



## Radon Testing Program

During the months of January and February, the Environmental and Air Quality Department initiated its radon testing program. Testing radon concentrations is important because radon is a known cancer causing gas. Radon gas is produced by the radioactive decay of the element Uranium, found in near all soil types. Radon typically moves up through the ground to the air above, then into the home through cracks and other openings in the foundation. Homes and buildings trap radon inside, where radon levels can build up. You can't see, smell, or taste radon. But it may be a problem in your home.

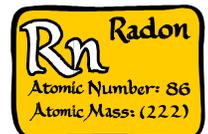
Radon is estimated to cause many thousands of deaths each year. Breathing air with high concentrations of radon over a long period of time can greatly increase the risk of lung cancer. In fact, the Surgeon General has warned that radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States today. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. If you smoke and your home has high radon levels, your risk of lung cancer is especially high.

Radon test kits have been deployed in Tribal buildings and homes, in sets of ten. The test kits are left in the home or building for 7 days. After the 7 day test, the kits are collected and sent to the US EPA's Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory in Las Vegas for analysis. Testing results are received from the lab on a monthly basis. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, a combination of fifty buildings and homes on the reservation had been tested for radon. The Environmental and Air Quality Department has received results for tests completed during the months of January and February. For the results received thus far, approximately 30% of the buildings/homes tested have been in the "high" category, or above 4 pico curies per liter. The US EPA suggests mitigating buildings with radon levels above 4 pico curies per liter.

Homes and buildings on the Reservation that test in the "high" category for the 7 day test may or may not have a radon problem. Seven day tests are always conducted in the winter months when radon concentrations in the home are usually highest. Indoor radon concentrations are usually highest in the winter months for several reasons. First, the home is usually closed off from outside air during the winter. Second, the pressure gradient between the outside environment and inside the home causes air from below the home to move up into the home through cracks and openings in the foundation. During warmer months, indoor radon concentrations can be considerably lower. This is due in part to better circulation of outside air through the home. Better circulation results from opening windows and doors and through the use of fans and evaporative cooling systems that draw in air from the outside. Also, the pressure gradient between the outside environment and inside the home is reversed from winter conditions. Air from the lower elevations of the home is pushed down and out of the home through cracks and openings in the foundation.

A long term radon test is required to see if a building or home has sustained high radon concentrations. Long term tests can run from three months to one year. Long term tests are usually conducted in warmer months when better air circulation conditions exist. Long term test results can then be averaged with short term test results to see if the home has an actual radon problem.

The Environmental and Air Quality Department has received 150 long term radon test kits from the California State Radon Office. The long term tests will be placed in buildings and homes that have tested above 4 pico curies per liter during the 7 day test. If long term testing of these buildings and homes results in sustained radon levels above 4 pico curies per liter, it is highly recommended that the building/home be mitigated for radon.



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## Environmental Department News

Mel O. Joseph, Environmental Director • Cynthia Naha, Water Quality Coordinator • Janice McRoberts, GAP Coordinator

### Renewable Energy Workshop

The Bishop Paiute Development Corporation and the Bishop Paiute Tribe hosted a 3-day workshop on Renewable Energy Tribal Community Development held on February 16-18, 2010. This workshop was a coordinated effort in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Growing Green Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Presenters for the workshop included: Selim Sandoval of Growing Green Energy and Green the Rez Campaign, Roger Taylor, Kimberly Craven and Sandra Begay-Campbell of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Denver, CO.

Presenters provided the participants with a basic understanding of what renewable energy is, how it works, and the concepts that allow these technologies to work. Some of the sessions presented included "The Global and U.S. Energy Picture", "Terminology", "Mapping Your Tribal Energy Baseline", and more. Participants also learned about the different options of renewable energy that are available for Tribal Development, these include: solar (big and small operations), wind, geothermal, hydro power, and others. Examples were given on how various tribal nations, like the Blackfeet Reservation and the Aqua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, throughout Indian Country are venturing more into renewable energy technologies to curb our fossil fuel dependency.

A hands on activity was also conducted in which participants mapped out their reservations and included the current existing infrastructure located within their reservations. For example: homes, buildings, roads, and other details that showcased their communities. After participants finished the maps of existing infrastructure, they were then instructed to list and design what types of future developments and/or infrastructure they would like to see in their communities, including renewable energy.

Participants also watched a few videos that highlighted the efforts of different communities around the world that are creating a "green" environment through the transition from fossil fuel dependency to renewable energy, growing their own foods, reducing their carbon footprints, and basically...changing their lifestyles to living more sustainably. One movie was based on Cuba and their need to change their entire economy and livelihood with the fall of the Soviet Union. Because most of Cuba's imports came from the former U.S.S.R., they had no choice but to modify their lifestyle and rely more on their own homegrown foods as opposed to the luxuries that were once imported. All in all, it was a very good documentary that showed how one island nation overcame their obstacles and were able to create a sustainable community after much trials and errors.

As participants at the workshop, the GAP Coordinator and Water Quality Coordinator enjoyed the time they spent learning about the options Tribal Nations have when venturing into renewable energy, creating their map, and most importantly, interacting with the other tribal participants in networking and building capacity for the potential Owens Valley Tribal Renewable Energy efforts.

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Since 2004 the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation/Lone Pine Fire Safe Council has offered a hassle free way to recycle community Christmas trees. This year a record 466 trees were collected. To date, 752 trees have been chipped and spread around tribal dirt parking areas helping to reduce PM dust emissions.

### Reservation Roads Clean-up

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental and Air Quality staff participated in the Reservation Roads Cleanup. The event was a huge success with over 150 volunteers collecting 145 bags of trash from the all reservation roadways, the Tribe's adopt-a-highway section and Substation Road all the way to the Inyo County Landfill. Volunteers participating were eligible to receive a free Disneyland pass as part of Disney's Give-a-Day Get-a-Disney Day promotion. Participants travelled from as far away as Fresno, Sacramento and Tonopah, NV.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATES.....

#### Production Well 416 in Lone Pine

On February 1, 2010, LA DWP began the Initial Operation of Well 416. All of the nearby trigger wells were equipped with data loggers, including LPPSR's domestic wells, to measure water levels automatically. The collected data was downloaded on a daily basis from Monday through Friday by DWP staff. On Fridays when DWP staff was not working, staff from the Inyo County Water Department downloaded the data. The Reservation domestic well data loggers were downloaded every Tuesday (data loggers in the domestic wells recorded readings every 15 minutes). The collected trigger well water level data was transmitted to the Environmental Department on a daily basis for review. The Initial operation of the testing period was agreed to last for the duration of one month, however, because the water level in two of the test wells (T589 and T360) hit the water level triggers, it was requested by the Tribe, OVIWC and Inyo County to terminate the test on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The request was granted by DWP and Well 416 was ordered to be shut off at 4:30PM that same day. LA DWP, Inyo County, OVIWC and the Tribe will now continue to download the trigger well data loggers every two weeks during the initial recovery period. LPPSR will continue to allow the current data loggers in our domestic wells to stay so that we can continue to monitor water levels during the recovery period.

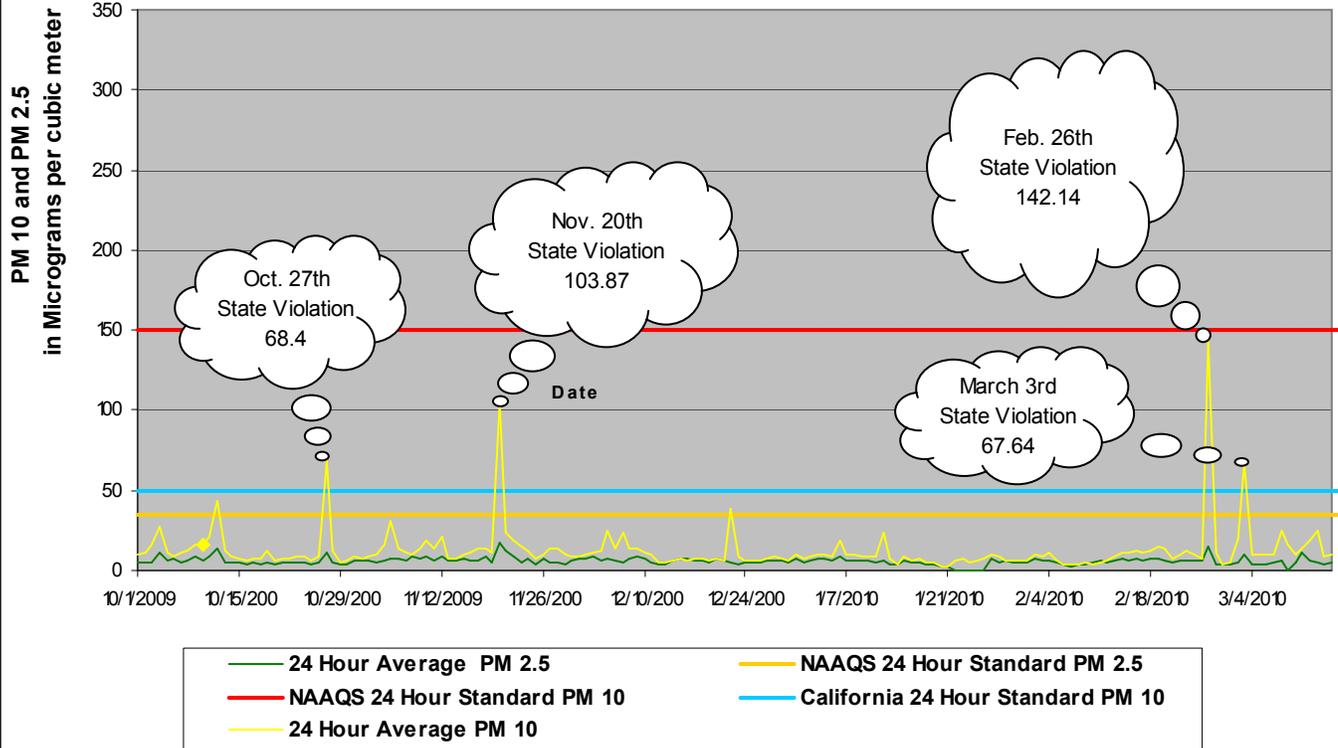
### Lone Pine Fire Safe Council

Lone Pine Fire Safe Council (LPFSC) met on January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss Phase 1 of the "Lone Pine Wildfire Prevention & Protection Project". The LPFSC will be teaming up Calfire (CDF) who will be doing the Environmental work on the project as well as the burning; CDF will also do the final prep work prior to burning. Phase 1 will consist of mowing and burning around the east side of the reservation on DWP land (Tom Nolan lease) which would start in the field just south of Teya Road at PaHaVitch around E-Sha lane to Pioneer Cemetery and on the north side of Substation road to the Van Norman field(FFA Farm). 150 acres will be burned 60 acres of mowing. Phase 2 will be Lakeview road by Southern Inyo Hospital thinning and burning; the plan will continue to the Burro field just north of Lone Pine Propane where a possible of 100 acres of mowing and burning, North of Lubkin Road and West Lubkin with thinning and mowing and the area behind Lone Pine Park. In attendance at the meeting were: Mr. Matt Kingsley, Chairperson for the LPFSC, the GAP Coordinator who also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for the LPFSC, the Environmental Director, Mr. Flemming Bertelsen and Mr. Levi Ray from the US Forest Service, 5<sup>th</sup> District County Supervisor Mr. Richard Cervantes and Local Rancher Mr. Tom Nolan.

# Air Quality Department News

Mel O. Joseph, Environmental Director — Justin Raglin, Air Quality Coordinator

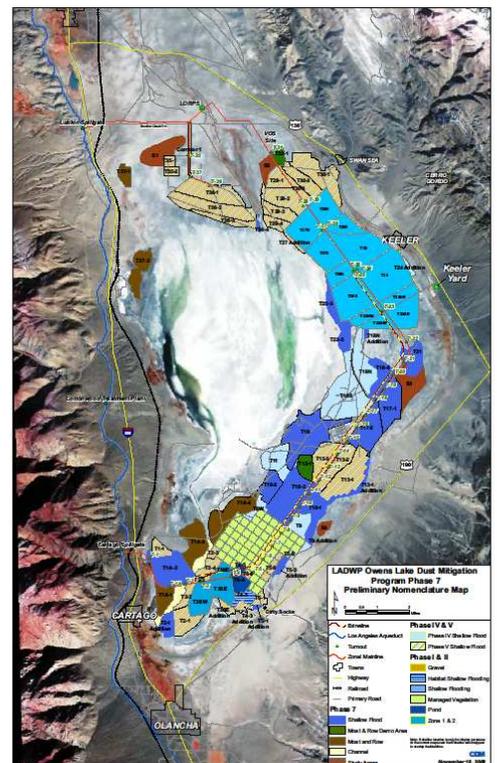
## Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation Air Quality Data FY 2010



### Owens Lake Dust Control Update

The Settlement Agreement entered into by the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) and the City of Los Angeles DWP in 2006 requires the City to construct an additional 12.7 square miles of dust control measures on the dried Owens Lake bed. This is known as the Phase 7 project. 9.2 square miles are to be controlled with the Shallow Flooding type control and 3.5 square miles could be, at the City's choosing and risk, an experimental, unapproved measure known as Moat & Row. The Shallow Flooding is to be operational by April 1, 2010. This work is nearly complete and expected to be in compliance by the April 1 deadline. The Moat & Row was to be completed by October 1, 2009. A number of delays caused the City to miss the October 2009 deadline. However, the District Hearing Board granted the City a one-year extension at a variance hearing in September 2009. As a condition of the variance, the City is required to construct a 2-square mile phase 8 project on an expedited schedule.

The 3.5 square miles of Moat & Row dust controls are required to be completed and operational by October 1, 2010. The District is concerned that the City will miss this already-extended deadline, because the Moat & Row work has still not started. The City has been unable to secure a lease from the California State Lands Commission, the agency that manages the public lands on the lake bed. Failure to meet the October deadline will result in the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO) issuing Notices of Violation and fines of \$10,000 per day of delay. The District is also concerned about the apparent lack of progress on the Phase 8 project. The City has not yet identified a dust control strategy and has yet to start the required environmental documents. The City continues to make new with their proposed Owens Valley solar power project, some of which may be used as dust control on the lake bed. The Environmental and Air Quality Department staff continues to monitor the Dust Mitigation Project and will keep our community updated in this quarterly publication.



Shown above are Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Phases 1 through 7

**Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone  
Reservation Environmental  
and Air Quality Department**

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*"The Earth is a  
spiritual presence that  
must be honored, not  
mastered"*  
  
*-Native American belief*



**Owens Valley Tribal  
Environmental Youth Camp**

**Inter-Tribal Youth Camp  
at  
MALIBU  
CALIFORNIA-USA**

Camping

Camp Fires

Environmental  
Activities

Save-the-Date

August 4th - 7th, 2010

Contact Information:  
Owens Valley Indian  
Water Commission  
46 Tu Su Lane  
Bishop, CA 93515  
760-873-3300  
rosanna@oviwc.com

Earth Day was born on April 22, 1970 in Northern California. Every year, America and over 100 different countries join together in the celebration of Earth Day on April 22nd. Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide! **GET INVOLVED.**



Since 2004, a total of 777 tires have been removed from tribal assignments during the Annual Tire Amnesty Event. This year's event is scheduled to take place April 16, 2010. Reservation residents watch your mail for details!



**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Earth Day Reservation Roads Cleanup April 17, 2010 at 9:00 AM
- Tire Amnesty Day—April 16, 2010.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Lone Pine Landfill-June 5, 2010.
- Vehicle Removal Program is on going, call 760-876-4690 for more information.
- 2010 Owens Valley Environmental Youth Camp Registration will begin in late April.



SANTA YNEZ BAND  
OF CHUMASH INDIANS

