

November 11, 2023

Comments and Recommendations by Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay

Included in this document are comments and recommendations for the CA Water Commission's draft white paper "*Potential State Strategies for Protecting Communities and Fish and Wildlife in the Event of Drought.*" File:

November2023_Item_12_Attach_1_FinalDraftWhitePaper_Final

My comments and Recommendations highlighted in [blue font](#).

[Recommend providing definition for the following:](#)

Tribe – meaning "California Native American Tribe".

CA Native American Tribe – In State of California, this includes both federally and non-federally recognized

Indian Land – reservations, rancherias, villages, colony, and allotments

Page 1 – Comment: [Appreciate the capitalization of "Tribe" and the sequence – first on the list of entities involved with this report: ...](#) Over the course of 18 months, the Commission talked with hundreds of people from Tribes, local government, water districts, communities, non-profit organizations, academia, special districts, local and State agencies, agriculture, environmental groups, and other states and countries" ...

Page 6 – Comment: [The report outlines major events from 2020 through December 2022. In this section, recommend connecting with CA Department of Water Resources' Tribal Affairs office on a summary paragraph regarding the CA Tribal Water Summit held in April 2023. Also, since our January through March 2023, California experienced historical high-level rain fall – I not sure where this would fit in the report – but should be included.](#)

Page 7 – Comment: [Are Tribes involve with the Kings River's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\), if so, add in underline text. On the report ...](#) In the Kings River watershed, advancements in forecasting are the result of a highly collaborative process between **Tribes**, State, local, and federal entities." ...

Page 12 - Box: Drought and Wildfire

Comment – [good focus. Appreciate including this statement](#) "...Tribal Ecological Knowledge also included the safe and providing locations for living – both long-term and season living area. Today, we have living sites located in dense forest and drought (low water storage) areas."

Page 16 – Comment: [good to have include:](#)

"...Potential State Actions

1. For small and/or rural, disadvantaged communities and Tribes, design climate disaster funding that allows for nimble, efficient response to on-the-ground

emergencies. a. Support Tribes', local governments', and non-governmental organizations' drought response capacity. "

Page 17 - Box: Tribes and Drought

Comment: Through outreach, communication, collaboration, and/or consultation, CA Native American Tribe(s) **may** require state support. Add in underline text.

..." To prevent knowledge extraction and misappropriation, it is critical that Tribal communities lead the implementation of these efforts **and if necessary**, with support from the State."

Page 17 - Box: Tribes and Drought

Comment: In this section, maybe add in the 2023 CA Tribal Water Summit summary. I defer to the CA Department of Water Resources' Tribal Affairs office.

I reviewed these sections of the report:

1. Scale Up Groundwater Recharge:
 - Action 2(c)iii - **Comment: good**
2. Conduct Watershed-level Planning to Reduce Drought Impacts to Ecosystems
 - Action 6(b) - **Comment: good**
 - Action 7(c) - **Comment: good**
 - Action 8(h) - **Comment: good**
3. Better Position Communities to Prepare for and Respond to Drought Emergencies
 - Action 1(a) - **Comment: good**
 - Action 1(c) - **Comment: good**
4. Support Improved Coordination, Information, and Communication in Drought and Non-drought Years
 - Action 1(d) - **Comment: good**

Page 16 – Comment: It is important to include Tribal Allotees – since Allotment land owners do not receive any major funding for safe drinking water and water waste systems. Tribal Allotments are very underserved communities. Add in underlined text: "...Potential State Actions

1. For small and/or rural, disadvantaged communities and Tribes, design climate disaster funding that allows for nimble, efficient response to on-the-ground emergencies.

- a. Support Tribes', **Tribal Allotees**, local governments', and non-governmental organizations' drought response capacity."

Page 16 – Comment: Appreciate including "Tribal lands" for mapping.

... "Strategy 3: Better Position Communities to Prepare for and Respond to Drought Emergencies

Potential State Actions

2. Ramp up efforts to improve water system resiliency and actions to increase supply reliability for communities and encourage regional approaches to water resource management.

f. Further a better understanding of Tribal water needs and consider including **Tribal lands** on State maps of hydrological regions.” (Page 16)”.

Page 23 - Comment: [Appreciate including this statement:](#) ...” Action 5.1.2. Support Tribal Engagement in Programs, Projects, and Activities Respectful of Tribal Beneficial Use Designations”.

[Overall, very good report and appreciate the outreach and consideration of Tribal input.](#)

Comments by Dr. Donna Miranda-Begay

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