

ATTACHMENT 8: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

Documentation of the Presence and Needs of a DAC

Determination of DACs in the Project Area

A disadvantaged community (DAC), according to the Proposition 84 Guidelines (DWR, 2014), is a community with a Median Household Income (MHI) less than 80% of the California statewide MHI. DWR compiled U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2006 to 2010. This data was used in GIS to identify DACs within the Westside-San Joaquin Region. A community with an MHI less than or equal to \$48,706 is considered a DAC. Based on these criteria, the entire Westside-San Joaquin Region is considered disadvantaged, except for the very northern portion of the Region (Figure 1).

The Westside-San Joaquin Region is also home to a large Hispanic or Latino population, which is greatly dependent upon agricultural production as a source of employment. At the county level, the percentage of Hispanic population runs from a low of 30.5% in San Joaquin County to 45.3% in Merced County. However, Hispanic populations on the west side of the Valley are usually the majority in a given area and can run as high as nearly 94% of the population. Improving water supply reliability and quality, and otherwise enhancing the conditions for production of agriculture in this Region, will expand employment opportunities for these disadvantaged populations.

DAC Needs and Targeted Project Benefits

The ongoing drought and reduced Central Valley Project (CVP) allocations have created a water crisis in the Project area. Agricultural irrigators, dependent heavily on CVP supplies, are both:

- Reducing agricultural production in the region through fallowing productive farm acreage and under irrigator permanent crops, hurting the regional economy and directly impacting DAC communities that are heavily dependent on agricultural jobs; and
- Turning to groundwater as an alternative irrigation supply, increasing stresses on the underlying groundwater basin.

Should the drought continue into 2015, this situation is expected to worsen. The projects contained in this application, for the most part, focus on managing groundwater resources to protect deeper, higher quality groundwater supplies, preserving them for the cities and rural communities (many of whom are DACs) with a goal of minimizing overdraft. The means by which these projects directly protect and preserve underlying groundwater supplies for domestic and municipal use include:

- Capturing agricultural tailwater runoff and recirculating it back into the irrigation systems, thereby reducing the volume of groundwater extraction required to make up that same volume of water that would otherwise be lost (**Patterson Irrigation District Agricultural Drainage Recirculation and Intertie Expansion Project** and **San Luis Water District Kaljain Pumping Plant and Conveyance System Rehabilitation**);
- Diverting and capturing wet weather flows in a percolation basin for augmenting groundwater (**DPWD/CCID Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project**);
- Replacing potable water irrigation with non-potable water irrigation, matching water quality to water use, preserving higher quality groundwater for potable uses (**City of Patterson Non-Potable Water System, Phase III Project**); and

- Reducing overall groundwater use by replacing turf with drought-resistant plants (**City of Patterson Turf Removal Project**).

Additionally, the **North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWP)** will provide Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) with a new water supply to provide to agricultural growers within its service area. This year, the District received a 0% allocation of CVP supplies under its contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; this contractual entitlement is the District's sole source of supply. In response, the District has been scrambling to procure additional water through private groundwater pumping and short-term water transfers to avoid the loss of permanent crops and to reduce the economic impacts to growers and the local community as a result of increased land fallowing and reduced agricultural production. The NVRWP will address the critical water supply need of the DACs in the DPWD service area by delivering recycled water from the Cities of Modesto and Turlock to the DPWD service area, improving water supply reliability, and augmenting ongoing shortfalls in the District's CVP supplies.

All the projects described herein will directly address the critical water supply need of the DACs in the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region and the individual project proponent service areas by matching water quality to water use to offset potable use where possible, and by offsetting potable groundwater supplies with other, non-potable waters, thereby reducing extractions from deeper aquifers and preserving those supplies for DAC communities.

Figure 1: Disadvantaged Communities in the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region

