



## **Documentation of the Presence and Needs of a DAC**

### Presence of a DAC:

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), as defined by both Propositions 50 and 84, are communities whose average Median Household Income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual MHI. Severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs) are defined as communities with an average MHI less than 60 percent of the statewide annual MHI. In 2010, 60 percent of the state of California’s MHI was \$36,530, with a statewide MHI of \$60,883. A number of communities within the Y-M Region have been identified as DACs and SDACs. The DAC map (Att8\_DG\_DAC\_2of2) shows a graphical representation of the distribution of DACs within the census designated places, census tracts, and census block groups within Mariposa County.

In this proposal, three of the five projects are in DACs—the communities of Coulterville and Fish Camp. While seasonal and tourism-related visitors often increase the number of people in these communities, the population for Coulterville and Fish Camp is 201 and 59, respectively. The MHI was described above, with \$36,530 representing 60 percent of the statewide MHI—a key indicator for a severely disadvantaged community. The MHI in Coulterville is \$19,500, and in Fish Camp it is \$22,721, clearly defining both communities as severely disadvantaged.

It is vital for the County of Mariposa to receive this funding; the County and its DAC project areas cannot undertake this project alone because they do not have the money to allocate toward it. Because of this, the water situation has become dire for the County’s residents. Currently, the County is at risk for not meeting drinking water needs; also, the County is at extreme risk for major wildfires.

### Critical Water Needs:

Due to the lack of available funds in Coulterville and Fish Camp, these communities are unable to address critical water needs. Without this grant funding, these impoverished communities will continue to go without the necessary modifications needed. The County of Mariposa is requesting the IRWM grant funds through this special drought solicitation in order to expedite the projects, particularly given the harsh impacts of the current drought.

The projects being proposed for the DACs in this proposal fit directly into the types of projects envisioned for the program, addressing several key areas.

- **Modification of a public water supply system necessary for the system to meet primary drinking water standards**—The California Department of Public Health designated the County as “vulnerable to drinking water systems due to drought conditions.” As is discussed in this attachment, ensuring supply and delivery of water in this proposal’s two DACs is the core purpose. The old, existing wells are constantly



being drilled deeper in an effort to continue the provision of primary drinking water, at a significantly higher electrical cost and expense to the residents. Once water is successfully pumped to the surface, the leakage in the current, aging water line infrastructure results in losses of water to homes.

- **Infrastructure renovations to a public water supply system necessary to assure continued reliability of the minimum quality and quantity of water**—All three of the DAC projects in this proposal are designed to address this subject. The drilling of secondary source water wells in each disadvantaged community, as well as the installation of a water storage tank and extensive water line improvements, will ensure a level of reliability the communities haven't seen for many years.
- **Augmentation of inadequate water supply pressure in a public water supply system needed to prevent loss of system integrity and to maintain adequate fire protection flows**—With water supply wells that have, or are nearing, the end of their useful lives, the amount of water and its associated pressure are severely impaired. Not only does this impact the residents and users of the water, but it particularly affects the ability to effectively prepare for and combat wildfires. This proposal has already described the acute fire danger in the region—even more dangerous given the current drought—and a lack of adequate water and water flow can be catastrophic for the residents.

The County has experienced a total of four fires in the month of June, destroying upward of 900 acres in Mariposa. These fires cost the already financially burdened communities even more money. One fire required over 350 fire personnel, 15 fire engines, 12 fire crews, 4 helicopters, and 5 dozers. The communities do not have the funds available to pay for these additional costs.

- **Replacement of water supply wells that have exceeded their useful life (older than 50 years)**—The community of Coulterville is one of the more historic places in the Sierras and much of its infrastructure is in dire need of repair and replacement. The current water supply well in this community is more than 50 years old and has exceeded its useful life, requiring costly major maintenance and upkeep.

The three projects in the Coulterville and Fish Camp Communities will provide immediate relief to the DACs/SDACs. They will also put preventative measures in place to safeguard against risks to adequate and reliable sources of drinking water and augment wildfire mitigation and prevention.

