

Attachment 8. Disadvantaged Community Assistance

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To confirm DAC Assistance, this Grant Proposal includes the following evidence of the eligibility of DAC exemptions as stated in prior attachments, and includes the following:

1. Information supporting the determination of DACs in the region.
2. A map showing that the project benefit area is congruent with multiple state designated DACs.
3. A description of the critical water supply and or water quality needs of the DACs identified. (See attached letter **Exhibit 8.1** from the Heber PUD.)

(This proposal uses the 2014 IRWM Drought Guidelines in making its determination if the project qualifies as benefiting a DAC. The submitted project is a regional project meeting the needs of multiple DACs, and low income areas of the City of Imperial, as determined through census data and the Median Household Income)

INFORMATION SUPPORTING THE DETERMINATION OF DACs IN THE REGION

As per the DAC mapping provided by DWR through their website,¹ **Figure 8-1** indicates that both El Centro and the community of Heber are designated DACs. **Figure 8-2** overlays the project benefit area and includes all census tracts within the benefit area with MHIs less than 80% of the State MHI, or \$48,706. Approximately 90% of the benefit area overlies disadvantaged communities.



Figure 8-1. DWR DAC Screenshot of DACs

The Grant Proposal *Intertie Projects between the City of El Centro, the City of Imperial, and the Heber Public Utilities District* (Intertie Project) has been identified as a critical water supply project and included in the Imperial IRWM Plan's priority project list. Water system master plans (City of El Centro, 2008), and UWMPs identify the critical need for emergency backup supplies through in-system storage and inter-agency connections in the event of a communities water system becoming compromised from natural or manmade catastrophic events, including, but not limited to, earthquakes, flooding and high winds from tropical storms, and chemical spills. Other uses may also take place for pipe breakage as part of aging water systems, or routine maintenance of the system requiring distribution system zones to be temporarily shut down.

¹<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>

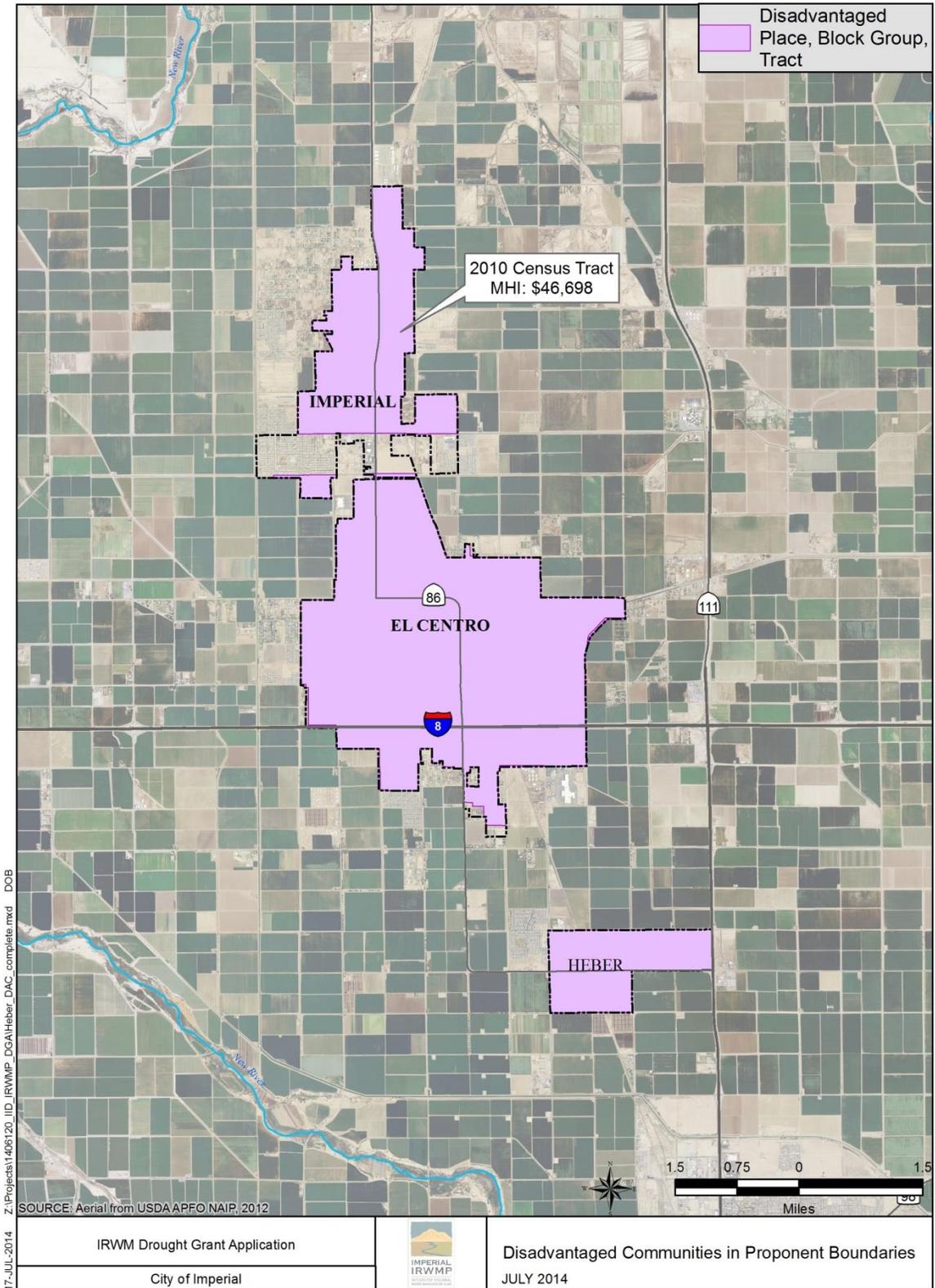


Figure 8-2. DWR and Census Tract Delineation of DACs

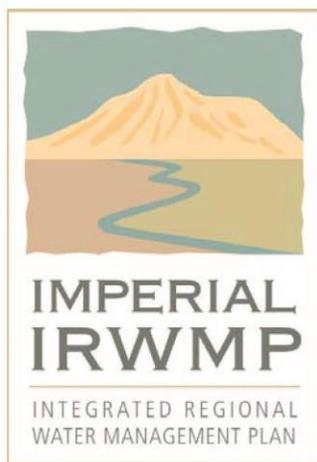
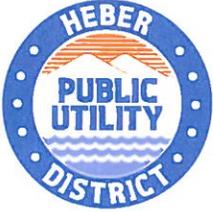


Exhibit 8.1 – DAC Documentation Letter from Heber PUD



Heber Public Utility District

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July 9, 2014

Gary B. Bardini, Deputy Director
Integrated Regional Water Management
California Department of Water Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-001

Regarding: Integrated Regional Water Management Proposition 84 Drought Funds
Letter of Support for Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management Proposal

This letter is written to express my support for Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management's proposal for Proposition 84 Round 3 Drought Relief funds for a water inter-connection project between the Cities of Imperial, El Centro and the Heber Public Utility District. As the President of the Heber Public Utility District Board of Directors I serve as the representative for the citizens of Heber, which is a Disadvantaged Community.

The community of Heber would be unable to undertake this critical water inter-connection project without adversely impacting this very low income community. The grant subsidy through Proposition 84 Round 3 Drought Relief funds will not only provide direct financial benefits to the Disadvantaged Community of Heber, but also to the City of El Centro, which also qualifies as a Disadvantaged Community with a predominately low income population.

The water inter-connection project will provide a reliable source of potable water to a large population of low income families in case of a regional water shortage. This project is a critical component of a regional plan to ensure the health and safety of our residents during an emergency.

I respectfully request that the Imperial Integrated Regional Water Management's proposal for Proposition 84 Round 3 Drought Relief funding for this much-needed project be approved. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Margie Lizarraga".

Margie Lizarraga,

President, Heber Public Utility District