



Campo EPA News

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CEPA did an Edible Wetland project with kids at Campo's Star Gathering event
- Campo EPA's Air Program has big plans for the next couple years
- Take a look inside Coastal Roots Farm

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Community Waste Collection Event



Staff was able to use the Public Works department's heavy equipment to load bulky items into dumpsters

On Saturday, June 22nd, the Campo Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) held a "Special Waste" Community Clean-up Event at the Campo Education baseball field. For this event, Campo EPA was accepting: appliances, furniture, mattresses & box springs, electronic waste, and large household trash items. By holding free community "dump" events like this one, it is CEPA's goal to alleviate the amount of large and hard to dispose of "special waste" groups in our community. Providing a place for these items to be disposed of helps keep potential pollution and sometimes hazardous wastes from being discarded improperly. This not only reduces pollution in our waterways and wildland habitats, but also removes breeding grounds for dangerous pests such as rodents, mosquitoes and rattlesnakes. Plus, less trash usually means reduced fire hazards.

This year staff collaborated with

the Campo Public Works department to pick up items from seniors on Campo Reservation the Friday before. Then, throughout the event day, from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm, staff collected about 11.34 tons of general household waste, 3.2 tons of appliances, 1.35 tons of electronics, and 20 mattresses/box springs. All seven (7) 40-yard EDCO bins were completely full!

Unfortunately, due to lack of



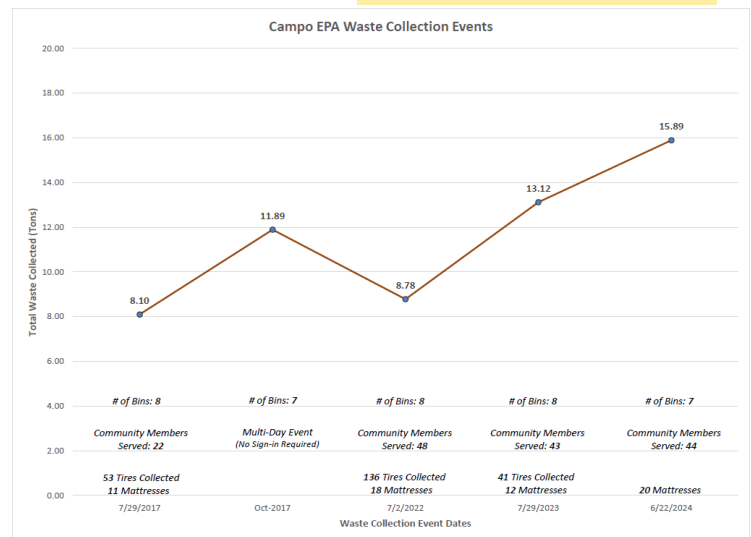
A total of 44 community members disposed of waste during the CEPA event

funding, CEPA was unable to collect waste tires at our event this year. However, the CEPA Community Clean-up Event was held on the same day as a tire collection event being held in Boulevard by the Real East County Fire Safe Council.

After our event, a special video was created to document the Community Waste Collection. This video is available on the CEPA website (<https://www.campepa.com/outreach-program>) and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@campepa>).

CEPA will also be at the Fire Safe Council event on October 19th.

Data from all of CEPA's past Waste Collection events can be seen in the table below:



CEPA at Campo's Star Gathering 2024



The Campo EPA staff was present, with our brand new logo and CEPA banner

The Campo Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) was proud to be a part of Campo Band's annual Star Gathering which was held on Saturday, July 20th this year. During the event, the Campo EPA gave out some information on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) as well as about the special waste collection event we held in June. Additionally, CEPA had a hands-on "Edible Wetland" demonstration highlighting what wetlands are, what kinds of creatures make their homes there, and how wetlands are important to our environment.



Interested children (and adults) were able to construct their own "wetland" out of brownies, chocolate pudding, frosting, gummy creatures, sprinkles and lollypops. This project also showed that no two wetlands are exactly alike. It was a delicious learning

experience for all involved!

CEPA also handed out special cards with our new and improved logo and a QR code to access the updated CEPA website.



Air Program Updates



CEPA hopes to purchase a mobile air monitoring station, similar to these stations used by Colorado, to collect data during wildfire, high wind, and other major air events.

The Campo Environmental Protection Agency Air Program has been moving in a positive direction this past year. CEPA currently has one fully operational T640 air monitor from Teledyne, located next to the fire station. The FEM air monitor records PM 2.5 data and our completeness for this year is 98% with a EPA requirement of 70% to be legitimate data for the year. We also have 2 purple air sensors on the reservation, one located at the CEPA office and one on BIA-15. These sensors give data to verify our FEM monitor is working properly and, in addition, the T640 verifies that the remote sensors are giving correct values while recording air quality data.

This September, CEPA purchased an additional T-640 from Teledyne with plans to put this new monitor in Old Campo. This location was selected due to the fact there is an elementary school and two gas stations in close proximity. This location also has a fair population of senior citizens who are more likely

to be affected by air quality events. This monitor will be placed next to the new community building once power and security are established. We are excited to be able to compare air data between the new Campo and old Campo airshed.

CEPA's Air Program has big plans for the next couple years as well! We plan to apply for funding to purchase additional remote sensors, to be placed around different locations that are currently restricted by power and WIFI needs, and a Mobile Air Monitor to evaluate smoke events during wildfire outbreaks and other air quality issues happening on or near the reservation. This will help us get more accurate data to make recommendations for who and how long individuals can be exposed to these threats before affecting human health. This will also tie into our BIGGEST goal which is developing an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) program. We hope to start a pilot indoor air quality program, starting in government

facilities and moving into residential homes, to identify IAQ issues and work on remediation of those issues.

Campo also plans to apply for more funding through grants with the state and federal government this fall/winter. CEPA is looking into moving from a section 103 (project-based) to a section 105 (permanent program) grant program which comes with guaranteed funding, so we won't have to compete every year for funding. A couple of the federal grants we plan to apply for are EPA's Environmental and Climate Justice Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Community Change Grants Program, for pollution reduction and community capacity building, and EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, for removing old diesels and retrofitting new diesel vehicles that are CARB certified. CEPA also plans to apply for state funding through CARB. We hope to receive these grants to benefit our tribe, the community, and the environment.



Water Program Updates



Staff collect samples at all streams, lakes, & ponds with sufficient water

The Campo EPA regularly collects water quality samples from streams, ponds, and lakes around the Reservation using funding from US EPA's Clean Water Act section 106 Water Pollution Control Program (CWA 106 WPCP). Baseline water quality data is often collected for the follow-

ing parameters: temperature (both water and ambient), pH, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, total dissolved solids (TDS), and flow. In June of this year, staff collected surface water quality field samples at six of the 18 sites listed in Campo's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The other 12 sites did not have sufficient water to safely conduct sampling. This data is entered into AVQMS on a quarterly basis for upload into EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX), per grant requirements. No sampling was conducted in quarter four due to time conflicts and

lack of sufficient water at sites.

As part of CEPA's Clean Water Act section 319 Non-point Source (CWA 319 NPS) and BIA Water Resources programs, staff continues to monitor well-levels across the reservation via manual well sounding and real-time sounding through equipment installed by contractor McGinnis & Associates. Additionally, under these two programs, some research on surface water nitrates effects on groundwater and best management practices for erosion control was conducted this quarter.

Coastal Roots Field Trip

Campo Education and CEPA have been working with Coastal Roots for the past couple of years to develop the community garden which is located behind the CEPA building. Coastal Roots Farm helps cultivate healthy connected communities by integrating sustainable agriculture, food justice and ancient Jewish wisdom. The farm hosts a variety of groups and activities for all ages, including the Farm Stand, Nature Play, Farm Camp, After School on the farm, and School and Group visits.

On Thursday, July 18th, staff were able to attend a field trip to the Coastal Roots Farm in Encinitas. When our group arrived at the Farm, we were greeted by Megan and Michelle. After all of the snacks and coolers were unpacked, we headed to a composting area at the top of the hill. Along the way, we were encouraged to touch, smell and listen to our surroundings as we passed many plants and veggies. Some of the plants we passed were



purple woolie blue, sunflowers, fields of corn, squash, pumpkins, and watermelons.



Once we arrived to the composting area, we were able to sift through the composting piles to find living and non-living items. Every item found would be checked off the scavenger hunt list and then we would go to the next. One of the items our group was unable to find was mushrooms! Overall, this was a fun activity for the whole group.



After washing hands, we headed back down the hill to help make fresh, delicious cornbread! Everyone took turns twisting the multicolor corn kernels into a bowl. Then the kernels were

placed into a grinder machine. One group participated in mixing the dry ingredients and the other group mixed the wet. Our friend also made honey butter to place on top of the freshly made cornbread.



Next, we met with Adam Uribe, from Red Earth Movement. Adam talked about the traditional way of growing the organic three sisters' crop that consists of corn, bean and squash. This companion planting technique was used to thrive in harsh conditions while maintaining a nutritious diet. Corn is used for a base (trellis) that the beans grow around. The bean provides a fertilizer that adds nitrogen to the soil. This helps benefit both corn and squash naturally. Squash is planted as a shield with its leaves. This helps retain moisture and by limiting weed growth.

“Coastal Roots Farm helps cultivate healthy connected communities by integrating sustainable agriculture, food justice and ancient Jewish wisdom.”

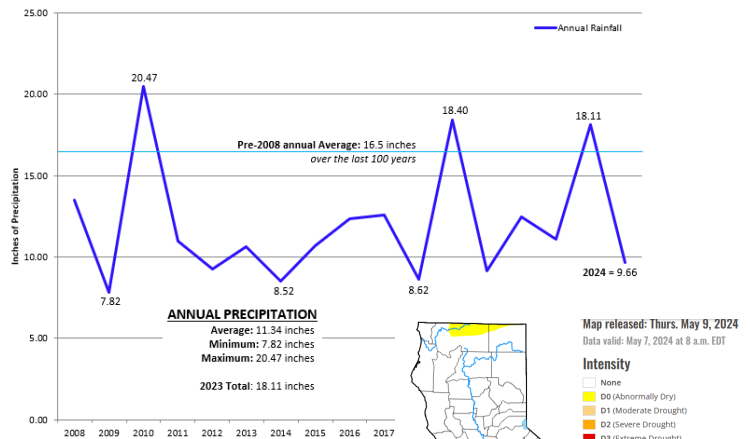
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Campo Environmental Protection Agency



“To promote the health and welfare of the residents of the Reservation and in furtherance of the sovereign rights of the self-governance of the Campo Band, the General Council declares its commitment to the establishment and maintenance of the highest attainable standards of environmental quality within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.”
 Campo EPA regulations.

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According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, only 2.7% of California is experiencing abnormally dry conditions this quarter with 0% of the state experiencing drought. This is likely a direct result of several significant rain events over the past four months. January through April yielded 9.66 inches of precipitation with a single day high of 1.78 inches on January 22nd. Annual precipitation for 2024 is about 3.3 inches higher than the 10-year average for January through April but 5.5 inches less than this time last year. According to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, a transition from El Niño to ENSO-neutral is likely in the next month but it is uncertain what this will mean for precipitation in our area.

To view the most recent Drought Monitor, visit:
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>