



OEHHA - CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee Report Fourth Quarter (October- December 2025)

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is the lead entity within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) for assessing health risks posed by environmental chemicals. As part of OEHHA's participation in the TAC, we submit a quarterly report to CalEPA informing Tribes of activities that may be of interest, consultations, and projects. Tribes are welcome to [contact OEHHA](#) at any time with questions or for assistance.

Consultations

Consultations during Q4: 0

Tribal Activities Update

OEHHA's tribal liaison attended the December TAC meeting hosted by the CalEPA and the Lone Band of Miwok Indians. Highlights of OEHHA activities between October and December 2025 that may be of interest to Tribes come primarily from the following projects.

1. [Fish Consumption Advisories](#)
2. [HAB-related illnesses](#)
3. [Indicators of Climate Change in California](#)
4. [CalEnviroScreen and DAC Designation](#)
5. [CalHeatScore](#)
6. [Pesticide-related Illnesses](#)
7. [Trainings/Meetings](#)

1. Fish Consumption Advisories

OEHHA's fish advisories provide "safe eating guidelines" that recommend how often people can safely eat fish caught from California water bodies. They are based on sampling results for persistent chemicals in common fish species that people catch and

eat from California water bodies. OEHHA released new advisories in 2025 for Cachuma Lake (August, Santa Barbara County), [Hodges Reservoir](#) (October, San Diego County), [Mammoth Creek](#) (November, Mono County), [Bass Lake](#) (December, Madera County), and , and updated advisories for Lake Combie (April, Nevada and Placer Counties) Lake Mendocino (June, Mendocino County), and Soulajule Reservoir (September, Marin County). The advisories are available at <https://oehha.ca.gov/fish/advisories>.

OEHHA Fish Advisory Development Priorities

OEHHA is assisting the State Water Boards with the development of a [Tribally-centered Fish Consumption Application](#) to provide Native American Tribes and members of the public who consume fish for cultural and subsistence purposes with transparent and accessible information. Additionally, results from OEHHA's most recent water body [prioritization](#) were presented at the [Safe to Eat Workgroup \(STEW\)](#) on October 29, 2025. OEHHA staff are participating in the Delta Stewardship Council's [Science for Communities](#) program with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

2. HAB-related illnesses

OEHHA investigates and tracks potentially Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB)-related illnesses as part of the [California Interagency HAB-related Illness Workgroup](#). Nearly 10% of all California freshwater HAB-related illnesses in humans, domestic animals, and wildlife from 2018 – 2024 are associated with Clear Lake. OEHHA regularly engages with the Big Valley Rancheria Environmental Protection Department to ensure that HAB data are used to benefit both scientific research and the local community living around or engaging with Clear Lake.

HAB-related Illness Workgroup and Cal-WATCH updates

OEHHA, as part of the [California Interagency HAB-related Illness Workgroup](#), participates in and provides regular updates at the [California Cyanobacteria Harmful Algal Bloom](#) (CCHAB) Network meetings. CCHAB meetings are co-chaired by the Big Valley Rancheria Environmental Protection Department (EPD) Director, Sarah Ryan, and are open to representatives of other California Tribal communities. OEHHA provides scientific expertise at biweekly meetings as part of the [California Water Assessment of Toxins for Community Health](#) (Cal-WATCH) project, along with Big Valley Rancheria's EPD, to monitor and address ongoing HAB-related drinking water concerns in the Clear Lake community.

3. Indicators of Climate Change in California

OEHHA is continuing to collaborate with 9 California Tribes on additions and updates for the fifth edition of the Indicators of Climate Change in California report. OEHHA works with California Native American Tribes (both federally and non-federally recognized) and, with their permission, publishes information on the unique impacts that they face from climate change. The unique impacts of climate change on California Tribes were first included in OEHHA's fourth Indicators of Climate Change in California report, which was released in November 2022.

On October 12th, 2025, the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and OEHHA premiered the 3rd video in the series “California Tribes and Climate Change: Voices from the Frontlines,” featuring interviews with members of the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribal Council. The video was shown at Nisenan Heritage Day in Nevada City and can be found on both [the Tribe’s](#) and [OEHHA’s](#) YouTube channels.

4. CalEnviroScreen and DAC Designation

OEHHA develops [CalEnviroScreen](#), an environmental justice mapping tool used to identify California communities burdened by multiple sources of pollution and vulnerable to its effects. During the October to December 2025 time period, OEHHA prepared for the release of draft of CalEnviroScreen 5.0, which will come out in January 2026. Leading to the update, OEHHA engaged in a co-design process with community-based organizations to inform proposed updates to the tool. Tribal engagement efforts for CalEnviroScreen 5.0 focused on addressing tribal data gaps, and the CalEnviroScreen team developed an approach to represent tribal water systems. OEHHA looks forward to sharing and receiving input on the draft with the TAC and California tribes.

SB535 Map Updates

CalEPA uses CalEnviroScreen to designate [disadvantaged communities \(DACs\)](#), which are prioritized for the state’s climate investments. Federally recognized Tribal lands are designated as DACs. Federally recognized Tribes who would like to add additional Tribal lands to the map are welcome to consult with OEHHA at any time. The current SB535 map, which incorporated additional Tribal lands, is available [online](#).

5. CalHeatScore

The California Communities Extreme Heat Scoring System ([CalHeatScore](#)) is an online extreme heat ranking and early warning system that launched at the beginning of 2025. The purpose of CalHeatScore is to reduce heat-related illness and save lives by translating meteorological, weather, and health data into easy-to-understand heat risk alerts. This tool raises awareness of extreme heat events and empowers parents, older adults, caregivers, and communities to plan for, mitigate, and survive extreme heat events. CalHeatScore is committed to prioritizing the most vulnerable populations and ensuring that everyone has the information they need to stay safe during extreme heat.

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure the tool is accessible and culturally responsive, CalHeatScore launched an initiative to engage with Tribes. As part of a contract between the Department of Land Use, Climate & Innovation and the UCLA Luskin center, Tribes were identified as a key group to engage with via a cohort process. These cohorts are focused discussions between Tribes, Tribal Representatives, and OEHHA to learn about how extreme heat impacts Tribes, how they develop resilience to extreme heat, and how the CalHeatScore tool could be used among Tribal Nations. The tribal cohort consisted of five tribes, and the cohort met three times between September and December 2025. The formal cohort process ended in December, but the CalHeatScore team formed important partnerships with these tribes and plan to continue consultation into 2026. This engagement is helping develop a more effective

plan to integrate Tribal knowledge and priorities into the tool, ensuring that CalHeatScore better serves Tribes in addressing the growing public health threat of extreme heat.

6. Pesticide-Related Illnesses

OEHHA continues to offer medical education on the health effects of pesticide exposure to health professionals, including those working with Tribes. Tribal engagement in pesticide-related illness prevention focuses on ensuring that tribes have access to relevant information and can participate in discussions on exposure risks. OEHHA's engagement strategy includes ongoing collaboration with Tribes to address concerns related to pesticide exposure.

With input from the Pesticide Working Group, OEHHA continues to develop a story map webpage. This resource will provide pesticide exposure prevention strategies tailored to Tribal lifeways, as well as information on the health effects of pesticides and resources for both clinicians and patients.

7. Tribal meetings/Trainings

- [Safe to Eat Workgroup \(STEW\)](#) presentation on OEHHA's water body [prioritization](#) (October 2025)
- Nisenan Heritage Day (October 2025) premiere of 3rd video in the series, "California Tribes and Climate Change: Voices from the Frontlines" featuring Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribal Council members.
- Delta Stewardship Council's [Science for Communities](#) program with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (participation)
- [Localizing California Waters Conference](#) (October 2025): a representative from the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe presented data from their Impacts of Climate Change report; 2 OEHHA partners attended
- [Sierra Nevada Tribal Summit](#) (October 2025): attendance and informal outreach on behalf of the TAC
- National Tribal Resilience Data Workgroup (ongoing participation)