Both Lost Hills and the City of McFarland are two of the communities in the Region considered "economically disadvantaged" based on a comparison of the statewide median household income ($60,883 for 2006-2010 based on ACS Census data) to the population-weighted average household income level for the Region (approximately $30,294, or about 50 percent of statewide value). This value falls well below the 80% of statewide median household income threshold (value $48,706) for designation as "economically disadvantaged", in accordance with CWC §79505.5(a). This implies that most unincorporated communities are classified as "disadvantaged communities" (DACs). The CWC also defines "severely disadvantaged communities" (SDACs) as those with median household income below 60 percent of the statewide value, which results in a threshold of approximately $36,530 which only applies to some of the poorest of areas in the Region.

Given that DACs are in the Poso Creek Region, identifying the water supply and water quality needs of these low-income areas is necessary for the IRWM Group. The RWMG has taken proactive steps for identifying and including DACs in development of the Plan. Following the identification of economically-disadvantaged areas, representatives were extended an invitation to participate in the IRWM Group. Several communities that met the criteria for DACs joined the Poso Creek IRWM Group and have participated since its formation. A list of DACs in the Region is given in Table 3.7, and a map of the locations of these DACs is shown in Figure 3.7. Recall that DACs are represented by a DAC Representative who is a voting member of the RWMG, as well as a DAC Work Group that focuses on the needs, impacts, and benefits to communities in the Region. For the DAC communities that remain unrepresented, or are located outside the Region boundary, the IRWM Group has worked with Self-Help Enterprises and the Community Water Center to identify and provide needs assessment of unincorporated disadvantaged communities.

The DACs in the Poso Creek Region have several significant obstacles to overcome in order to ensure reliable water supplies and adequate water quality for their residents, including:

- Lack of financial resources due to lower-income residents, many of whom are not able to adequately fund community projects and programs (i.e., lower tax income for these communities and limited involvement from residents). In addition, many of these communities struggle to provide basic services such as maintenance, permitting, and staff to address the needs and issues of their residents.
- Lack of technical and managerial ability of community leadership and personnel to plan and afford the necessary steps for assuring water quantity and quality. It also relates to being unable to hire skilled staff and provide competitive income levels, thereby perpetuating the lack of leadership capacity, specifically regarding water-related concerns.
- The water and wastewater infrastructure of many of the DACs in the Region are substandard or aging, relying on old or severely leaking wells and distribution

systems leading to many water challenges. Recall that all cities and communities in the Region rely solely on groundwater. Some of these wells are shallow, inadequately constructed, or improperly sealed, which leads to poor water pressure and/or poor water quality.

- Many of the DACs are geographically isolated, located long distances from larger cities or more economically prosperous areas.

The IRWM Group has worked with the DACs with the intent of providing solutions to regional water supply and quality issues; regardless of location (some of the DACs are located outside the Region boundary), status/condition (e.g., comparison of level of economic-disadvantage between DACs), or ability to participate in IRWM Group efforts. Through the DAC Representative, the RWMG will continue its outreach to DACs and encourage participation in the IRWM Group. The IRWM Group has supported project and program development and implantation for these DACs, with a good deal of success, which is illustrated in Report Card.

Regarding the use of groundwater supplies by these DACs, the RWMG has identified and implemented projects and programs that benefit the underlying groundwater basin. In this regard, recall that the agricultural water management districts and DACs, as well as other cities and M&I users, share a groundwater basin that is hydraulically connected and utilized by all users in the Region. Accordingly, any decline in water levels will be felt by all users, including the regional DACs that rely on the groundwater for their supplies due to an associated increase in the use of power and energy resources (environmental burden), as well as infrastructure (well) upgrades which become necessary to pump groundwater from deeper in the aquifer. To that extent, projects and programs such as those which were implemented (Appendix A1) or those which are proposed as part of this Plan (Appendix A2) which work to mitigate declines in water levels will provide benefits to other groundwater users in the Region. Beyond projects and programs aimed specifically at improving water supply or water quality issues at the DAC-level (e.g., construction or rehabilitation of a groundwater well), the types of activities described in this Plan provide benefit to the DACs in the Region through the common groundwater reservoir.

This Plan Update contemplates that DAC-specific projects and programs will be included in the Annual Report, pursuant to the Regional Goals and Measurable Objectives. It is noted that project and program submissions to the RWMG are expected to address potential impacts and benefits to regional DACs, which is a factor that is weighted during review of project/program submissions. Beyond the list in the Annual Report, it is intended that the DAC Representative and Work Group will work with DAC leadership in the Region to maintain a current list of the DACs and their primary contact information. Representatives from Self-Help Enterprises and the Community Water Center are invited to participate in the IRWM Group meetings, and to call for the inclusion of specific projects or programs with a DAC focus, when it comes to grant and funding applications to accomplish the Goals and Objectives of this Plan.

Table 3.7 Characteristics of the Region's Disadvantaged Communities

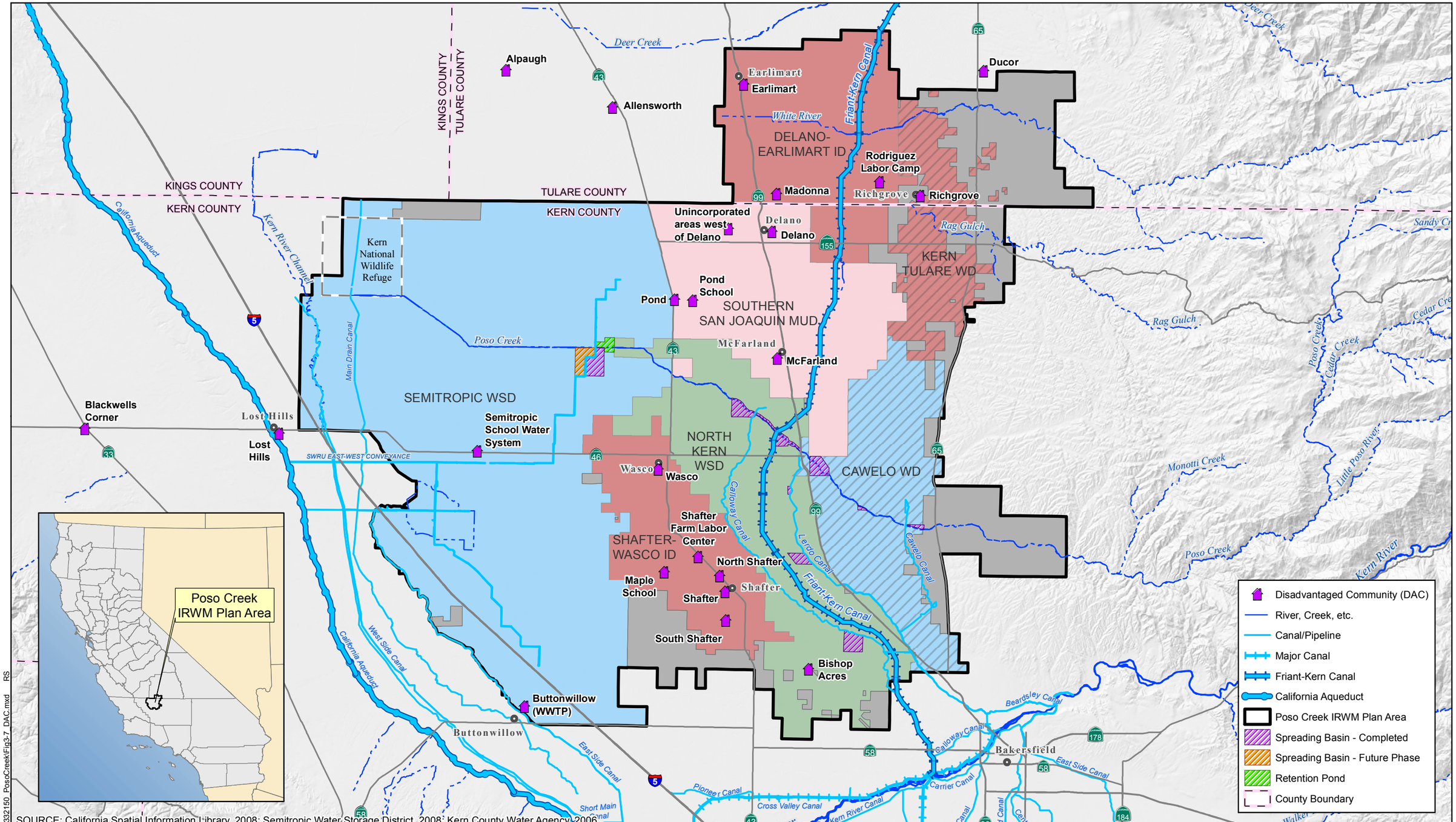
City/Community	County	Population[1]	Estimated Households	Median Household Income (MHI)[1]	% of State MHI[2]	Corresponding Entity
Allensworth[3]	Tulare	471	121	$23,594	39%	Allensworth Community Services District
Alpaugh[3]	Tulare	1,026	241	$20,724	34%	Alpaugh Joint Powers Authority
Bishop Acres	Kern	Not Avail.	26	$34,345	56%	Bishop Acres Mutual Water Company
Blackwells Corner	Kern	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	$29,338	48%	
Buttonwillow	Kern	1,508	411	$37,500	62%	Buttonwillow County Water District
Delano	Kern	53,041	11,002	$35,507	58%	City of Delano
Unincorporated Areas West of Delano	Kern	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	$30,946	51%	County of Kern, City of Delano
Ducor[3]	Tulare	612	126	$33,549	55%	Ducor Community Services District
Earlimart	Tulare	8,537	1,945	$25,885	43%	Earlimart Public Utility District
Lost Hills	Kern	2,412	440	$29,348	48%	Lost Hills Utility District
Madonna	Tulare	Not Avail.	28	$13,000	21%	City of Delano County of Tulare
Maple School District	Kern	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	$27,634	45%	City of Shafter
McFarland	Kern	12,707	2,706	$35,812	59%	City of McFarland
Pond	Kern	48	24	$30,946	51%	Pond Mutual Water Company

[1] Data obtained from the latest US Census Bureau statistics, generally 2010 Census Data (available via American Fact Finder online database).
[2] Percent of State MHI from 2010 ACS Census Data, threshold of $60,883 with 80 percent value of $48,706, as stated above (from Prop. 84 Guidelines)
[3] Located outside of Poso Creek IRWM Region. .

Table 3.7 (Continued) Characteristics of the Region's Disadvantaged Communities

City/Community	County	Population[1]	Estimated Households	Median Household Income (MHI)[1]	% of State MHI[2]	Corresponding Entity
Pond School District	Kern	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	$30,946	51%	Pond School District
Richgrove	Tulare	2,882	593	$29,537	49%	Richgrove Community Services District
Rodriguez Labor Camp	Tulare	110	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Richgrove Community Services District
Semitropic School District	Kern	263	NA[1]	$29,338	48%	Semi-Tropic School District
Shafter	Kern	16,988	4,629	$40,731	67%	City of Shafter
Shafter Farm Labor Center	Kern	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Not Avail.	Housing Authority of County of Kern
Shafter North (North Park & North Shafter)	Kern	1,000	207	$27,634	45%	City of Shafter
Shafter South (Smith's Corner, Thomas Lane, Cherokee Strip, Burbank, Mexican Colony, Southwest Shafter)	Kern	1,300	348	$27,634	45%	County of Kern, City of Shafter
Wasco	Kern	25,545	5,413	$42,221	69%	City of Wasco

[1] Data obtained from the latest US Census Bureau statistics, generally 2010 Census Data (available via American Fact Finder online database).
[2] Percent of State MHI from 2010 ACS Census Data, threshold of $60,883 with 80 percent value of $48,706, as stated above (from Prop. 84 Guidelines).



SOURCE: California Spatial Information Library, 2008; Semitropic Water Storage District, 2008; Kern County Water Agency, 2006.

2014 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Update

Kern and Tulare Counties, California

Poso Creek IRWM Group

GEI Consultants
Bookman-Edmonston Division

LOCATION OF DACS IN THE POSO CREEK REGION

JUNE 2014

FIGURE 3.7

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