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



Tuesday, June 9, 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)
- California Indian Environmental Alliance: Michelle Rivera (Project Assistant)
- Cherokee: Gladys Bustos (Tribal member)
- Quartz Valley Indian Reservation: Sarah Schaefer (Environmental Director)
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians: Zach Gigone (Environmental Scientist)
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation: Brittney Ford (Tribal Resource Specialist)
- Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians: Daniela Mejia (Water Quality Technician)

TAC Members not able to attend:

- California Indian Environmental Alliance: Sherri Norris (Executive Director)
- Coastal Defenders: Coach Jackson (Founder, Nanticoke People)
- Enterprise Rancheria: Debie Rasmussen (Environmental Director)
- Eskuin Tribe: Jessica Lopez (Tribal Chair)
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation: Terri McCartney (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)

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), Cristina Grosso (Managing Technical Director)
 - Gemma Shusterman (Software Engineering Manager), Lorenzo Flores (Software Engineer) were not able to attend
- 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 third 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.

Review and Approval of Dec 2025 & Mar 2026 TAC Meeting Summaries

The Project Team shared an overview of the Dec 2025 and Mar 2026 TAC Meeting Summaries and highlighted specific sections that require TAC review and approval.

Attendees reviewed and advised on whether to share past meeting summaries and associated recordings:

- Dec 2025 Meeting Decisions:
 - Meeting Summary - Post on [Project Webpage](#)
 - Recording - Don't delete until after the end of Phase 1 (April 2027)
- Mar 2026 Meeting Decisions:
 - Meeting Summary - More time is needed to review before determining if it can be posted. Approval to post will be confirmed at the Sep TAC meeting.
 - Recording - Don't delete until after the end of Phase 1 (April 2027)

During the Mar 2026 Meeting summary review, TAC discussion also included an overview of data sources that will be used in the application during Phase 1:

- TAC attendees raised questions and concerns about only using data from the California Environmental Data Exchange Network ([CEDEN](#)), and recommended also using data from US EPA's Water Quality Exchange ([WQX](#)), which contains data from federally recognized Tribes, federal agencies like the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), and other non-Tribal organizations that may be required to submit their data to the US EPA as part of their funding responsibilities.
- TAC attendees also noted that Tribal data in WQX may be more recent than data in CEDEN, although some investigation into respective dates is needed to confirm this.
- The Project Team noted that:
 - data would be pulled from CEDEN during Phase 1 to establish a proof of concept for the application and to ensure calculation and guidance provided in the application are in alignment with OEHHA's Advisories.
 - as soon as the CEDEN workflows are implemented, the integration of other data sources, like WQX, would be scoped out and pursued. This may be accomplished in Phase 1, however more progress in application development must be made before that can be confirmed.
 - the vast majority of the data used in [OEHHA Fish Advisories](#) comes from CEDEN. Specifically, over 90% of the data used in advisories come from the Water Board's [Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program](#) (SWAMP).

Review of May 2026 Focus Group (FG) Meeting

The Project Team shared an overview of what was discussed during the May 2026 FG meeting and described the origin and purpose of the editable document of proposed site language (i.e., Application Language Review & Feedback Document).

The Application Language Review & Feedback Document was shared with the entire TAC shortly after the FG Meeting (May 4) and FG members agreed to try and review and provide feedback in the Document by June 1, 2026. No feedback was received by the time of the June 10, 2026 TAC Meeting.

Application Development Update, Discussions & Feedback

The Project Team shared an update on where they are with the application development, a summary of technical and informational hurdles to overcome, and an overview of revised draft mockups of the application.

Technical hurdles include:

- Geographic definition for waterbodies (including stream reaches and extents)
- Calculations of toxicity averages
- Consumption thresholds for sensitive populations
- Allow users be to select waterbody from a map - already being implemented in the application
- How to deal with data gaps with respect to recommendations - proposed approach is to default to [OEHHA Statewide Fish Consumption Advisories](#)

Informational hurdles include:

- Require Focus Group reviewed and revised content for the application's "About" and "Eating Fish Safely" pages
- Require a name for the application

TAC discussion of the application updates included:

- A brainstorm of potential application names (Safe to Eat App, Safe Fishing App, Fishing Consumption App) and a note that the name should include 'Tribal' because it is for all folks and we don't want to unintentionally exclude users.
- Recommendation to not refer to fish that may have high pollution and health risks as "bad fish" as those could actually be culturally important fish
- Recommendation to change the question in the application "Are you a person who can become pregnant?" to "Are you a person who is pregnant or could become pregnant?"
 - **TAC Approved** to make this change in the application now.
- Whether the application would be able to automatically know a user's location and jump to that in the initial map.
 - The Project Team noted that this sort of feature would require the collection of more than the user's county of interest, which the TAC did not approve in the last meeting. If the TAC decides this feature is important to include in the future, we can revise the application accordingly after the TAC officially approves that change.

- Recommended features or information to include in future work, including:
 - To see a comparison of recommendations for nearby waterbodies
 - To state whether or not a fish is native
 - A space in the application that describes the science behind the recommendations, why and how fish have become unsafe to eat, etc.
 - The Project Team noted that the Eating Fish Safely page is meant to include this sort of information and encouraged TAC review of the current draft language and recommendations on what additional or different information should be included.
 - Acknowledgement that the bioaccumulative process is complex and specific to each species and waterbody, so determining how much detail, specificity, and technical information that is described on the Eating Fish Safely page will require consideration and care to ensure we are providing sufficient educational and contextual information without overwhelming users.
- Whether and to what extent the current [Safe to Eat Portal](#) and the application in development will be shared and managed.
 - The Project Team noted that the current [Safe to Eat Portal](#) is no longer funded or maintained by the [SWAMP Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program](#), and the data used in that Portal only goes to 2017. The plan is to replace the Safe to Eat Portal with the Application in development as soon as it is ready to share publicly, which will include the removal of the Safe to Eat Portal from all SWAMP and Safe to Eat Workgroup webpages.

Next Steps & Adjourn

Project Team Action Items

- By Jun 25, 2026 - Share the Jun 2026 Meeting Summary (including slides and recording for reference) with TAC for review and feedback
- By Jun 30, 2026 - Add the Dec 2025 Meeting Summary to the [Project Webpage](#)
- Send email invitations to recommended prospective TAC members
- Continue development of application & documentation based on TAC meeting conversations

TAC Attendees Action Items

- By Jun 30, 2026 - *Focus Group Members* (all TAC welcome) to review and provide feedback on the Application Language Review & Feedback Document
- By Jul 31, 2026 - Review and provide feedback on the Mar 2026 and Jun 2026 Meeting Summaries
- 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:

- [TAC Fact Sheet](#), [Project Webpage](#) and [Work Plan](#) - good for sharing with colleagues who you think might be interested in joining the TAC