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For Immediate Release

American Indian Law Center, Inc. Awarded EPA Environmental Justice Grant

ALBUQUERQUE (March 24, 2009)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded the American Indian Law Center, Inc. twenty-thousand dollars as part of the EPA Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. The American Indian Law Center (AILC) will increase tribal community outreach and education on state permitting processes and environmental justice.

“Funding from the U.S. EPA Small Justice Grant Program allows us to provide training to tribal communities in New Mexico, to increase the involvement of tribal leaders, policymakers and tribal members in the state’s permitting and public participation processes, and to promote environmental, public health, and cultural resources protection of tribal communities,” said Helen B. Padilla, Director of the AILC.

The AILC Environmental Justice Small Grant training goals include providing workshops in tribal communities and providing educational material highlighting environmental justice and the state’s natural resources and environmental permitting processes. Padilla said, “We are really excited about this project because it will help tribal communities to better understand and effectively participate in state permitting processes that may impact tribal lands or natural and cultural resources. Further, we will assist state agencies in the important public outreach work regarding this part of the decision making process.”

Established in 1967, AILC is the oldest existing Indian-managed and Indian-operated legal and public policy organization in the country serving to strengthen, promote, and honor self-sustaining American Indian and Alaska Native communities through education, training, and leadership. For more information please visit www.ailc-inc.org.

Financial assistance under the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program is available to all non-profit organizations designated by the IRS or recognized by the state, territory, commonwealth or tribe in which it is located. The funding is to help affected communities develop strategic solutions to their environmental justice issues and to achieve community health and sustainability. Additional information on environmental justice grants is available at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>.

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