



WESTERN STATES WATER COUNCIL

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Web Page: www.westgov.org/wswc

March 31, 2006

Carol Jorgensen
American Indian Environmental Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA East 3334, MC-4104M
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Ms. Jorgensen:

On behalf of the Western States Water Council, I am writing to commend EPA for its efforts in establishing the Tribal Water Program Council (TWPC). We believe the TWPC will offer Tribes an important mechanism for coordinating their environmental management programs, and we hope it will offer an ongoing opportunity for state-tribal cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

In this regard, we would suggest that the TWPC be managed by a tribal-based group. We have worked with one of the applicants, the National Tribal Environmental Council, and we believe they are a well qualified applicant. Having not reviewed the other applications, we are unable to provide any specific endorsement.

We look forward to working with EPA and the TWPC once it is established.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hal D. Simpson".

Hal Simpson, Chair
Western States Water Council