

California's Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program Tribally-centered Fish Consumption Application Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting Summary



Tuesday, March 10, 2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The goal of this meeting was to share updates on the Tribally-centered Fish Consumption Application in development, and get TAC feedback on key decisions.

Attendees

Tribal Advisory Committee Members (listed alphabetically by Tribal Affiliation):

- Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians: Sarah Ryan (Environmental Director)
- Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria: Anira G'Acha (Environmental Director)
- Cherokee: Gladys Bustos (Tribal member)
- Coastal Defenders: Coach Jackson (Founder, Nanticoke People)
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation: Terri McCartney (Environmental Director)
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians: Zach Gigone (Environmental Scientist)
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians: Daniela Mejia (Water Quality Technician)

TAC Members invited but not able to attend:

- California Indian Environmental Alliance: Sherri Norris (Executive Director)
- Enterprise Rancheria: Debie Rasmussen (Environmental Director)
- Eskuin Tribe: Jessica Lopez (Tribal Chair)
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation: Sarah Schaefer (Environmental Director)
- Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians: Luis Santana (Fish & Wildlife Director) & Gloria Mitchell (Tribal Elder)
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation: Monica Hiner (Environmental Division Manager) & Brittney Ford (Tribal Resource Specialist)

Invited Guests:

- California State Water Resources Control Board: Nate Blacksmith (Tribal Affairs Manager)
- San Francisco Estuary Institute: Jay Davis (Clean Water Program Director)
- US EPA: Renee Jordan Ward (Fish Contamination Education Collaborative - Palos Verdes Shelf)

Project Team:

- California State Water Resources Control Board: Anna Holder (Project Lead), Devan Burke (Environmental Scientist), Hannah Merges (CA Sea Grant Fellow)
- San Francisco Estuary Institute: Tony Hale (Program Director for Environmental Informatics), Gemma Shusterman (Software Engineering Manager), Cristina Grosso (Managing Technical Director), Lorenzo Flores (Software Engineer)
- Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment: Wes Smith (Senior Toxicologist), Tran Pham (Research Scientist)
 - Loren Chumney (Environmental Scientist) was not able to attend

Welcome & Grounding

The Project Team welcomed attendees to the second Tribally-centered Fish Consumption Application TAC Meeting, and went over meeting logistics.

Attendees reviewed and approved meeting agreements: to respect one another, be constructive, be engaged, and be respectful of each other's time.

Project Refresher

The Project Team provided a brief overview of the project goals, timeline, scope, and a recap from the last TAC Meeting.

The goals and timeline of the project are also summarized on the [Project Webpage](#); the project scope is also described in the [Work Plan](#).

The recap of the Dec 2025 TAC meeting underscored the TACs desire to co-create language pertaining to health impacts associated with fish consumption, how that shows up in the application, and why it matters for Tribal consumers.

After the Dec TAC meeting, 10 individuals completed the 2026 availability and interest poll. Poll results and corresponding decisions were reviewed and discussed, including:

- 2026 TAC meeting dates were selected based on the most popular poll results.
- A proposal to establish a Focus Group (more details described below)
- Guidance on how to list TAC members on the Project Webpage.

Review and Approval of Dec 2025 TAC Meeting Summary

The Project Team shared an overview of the Dec 2025 TAC Meeting Summary document and highlighted specific sections that require TAC review and approval.

Although the three TAC members present at the time of this overview approved posting the document to the Project Webpage as-is, the Project Team wanted to give other TAC members more time to review and approve posting before they are actually posted.

Application Development Process, Update & Feedback

The Project Team shared an update on where they are with the application development process and revised draft mockups that illustrated updates made according to discussions and feedback received at or after the Dec TAC meeting.

TAC discussion of the application structure and mockups included:

- The importance of including where official [OEHHA Fish Consumption Advisories and Safe Eating Guidelines](#) exist and links to the official advisories somewhere in the application.
 - If possible, also include a note of which water bodies OEHHA has prioritized for development of a new or updated advisory in the future.
 - Include an explanation of how the recommendations in the app may differ from OEHHA advisories somewhere in the application documentation.
 - A recommendation for future iterations of the application to include whole body and filet comparisons (OEHHA only provides recommendations for skin-off filets).
- A note that it can be difficult for Tribes to submit their data to multiple places (e.g., US EPA's Water Quality Exchange [\[WQX\]](#) vs. the California Environmental Data Exchange Network [\[CEDEN\]](#)) and that has historically resulted in Tribal data not being used in Water Boards processes or in OEHHA Fish Advisories in ways Tribes would like.
 - For this phase of the project,
 - data will be pulled from CEDEN to ensure calculation and guidance provided in the application are in alignment with OEHHA's Advisories.
 - a note should be added to the application's "Data" tab about what Tribal data are used in the application and where it is pulled from.

- In future phases of the project,
 - the application should pull data from additional data sources (e.g., WQX, other public Tribal data repositories)
 - the Project Team, with guidance from the TAC, should develop and specify a process by which Tribes can easily share their data so that it is incorporated into the application in future updates.
- **TAC Approval** to collect counties that are selected by application users. No other information about the user or their selections within the application will be collected.
 - TAC member(s) requested that, in the future, using this data to identify which watersheds are of interest to application users and to provide those summaries publicly in some way would be helpful.
 - TAC members(s) also noted the importance of acknowledging that any summaries or analysis of these data only represent those who use the application, and likely will not accurately represent what is being gathered and consumed by all Tribal individuals statewide.

Comparison with the Gigiigoo'inaan Application

The Project Team also provided more details about the Gigiigoo'inaan Application (Our Fish App), which was used as inspiration for this project and process.

Key differences between the Gigiigoo'inaan App and the application being developed through this process were described by the Project Team (summarized in table below).

Gigiigoo'inaan Application	California Application
Geographic scope of the application is limited to the Great Lakes	Geographic scope of the application will be limited to California water bodies
Application is available for download in app stores - listed as "MCWGiigooApp"	Application will not be available through app stores
Users are invited to set up an account to use the application	Registration for an account will neither be encouraged nor required
User name is solicited	User name will not be solicited
Use of maps is limited	Will feature more waterbodies and maps
App centers Tribal culture through the inclusion of recipes, indigenous names of species, art	How this app centers Tribal culture will be determined by this TAC.

TAC discussion of the different applications included:

- A note that this project and the development of this application is well suited for partnerships with: Tribal Health Consortiums, Tribal Organizations that work on health communication, California Indian Water Commission, etc..
 - The Project Team would be happy to invite representatives from these organizations to join this TAC now. TAC members can do either of the following and Project Team will invite those contacts to join the TAC:
 - contact representatives directly and include anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov to initiate introductions
 - send anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov contact information
- A recommendation to include a graph in the CA application (similar to what is available in the Gigiigoo'inaan Application) that compares pollutant (e.g., Mercury) levels of different species at a single water body.
- A recommendation to enable users to select or view multiple species at once, and/or show which species might have a similar or lower risk of consumption in a water body compared to what the user is viewing on the "Recommendations" tab.

Focus Group Proposal

Because some TAC members expressed interest in contributing to certain aspects of the project outside of TAC meetings, the Project Team proposed the development of a Focus Group.

- The Focus Group would be composed of TAC members and invited guests that would opt-into attending additional meetings that would enable them to provide more regular and iterative feedback on select topics (e.g., development, review, and approval of language pertaining to health impacts associated with fish consumption, how that shows up in the application and related documentation, and why it matters for Tribal consumers).
- The Focus Group would meet, at most, once per month between Apr - Jun 2026
- All TAC members would be given access to working documents and would be welcome to provide feedback asynchronously and without having to attend Focus Group meetings.
- A scheduling poll will be sent to the TAC to determine when monthly meetings will be scheduled. TAC members that complete the poll will be invited to Focus Group meetings, and anyone on the TAC may opt-in or opt-out of the Focus Group at any time.

Additional recommendations or feedback shared by TAC members included:

- A note that there may be interest to open up review of the application with Tribal youth to promote education, leadership, and guardianship development.

Next Steps & Adjourn

Project Team Action Items

- By Mar 20, 2026 - Share the following with Meeting Attendees for review and feedback:
 - Meeting Summary Notes (including slides and recording for reference)
 - Scheduling poll for Focus Group (responses due within 5 days: Mar 25)
 - Directions on how to oppose posting Dec notes to webpage
- By Mar 30, 2026 - Update [Project Webpage](#) to include TAC & Invited Guest Names, Titles & Affiliations (according to approvals)
- Send email invitations to recommended prospective TAC members
- Continue development of application & documentation based on TAC meeting conversations

TAC Attendees Action Items

- By Mar 25, 2026 - Respond to Focus Group Scheduling Poll
- By Apr 20, 2026 - Review and provide feedback on:
 - Mar Meeting Summary Notes
 - If you **oppose** publishing the Dec TAC Meeting Summary Notes on the webpage, or if you would like revisions made before posting.
- Ongoing - Initiate introductions or send contact information to anna.holder@waterboards.ca.gov for recommended prospective TAC members.

Other Useful Links

The links below were provided before the meeting or shared during or shortly after the meeting, but are not already provided above:

- [Gigiigoo'inaan App \(Our Fish App\) webpage](#) - with links to download the app, access articles about its development, and educational fliers
- [TAC Fact Sheet](#) - good for sharing with colleagues who you think might be interested in joining the TAC