



ITCA National Tribal Water Systems Operator Certification Program

*ITCA is a USEPA-approved provider
of Tribal operator certification services for
personnel of Tribal water utilities*



TRIBAL UTILITY MANAGEMENT **Training Course and Professional Certification Exam** **(Event ID #26003-blended)**

Entire Course (Parts 1 & 2), August 31 – September 4, 2026

In-Person Part 2 in Valley Center, California

Includes:

- ✓ Comprehensive training for personnel of Tribal water utilities
- ✓ Opportunity for FREE Professional Certification
- ✓ Includes an in-person certification exam session
- ✓ Travel Expense Reimbursement Stipends Available



Student comments from past offerings of this course:

"Michael provided hands on experience stories with every topic."

"This is an excellent class and I will be encouraging my director and other utility managers to enroll when it is available again."



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
TRAINING EVENT BROCHURE

TRIBAL UTILITY MANAGEMENT
OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #26003-blended)
Parts 1 & 2

PART 1, live on-line AND
August 31 – September 4, 2026
Monday – Friday

PART 2, in-person,
September 8 – 11, 2026
Valley Center, California

THE TRAINING COURSE:

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) is pleased to offer the **Tribal Utility Management** training course. The course offers over 48 hours of training and is designed specifically for Tribal utilities personnel that are entering into the water utility management field—such as advancing system operators, new water utility program managers, board members, Tribal administrators and Tribal council members. Subjects covered in this training course will include: regulatory compliance, policy development, financial management, workforce management, worker succession plans, general operations and maintenance, infrastructure master planning, interaction with other entities, public relations, and consumer education. This course is intense and requires participants to study outside the classroom. Training reference materials will be mailed to registrants that are accepted into this course.

ITCA does NOT “teach to the certification exams.” Students intending to take the operator certification exam during this training course are encouraged to study the need-to-know criteria and recommended study guide references associated with the certification exam. The Tribal Utility Management certification exam will be offered for free during the second part of this training course. Attendees that are only interested in the training may choose not to take the certification exam.

INSTRUCTOR:

ITCA has contracted with subject-matter expert Mr. Michael Alvidrez, of Alvidrez Water Operations, LLC, to instruct this training course. Mr. Alvidrez has extensive experience in the management, as well as the operation and maintenance, of water systems in Indian Country.

COST:

Tribal water utilities personnel may attend this training course for **free**.

LOCATION:

Part 2 of the training course will take place at the **Rincon Government Center**, which is located at One Government Center Lane, Valley Center, California 92082. The contact phone number for the Rincon Government Center is (760) 749-1051.

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Ak-Chin Indian
Community
Cocopah Tribe
Colorado River
Indian Tribes
Fort McDowell
Yavapai Nation
Fort Mojave Tribe
Gila River Indian
Community
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Kaibab-Paiute Tribe
Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Pueblo of Zuni
Quechan Tribe
Salt River Pima-
Maricopa Indian
Community
San Carlos
Apache Tribe
San Juan Southern
Paiute Tribe
Tohono O'odham
Nation
Tonto Apache Tribe
White Mountain
Apache Tribe
Yavapai-Apache
Nation
Yavapai-Prescott
Indian Tribe

BLENDED LEARNING FORMAT:

This training course covers a comprehensive curriculum that is provided in two sequential parts.

(Part 1 uses a live on-line virtual format) and (Part 2 uses an in-person classroom format).

The in-person Part 2 picks up where the virtual Part 1 ends. The in-person Part 2 will not review curriculum content covered during the virtual Part 1.

DATES & TIMES:

The training and certification event will follow the tentative schedule shown in the table below. A course syllabus with full agenda will be provided to individuals that are accepted into the course.

<u>PART 1: Live On-Line Class Sessions</u> 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time				
Class Session 1	Class Session 2	Class Session 3	Class Session 4	Class Session 5
Monday, August 31, 2026	Tuesday, September 1, 2026	Wednesday, September 2, 2026	Thursday, September 3, 2026	Friday, September 4, 2026

Computer Microphone & Camera. Part 1 of this course requires that students use a computer **microphone** (headset is preferred) and a **web camera** to enable interaction and participation in group activities. It is important to have these items for the start of class. ITCA offers both a headset and web camera for free to registrants that are accepted into this course. During registration, please specify if any of these items are needed.

<u>PART 2: In-Person Class Sessions at the</u> Rincon Government Center, Valley Center, California			
Date	Activities	Local Time	
		Start	End
Monday, September 7, 2026	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY		
Tuesday, September 8, 2026	Class Session 6 Lunch Break (on your own) Class Session 7	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. or earlier
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	Class Session 8 Lunch Break (on your own) Class Session 9	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. or earlier
Thursday, September 10, 2026	Class Session 10 Lunch Break (on your own) Class Session 11	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. or earlier
Friday, September 11, 2026	Class Session 12 Lunch Break (on your own) Operator Certification Exam Session	8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. or earlier

The certification exam session will take place during the in-person Part 2 of the training event for those interested in earning the Tribal Utility Management Certification through the ITCA National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Certification Program. *Please be advised that prior approval from ITCA is required for admission into the exam session. There will be no late admission into the exam session.*

- Exam Session —On Friday, September 11, 2026, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. and concluding at or before 5:00 p.m., the Tribal Utility Management certification will be administered to interested and eligible Tribal utilities personnel. This will be a closed-book exam session.

ATTENDANCE & CONTACT HOURS:

Attendees that complete the course requirements will receive written recognition of earned training contact hours based on class participation, homework assignments, and attendance. Training contact hours may be accepted towards the training requirements for new certification or as Professional Development Hours (PDH)/continuing education credit towards the renewal of existing certification. Confirmed registrants that are interested in only earning training contact hours may attend as many of the class sessions as needed.

REGISTRATION: Course Registration Deadline is August 24, 2026

To register for this training course, click on this event's active link on the ITCA National Tribal Water System (TWS) Program webpage (<http://www.itcaonline.com/tws>) to visit the on-line registration platform or manually complete and return the attached registration form. Registration for this event is scheduled to close at the end of the day on **August 24, 2026**. Registration is subject to close before this deadline if all class seats are reserved. Registrants that are accepted into the training course will receive written confirmation of a reserved seat. Please Note: a reserved seat does not apply to the exam session. Separate written approval is required to be admitted into the certification exam session (see Exam & Certification section below).

ITCA PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

The National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Program at ITCA serves to meet the needs of system operators working on Tribal lands and to provide a jurisdictionally correct alternative to state certification programs. The ITCA is a U.S. EPA-approved provider of certification services under the U.S. EPA Tribal Drinking Water Operator Certification Program Guidelines and makes its services available to all Tribal water and wastewater utilities personnel working in Indian Country. ITCA-issued certification in drinking water or wastewater is deemed equivalent and accepted through reciprocity (exam waiver) by numerous states. Tribal operator certification is an additional way by which Tribal governments can exercise their sovereignty and promote their self-determination goals.

EXAMINATION & CERTIFICATION: Exam Application Deadline is September 2, 2026

Tribal personnel operating facilities located on federal trust Tribal lands (Indian reservations) may apply for ITCA operator certification and take the Tribal Utility Management certification exam for free. ITCA staff will be available during the in-person Part 2 of the training event to proctor paper-booklet certification exams to eligible Tribal utilities personnel seeking Tribal Utility Management Certification. Participants must have prior written approval from ITCA to be admitted into the examination session. Approval is based upon submittal of a completed ITCA *Application for New (Tribal Utility Management) Certification* by close of business on **Wednesday, September 2, 2026**. Please refer to the ITCA Application Booklet for complete certification eligibility criteria and the application, which is available on the ITCA website or by directly contacting the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Program. You are highly encouraged to submit an application as soon as possible.

Students intending to take the certification exam are encouraged to study the following need-to-know criteria, which include lists of recommended study references.

- The Need-to-Know Criteria for Tribal Utility Management can be found on the ITCA website at: https://itcaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/TUMC-1-Need-to-Know-Criteria_FINAL.pdf.

LODGING:

You are responsible for making your own travel and lodging arrangements. For your convenience, a few hotels within the area are listed below. This is a non-inclusive, non-endorsement listing.

- Harrah's Resort Southern California - A Caesars Rewards Destination, 777 S Resort Dr, Valley Center, CA 92082, (760) 751-3100
- Valley View Casino & Hotel, 16300 Nyemii Pass Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082, (760) 291-5500
- Lazy H Ranch, 16787 CA-76, Pauma Valley, CA 92061, (760) 742-3669

TRAVEL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT STIPENDS:

Limited travel expense reimbursement stipends (partial reimbursement) may be available for individuals who are working on Tribal lands and who attend the entire training event. Travel expense cost will be considered for reimbursement on a case-by-case basis and may be subject to funding restrictions. Travel expenses are reimbursed at the federal government GSA rates. The maximum per diem rate for zip code 92082 in the area of San Diego, California for the time period of this event is \$199 for lodging and \$86 for meals and incidentals. According to federal guidelines, local residents traveling less than fifty miles one-way are eligible only for mileage reimbursement costs for use of privately-owned automobiles at the rate of \$0.725 per mile.

To request a travel expense reimbursement, please submit an ***ITCA Travel Expense Reimbursement Claim Form*** within fifteen (15) days following the training event. This form is available upon request. The travel expense claim form must include the signature of the attendee's supervisor. ITCA will verify an applicant's eligibility based on event attendance records maintained by ITCA.

A registrant that has received seat confirmation from ITCA may request written verification of ITCA reimbursement funds prior to travel. To do so, please submit a completed *Preliminary Application for Travel Reimbursement Stipend Form* to ITCA before your travel to the event. This form is available upon request. The form must include the signature of the confirmed registrant's supervisor. Preliminary applications received five business days prior to the start of the in-person Part 2 of the course will be considered on a first-come first-served basis and will be subject to funding availability. Preliminary applications that are approved by ITCA will receive written notice stating the level of funding available for their travel reimbursement.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:

Protection of public health is a top priority and ITCA intends for the in-person Part 2 of this event to align with federal and local guidelines and recommendations. This training event is available for personnel working on Tribal lands located throughout the country. Therefore, some of the attendees, the instructor / speakers, and facilitators will travel from various other locations to attend the in-person Part 2 of the event, which will take place indoors within meeting rooms. Attendees will be encouraged to sit in an every-other seat pattern for social distancing and for exam proctoring best practices. Individuals are free to choose whether to wear a facemask, including during the exam sessions.

Please Note: Photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events may be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA's website, publications and social media. If you do not consent to have your photograph published, please notify ITCA staff at the training/meeting event.

For additional information, please contact the ITCA Tribal Water Systems Department at (602) 258-4822.



**TRIBAL UTILITY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE
CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #26003-blended)**

PART 1, live on-line, August 31 – September 4, 2026
PART 2, in-person, September 8 – 11, 2026, Valley Center, California

(Please Print Clearly)

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

Title/Position: _____

Tribe/Organization: _____

Tribal Utility/Department: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Office Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Cell Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

Business Address: _____
(for mailing of letters) (Street/P.O. Box)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Shipping of Course Materials

Those who are accepted into this training event will be shipped the training book(s) / materials. Please note the shipping service only delivers to street addresses (no PO Box addresses). If different than above, please provide a shipping address to where we can ship course materials to you.

Shipping Address: _____
(Street Address)

(City) (State) (Zip Code)

Will attendee be requesting a **Travel Expense Reimbursement stipend**? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Will attendee be taking the **Tribal Utility Management certification exam**? ☐ YES ☐ NO

An exam session will be offered for free during Part 2 of this training course. **NOTICE:** To be considered for approval to take the Tribal Utility Management certification exam, you must submit an Application for Tribal Water Management Certification by the application deadline: **September 2, 2026**.

What do you hope to get out of this training course? (Select all that applies)

☐ Training hours ☐ Certification prep ☐ Networking ☐ Other

Complete the 2-page registration form and return by **August 24, 2026**

Send completed form by e-mail, fax, or mail, to the following:

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. TRIBAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

Address: 2214 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Telephone: (602) 258-4822 Fax: (602) 258-4825

Amara.Kamara@itcaonline.com



**TRIBAL UTILITY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE
CERTIFICATION TRAINING COURSE (Event ID #26003-blended)**

PART 1, live on-line, August 31 – September 4, 2026
PART 2, in-person, September 8 – 11, 2026, Valley Center, California

Name of Registrant: _____
(First) (Last)

- ☐ Yes, I do plan on attending the blended format, two-part Tribal Utility Management training course (ID #26003), with Part 1 being held on-line, and Part 2 being held in-person at the Rincon Government Center, which is located at One Government Center Lane, Valley Center, California 92082.
- ☐ Yes, I understand that if accepted into this training course, ITCA will send me written confirmation of a reserved class seat and will ship to me materials for this course.
- ☐ Yes, I agree that if my plans change and I am unable to attend this course, I will inform ITCA as soon as possible and will work with ITCA on returning the course materials so that they can be used by others.
- ☐ **Yes, I understand that if I plan to take an operator certification exam, I must submit a complete ITCA Application for New Certification. I understand that prior approval from ITCA is required to be admitted into the certification exam session.**
- ☐ Yes, I understand that I am responsible for making my own travel and lodging arrangements.
- ☐ Yes, I understand the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any training event due to lack of enrollment or funds.
- ☐ Yes, I understand that photographs taken by ITCA staff at training/meeting events August be used in ITCA publications including, but not limited to, ITCA's website, publications and social media. I understand that if I do not consent to have my photograph taken or used in this way, I must notify ITCA staff prior to or at the event.

To enhance your ability to participate in the on-line virtual Part 1 of the training course, do you need to be sent a free webcam and / or microphone headset? (Please note that for any registrations received after August 24, 2026, you might not receive such items in time for the first sessions of the on-line Part 1 of the course.)

☐ NO ☐ YES

ITCA is an equal opportunity provider. Do you need any special accommodations during the event? If so, please describe.

Complete the 2-page registration form and return by **August 24, 2026**

Send completed form by e-mail, fax, or mail, to the following:

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Address: 2214 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, Telephone: (602) 258-4822 Fax: (602) 258-4825

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