



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 13, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General  
Report No. [21-E-0254](#), *Pandemic Highlights Need for Additional Tribal Drinking  
Water Assistance and Oversight in EPA Regions 9 and 10*, issued September 27, 2021

**FROM:** Sean W. O'Donnell

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sean W O'Donnell", is placed to the right of the "FROM:" line.

**TO:** Deborah Jordan, Acting Administrator  
Region 9

Thank you for your November 23, 2021 memorandum, which outlines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's revised planned corrective actions and estimated completion dates for the four unresolved recommendations addressed to you in the subject Office of Inspector General report. Recommendation 4 was previously resolved. Based on the information and supporting documentation provided, we agree that the revised planned corrective actions meet the intent of Recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5.

For Recommendation 1, Region 9 committed to implementing a strategy to provide outreach, training, guidance, and technical and financial assistance to tribal drinking water systems to improve their resilience using the tools developed and grants distributed by the EPA in accordance with the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018.

For Recommendation 2, Region 9 agreed with the OIG's final report recommendation to develop and implement a strategy to help the direct implementation of the tribal drinking water program, including resuming sanitary surveys and inspections in a manner that considers the restrictions of each tribe due to the coronavirus pandemic.

For Recommendation 3, Region 9 committed to developing a plan to prioritize and address the recommendations identified in EPA headquarters' file review for Region 9.

For Recommendation 5, Region 9 committed to developing a workforce analysis to address staff workload and the skills needed for the direct implementation of the tribal drinking water program. Region 9 has provided reasonable intermediate milestones detailing the work it will do to complete this recommendation.

We consider these recommendations resolved with corrective actions pending. You should track implementation of the corrective actions in the Agency's audit tracking system until all actions are completed.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at [www.epa.gov/oig](http://www.epa.gov/oig).

cc: Mendy Guan, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 9  
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