



# Indian Health Service California Area Office



## Office of Environmental Health and Engineering

### Profile of Services

# OEH&E Office Locations

## REDDING DISTRICT

### Arcata Field Office

1125 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 100  
Arcata, CA 95521-5585

**P** (707) 822-1688

**F** (707) 822-1692

### Redding District Office

1900 Churn Creek Road, Ste. 210  
Redding, CA 96002-0292

**P** (530) 246-5339

**F** (530) 246-5210

## SACRAMENTO DISTRICT

### California Area Office and Sacramento District Office

650 Capitol Mall, Ste. 7-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

**P** (916) 930-3927

**F** (916) 930-3954

Served by  
DHFE only.

### Ukiah Field Office

1252 Airport Park  
Boulevard, Ste. B5  
Ukiah, CA 95482-5979

**P** (707) 462-5314

**F** (707) 462-6907

### Clovis Field Office

613 Harvard Avenue, Ste. 101  
Clovis, CA 93612-1868

**P** (559) 322-7488

**F** (559) 322-7445

## ESCONDIDO DISTRICT

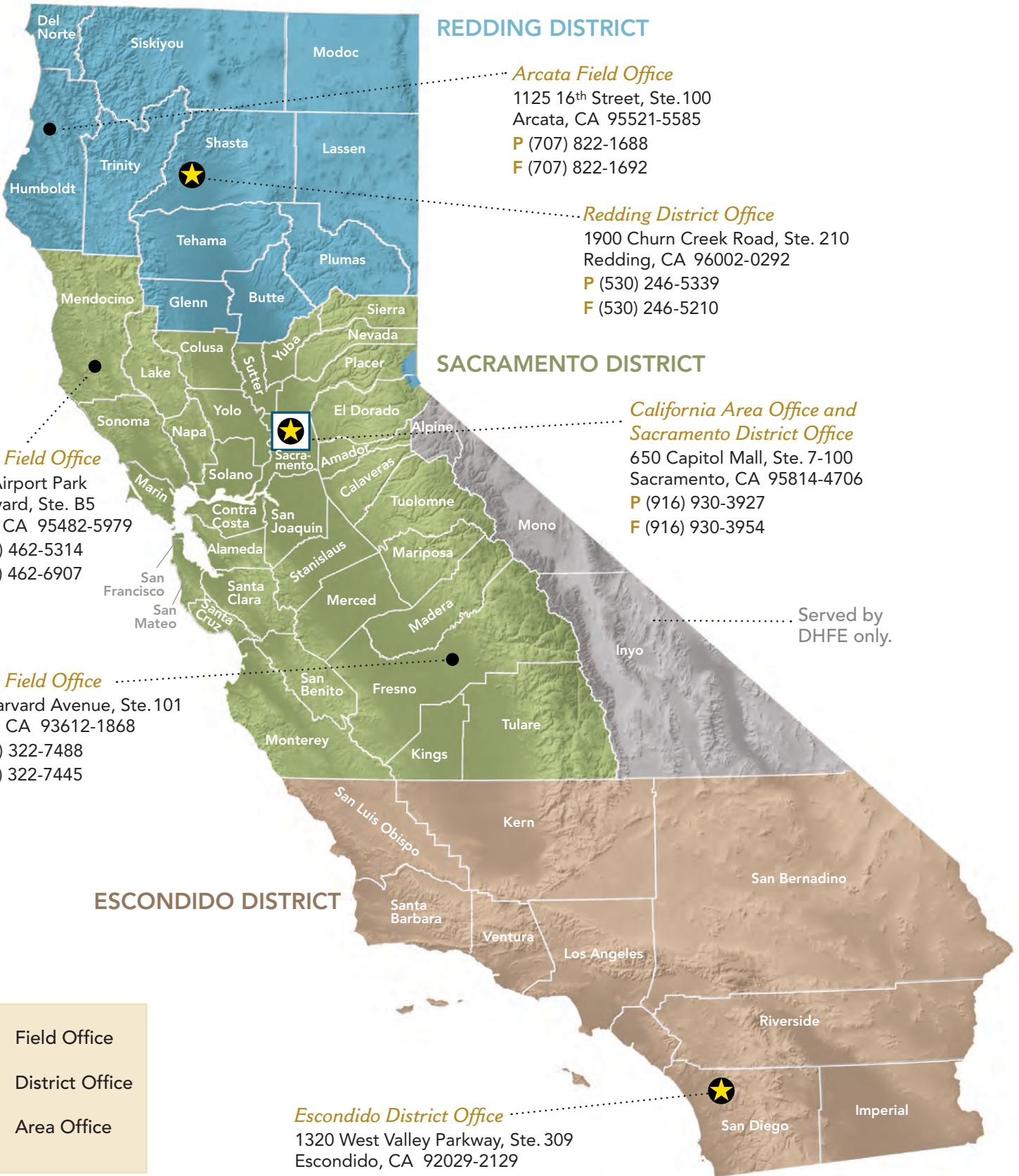
### Escondido District Office

1320 West Valley Parkway, Ste. 309  
Escondido, CA 92029-2129

**P** (760) 735-6880

**F** (760) 735-6893

- Field Office
- ★ District Office
- ★ Area Office





# Office of Environmental Health and Engineering

The Indian Health Service/California Area Office (IHS/CAO) offers a wide range of direct services through the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE). The OEHE is dedicated to improving the health of California Indians through the provision of quality environmental health and engineering services. Area, District and Field offices are strategically located throughout California to ensure quick and convenient access to Indian homes, communities and health programs.



The services provided by IHS/CAO OEHE are categorized into three divisions:

- Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS);
- Division of Health Facilities Engineering (DHFE);
- Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (DSFC).

Traditionally, each division offers specific health services. In California, the OEHE is structured so that each division and staff work together to ensure comprehensive, high-quality service to Indian people.

The purpose of this Profile of Services is two-fold:

- To increase awareness of the OEHE services available to California Indians and other stakeholders; and,
- To provide a directory of OEHE Area, District and Field offices and leadership contacts for each division so clients have convenient access to services.

*OEHE staff at the annual workshop in Sacramento, CA*

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### **More Information:**

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# Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS)

## OUR VISION

*"Empower California Tribes to adapt and respond to emerging environmental health needs and threats."*

The California Area IHS Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) works with tribal communities to prevent environmental related disease and injury through:

- monitoring and investigating environmentally related disease and injury;
- identifying health hazards in the natural and built environment;
- providing public health education, training, technical assistance and project funding as it is available.

## Surveys & Investigations

Environmental health surveys and investigations are performed by DEHS staff to identify, monitor and remove critical public



*Food service survey*



*DEHS staff*

health risks, threats and harms from the community environment. Typical investigations involve investigating suspected cases and outbreaks of vector-borne, food-borne and water-borne illness, occupational exposure assessments and environmental sample collection and analysis.

## Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is provided in many areas of environmental health such as public health ordinances, emergency preparedness planning, facility plan review, infection control, injury prevention and occupational health and safety.

## Training

DEHS helps build environmental health capacity in tribal communities through coordinating, developing and delivering environmental health related trainings. These trainings are designed to help tribes minimize their risk from environmental health issues within their community.

## Sampling/Testing

Environmental sampling and testing are performed by DEHS staff as part of environmental health investigations and surveys. Food, water and other materials may be sampled and tested for the presence of environmental hazards such as pathogens, asbestos, arsenic and lead.

## Indian Gaming

DEHS works closely with tribes and tribal gaming commissions to identify and mitigate environmental health issues in Indian gaming establishments. Services provided include facility surveys, trainings, technical assistance, investigations and audits of policies/programs related to OSHA, food sanitation, infection prevention, solid/hazardous waste management and recreational water. Investigations of food-borne, water-borne and aerosol transmissible disease outbreaks are also performed.

## Vector-borne Diseases

In partnership with participating tribes, DEHS offers surveillance of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. DEHS staff also perform animal bite investigations whenever there is a possibility of rabies transmission and staff are available to coordinate rabies vaccination clinics on tribal lands.

*Emergency response training for tribal community members.*



## Institutional Environmental Health

Our Institutional Environmental Health program works to reduce injuries, illnesses and deaths associated with the physical, biological, radiological and ergonomic workplace hazards that may be found in tribal health centers, residential care facilities and community facilities such as Head Starts, daycare centers and schools. Program priorities include healthcare accreditation support, emergency response planning and audits of infection prevention, health and safety, hazardous material and waste management programs.

Services provided include hazard vulnerability analysis, exposure assessments, training and technical guidance with the development of required program policies and procedures.

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**More Information:**

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## INJURY PREVENTION

Injuries are the leading cause of death for Native Americans in California, ages 1 to 44. The IHS/CAO Injury Prevention program provides technical support in the development, implementation, and evaluation of injury prevention projects or programs. Additional services include collecting and analyzing injury data, assisting with grant proposal writing, identifying external funding sources and potential program partnerships.

### Injury Prevention Project Funding

Each year the California Area Injury Prevention Program offers funding to Tribal Health Programs for child passenger seats, bicycle helmets, smoke detectors and special injury prevention projects. The Area's project funding application is sent out to tribal health programs every year in October and is due in December.

## Training

### Introduction to Injury Prevention (Course 1) Intermediate Injury Prevention (Course 2).

These courses introduce participants to injuries as a public health problem in tribal communities and address the principles of effective injury prevention through a combination of presentations, case histories and group exercises.

### IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship

The IHS Injury Prevention Fellowship is an opportunity for tribal staff to receive advanced injury prevention training and hands on learning experience. Each fellow designs and reports on a one-year injury prevention project involving a topic of importance to the communities they serve.

### Tribal Injury Prevention Cooperative Agreement Program (TIPCAP)

Since 1997, Indian Health Service has provided funding for tribes to develop infrastructure for injury prevention. The TIPCAP program develops injury prevention programs in tribal communities based on proven strategies and best practices.

DEHS staff serve as project officers to TIPCAP sites in the California Area. As project officers we offer technical guidance and assistance with developing and implementing a successful injury prevention program.



*DEHS offers funding to promote car seat use in Tribal communities.*



## ► DEHS Focus NITROUS OXIDE EXPOSURE ASSESSMENTS

*Nitrous oxide can pose a significant health risk in the healthcare environment. Improperly maintained equipment, poor work practices, and inferior room design are a few of the factors that can contribute to excessive exposure to nitrous oxide. The DEHS program offers tribal dental clinics in the California Area the opportunity to have a nitrous oxide exposure assessment performed at their facility.*

*As part of an assessment, DEHS staff assess the operator's ventilation and the nitrous oxide exposure levels for staff and patients. In addition, the nitrous oxide sedation system is evaluated for leaks. DEHS staff also provide technical guidance with the development of staff training and exposure monitoring programs, implementing best practice engineering controls, and developing standard operating procedures for the safe administration of nitrous oxide and the proper maintenance of nitrous oxide sedation systems.*

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*DEHS staff evaluate nitrous oxide equipment for leaks.*



# Division of Health Facilities Engineering (DHFE)

## MISSION

*To support the delivery of health care and preventive services to American Indians and Alaska Natives and to safeguard interests in property.*

## Representation

DHFE advocates and supports tribes and tribal health programs at the national, state, and local levels regarding health facilities engineering. DHFE maintains a tribal health facilities database, formulates and distributes annual budgets, develops projects, and participates on various national facilities related committees and workgroups. DHFE serves as the liaison between tribal health programs and other agencies, to satisfy compliance requirements. DHFE also assists tribal health programs with seeking alternative funding sources.

## Facilities Planning

DHFE assists with tribal planning efforts for site selection and develops facility criteria



*Above: Desert Sage Healing Center, Under Construction, Hemet, CA*

*Below: Inspecting equipment during site visit*

related to services provided, staffing levels, and facility space requirements for new or expanded tribal healthcare facilities.

## Facilities Design and Construction

DHFE supports tribes with developing scopes of work, selecting consultants and construction firms, and reviewing designs and construction progress for healthcare facilities engineering projects. This includes assistance with preparing requests and justifications for

SERVICES



## ►DHFE Focus

### 105L Leases

*Under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA), Tribal health programs can receive funding for facility operation and maintenance costs. The DHFE staff provides guidance and assistance with requests for 105(l) funding, and DHFE staff review all 105(l) requests for cost reasonableness.*

*Right top to bottom: Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center; Potawatow Health Village; Feather River Tribal Health Center; DHFE Team Photo.*

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IHS and other funding sources for new or replacement facilities.

## Facilities Engineering

DHFE provides guidance to tribes on the operation and maintenance of healthcare facilities to ensure compliance with applicable laws, codes, and standards, and conducts periodic facility inspections to maintain compliance. DHFE also assists with developing programs for preventive maintenance, energy conservation, training, and accreditation and manages the Maintenance and Improvement funds appropriation for the tribal health programs.

## Clinical Engineering

DHFE distributes replacement clinical equipment funds to the tribal health programs and provides a mechanism for acquiring excess government property. DHFE provides guidance for compliance with all federal laws, codes, and standards and assists with developing accreditation programs. DHFE also administers the tribal facilities general equipment program for new space constructed by the tribal health programs.

## Real Property

DHFE provides guidance and support for activities related to federal leases, tribal leases, and acquisition of excess federal properties.

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### **More Information:**

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► DHFE Focus  
REGIONAL SPECIALTY CENTERS

Map of the proposed regional specialty center locations



Regional Specialty Centers are designed to offer the following services:

- Specialty Healthcare
- Ambulatory Surgery
- Modern Diagnostics
- Tele-Medicine
- Short Stays
- Overnight Stays
- Intensive Care
- Inpatient Services

Regional Specialty Centers would NOT offer the following services:

- Primary Care
- Emergency Care
- Walk-In Services

Regional Specialty Centers are designed to SUPPORT, NOT REPLACE, primary care services at Tribal and Urban Health Programs.

Indian Health Service prepared a website with more information resources about the Regional Specialty Centers:

<https://www.ihs.gov/california/index.cfm/tribal-resources/regional/>

*In California, there is no facility for higher levels of specialty care for Native Americans. DHFE has prepared a feasibility study for the creation of two Regional Specialty Centers to serve the California Native population one in Temecula and one in Sacramento.*

*These Regional Specialty Centers would offer a wide range of medical specialists, surgical specialists, dental specialists, diagnostic services, specialty pharmacy services, physical rehab, maternity, psychiatry and numerous other services. The centers would offer these services on both an inpatient and outpatient basis, with an intensive care unit and telemedicine options.*

*At the request of California Tribal leaders, the proposal includes a number of novel ways to assist distant Native patients with receiving services, including on-site lodging for patients and caregivers, transportation assistance, sending providers to Tribal and urban sites to render services, telemedicine capabilities and providing services as a hub for pharmacy and durable medical equipment.*

*Upon receiving approval from California Tribal Leaders, DHFE will focus its efforts on the Regional Specialty Centers for the foreseeable future to significantly expand the health care services available to the California Native population.*



# Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (DSFC)

## MISSION

*To provide safe drinking water, adequate wastewater treatment, and solid waste disposal facilities to California Indian homes and communities.*



### *More Information:*

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## Inventory

DSFC is responsible for developing and maintaining an inventory of sanitation deficiencies of Indian homes and communities. The inventory of sanitation facilities needs is maintained in the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS). The SDS is updated annually by IHS personnel, with tribal input, and is available on-line under the Sanitation Tracking and Reporting System at <https://wstars.ihs.gov>.

## Project Funding

The DSFC annually funds a wide variety of community and individual housing projects. Projects may be managed by the IHS directly or they may be managed by a tribe that has elected to use Title I or Title V authorization under P.L. 93-638. In recent years, project types have included:

- ▶ **Housing:** provide sanitation facilities for new homes and homes in “like new” condition. These projects typically serve Indian homes being constructed or rehabilitated by funding provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Home Improvement Program or Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHUD) block grants;
- ▶ **Regular:** provide sanitation facilities for existing Indian homes and communities;
- ▶ **Special:** Operation and Maintenance studies, training, or other needs related to sanitation facilities construction; and,
- ▶ **Emergency:** provide sanitation facilities to correct imminent health threats caused by natural disasters and other occurrences when no other source of funding is available. The range of project funding is \$5,000 to \$50,000.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act funding is based on the IHS SDS and funded projects can be managed by the IHS under an Inter-Agency Agreement with EPA or an EPA direct grant. In addition, IHS manages and provides engineering services for sanitation facilities

construction projects using other types of federal funding such as US Department of Agriculture/Rural Development and others.

### Project Engineering

A staff of DSFC engineers and engineering technicians provides engineering services for the design and construction of water and wastewater facilities. These staff also provide technical consultation and training on the operation and maintenance of tribally-owned water supply and wastewater disposal systems.

### Advocacy

DSFC advocates for tribes during the development of national policies, regulations and programs.

### Operation and Maintenance

The DSFC has developed an Operation and Maintenance initiative to assist tribal water and wastewater disposal system operators with achieving greater sustainability. The initiative has both short and long term goals and objectives.

#### SHORT TERM:

- ▶ **Monitoring and assistance with drought vulnerability:** During drought conditions, keep in contact with all Tribal water systems, share drought vulnerability maps with State and federal partners, and coordinate efforts to ensure Tribes receive the assistance they need. Help to install sounders on wells and other water sources to monitor water levels and measure drought impacts.
- ▶ **Backup power installation:** DSFC is working closely with Tribal utilities to find where needs for emergency backup power for water and wastewater systems exist and identifying funding and engineering / contracting assistance to install these generators where needed.
- ▶ **Small asset replacement:** Providing financial assistance with replacement of small assets like pumps, filter media, and electrical controls

#### LONG TERM:

- Provide technical assistance to community operators including hands-on training;
- Evaluate financial records: analyze personnel costs for competitive salaries and wages for operators and administrative staff; develop or contract financial training including book keeping and basic accounting; and, provide rate studies; and,
- Provide managerial assistance: standardize sanitation facility by-laws, ordinances, and standard operating procedures. Examples include billing operations, meter reading, mailing of bills, and processing returns.

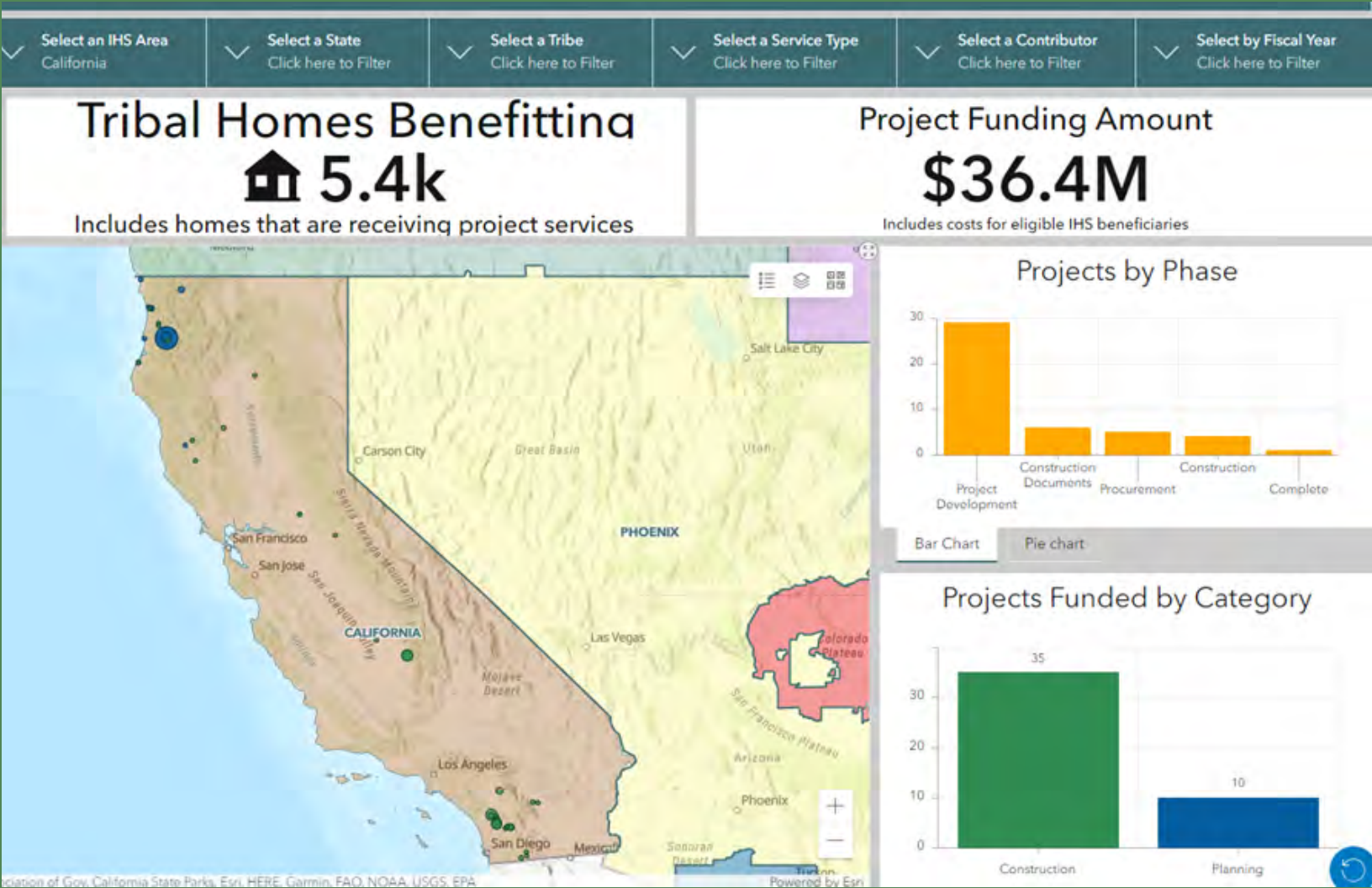
#### ▶ DSFC Focus

### EMERGENCY PROJECTS

*The DSFC provides technical assistance and limited financial assistance in the event of a public health emergency. Typically, such an emergency involves assisting the tribe to restore and/or assure the continued safe operation of water supply and wastewater disposal after a natural disaster or other unforeseen event.*

*When necessary, the DSFC can quickly mobilize personnel to address an emergency situation and provide technical assistance including engineering and public health expertise; construction and contracting management; and, emergency repair of damaged infrastructure and critical facilities. The range of emergency project funding is \$5,000 to \$50,000 per project. Recent emergency projects have provided assistance to tribal systems impacted by severe storms, floods, fires, and depleted groundwater.*





► **DSFC Focus**

**INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) PROJECTS**

*In November 2021, President Biden signed into law the IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), which appropriated \$3.5 billion to the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction program to fund all documented water, wastewater and solid waste needs. This funding is being distributed at \$700 million per year over five years, to be used to fund SFC projects for Indian country nationwide.*

*Over the first two years, California Area Tribes have received IIJA funding for 49 planning or construction projects. These projects are collectively valued at \$36.4 million and will improve water, wastewater and/or solid waste facilities for over 5,000 Indian homes throughout the state.*

*These IIJA projects represent approximately a quintupling of the SFC program workload, creating a challenge the program is rising to meet through a variety of avenues, including nationwide engineering contracts, increased partnerships with Tribes and other federal agencies, and recruiting and retention incentives for IHS staff.*

⋮ GIS online map of California Area funded IIJA projects

An interactive map of all funded IIJA projects throughout the country can be accessed at

<https://dsfc-ihs-gis.hub.arcgis.com/>

*Dedicated to Improving the Health  
of California Indians through the  
Provision of Quality Environmental  
Health and Engineering Services.*



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Indian Health Service**

The Federal Health Program for American Indians and Alaska Natives

