SOBOBA TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

STED TALK

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL THINGS ENVIRONMENTAL

Issue 01 - January 2023

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THIS ISSUE

In this issue we are going to address the importance of disposing HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) in a manner that is not only good for the environment but is also free to Soboba Tribal Residents. HHW disposal is a great way to give back to the land, clean the community and have fun doing it!!

Follow us!!

@sobobaenvironmental

TREE OF LIFE PROJECT BRINGING NEW LIFE TO SOBOBA

Each year the Soboba Reservation receives new life in the form of trees and plants. Appropriately named the "Tree of Life Project", this project is designed to replenish the Flora that has been affected by drought-like conditions, erosion and environmental degradation.

Many departments come together to make this project a reality each year.

Soboba's Cultural Department and STED collaborate on what trees and shrubs need to be planted and where they should go. It is imperative that plants indigenous to this area are used. If not, issues regarding invasive species arise along with disagreement on the inclusion of traditional VS nontraditional plants on the Soboba Reservation.

Additionally, STED works with The Public Works Department and the Canyon Crew to determine and plan the logistics for the project. This year the Canyon Crew was under the supervision of Frank Martinez, Fire Captain/WUI for the Soboba Fire Department.

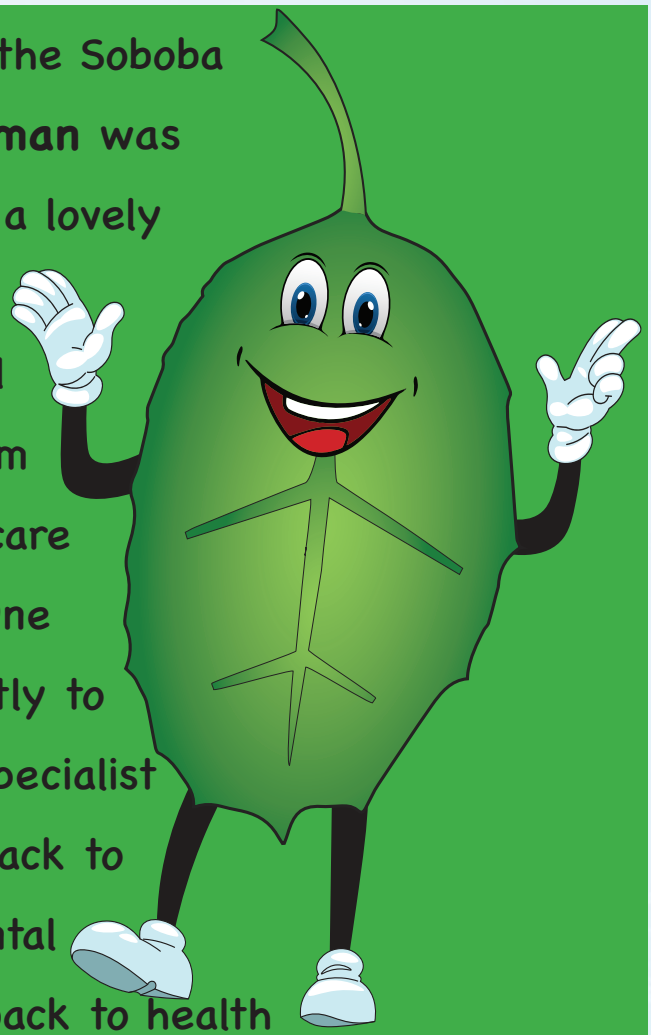
ABANDONED VEHICLES

Environmental Health and Concerns Regarding Abandoned Vehicles

- Abandoned vehicles are often utilized to store garbage and other trash, which may attract pests and become disease vector breeding grounds
- Abandoned vehicles are a visual blight and can be detrimental to local businesses
- Abandoned vehicles can be targets of arson and vandalism
- Fluids like gasoline/diesel fuel, oil, transmission fluid, and power steering and brake fluids can leak, polluting soil, ground water and surface water
- Vehicles contain other materials that may harm the environment and should be removed and disposed of as municipal waste or hazardous waste before the cars are crushed (such as lead-acid batteries and mercury switches.

If you need assistance removing your vehicle please call the Soboba Tribal Environmental Department at 951-654-5544 ext. 4129

MEET STEDMAN



Please welcome our newest addition to the Soboba Tribal Environmental Department. **STEDman** was born right here on the reservation to a lovely pair of oak trees. He grew big and tall, so big in fact that the other plants and trees looked up to him and he gave them wisdom and knowledge on how to take care of themselves and their surroundings. One windy day part of STEDman floated softly to the ground just as our Environmental Specialist was passing by and brought STEDman back to the office where he and the Environmental Director, Cristian Aceves nurtured him back to health and asked him to be the official mascot of the Soboba Tribal Environmental Department. STEDman will continue to provide wisdom and knowledge to the Tribal community. He wants to ensure the protection of all natural resources on the Soboba Reservation. STEDman looks forward to engaging with Tribal Members and sharing his ongoing adventures in each issue.

Criteria Air Pollutants

The EPA sets ambient air quality standards for six common air pollutants (also known as "criteria air pollutants"). These pollutants are found all over the U.S. They can harm your health and the environment, and cause property damage.

Ground-level Ozone

Ozone is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen. Ozone occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ozone can be good or bad, depending on where it is found.

Called stratospheric ozone, good ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere, where it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays. This beneficial ozone has been partially destroyed by manmade chemicals, causing what is sometimes called a "hole in the ozone."

Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in "smog."

Particulate Matter

Particulate matter contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can be inhaled and cause serious health problems. Some particles less than 10 micrometers in diameter can get deep into your lungs and some may even get into your bloodstream. Of these, particles less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, also known as fine particles or PM2.5, pose the greatest risk to human health.

Fine particles are also the main cause of reduced visibility (haze) in parts of the United States, including many of our treasured national parks and wilderness areas.

Nitrogen Dioxide

NO2 and other NOx interact with water, oxygen and other chemicals in the atmosphere to form acid rain. Acid rain harms sensitive ecosystems such as lakes and forests The nitrate particles that result from NOx make the air hazy and difficult to see though. This affects the many national parks that we visit for the view.

Lead

Lead is persistent in the environment and can be added to soils and sediments through deposition from sources of lead air pollution. Other sources of lead to ecosystems include direct discharge of waste streams to water bodies and mining. Elevated lead in the environment can result in decreased growth and reproduction in plants and animals, and neurological effects in vertebrates.

Sulfur Dioxide

Short-term exposures to SO2 can harm the human respiratory system and make breathing difficult. People with asthma, particularly children, are sensitive to these effects of SO2.

SO2 emissions that lead to high concentrations of SO2 in the air generally also lead to the formation of other sulfur oxides (SOx). SOx can react with other compounds in the atmosphere to form small particles. These particles contribute to particulate matter (PM) pollution. Small particles may penetrate deeply into the lungs and in sufficient quantity can contribute to health problems.

Carbon Monoxide

Breathing air with a high concentration of CO reduces the amount of oxygen that can be transported in the blood stream to critical organs like the heart and brain.

At very high levels, which are possible indoors or in other enclosed environments, CO can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and death.

Very high levels of CO are not likely to occur outdoors. However, when CO levels are elevated outdoors, they can be of particular concern for people with some types of heart disease. These people already have a reduced ability for getting oxygenated blood to their hearts in situations where the heart needs more oxygen than usual. They are especially vulnerable to the effects of CO when exercising or under increased stress.
In these situations, short-term exposure to elevated CO may result in reduced oxygen to the heart accompanied by chest pain also known as angina.

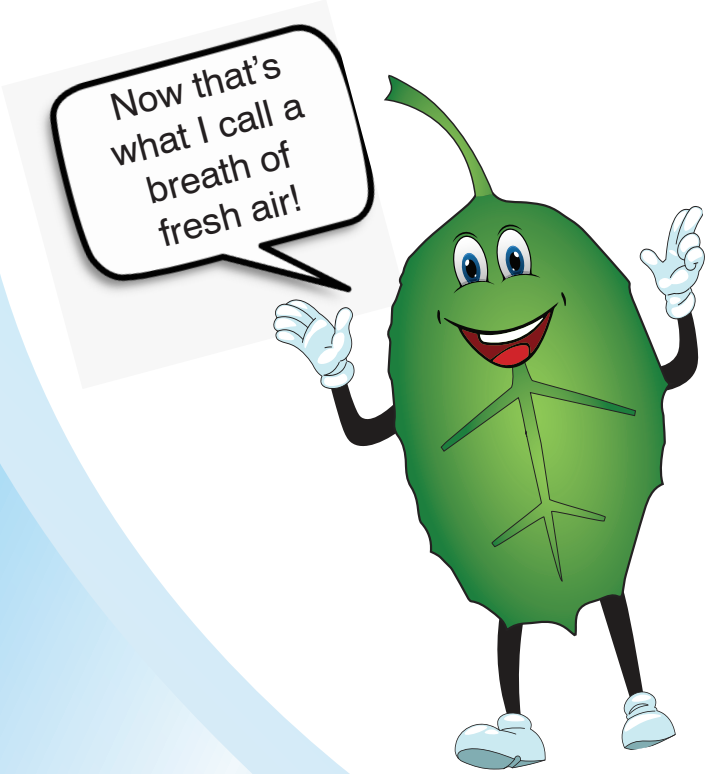
AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Have you ever wondered how the air quality on the Soboba Reservation is? Is it good? Is it bad? Well STED actually conducts monthly air quality monitoring on and off reservation. Our handheld air quality monitor, the Aeroqual 500 Model, tracks and charts the PM2.5 & PM10 levels minute by minute for one hour at three separate locations.

This gives us a peak into the local air quality although it isn't nearly sufficient enough to meet the tribe's need for real-time air quality data. With this being said, we are pleased to announce that STED has been awarded the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Community Air Grant.

This will allow STED to install four air quality monitoring sensors throughout Soboba that will track air quality in the region in real-time. This data will then be available on a public website (in development) to be viewed by anyone with just a click of the mouse! STED is excited to get started on this project and we can't wait to update you as we progress!

Air quality updates will be provided in each quarterly newsletter.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

You may have seen this flyer around your community... Did you know that STED offers multiple opportunities for you to dispose of your Household Hazardous Waste each year? This means anything from paint cans, old batteries, keyboards, TV's, printers, etc. can be brought to the Soboba Dump Site located near the solar panels for easy and safe disposal. Items not properly disposed of can greatly damage the environment and human health. To learn more about proper disposal of HHW visit our website or give us a call.

Want to know when the next event is???

Give us a call at 951-654-5544 Ext. 4129

UPCOMING Events

SOBOBA TRIBAL EARTH DAY– APRIL 20TH, 2023

This years themes is “Invest in Our Planet.” Investing in a green economy is the only path to a healthy, prosperous, and equitable future. This event is imperative to providing the Soboba Reservation with the knowledge and tools to restore the health of our planet, protect our species, and provide opportunities for all. There will booths and eco-displays providing educational tools and outreach. There will also be plenty of fun for the kiddos, including jumpers and a petting zoo. Did we mention that STED will be providing lunch and raffles for everyone to get involved? This is one event you do not want to miss. If you would like to volunteer for this event please call the the STED office at 951-654-5544 ext. 4129 for more information.

Holiday Word Search

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

CLEAN
DROUGHT
EROSION
FAMILY
GREEN
HAZARDOUS
LEAD
MONITOR
ORNAMENT
POLLUTANTS
RECYCLE
SOBOBA
STEDMAN
TREE

Complete this word search and have your parent or guardian turn it in to the Soboba Tribal Environmental