

Issue  
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# STED Talk

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL



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LOOKING BACK AT 2025  
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# A LOOK AT OUR 2025 YEAR



THIS YEAR, WE STARTED WORKING WITH THE SOBOBA YOUTH COUNCIL IN OUR “RECYCLE WARRIOR” PROGRAM. THEY HELPED US RECYCLE AND IN RETURN, SOBOBA YOUTH COUNCIL GETS HALF OF THE MONEY FROM THE RECYCLABLES TO HELP FUND THEIR TRIPS TO DIFFERENT RESERVATIONS AND YOUTH CONFERENCES!

NOLI GOT TO JOIN OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS TO TEST THE WATERS AT THE HOT SPRINGS.  
NOLI STUDENTS, BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANOTHER TRIP IN JANUARY 2026 !



OUR THEME FOR SOBOBA’S TREE LIGHTING EVENT WAS “A YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUS.” WE HAD SO MUCH FUN IN THE PARADE AND OUR SNOW MACHINE WAS A FAN FAVORITE. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE THAT CAME BY AND MADE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS!

# MEET YOUR EPA STAFF



HELLO ALL, I'M EXCITED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST FOR THE SOBOBA TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT! FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS, I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH OTHER TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND AM EXCITED TO START MY JOURNEY WORKING FOR THE SOBOBA BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS.

MY BACHELOR'S IN BIOLOGY FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON AND MASTER'S IN REGENERATIVE STUDIES FROM CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA HAVE ALLOWED ME TO FORM A STRONG FOUNDATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IN PROTECTING, RESTORING, AND ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE SOBOBA RESERVATION FOR ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

DURING MY TIME OFF, I ENJOY CRAFTING, TRAVELING, AND EXPERIENCING NEW ACTIVITIES. I LIKE TO KEEP MY MIND AND BODY ACTIVE AND I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO LEARN A NEW TRADE. MY GOAL FOR 2026 IS TO START WOOD CARVING, SO IF YOU SEE ME AROUND, PLEASE GIVE ME SOME HELPFUL TIPS IF YOU HAVE ANY! I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPACTFUL PROGRAMS!



HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAME IS NAOMI SILVAS AND I AM THE NEW ASSISTANT FOR THE SOBOBA ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT, WHICH BASICALLY MEANS I HELP KEEP THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY BEHIND THE SCENES WHILE SUPPORTING ALL THE AWESOME WORK OUR TEAM DOES. I HAVE WORKED FOR THE TRIBE FOR OVER A YEAR ASSISTING IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK, YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND ME AT DISNEYLAND, HANGING OUT WITH MY HUSBAND AND KIDS, TRYING OUT NEW RECIPES, OR DIVING INTO A GOOD BOOK. I'M EXCITED TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITY AND AM LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW MORE OF YOU!

# MEET YOUR EPA STAFF



HELLO SOBOBA COMMUNITY! MY NAME IS CHRISTIAN ACEVES, AND I'M PROUD TO SERVE AS SOBOBA'S ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTOR. FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF WORKING ALONGSIDE THE SOBOBA ADMINISTRATION, AND FOR OVER SIX YEARS I'VE PARTNERED WITH TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT PROTECT AND CELEBRATE THE LAND.

MY PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD STARTED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG. I WAS THAT KID WHO PREFERRED EXPLORING CREEKS AND CLIMBING TREES OVER STAYING INDOORS. THE ENVIRONMENT ISN'T JUST MY CAREER, IT'S MY CALLING. I HOLD TWO BACHELOR DEGREES IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND GEOGRAPHY, WHICH TAUGHT ME NOT ONLY THE SCIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS BUT ALSO THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING WITH THE LAND, NOT JUST ON IT.

THE NATURAL WORLD IS ENDLESSLY FASCINATING FROM THE TINIEST POLLINATOR TO THE GRANDEST MOUNTAIN RANGE AND I'M EXCITED TO SHARE THAT WONDER WITH ALL OF YOU. TOGETHER, WE CAN KEEP SOBOBA THRIVING, SUSTAINABLE, AND FULL OF LIFE.



HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAME IS JONATHAN LOPEZ. I'M EXCITED TO JOIN SOBOBA'S ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT AS THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST. I BRING FOUR YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMPLIANCE IN TRIBAL RESERVATIONS. MY FOCUS IS ON HELPING OUR ORGANIZATION REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS, MEET REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL WORK. I ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE AND RECEIVED MY BACHELOR'S IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES. PERSONALLY, I ENJOY BEING OUTDOORS, CAMPING, AND OFF-ROADING MAINLY, WHILE ALSO ENJOYING VIDEO GAMES AND OTHER SPORTS AS WELL.

# ATTENTION SOBOBA AND COMMUNITY ELDERS

THE SOBOBA ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT IS NOW DISTRIBUTING RED BINS  
TO ALL ELDERS TO COLLECT THEIR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IN



## EXAMPLES OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE:



- PAINT CANS
- USED MOTOR OIL
- PESTICIDES
- AEROSOL CANS
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS
- BATTERIES
- GLUE AND ADHESIVES
- ANTIFREEZE
- DRAIN CLEANERS



IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP,  
PLEASE CALL THE SOBOBA ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT AT (951) 654.5544 EXT 4129



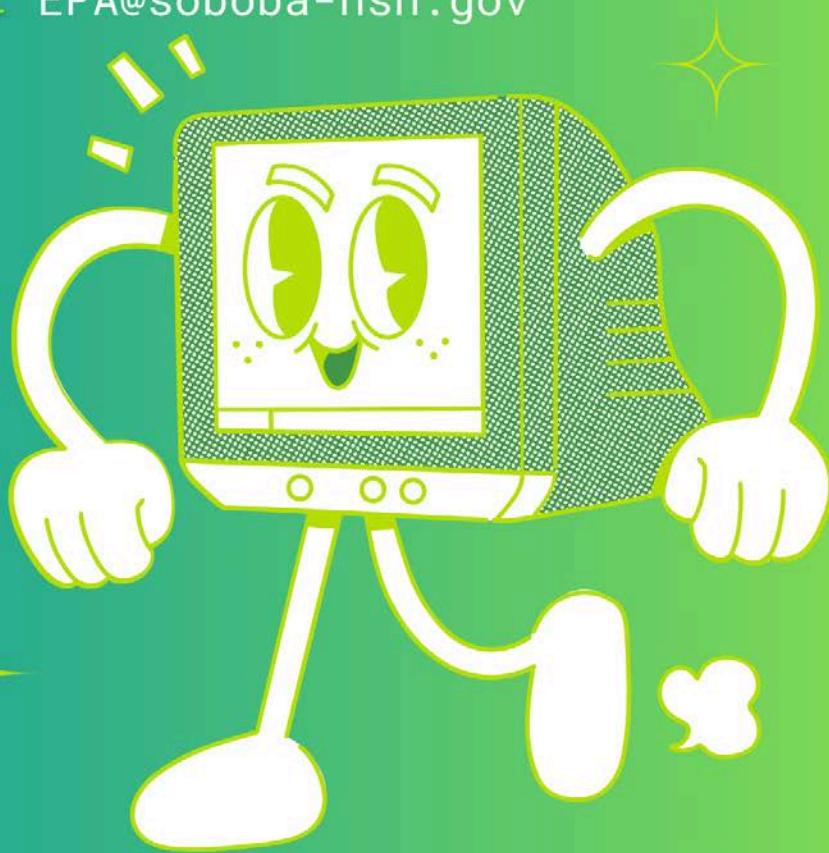
# BATTERY DROP-OFF



Please drop off your batteries in the 2nd floor mailroom at the Administration building and we will recycle them for you!



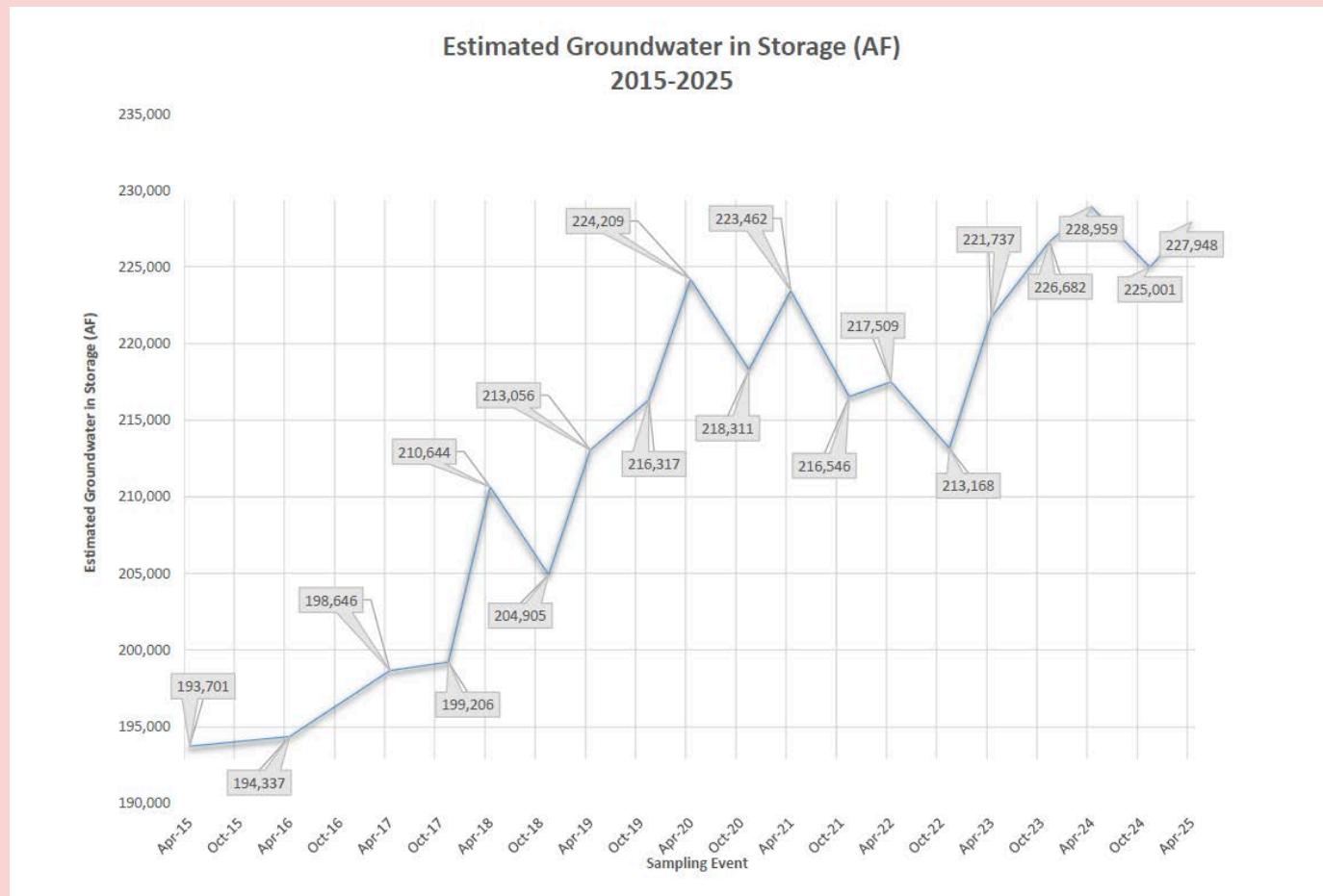
For more information, please contact [EPA@soboba-nsn.gov](mailto:EPA@soboba-nsn.gov)



**ALL BATTERIES ACCEPTED! FOR LARGER BATTERIES, PLEASE CONTACT US AT  
(951)-654-5544 EXT 4129 FOR PICK UP**

# GROUNDWATER INFO

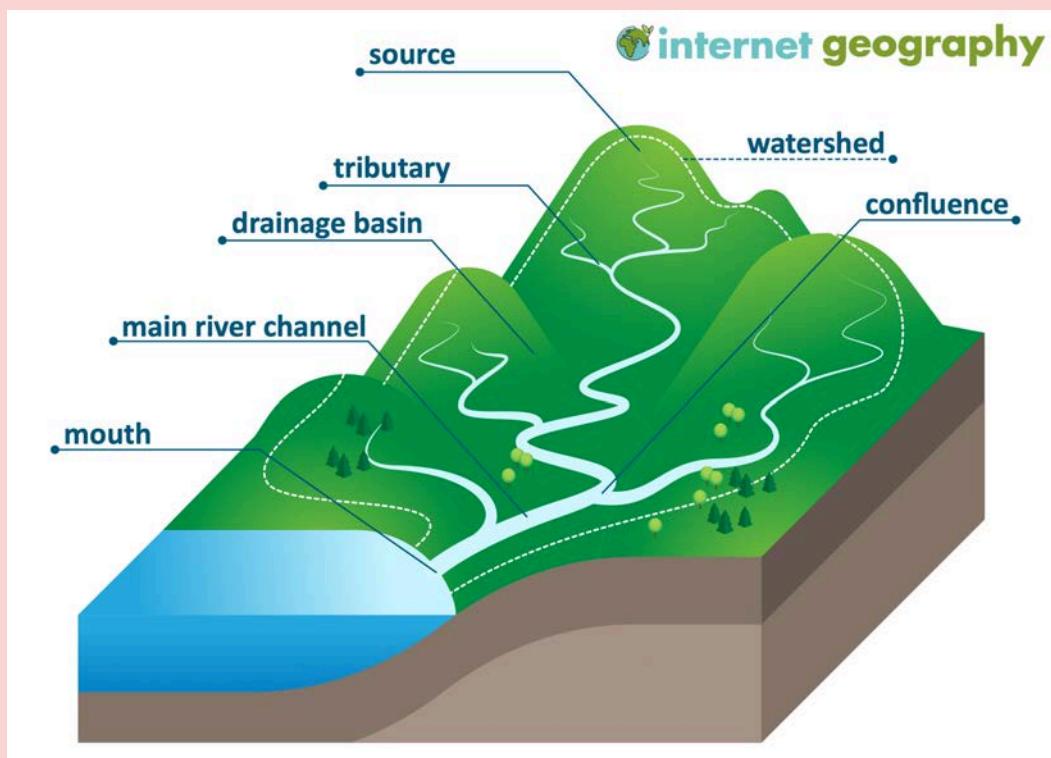
Groundwater is very important on the Soboba Reservation and San Jacinto Watershed (part of the Santa Ana River Watershed). Back in the 1900s, the Metropolitan Water District constructed a 13-mile-long tunnel through the San Jacinto Mountain. It drained a large portion of Soboba's groundwater resources and resulted in people moving away due to water shortages. After a long legal battle, Soboba was able to receive their water rights and municipalities, in turn, recharged the aquifer. The water levels finally began to rise (see graph below). Over the past 10 years, Soboba went from critical levels (restricted) to proactive levels (unrestricted use).

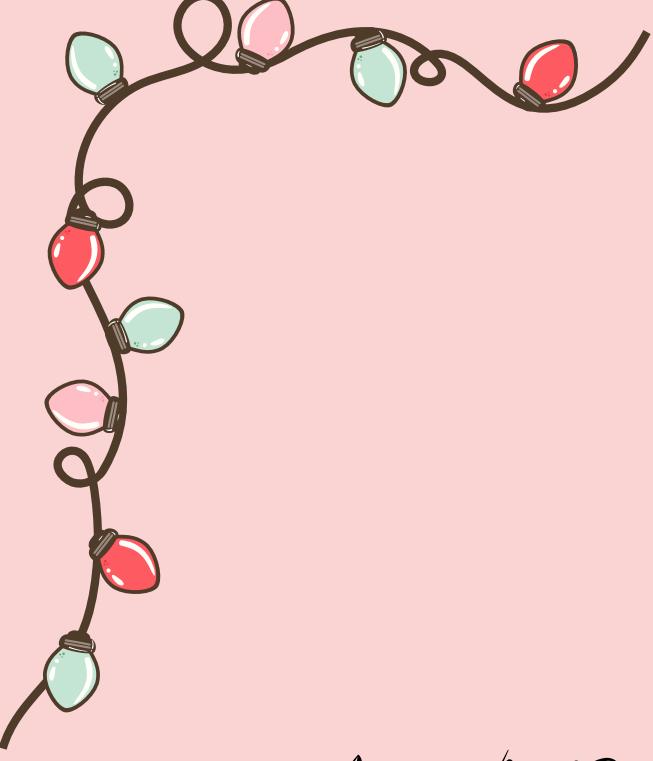


To visualize the quantity of water replenished, one AF, or acre-foot, is equivalent to 325,851.42857 gallons. Soboba's groundwater storage increased by 34,247 AF (11,159,433,874 gallons) over 10 years and that isn't taking into account the amount of water pulled from the aquifer on a yearly basis. That's a substantial increase!



The water cycle helps us understand how our water bodies and groundwater replenishment works. For more information on the water cycle, please watch this video <https://youtu.be/al-do-HGulk>. Two of our main sources for replenishment are rainfall and snow melting in the San Jacinto Mountain. You might have seen the water flowing through Poppet and Indian Creek tributaries and the San Jacinto River.





WARM WISHES  
&  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FROM ALL OF US AT THE  
SOBOBA TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT





# HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!

C	H	N	L	O	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	M	N	N	M	E	O	O	O	E	C
J	A	D	R	C	S	Y	G	A	D	W	E	E	G	W	L	E	E	R	N	O	H
J	E	G	C	L	A	A	L	W	A	E	L	H	S	C	A	L	N	E	O	I	I
N	E	N	N	A	K	J	G	R	L	C	O	O	S	G	R	N	K	E	A	H	
H	L	S	O	N	U	T	M	E	G	R	O	E	D	R	O	B	I	N	L	I	D
O	T	T	R	C	C	W	C	A	E	S	A	C	R	V	A	E	K	C	G	L	N
L	S	A	C	R	E	G	G	T	C	E	A	E	O	N	S	L	L	I	G	P	C
L	L	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	L	N	N	N	G	A	J	L	C	E	A	S	S
Y	K	C	I	L	T	O	S	L	D	A	S	E	L	R	A	E	U	O	I	E	E
M	K	A	M	K	O	S	L	Y	A	G	L	A	O	A	M	T	U	E	O	E	R
K	S	E	N	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	V	L	K	N	C	L	W	T	L
T	I	N	S	E	L	A	U	E	A	T	C	L	E	D	L	L	D	E	A	G	E
E	L	R	N	N	N	E	E	W	S	O	T	A	S	D	N	L	U	R	C	R	O
C	L	O	V	E	S	L	I	A	I	R	R	Y	R	T	A	D	E	N	K		
A	E	G	R	O	S	N	C	G	E	C	T	C	T	D	T	D	L	S	C	N	M
E	A	S	I	L	T	I	T	E	H	O	N	E	K	T	L	N	S	J	N	A	W
A	U	I	Y	E	N	T	L	A	A	K	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	V	A	S
E	I	S	R	D	E	C	L	H	M	T	T	C	H	L	C	A	T	N	T	K	S
C	I	R	E	C	L	A	V	I	K	A	L	O	G	G	A	E	O	T	I	N	E
R	T	L	E	O	T	L	J	I	N	G	L	E	D	N	L	D	E	O	E	T	O

WREATH

HOLLY

BELL

JINGLE

CLOVES

WINTER

ORNAMENT

COOKIES

STAR

COCOA

GLOVES

SLEIGH

SNOWMAN

STOCKING

TREE

ANGEL

RUDOLPH

TINSEL

CANDY CANE

CANDLE

NUTMEG