



Corporate Compliance, Risk Management & Internal Controls



\$90 Million in Recovery Act Funds to Bolster Water Services in Indian Country and Create Jobs

July 8, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Indian Health Service (IHS) announced today (July 8, 2009) the availability of \$90 million in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for improved access to vital drinking water and wastewater services in the American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The funds will be invested in 'shovel ready' infrastructure projects designed to better protect human and environmental health in Indian Country and to create jobs.

Continuing a 20 year practice, EPA and IHS' combined effort to improve water services in Indian Country contributed to their identification of 95 wastewater and 64 drinking water priority projects to be completed by IHS' Sanitation Facilities Construction Program through EPA Recovery Act funds. The projects exceed the Recovery Act requirement that 20 percent of the funds be used for green infrastructure, water and energy efficiency improvements and other environmentally innovative projects.

According to 2007 data from the IHS, approximately 10 percent of tribal homes do not have safe drinking water and/or wastewater disposal facilities compared with 0.6 percent of non-native homes in the United States that lack such infrastructure as measured in 2005 by the U.S. Census. The water and wastewater infrastructure programs are a significant effort to improve tribal access to safe and adequate drinking and wastewater facilities. For example, a project to benefit the Tule River Tribe in Porterville, California, will replace failing septic systems, which threaten public health and the environment, with a community wastewater system. The White Mountain Apache Tribe in Whiteriver, Arizona, will benefit from an efficient surface water treatment facility which will provide the quality of drinking water needed to protect the health of residents in over 2,000 homes.

More information about these and other the EPA Recovery Act water efforts see [here](#).

Curran Tomko Tarski LLP Attorneys Can Help

Curran Tomko Tarski LLP attorneys can help you stay abreast of the latest environmental legislative and regulatory initiatives that may impact your business. If you need assistance with these or other compliance concerns or other real estate matters, please contact one of the following attorneys or your other favorite Curran Tomko Tarski LLP attorney:

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Other Helpful Resources & Other Information

We hope that this information is useful to you. Curran Tomko Tarski LLP offers a variety of updates, publications, training and other resources to assist its business clients and their leaders meet their legal

and operational challenges. If you or someone else you know would like to receive future updates about developments on these and other concerns, please be sure that we have your current contact information (including your preferred e-mail) by creating or updating your profile [here](#). You can access other recent updates and other informative publications and resources provided by Curran Tomko Tarski LLP attorneys, get information about their briefings and speeches, and review highlights of their experience and credentials [here](#). More information is also available on our blog.

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