



# Cahuilla Band of Indians

## Cahuilla Tribal Environmental Protection Office

52701 CA-Highway 371 Anza, CA 92539

### MARCH NEWSLETTER

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## CTEPO Updates!

### Announcement

CTEPO is excited to announce April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 will be the Mountain Cahuilla Tribal Earth Day hosted at Santa Rosa this year! Come join us for a fun day!

Whew! What a month! CTEPO has been very busy with our programs and applications for the new year.

A major focus for February was water. It is really important we monitor water quality, especially during the wet season. Contamination of groundwater is likely to increase during the rain. If you would like us to test your water, please contact us so that we can coordinate that with you.

Also, in February we began planning for the Mountain Cahuilla Tribal Earth Day. This will be the second annual MCTED and it will be held April 25<sup>th</sup> at Santa Rosa. We are very excited for this project to be underway, and we hope to bring you a very special event. Fingers crossed it will be a bit warmer and a lot less rainy!

As we begin March, we are looking to increase our activity in the field and really make sure that our programs are connected with you. Remember, if you have any questions about water or waste or have an environmental problem, CTEPO is always here to help; so, give us a call!

# 2ND Annual Mountain Cahuilla Tribal Earth Day



## Join Us!

### April 25, 2026

## Food \* Vendors \* Raffles \* Cake walks

**Location: Sewia Park Santa Rosa Reservation**

**Time: 10am - 2pm**

**65200 State HWY 74  
Mountain Center, CA 92561**



SANTA ROSA  
RESERVATION

**More info Contact EPA  
(951) 659-2700**

# Winter Calendar

## March 2026

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

M  
A  
R  
C  
H

### Winter Wonderings

In India and throughout the world, March 3<sup>rd</sup> marks the celebration of Holi. It is the Festival of Colors which is a celebration of Spring!

March 3<sup>rd</sup> will also be a spectacular night for the moon. Not only will it be the night of the Full Worm Moon, but there will also be a total lunar eclipse! That means it will also be a Blood Moon!

March 20<sup>th</sup> will be the official start of Spring, also known as the March Equinox! That means it's time to get your shovel and gloves because it will be the best time to start gardening!

### You Snow You Wanna Laugh

People are named after April and May. Why not March?

Because that would be madness...

Why are oak trees so forgiving in the month of March?

They turn a new leaf.

What does a robin and a foot have in common?

Their favorite month is March!



# Water Contaminants & Key Quality Indicators

The safety of our drinking water is one of the most vital elements to protecting our health. Well owners must be particularly diligent in looking for signs of declining water quality.

Here are a few quality indicators and contaminants which continue to be particularly prevalent in this region, especially to those who source their drinking water from wells.

## Total Coliform

Bacteria used as an indicator for the probability of the presence of harmful microbes in a water source.

If total coliform levels are high, it is likely there are viruses, bacteria and/or parasites also in the water.

## E. coli

A bacterium that often ends up in water contaminated with feces. A type of coliform which most commonly originates in the intestines of cattle.

Exposure to E.coli and related germs in significant quantities can cause violent illness in humans.

## Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG)

Nitrates-10 mg/L  
Arsenic- 0 mg/L  
Total Coliform- 0 mg/L  
E. coli- 0 mg/L

## pH

Impacts the taste and appearance of your water.

If your water is too acidic, it can erode your pipes and lead to increased levels of heavy metals in your water.

## Heavy Metals

There are numerous heavy metals which leach into our drinking water through manmade and naturally occurring entry points for contaminants.

The consumption of heavy metals from contaminated water sources can lead to serious illnesses.

## Arsenic

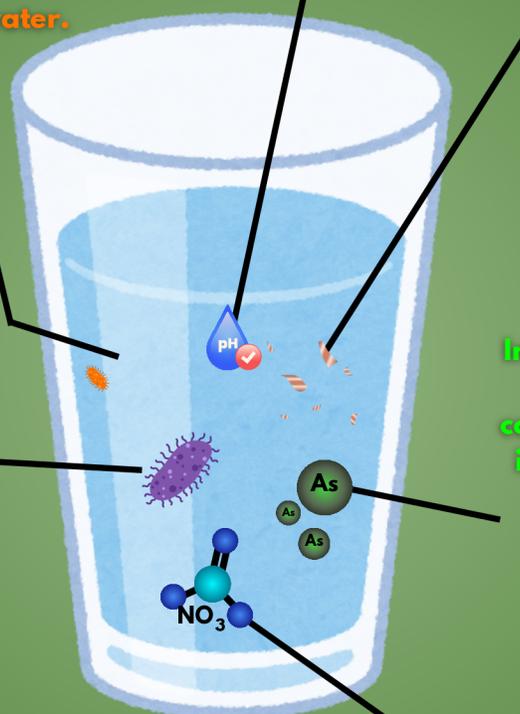
Inorganic arsenic is a type of metal. It is a common contaminant in groundwater in the US that is dangerous to human health.

Long-term exposure to arsenic can lead to an assortment of chronic illnesses and death.

## Nitrates

A common contaminant in groundwater and in runoff.

The consumption of nitrates in water are most harmful to infants who may experience "blue baby syndrome" in which oxygen is inadequately carried by red blood cells.



Our department CAN test your water for these contaminants. If you would like to have your water tested, please contact CTEPO so that we can coordinate a date to collect samples.

# Garden Time!

It's that time of year! March is a great time to start gardening! Please join us in helping the Cultural Garden flourish! You can find gloves and supplies in the garden box and greenhouse! We'd love to have you out there to help us build the best garden we can this year!

## What We've Got "Growing" On

- Prickly Pear Cacti
- White Sage
- CA Black Oak
- Scrub Oak
- Desert Agave
- Deer Grass

## One Order of Compost Coming Up!

Did you know the Cultural Garden is partially grown with compost CTEPO created? Isn't that cool?! We've taken food scraps, coffee grounds and other organic wastes, and our solid waste team has turned it into nutritious soils!

Composting is magic! You take your waste and turn it into something that helps grow life.

## How to Start Your Spring Garden

Here are a few tips for making the garden of your dreams even lacking a green thumb.

1. Cahuilla is considered an 8b Hardiness Zone. Make sure to pick plants suited for this zone.
2. Use compost! Let it do the hard work.
3. Make sure to use a variety of plants to make sure you don't overwork the soil and have the best outcome!



