



**BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE OF THE OWENS VALLEY**  
*Big Pine Indian Reservation*

March 3, 2009


Dear Interested Party:

The Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (Tribe) is conducting a triennial review of the Big Pine Tribal Water Quality Standards approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on January 24, 2006 for waters located within the boundaries of the Big Pine Indian Reservation. This triennial review is required by Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act. At this time, the Tribe is not proposing to revise the current Water Quality Standards. As a part of this triennial review, a public hearing was held for the tribal community to solicit comments to the Tribal Environmental Department regarding the Tribe's Water Quality Standards on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The Tribe is now requesting comment from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other interested parties to ensure that the Tribe's Water Quality Standards meet public concerns, reflect new scientific and technical information, and follow EPA guidelines.

The Tribe's Water Quality Standards are for waters within the boundaries of the Big Pine Indian Reservation, specifically, for Big Pine Creek, which crosses the northwest corner of the Reservation. Big Pine Creek is the only natural waterbody flowing through the Reservation, and is the only surface water that the Tribe has water quality standards for. These water quality standards were approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Clean Water Act which recognizes tribal authority over the "Management and protection of water resources...within the borders of an Indian Reservation".

The Tribe's Water Quality Standards were established to protect public health and aquatic life, and to maintain or enhance water quality in relation to the beneficial uses of the water. These Water Quality Standards are based primarily on those established by the California State Regional Water Quality Board, Lahontan District, for Big Pine Creek. However, in instances when the state standards varied from acceptable federal standards, the federal standards were incorporated. These Tribal Water Quality Standards provide the basis for a regulatory program administered by the Big Pine Tribe to protect its water resources presently and in the future.

The Tribe requests that comments be submitted within thirty days of this letter. Comments can be submitted by email at the above address or can be mailed to: Big Pine Tribal Office, P.O. Box 700, 825 South Main Street, Big Pine, CA 93513. If you would like a copy of the Tribe's Water Quality Standards or if you should have any questions, please contact me at 760-938-2325 or by email at [abacock@gmail.com](mailto:abacock@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  


Alan Bacock  
Water Program Coordinator