



US EPA R10 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORKING TRAINING BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

[Alan Bacock \(EJ and Tribes\)](#)

Alan Bacock started employment with the USEPA in May of 2020 as one of Region 9's Environmental Justice Coordinators. He is a member of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley and over the past 20 years has served indigenous communities to protect water, air and land through various roles including as a Water Program Coordinator for his Tribe and as a 2-term Region 9 RTOC Tribal Co-Chair. Alan can be seen sharing his love of water and community in various documentaries including Paya – The Water Story of the Paiute, The Longest Straw and PBS' Managing Groundwater with the Paiute. In 2019, he was the recipient of the Connor Byestewa Jr. Environmental Award which is bestowed annually among the 148 Tribes in the Southwest to recognize the work of individuals who are improving human health and environmental conditions for Tribal communities.

[Jacob Burney \(OEJ and EJ Grants Program\)](#)

Jacob Burney is currently the Environmental Justice Grants Program Manager with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) in Washington, DC. Since joining OEJ in 2015, Jacob has focused on increasing applicant accessibility to the grant program, improving sustainability of EJ grant projects, and promoting the program's outreach to underrepresented states and rural areas. From 2011-2015, Jacob worked as a Grants Specialist in EPA's Office of Grants & Debarment (OGD). Prior to his work at EPA, Jacob served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Western Samoa and China.

[Sally Hanft \(Environmental Education\)](#)

Sally Hanft is the Environmental Education Coordinator for EPA, Region 10, Seattle office. She also works with the Region 10 Puget Sound Team. She has worked for EPA for over 30 years in various programs – enforcement, water, international, Puget Sound, and environmental education. She graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Ruben Mojica Hernandez (EJ and Tribes)

Ruben Mojica Hernandez is an Environmental Justice Coordinator in Region 9. Ruben currently participates on Tribal, Intergovernmental and Policy Division's Environmental Justice (EJ) Team as one of five colleagues who are contributing to EPA's understanding of environmental justice issues, enhancing our decision-making in communities disproportionately impacted by environmental stressors, and improving our relationships with EJ partners. Ruben is a returned Peace Corps volunteer and a graduate of the Federal Executive Board's Leadership Development Program. He holds a bachelor's degree in conservation and resource studies from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in environmental management from the University of San Francisco. Ruben previously worked in the Region 9 Tribal Branch since 2015.

Bevin Horn (Zoom Tips, Project Officer)

Bevin Horn works in the Region 10 Seattle Water Division as a Project Manager in the Urban Waters, Beach Monitoring, Idaho Surface Water Grants and in the Water Sense programs. She is also part of the Green Duwamish Urban Waters Federal Partnership and the Regional Sustainability, Climate and Energy Workgroup. She has worked in EPA's Headquarters, Region 5 in Chicago (focus on SE Chicago and NW Indiana) in the Region 10 office. She has been involved in Environmental Justice work in different capacities since she started at EPA in 1991. Her connection to the conference is that she manages the Forterra Springbrook Creek EJ/Urban Waters grant.

Alan Lee (Applying for Grants, Grant Administration)

Alan Lee is a Senior Grants Specialist for EPA Region 10 and serves as the lead for compliance and enforcement issues related to grants administration. Alan has a social work background and many years ago was a manager at an environmental justice non-profit that was a recipient of an EPA environmental justice grant.

Don Matheny (Air Monitoring Projects and Quality Assurance Performance Plan QAPP)

Don Matheny is a senior chemist and member of the EPA Region 10 Quality Assurance Staff where he has worked for over 30 years. During this time Don has developed QA Plans, conducted field monitoring, field & lab auditing and data assessment. He also serves as a Contract Officer Representative for the Region's Superfund Contract Laboratory Program.

[Theo Mbabaliye \(Working with Your Project Officer\)](#)

Theo works for EPA R10 in its Regional Administrator's Division/Policy and Environmental Review Branch/National Environmental Policy Act Program as Lead Reviewer for transportation projects. In that role, Theo also supports other programs as a Project Officer on EJ CPS and Small Grant projects, as well as other grants. In this capacity and like other POs, Theo participates in review of grant proposals, initiates funding packages for assigned grant projects, and liaison between grantees, programs, and EPA Grants Office after awards. Theo is based in the Seattle Office.

[Ryan Mowrey \(Grants Administration\)](#)

Ryan is the Financial Specialist assigned to Region 10. He has been with the EPA since March of 2020. He has an Accounting degree from North Carolina Central University and is a US Army Combat Veteran.

[Tess Palmer \(CDC's COVID Data Tracker\)](#)

Tess is a returned a Peace Corps Volunteer (Guinea 2012-2014), where she served as the President of Peace Corps Guinea's national malaria program and a secondary school chemistry teacher. Following Peace Corps, she received an MPH in global epidemiology with a graduate certificate in complex humanitarian emergencies from Emory University. During graduate school, Tess was a fellow with CDC's Emergency Response and Recovery Branch, working on various global water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects in Haiti, including the implementation of an ODK household survey to assess WASH risks. Tess is currently the unit lead of the Rapid Response and Emergency Preparedness Unit in the Geospatial Research Analysis and Services Program (GRASP) at CDC/ATSDR. With GRASP, Tess focuses on GIS applications to public health emergency response activities and strives to find clever solutions to the challenges faced during emergency situations. Tess is the project lead on the CDC COVID Data Tracker development team within GRASP.

[Peter Puglisi \(Grants Administration FFR and Closeouts Presenter\)](#)

Peter Puglisi has been with the EPA for 20 years. Peter is currently the team lead for the Grants Branch at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina.

[Teri Red Owl \(Grant Writing Tips for Tribes\)](#)

Teri Red Owl is an enrolled member of the Bishop Paiute Tribe. She lives in Bishop, California with her husband and children. Teri has worked for the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission, a Tribal Consortium that provides water, environmental, and agricultural services to its member Tribes, for 26 years and has served as the Executive Director for the past 22 years. Teri has extensive experience in grant management and oversight and has two business degrees. Teri has successfully managed and implemented a variety of projects and grants while maintaining sound financial management. Teri has served on numerous boards and commissions including Bishop

Paiute Gaming Corporation, Inyo County Water Commission, Inyo/Los Angeles Standing Committee, California Indian Manpower Consortium, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee, California Department of Water Resources – Water Plan Update Committee, Bishop Indian Utility Organization, and Bishop Paiute Development Corporation. Teri is a licensed Tribal Court Advocate and in her spare time she volunteers as the Secretary for the local Cub Scouts and a youth cheerleader head coach.

Danielle Sharpe, MSc (Social Vulnerability Mapping)

Danielle Sharpe is a Geospatial Epidemiologist with the Geospatial Research, Analysis, and Services Program (GRASP) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR). In addition to many roles, Danielle is the coordinator for the CDC Social Vulnerability Index (CDC SVI) project, an effort to map the vulnerability of communities when confronted by external stresses on human health, stresses such as natural hazards, human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks.

Sheryl Stohs, Ph.D. (Host and EJ SCREEN as a Tool)

Dr. Sheryl Stohs came to US EPA in 2010 and now serves as the Environmental Justice Coordinator. In her role she is Regional EJ Grants Coordinator, Project Officer for EJ funded projects and liaison for states, communities and EJ integration. Dr. Stohs is also EJ consultant/collaborator as a member of the R10 Regional Science Steering Council and provides technical assistance with communities. Sheryl is a graduate of Oregon State University where she received her Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Environmental Sciences. Her core interests are in developing multi-disciplinary strategies and utilizing citizen science tools in assessing environmental justice concerns, impacting the health of communities. In her free time, she serves the homeless as community choir director. Her professional background includes teaching in higher education, former service with the State of Oregon, and Engineer for Southwestern Bell Corporation in Houston Texas.

Diana Wahler (Session Three Wrap Up, Project Officer)

Diana Wahler is Program Analyst, Community Support Services, Office of Environmental Justice, Environmental Protection Agency. After serving as a Rural Aquaculture Promotion Extension Agent in Zambia for the Peace Corps from 2012 to 2014, Ms. Diana Wahler was hired by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2014, to first serve as a visual and data analyst for the websites Regulations.gov and FDMS.gov overseen by the eRulemaking Branch. In 2016, Ms. Wahler transferred these expertise and skillsets to the Data and Quality Branch within the Toxics Release Inventory Program Division. During this time, she had the privilege to serve in the Puerto Rico disaster relief efforts. The first with FEMA as an Environmental Compliance Reviewer in

2017. The second as a Community Involvement Coordinator with the Emergency Response Support Corps for the EPA in 2018. The most recent, as the project lead for the Environmental Justice Interagency Workgroup Rural Committee's efforts in delivering repurposed, donated diabetes supplies to vulnerable communities across the island(s). In 2019, Ms. Wahler became a part of the Community Support Engagement team within the Office of Environmental Justice, primarily working on visualizations and community-based work. She is now the Project Officer for the Collaborative and Problem-Solving grant awarded to the Central Council of The Tlingit & Haida Tribes. In 2012, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Global Justice & Policy, Africana Studies, & Gender and Women's Studies, and Kiswahili. Ms. Wahler resides in Washington, D.C. and is known for her professional photographic and filmmaking work.

[India Young \(Working with Your Project Officer\)](#)

India Young's undergraduate focus was on Environmental Science and Geography. She finished her B.S. at the University of Hawai'i, where she later earned a Graduate Certificate in Secondary Science Education. India remained in Hawai'i for many years and lived on the Big Island and Moloka'i where she worked as a science teacher. She later worked as a journalist and ran an arts and culture non-profit organization near Boston. In 2017, she received her master's degree in Environmental Science after working on soils research in Cuba. India joined the EPA in 2018 as a Project Officer for the Tribal Air Team. She has been working with the Environmental Justice team as a Project Officer since 2019. In her free time, she hikes, plays music, and travels.