, and advocate for additional GAP resources through EPA's budget process. Maintaining strong national program management practices of GAP, including accountability for the management of financial resources, will remain a priority for EPA.

This past year has been an exciting year for GAP. On September 30, after a thorough consultation and collaborative evaluation of the GAP Guidance, EPA published the [2022 GAP Guidance](#). The new Guidance provides flexibility, clarity, and reduced administrative burden for addressing Tribal environmental priorities in GAP. In FY23, we are turning our

attention to how we administer the new Guidance, with training and performance management at the top of our agenda.

We look forward to working with you as we continue to improve how GAP is administered to support Tribal environmental protection and public health in Indian country and throughout your communities.

Sincerely,

Wright, Felicia Digitally signed by Wright, Felicia
Date: 2022.11.14 17:55:08 -05'00'

Felicia Wright
Acting Director, American Indian Environmental Office

Cc:

Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs
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