

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management 2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Implementation Grant Proposal Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Attachment 8 consists of the following items:

- ✓ **Documentation of Presence and Needs of DACs.** Local DACs are defined and mapped using U.S. Census 2010 data. Critical water supply and water quality needs identified by local DACs per the 2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan are summarized.
- ✓ **Description of Proposed Projects and Targeted Benefits to DACs.** The targeted benefits to local DACs from the proposed projects are described.
- ✓ **Letters of Support.** Letters of support from local DAC representatives for the proposed projects are included in Appendix 8-1.

Table of Contents

Funding Match Waiver.....	1
Documentation of Presence and Needs of a DAC.....	1
Information that Supports the Determination of DACs in the Coachella Valley IRWM Region.....	1
Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Needs of DACs Specific to the Coachella Valley.....	5
Project Consistency with Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Needs of DACs	5
DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program	5
Indirect Benefits to DACs	7
Regional Turf Reduction Program	7
Indio Water Authority Recycled Water Project	7





Funding Match Waiver

Project 3 of this Proposal, the *Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program*, is requesting a waiver of funding match. This program will specifically address multiple needs of a disadvantaged communities (DACs) throughout the Coachella Valley IRWM Region, and was developed to meet specific needs identified in the *Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program*, a parallel planning effort that was conducted by the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) during preparation of the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* and funded through a separate DAC Outreach Grant from DWR.

However, despite the specific request of this project to obtain a funding waiver, as demonstrated within Attachment 5, the cumulative funding match of the Proposal is 47%, which exceeds DWR's minimum match requirement of 25% for the Proposal.

Documentation of Presence and Needs of a DAC

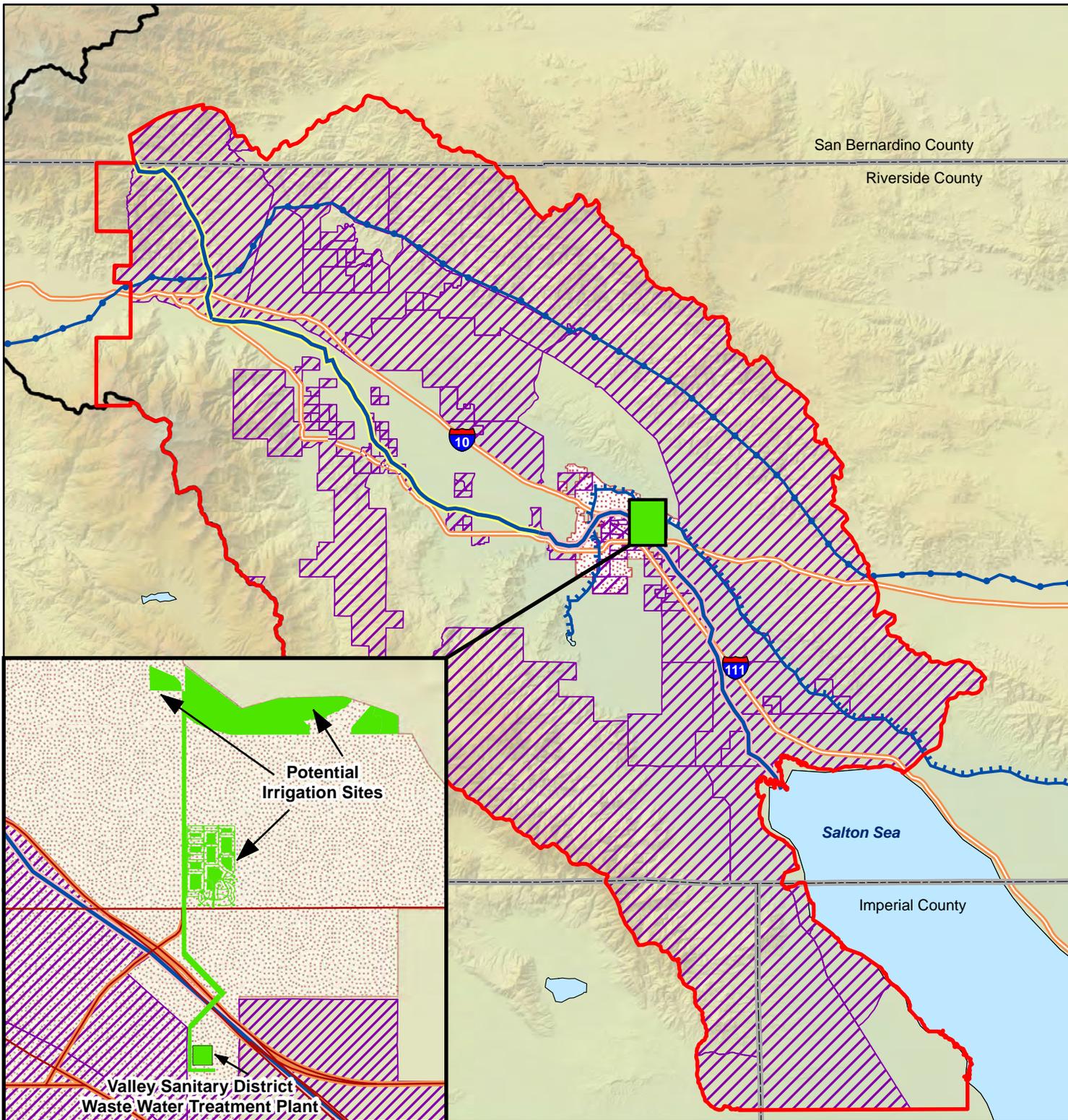
Information that Supports the Determination of DACs in the Coachella Valley IRWM Region

According to DWR, a DAC is identified as a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is 80 percent less than the Statewide MHI. According to Appendix G of the *2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines*, data from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the U.S. Census is now a source of estimates of MHI for use in determining if a community is a DAC. According to this data source, the ACS for the years 2006-2010 shows that 80% of the Statewide MHI is \$48,706. Therefore, a DAC is a community with a MHI of less than \$48,706 per the *2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines*.

MHIs in the Coachella Valley IRWM Region were estimated through an analysis of the 2010 ACS data at the Census tract level. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties delineated by a committee of local data users. When analyzed for the Coachella Valley, it was found that the Census tracts did not directly align with the Coachella Valley IRWM Regional boundaries. Therefore, within the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*, ESRI Community Analysis was used in addition to the 2010 ACS data to append an accurate MHI value to Census tracts that were only partially represented in the Region. **Figures 8-1** through **8-3** show the location of DACs in the Coachella Valley at the Census tract-level using the 2010 ACS data and the ESRI Community Analysis tool and also show each of the projects included in this Proposal. **Figure 8-1** shows the location of the *Indio Water Authority Recycled Water Project* with respect to DACs. **Figure 8-2** shows the location of the *Regional Turf Reduction Program* with respect to DACs, and **Figure 8-3** shows the location of the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Project* with respect to DACs; because this project is a rebate program that will only be available to DACs, the project area for this project is synonymous with the DAC areas in the Coachella Valley.

Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Indio Water Authority Recycled Water Project

Figure 8-1

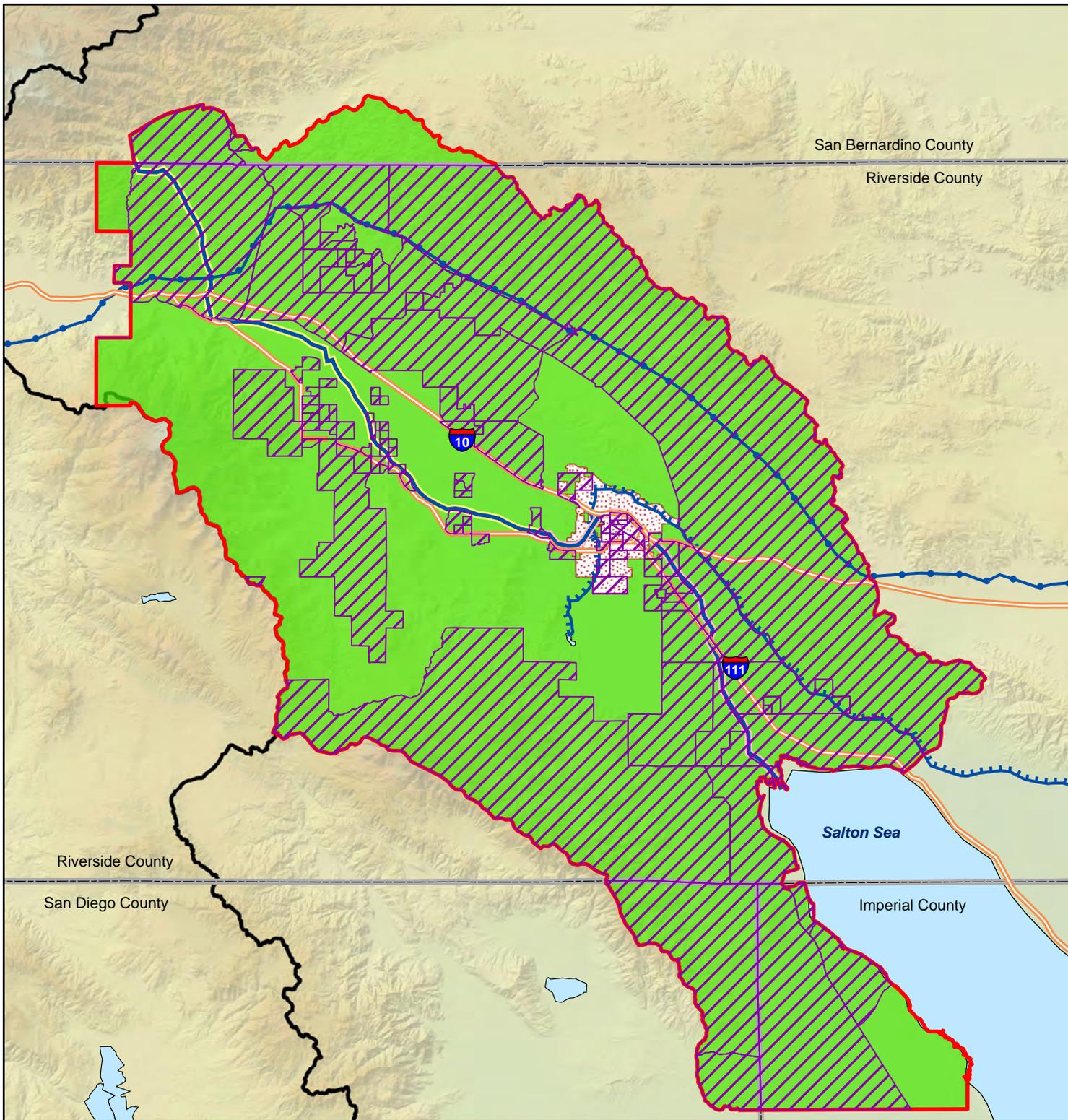


- Colorado River Aqueduct
 - Coachella and All American
 - Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
 - Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
 - Highways
 - Water Bodies
 - Coachella Valley IRWM Region
 - Colorado River Funding Area
- Local Project Sponsor**
- Indio Water Authority (IWA)
 - Project 1: IWA Recycled Water Project
 - Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Disadvantaged communities are considered those who earned less than \$48,706 (80% Statewide MHI)



Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and Regional Turf Reduction Program Figure 8-2

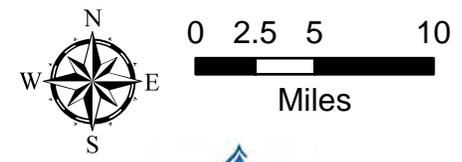


- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- Colorado River Funding

Local Project Sponsor

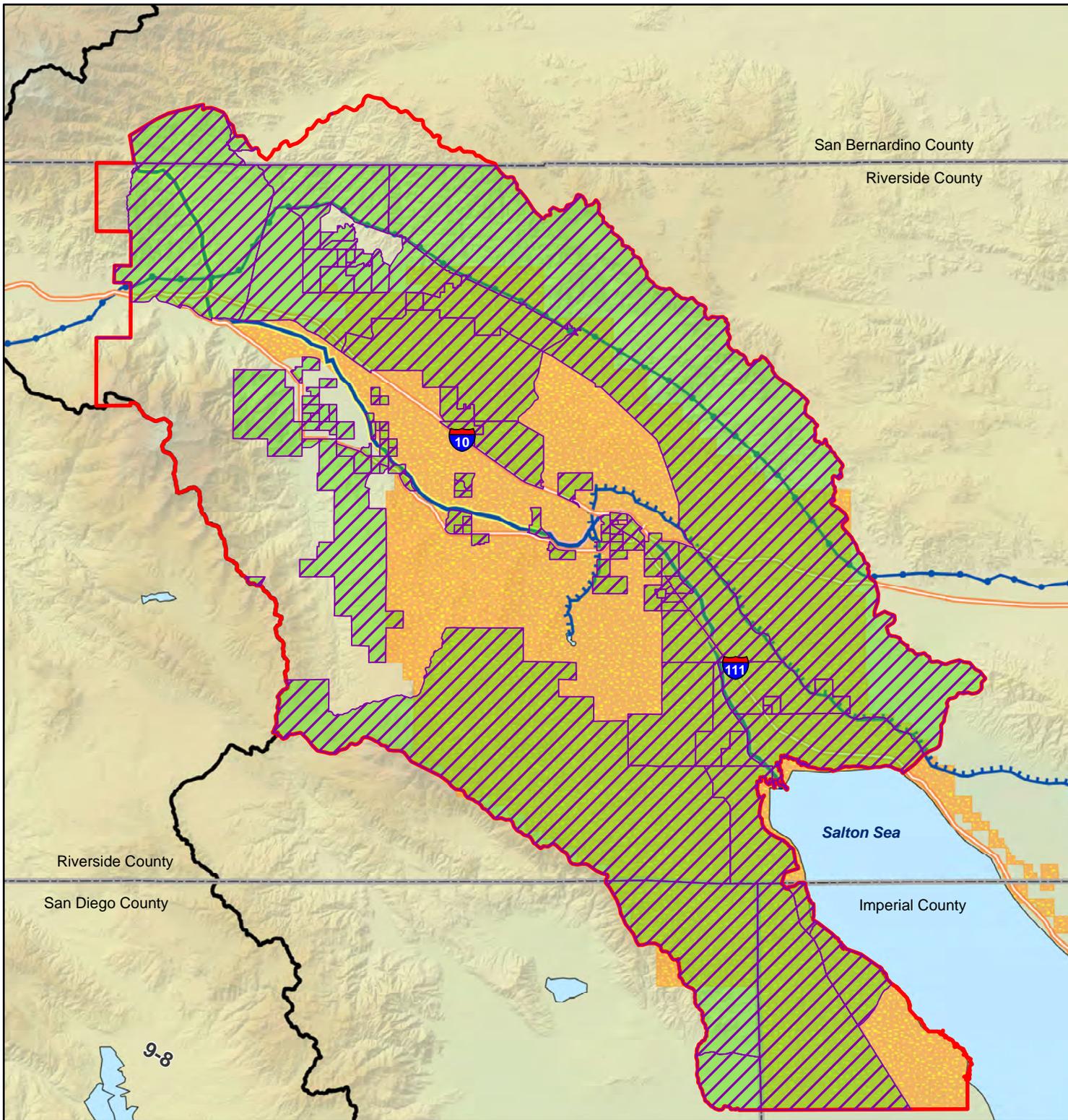
- Indio Water Authority
- Project 2: Regional Turf Reduction Program
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Disadvantaged communities are considered those who earned less than \$48,706 (80% Statewide MHI)



Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program

Figure 8-3



- Colorado River Aqueduct
 - Coachella and All American
 - Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
 - Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
 - Highways
 - Water Bodies
 - Coachella Valley IRWM Region
 - Colorado River Funding
- Local Project Sponsor**
- Coachella Valley Water District
 - Project 3: DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program
 - Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Disadvantaged communities are considered those who earned less than \$48,706 (80% Statewide MHI)





Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Needs of DACs Specific to the Coachella Valley

As documented in the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*, the Coachella Valley has a wide range of DACs from different demographics, including migrant and seasonal farm workers, low-income families, low-income seniors, and others. Several water management issues specific to DACs have been identified, and generally include drinking water supply and water quality, sanitation needs, and flooding concerns.

The *Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program* that was implemented concurrently with development of the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* included extensive ground surveys to better-define DAC issues and needs in the Region. Through this survey process, three primary water-related concerns were consistently raised by DAC stakeholders: water supply (drinking water), wastewater, and flooding. Further information on DAC needs and issues can be found in Volume I of the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* in *Chapter 4, Disadvantaged Communities* and *Chapter 3, Issues and Needs*. Of the three primary water-related concerns, stakeholders considered wastewater and drinking water quality the most critical with specific focus on the following:

- Wastewater systems that require maintenance and DAC residents' interest in better understanding of how to maintain onsite wastewater systems to avoid failures, overflows, and other issues
- Faulty septic systems that require rehabilitation or, where feasible, connection to municipal sewer systems
- Education on the source of water supply to help individuals learn who is responsible for regulating, testing, and ensuring quality drinking water and knowing who to contact when issues arise
- Lack of access in some areas to clean drinking water (either due to lack of municipal services or through some source of contamination between the meter and the tap) and need for onsite water treatment systems or alternative water supplies, which can be cost-prohibitive

While there are DACs located throughout the Coachella Valley, the survey conducted through the DAC Outreach Program found that the most dire and pressing issues tend to be found in places where DACs do not receive municipal water supply or wastewater services. Such areas are most heavily concentrated in the eastern Coachella Valley, southeast of the cities of Indio and Coachella. Within the eastern Coachella Valley, the survey indicated the presence of many small mobile home park communities that rely on onsite drinking water systems that were in a notable state of disrepair. Specifically, surveyors noted onsite leaking and ponding of water, pipes that were corroding or breaking, and pipes that were not properly connected or jointed and could therefore potentially carry contaminated water into the mobile home units.

Project Consistency with Critical Water Supply or Water Quality Needs of DACs

The three projects included in this Proposal will meet the critical water quality and water supply needs of DACs as defined by DWR and further explained in the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*. One of these projects, the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program*, will directly meet critical DAC needs, while the other two projects will provide indirect benefits to DACs. Project consistency with critical water-related needs of DACs is provided in the following sections.

DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program

The *2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines* identify four examples of critical water supply needs of DACs that can be met by IRWM projects. Of the four examples, the following two apply directly to the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program*. An explanation about how the program meets each critical water supply need of DACs is provided in the following paragraphs.

- Infrastructure renovations to a public water supply system necessary to assure continued reliability of the minimum quality and quantity of water



- Modification of a public water supply system necessary for the system to meet primary drinking water standards

The *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* would retrofit onsite water supply systems to address water waste and water quality concerns and upgrade onsite systems to increase reliability; however as indicated in the preceding section, these systems are generally private systems that are located in areas that cannot connect to municipal (public) infrastructure due to the distance to existing infrastructure. The quality of these onsite systems are documented as being very poor; during the survey that was conducted for the DAC Outreach Program, close to 50% of respondents reported that they occasionally run out of drinking water due to failures or issues with their onsite systems. By renovating conveyance systems in mobile home park drinking water systems, the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* will help to reduce onsite system failures and increase water reliability for residents.

Data regarding the water quality of drinking water for DACs that are on private systems is generally unavailable; however, the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* will be structured to reconstruct systems that need repair. During the DAC Outreach Program, DAC residents reported that many of the onsite water supply systems are located within proximity to septic systems that have noticeable failures (above-ground wastewater plumes) and that onsite water supply systems are also known to have leaks and failures due to improper construction. Therefore, although the water quality data is largely unverified, many local DACs suspect that their drinking water supplies (tap water) have been contaminated due to onsite system failures. The *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* includes renovations to onsite conveyance systems to repair system issues and failures and reduce or eliminate the potential for in-system contamination to occur. Therefore, this program will include modifications to water supply systems that may be necessary to meet primary drinking water standards, including national limits for microorganisms and inorganic compounds.

The *2014 IRWM Drought Solicitation Guidelines* also references the California Department of Health (CDPH) Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Priority List Ranking Criteria A through G as examples of critical water supply needs of DACs. The *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* falls within the following two SRF categories; an explanation of how the program meets each category is provided below.

- B. Water systems that have repeatedly violated the total coliform rule (TCR) due to active sources contaminated with coliform bacteria (fecal, E. coli, or total coliform)
- E. Water systems with water outages, significant water quantity problems caused by source water capacity, or water delivery capability that is insufficient to supply current demand

Although largely unverified, DAC residents in Coachella Valley have reported contamination of their private onsite water supplies by wastewater systems (generally septic systems) through poorly constructed or maintained underground drinking water conveyance systems. Due to the poor state of these onsite DAC systems and their proximity to septic systems, it is likely that DAC water systems have repeatedly violated the TCR due to active sources contaminated with coliform bacteria from onsite septic systems. By repairing onsite water systems, the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* will help to eliminate a potential source of coliform bacteria, and therefore will help to ensure that DAC residents do not receive contaminated drinking water supplies.

During the survey conducted for the Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program, nearly 50% of respondents reported occasionally running out of water. Many respondents attributed these water shortages to the poor plumbing systems in their individual mobile home units, because they also reported that water often arrives clean and reliably to the main source (well) at each mobile home park site. The *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* will help to repair onsite plumbing systems (water delivery systems), and therefore remedy water system outages that are caused by faulty onsite systems.



Indirect Benefits to DACs

All three projects included in this Proposal will benefit DACs in the Region. As described in the preceding section, the *DAC Onsite Plumbing Retrofit Program* fulfills DWR's criteria for meeting a critical water supply or water quality need of a DAC. The remaining two projects do not directly meet the criteria for critical water needs of a DAC, but will address water-related needs of DACs as articulated by DAC stakeholders and documented in the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*.

Regional Turf Reduction Program

This program will indirectly benefit DACs by reducing potable water demands through water-efficient landscaping. Through reduced groundwater pumping, this project will create regional benefits, including reduced groundwater basin overdraft and increased water security. These Regional benefits are anticipated to help avoid water cost increases by helping to cost-effectively manage the Region's groundwater resources. The *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* documents that DACs may be disproportionately affected by increased water costs and that it is an objective for the IRWM Region to maintain water affordability; while these DAC benefits are not explicitly recognized by DWR, they are regionally important to DAC residents. Therefore, the *Regional Turf Reduction Program* will provide indirect benefits to DAC residents by providing a cost-effective way to manage the Region's groundwater resources and helping to avoid future water cost increases.

Indio Water Authority Recycled Water Project

This project will indirectly benefit DACs by reducing potable water demand, and increasing water use efficiency through matching water quality with use. Through reduced groundwater pumping and increased basin recharge, this project will create regional benefits, including reduced groundwater basin overdraft, increased water security, and the provision of alternate water supplies (recycled water). These Regional benefits are anticipated to help avoid water cost increases by helping to cost-effectively manage the Region's groundwater resources. The *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* documents that DACs may be disproportionately affected by increased water costs and that it is an objective for the IRWM Region to maintain water affordability; while these DAC benefits are not explicitly recognized by DWR, they are regionally important to DAC residents. Therefore, the *Indio Water Authority Recycled Water Project* will provide indirect benefits to DAC residents by providing a cost-effective way to manage the Region's groundwater resources and helping to avoid future water cost increases.



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Appendix 8-1
Letters of Support



July 1, 2014

Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group
c/o Brian Macy, General Manager
Indio Water Authority
83-101 Avenue 45
Indio, CA 92201

Re: **Support for Indio Water Authority – Recycled Water Project Phase 1A**

Dear Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group:

The purpose of this letter is to extend Boe Del Heights Mutual Water Company's (BDHMWC) support for Indio Water Authority's (IWA) Recycled Water Project Phase 1A grant proposal. This Round Three Application is being submitted on behalf of the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWVG).

We recognize the paramount importance of groundwater to this region and what it provides to our local economy. As such, we commend IWA and members of the CVRWVG for their collaborative effort and forward thinking idea by implementing a recycled water project within IWA's service area. This project would save approximately 1,930 acre feet of water per year that would otherwise be lost to the Salton Sea. By saving this water, we can minimize our dependence on groundwater within the region and help reduce the drought impacts we are currently experiencing.

BDHMWC believes that it is in the best interest of the State of California to assist the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group and its member agency, Indio Water Authority, in protecting our local groundwater resource by minimizing their groundwater pumping and help reduce the drought impacts that are becoming increasingly evident to the region. The BDHMWC supports your efforts and urges the Department of Water Resources to ascribe the highest merit to the CVRWVG proposal.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Strohecker
Board President
Boe Del Heights Mutual Water Company