

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal Disadvantaged Community Assistance

Attachment 7 consists of the following items:

1. **Funding Match Waiver.** Information about funding match waivers requested for this Proposal is provided for three projects.
2. **Documentation of Presence and Needs of DACs.** Information about how local DACs are defined and mapped with respect to the location of projects included in the Proposal.
3. **Water-Related Needs of DACs in the Coachella Valley.** Information about the water-related needs of DACs in the Coachella Valley as described in IRWM planning documents.
4. **Project Consistency with Water-Related Needs of DACs.** The targeted water-related benefits to local DACs from the proposed projects are described.
5. **Letters of Support.** A letter of support from a local non-profit organization for implementation of Project 6 is included in **Appendix 7-1**.

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Funding Match Waiver

Project 4 of this Proposal, the *DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project* is requesting a waiver of funding match. This project is a rebate program that will be available solely to DACs and is targeted at addressing critical DAC needs associated with failing and overflowing septic systems. To encourage DAC participation in the program, participants will not be required to provide a funding match for the septic system retrofits or greywater systems that will be installed with rebate funding. The local project sponsor, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), will provide in-kind funding match provided by staff for direct project administration, preparing program guidelines and application materials (design), preparing a Project Performance Monitoring Plan, and conducting outreach to raise awareness about the rebate program. Grant funds are being requested solely for rebates and for labor required to administer the rebate program. Local mapping of median household incomes verifies that the project area is 100% economically disadvantaged, as shown in **Figure 7-4**.

Project 5 of this Proposal, the *Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project* is requesting a waiver of funding match. This project is a planning and design project that will move the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians forward towards implementing a project to connect economically disadvantaged Tribal residents to CVWD's municipal sewer system. Local mapping of median household incomes verifies that the area that would be served by the project, the Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision, is 100% economically disadvantaged, as shown in **Figure 7-5**.

Project 6 of this Proposal, the *Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project* is requesting a waiver of funding match. This project is a planning and design project that will move a mobile home park forward towards implementing a project to connect economically disadvantaged residents to the Coachella Water Authority's (CWA's) municipal water and sewer system. Local mapping of median household incomes verifies that the project area is 100% economically disadvantaged, as shown in **Figure 7-6**.

Documentation of Presence and Needs of a DAC

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 *2015 IRWM Guidelines*, data from the American Community Survey (ACS) of the U.S. Census is an eligible source of MHI estimates for use in determining if a community is a DAC. The ACS for the years 2009-2013 shows that 80% of the Statewide MHI is \$48,875. Therefore, a DAC is a community with a MHI of less than \$48,875 per the *2015 IRWM Guidelines*.

MHIs in the Coachella Valley IRWM Region were estimated through an analysis of the 2013 ACS data at the Census tract and block-group levels. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent geographic entities within counties delineated by a committee of local data users. Block-groups are similar to Census tracts, only at a finer scales (i.e., block groups are nested within Census tracts). Past DAC mapping with ACS data has shown that Census tracts designated as DAC do not always reflect the Region's understanding of where DACs are located. This may be a reflection of the scale of the data, the fact that Census tracts do not directly align with Region boundaries, or data gaps related to the demographic of the DAC population, which in many places may be reluctant to accurately respond to Census and survey takers. To better understand DACs in the Region (location, needs, etc.), the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) completed the *Disadvantaged Community Outreach Demonstration Program* (DAC Outreach Program) concurrent with the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*. Findings of the DAC Outreach Program were incorporated into the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* as Volume II. The DAC Outreach Program was funded through a Proposition 84 grant from DWR; the grant contract included tasks to complete additional mapping that would help to refine the location of DACs in the Region. For the additional mapping analysis, the DAC Outreach Program initially mapped the location of DACs using Census and ACS data, then refined the mapping with an ESRI Community Analysis, and further refined and verified the location of DACs with field surveys conducted by local non-profit partners.

Figures 7-1 through **7-6** show the location of DACs in the Coachella Valley at the Census tract-level using the 2013 ACS data and ESRI Community Analysis tool and also show each of the projects included in this

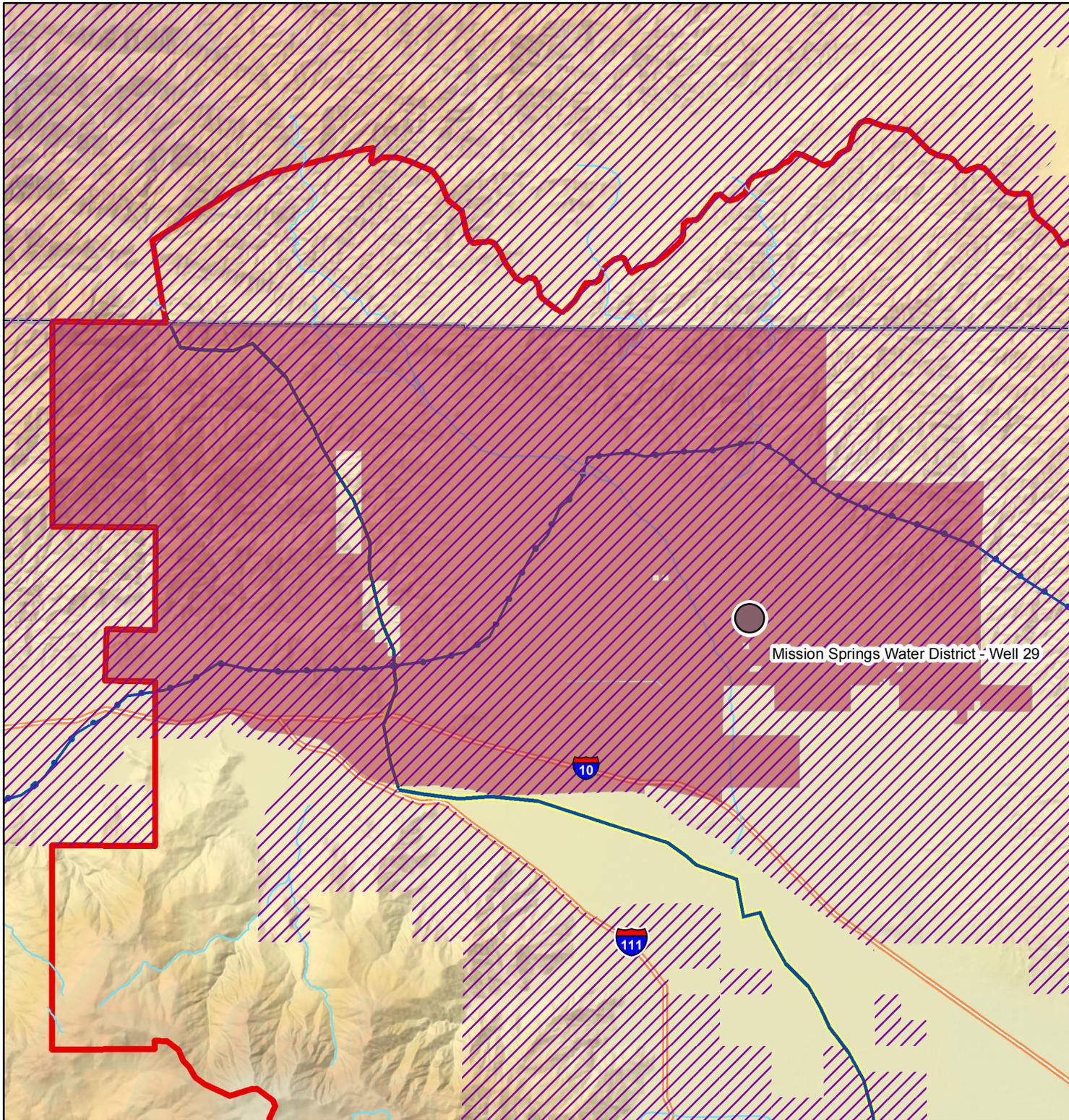


Proposal. While projects 4, 5, and 6 are requesting DAC waivers, all of the projects included in the Proposal will benefit the water-related needs of local DACs.

- **Figure 7-1** shows the location of Project 1 *MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program* with respect to DACs. As explained in detail in Attachment 2, this project will serve the service area of Mission Springs Water District, all of which qualifies as a DAC. Because the project addresses two major water-related DAC needs in MSWD's service area (water supply reliability and maintaining water affordability), 100% of the project service area (by geography) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.
- **Figure 7-2** shows the location of Project 2 *Regional Turf Reduction Program* with respect to DACs. As explained in detail in Attachment 2, this project will serve the service areas of the Coachella Water Authority (CWA) and Desert Water Agency (DWA). Information in **Figure 7-2** demonstrates that nearly the entire service area for CWA (90% of the service area) qualifies as a DAC and 71% of DWA's service area is classified as DAC. As such, the entirety of the project service area is not DAC (72% by total area). However, the way that the rebate program is structured, CWA and DWA will ensure that at least 25% of the total recipients of the rebate (the total area served by the project by population) will be DAC. Because the rebates offered through the project address a major water-related DAC need (maintaining water affordability), and at least 25% of the population that receives rebates will be DAC, at least 25% of the project service area (by population) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.
- **Figure 7-3** shows the location of Project 3 *Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program*, which is a rebate program that will be made available throughout the two medium-priority groundwater basins in the Region (Indio and Mission Creek basins). Information in **Figure 7-3** demonstrates that the entirety of the project service area is not DAC (80% by total area). However, the way that the rebate program is structured, CVWD will ensure that at least 25% of the total recipients of the rebate (the total area served by the project by population) will be DAC. Because the rebates offered through the project address two major water-related DAC needs in the Region (water supply reliability and maintaining water affordability), and at least 25% of the population that receives rebates will be DAC, at least 25% of the project service area (by population) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.
- **Figure 7-4** shows the location of Project 4 *DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction 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. In addition, because the project directly addresses a major water-related DAC need associated with septic system overflows, 100% of the project service area (by geography) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.
- **Figure 7-5** shows the location of Project 5 *Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project* with respect to DACs. As shown in the figure, the project area is 100% DAC. Because the project is targeted at addressing specific water-related needs of an economically disadvantaged Tribal community, 100% of the project service area (by geography) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.
- **Figure 7-6** shows the location of Project 6 *Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project* with respect to DACs. As shown in the figure, the project area is 100% DAC. Because the project is targeted at addressing specific water-related needs of an economically disadvantaged mobile home park community, 100% of the project service area (by geography) will benefit a water-related need of a DAC.

**Figure 7-1:
MSWD Water Supply Reliability
Program**

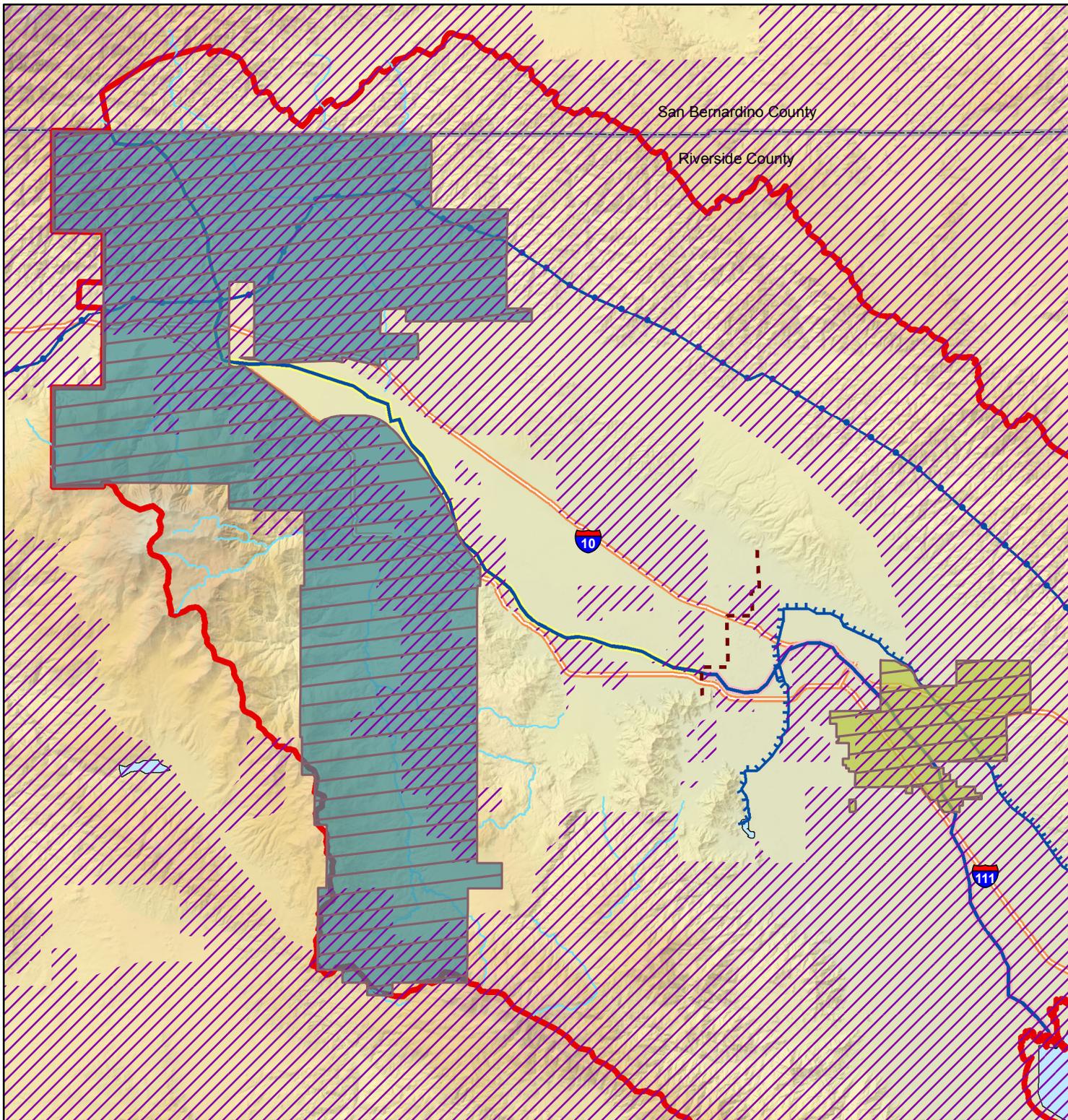
-  Colorado River Aqueduct
-  Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
-  River or Creek
-  Highways
-  Coachella Valley IRWM Region
-  1 MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program
-  Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)



Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.

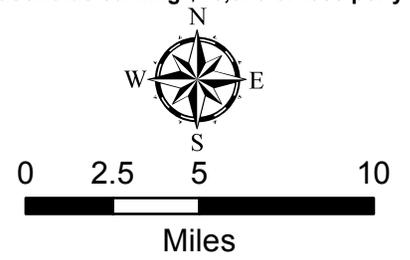


**Figure 7-2:
Regional Turf Reduction Program**

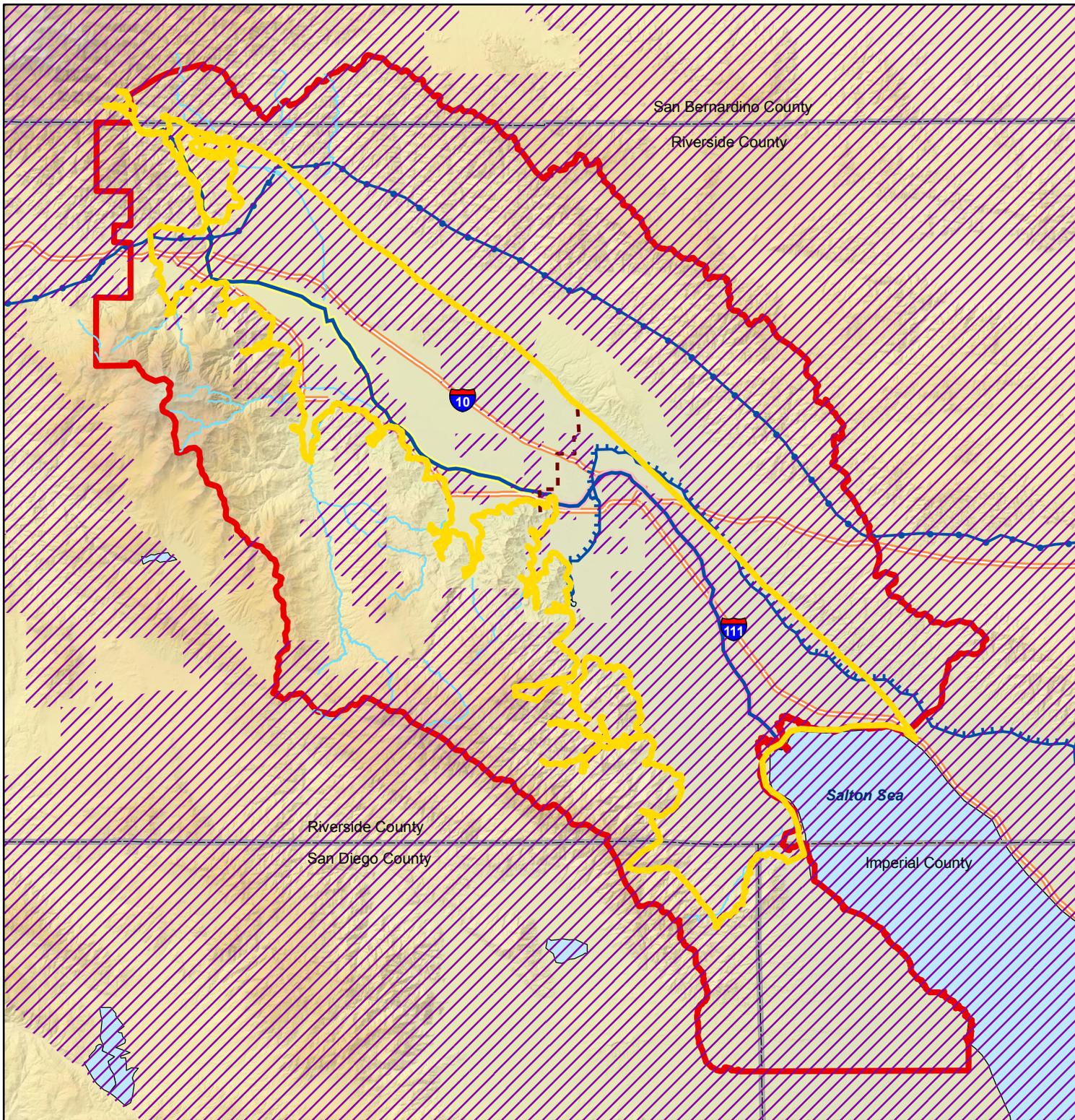


- Division between West and East Valley
- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American Canals
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- River or Creek
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- 2 Regional Turf Reduction Program
- Desert Water Agency
- Coachella Water Authority
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.



**Figure 7-3:
Regional Well Retrofit and
Abandonment Program**

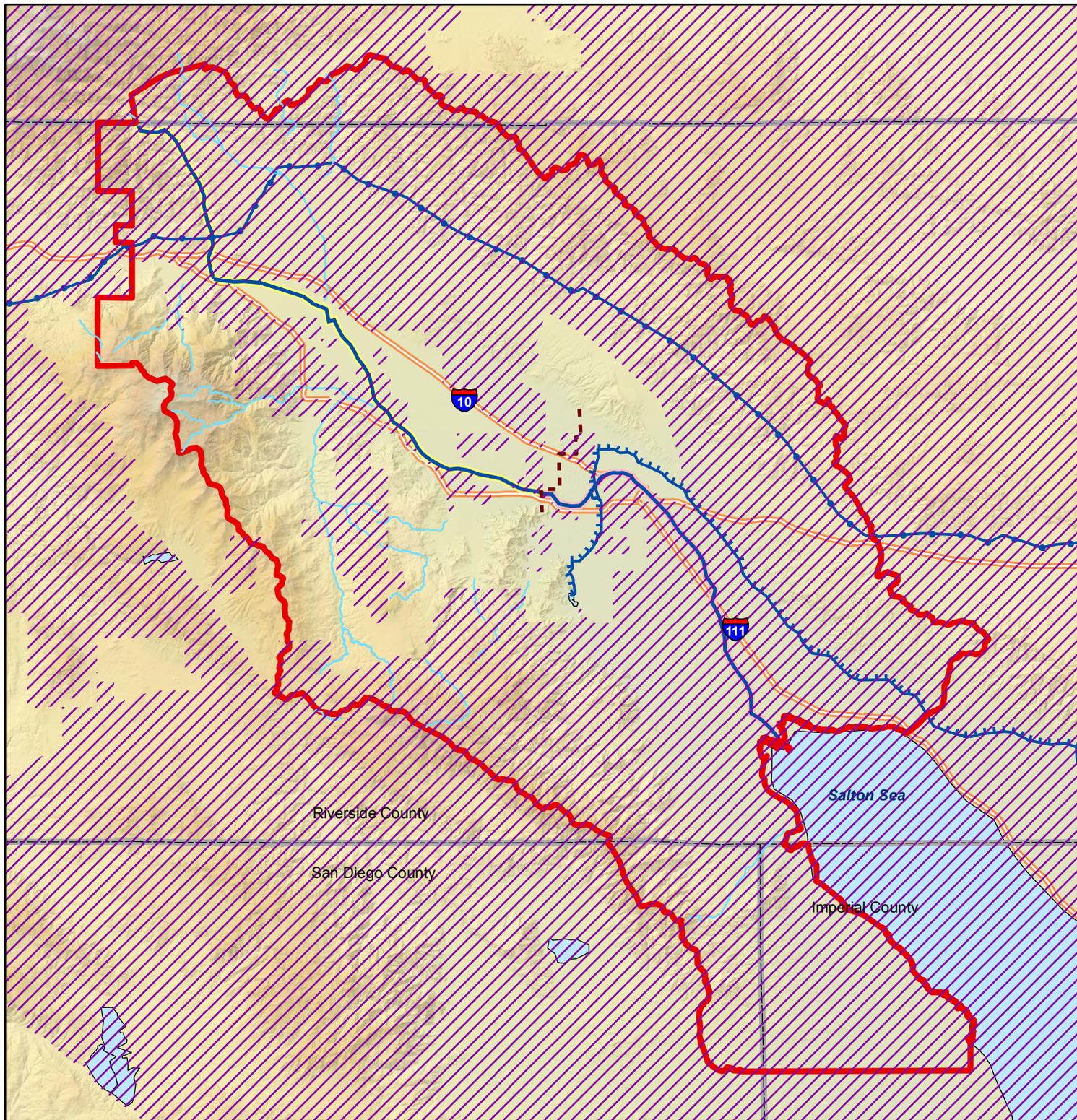


- Division between West and East Valley
- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- River or Creek
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- 3 Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.



**Figure 7-4:
DAC Septic Rehabilitation and
Demand Reduction Project**



- Division between West and East Valley
- Colorado River Aqueduct
- Coachella and All American Canals
- Whitewater River Storm Water Channel
- Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
- River or Creek
- Highways
- Water Bodies
- Coachella Valley IRWM Region
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.

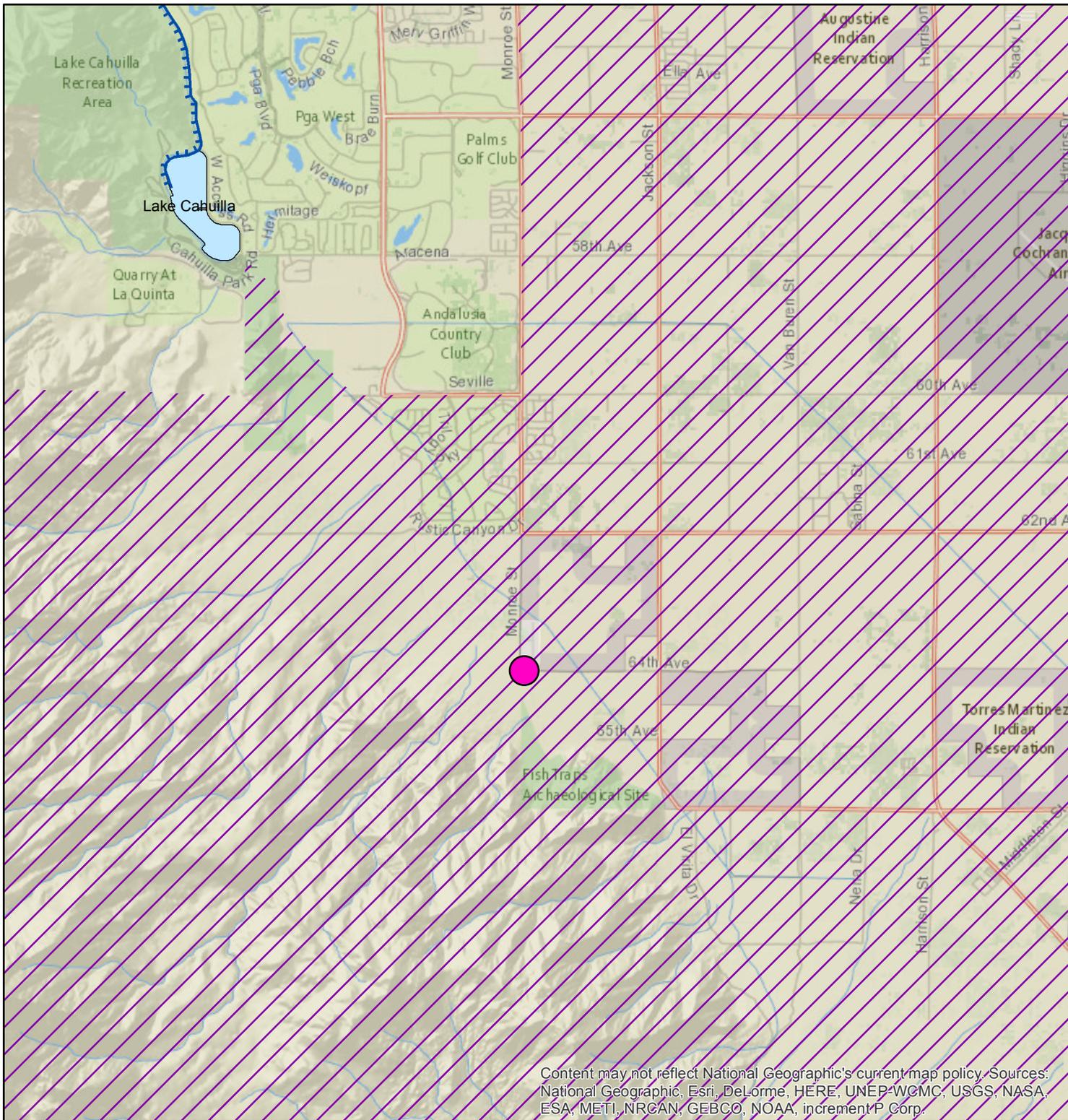


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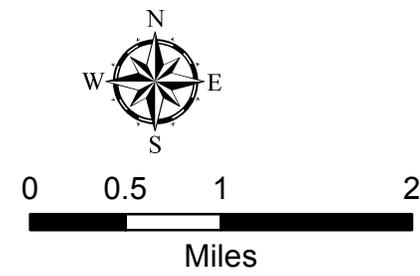


**Figure 7-5:
Torres Martinez Septic
to Sewer Conversion Project**

-  Coachella and All American
-  Water Bodies
-  5 Torres Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project
-  Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)



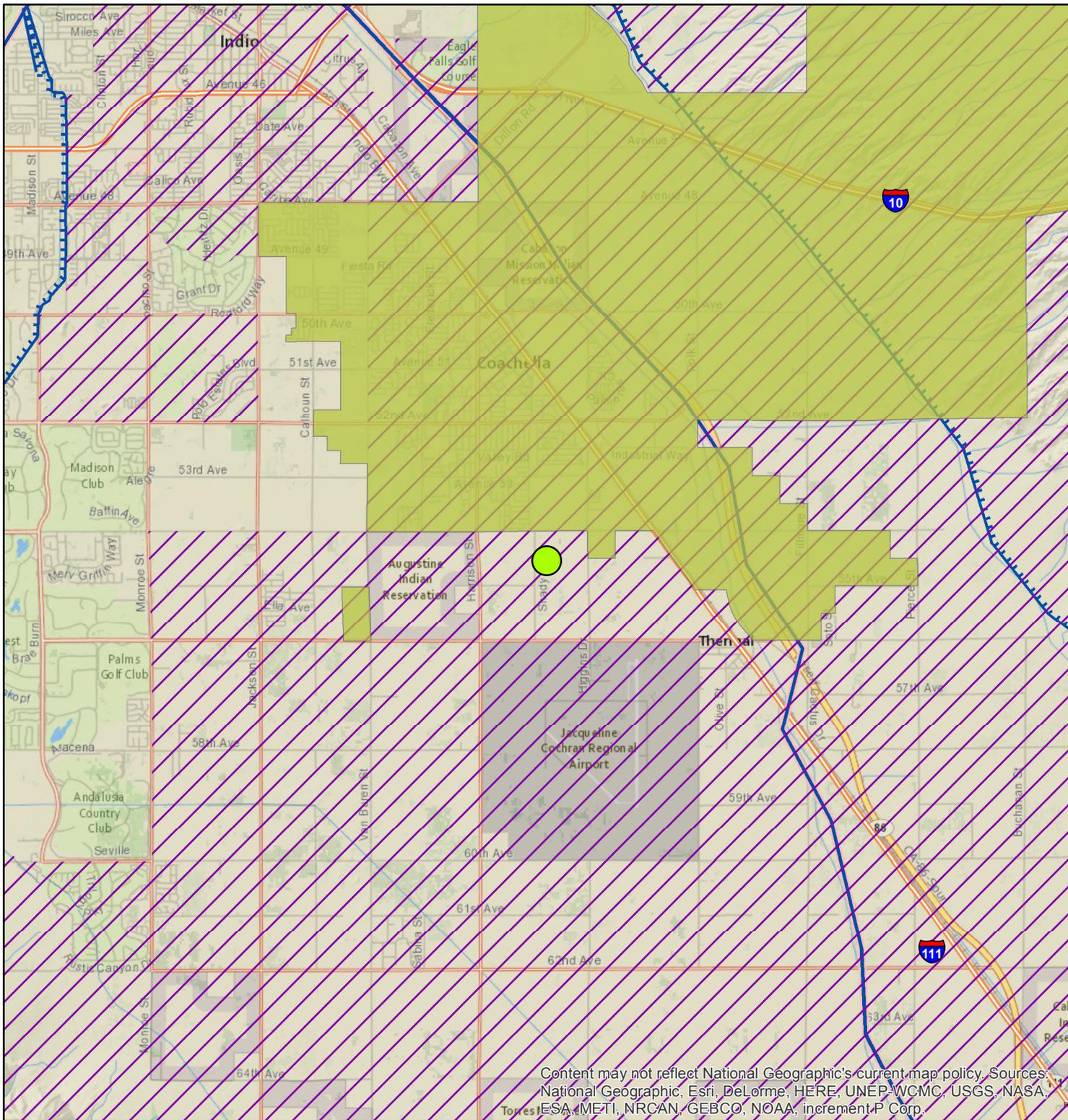
Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.



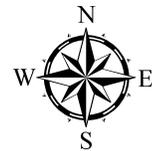
Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, increment P Corp.

**Figure 7-6:
Shady Lane Water and Sewer
Connection Project**

-  Coachella and All American
-  Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel
-  Highways
-  Coachella Water Authority
-  6 Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project
-  Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)



Source: 2013 U.S. Census Data - American Community Survey Median Household Income (MHI), by block group, census tract, and DAC Data from 2013 Coachella Valley DAC Outreach Program. DACs are defined as having MHI of 80% of Statewide MHI. For 2013, DACs were households earning \$48,875 or less per year.



Content may not reflect National Geographic's current map policy. Sources: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, incrementP Corp.

Water-Related Needs of DACs in 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, flooding concerns, and maintaining the affordability of water.

The *Disadvantaged Community Outreach Demonstration 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, through development of the *2010 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* and the *2010 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*, stakeholders identified that maintaining water affordability is a primary concern to residents, and is of specific concern to DACs that may be disproportionately affected by rate increases. Because the issue of water affordability consistently rose to the top of issues expressed by stakeholders, the CVRWMMG included “maintain affordability of water” as an objective of the IRWM Plan (Objective M). Additional 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 primary water-related concerns identified by DACs, 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.

The *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* identifies four types of projects that could help to resolve DAC needs and issues. These project types include: 1) Education, 2) Drinking Water Treatment, 3) Wastewater, and 4) DAC Recognition and Support. Priority DAC projects were also identified, and include outreach and education, point-of-use treatment system installation, and septic-to-sewer conversion. Each of the projects included in this application implement some form of education, and by virtue of their being implemented in DACs, recognize and support DACs. Further, projects that address water supply reliability or otherwise help to reduce the frequency or magnitude of future water rate increases benefits DACs, which may be disproportionately impacted by water cost increases. Projects that seek to increase water supply reliability and maintain the affordability of water directly address Objective M of the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan*, which seeks to maintain affordability of water.



Project Consistency with Water-Related Needs of DACs

All six projects included in this Proposal will directly address water-related needs of DACs as described in the *2014 Coachella Valley IRWM Plan* and summarized above. Project consistency with water-related needs of DACs is provided in the following sections.

Project 1: MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program

The *MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program* will provide drinking water quality benefits and education to DACs within MSWD's service area. The project will install wellhead treatment at MSWD's existing Well 29 to treat chromium-6 (Chrom 6) to levels within the new maximum containment level (MCL) standard of 10 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). Well 29 is currently offline to maintain compliance with the Chrom 6 MCL due to high concentration of Chrom 6. However, removing Well 29 from service is considered a short-term solution to Chrom 6 compliance, because it is one of MSWD's highest producing wells, averaging 1,350 AFY production. Chrom 6 is a health concern because it has been linked to cancer when ingested¹ (such as through high concentrations in drinking water). As shown in **Figure 7-1**, MSWD's service area is entirely DAC by area, and this component of the *MSWD Water Supply Reliability Program* will both improve water supply reliability within MSWD's service area by allowing Well 29 to be returned to service, while at the same time improving potable water quality to meet state standards and protect the health of MSWD's customers. Treatment of groundwater at Well 29 is a long-term solution to addressing Chrom 6 compliance issues and will return an existing facility to service. Therefore, the project meets a major water-related need of DACs by implementing cost-effective solutions that are aimed at improving groundwater basin manage that is critical to maintaining affordability of water.

The second component of the project will install advanced meter technology and water use data collection equipment in a pilot program for 100 of MSWD's DAC customers. This component will improve MSWD's understanding of customer demands and use, and allow for early detection of leaks and breaks that can cause substantial water waste. This pilot program will be used to determine the benefit of expanding advanced metering infrastructure throughout MSWD's service area and could be used to support advanced metering across the Region. Advanced metering in other areas of the state have resulted in average reduction in water use by 3.5-6.5%², helping to conserve potable water for potable needs, which would improve water supply reliability in MSWD's service area, and directly benefit DACs in the project area. Further, because the project will assist with early leak detection, it will help DACs to reduce the occurrence of undetected leaks that can result in costly water bills. Therefore, the project will directly help maintain water affordability for MSWD's customers.

Project 2: Regional Turf Reduction Program

This program will directly benefit DACs by reducing potable water demands through water-efficient landscaping. The *Regional Turf Reduction Program* will target DACs in CWA and DWA services areas, providing direct benefits in the form of reduced potable water demands for irrigation. Water savings provided by the project directly translate into cost savings to DACs by reducing water bills, and indirectly benefits DACs through reduced water rate increases and improved water supply reliability due to decreased demand for groundwater. 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. This project will benefit DAC residents by providing a cost-effective way to manage the Region's groundwater resources and helping to avoid future water cost increases.

Project 3: Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program

The *Regional Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program* will provide groundwater quality protection (and associated drinking water quality protection) benefits to DACs by properly sealing and retrofitting wells in high-priority portions of the Region. This project implements a recommendation of the *Coachella Valley*

¹ California Department of Public Health. 2013. *Chromium-6 Fact Sheet*. Available:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/chromium6/Chromium-6FactSheet-Update-08-21-2013.pdf

² East Bay Municipal Utilities District. 2013. *Evaluation of East Bay Municipal Utility District's Pilot of WaterSmart Home Water Reports*.



IRWM Program, which developed an analysis of groundwater monitoring data gaps³, along with an analysis of improperly sealed and abandoned wells in the Region.⁴ This project will protect groundwater quality by properly sealing abandoned wells and wells under artesian conditions. Improperly sealed or abandoned wells under artesian pressure pose a threat to water quality by exposing groundwater to potential contamination. As noted above, a minimum of 25% of the recipients of the grant funds for this project (at least 25% of the project service area by population) will be DACs, providing direct benefits to DACs in the vicinity.

This project would also convert some wells in areas with known groundwater monitoring data gaps into monitoring wells for reporting to the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program. This component of the project would provide indirect benefits to DACs by helping to improve groundwater management in the Region.

Project 4: DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project

The *DAC Septic Rehabilitation and Demand Reduction Project* would address a critical wastewater need of local DACs, because it helps to reduce septic system failures and overflows. The project would install laundry-to-landscape greywater systems, thereby reducing a major source of loading (washing machine flows) to septic systems in DACs. The greywater system installations will be designed to offload flows to the extent that septic system failures would no longer occur. If septic system issues are too significant to be resolved by installation of greywater systems, rebates would be provided to completely rehabilitate the septic systems. Therefore, with implementation of the project, rebates would be provided to eliminate septic system overflows for DAC residents that receive grant funding.

In addition, the use of greywater for onsite irrigation will reduce groundwater pumping for irrigation purposes, and support vegetation (and potentially even food production in the form of fruit or nut trees) in disadvantaged communities. The project would substantially increase reuse for DAC residents, which generally do not have an available water source other than onsite groundwater wells. This project will be implemented entirely within DACs, and provides direct benefits to all participating communities. In addition, this project was developed through project concepts analyzed in the DAC Outreach Program, and as such incorporates recognition and support of DACs, and outreach and education in these communities.

Project 5: Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project

The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (DCI), are a Tribal Nation located in the East Valley. The Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision is located on Tribal land and is home to Tribal residents that are classified as DACs. The Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision does not currently receive municipal water or wastewater services. As documented by Indian Health Services (IHS) in 2012, the Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision faces serious water supply and wastewater treatment issues. These issues are being addressed by two complementary projects: connection to CVWD's municipal water supply system, and connection to CVWD's municipal wastewater system. Planning and design for the water supply connection project was funded through the Round 2 Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant, while the planning and design for the wastewater connection project is included in this Proposal for the *Torres-Martinez Septic to Sewer Conversion Project*.

As noted in IHS's 2012 Preliminary Engineering Report (2012 PER), each of the homes in the Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision are served by individual septic systems located in backyard areas. These systems have a history of failure, with sewage surfacing in residential backyards. Due to the low permeability of the soils in the area, septic systems either require a large area for their leach fields, or the soils simply cannot accept a septic system.⁵ These problems are further exacerbated by the inability of homeowners in the Subdivision to afford regular pumping of their failing systems, creating public health hazards from the surfacing sewage. Such public health hazards include direct exposure to sewage, secondary exposure in

³ Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. 2014. *Evaluation of Valley-Wide Groundwater Monitoring Programs*.

⁴ Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. 2014. *Coachella Valley Well Retrofit and Abandonment Program*.

⁵ Indian Health Services. 2012. *Preliminary Engineering Report for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians: CVWD Sewer Main Extension to Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision*.



the home from people or pets walking through sewage and then into homes, and through the fostering of disease vectors such as mosquitos. Failing septic systems can also create health hazards by contaminating drinking water. The Tribe currently relies on groundwater to meet their water demands, and this supply can be contaminated when septic systems fail or are otherwise inadequate. In addition, water supply outages can lead to sewage infiltration into water distribution pipelines, which may then be consumed by residents when water service is restored. As noted in the 2012 PER, “In this situation, the people living in the subdivision are essentially drinking diluted sewage. Given extensive evidence of septic system failure and frequent reports of water outages, this is almost certainly true.”⁶

The need for conversion from septic to sewer is clearly documented in the 2012 PER. This project would provide funding for engineering, design, and environmental documentation, which would help to resolve both the wastewater treatment needs of the community and public health concerns, and complement other efforts to reduce risks of water supply contamination. IRWM funding for this project would help the Tribe to leverage additional funding sources, such as USDA funds for construction.

Project 6: Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project

As shown in **Figure 7-6**, the Garcia Mobile Home Park or Rancho Garcia at Shady Lane is a DAC. The *Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project* will provide funding to complete engineering, design, and planning for the Shady Lane Mobile Home Park to connect to CWA’s water and wastewater systems. This community has a documented history of issues with its existing septic systems and onsite water supply well. Many of the septic systems are assumed to have been constructed prior to 1973, and do not appear to meet the standards for septic systems set by the County of Riverside.⁷ Some of the septic problems in the park include inadequately sized septic tanks, inadequate or missing leach fields, tank overflow (especially during wet weather events), insufficient pumping of tanks, and discharges to ground surface.⁸ Septic failures and inadequate wastewater treatment not only fails to meet basic human sanitation needs, but poses substantial public health risks. Such risks include exposure sewage (direct and indirect), increased potential for disease vectors such as mosquitos, and contamination of groundwater and natural resources. Furthermore, the single groundwater well that serves water supply to the community has water that exceeds drinking water standards for arsenic and Chrom 6, presenting additional issues associated with access to clean drinking water for the community.

The proposed project would address critical water quality and water supply issues by completing engineering, design, and environmental documentation for a project that would connect the mobile home park to CWA’s municipal water and wastewater system. Completion of this initial planning work would enable the community to leverage additional funding, such a USDA funds, to construct the water and sewer main and connections. This project will address critical DAC water supply and water quality issues important in the Coachella Valley, and throughout the State of California: access to clean drinking water. The Human Right to Water Policy that is in effect in California calls for access to safe, affordable water for drinking, bathing, sanitation, and cooking for all residents.⁹ By connecting the community to a municipal water supply system, the project will provide a long-term solution to the community’s existing water supply issues.

The local project sponsor for this project will be the Coachella Water Authority, which will work with a local non-profit organization established for the betterment of the community, the Shady Lane Mobile Home Park, Inc. A letter for support for the project from Shady Lane Mobile Home Park, Inc. is included as **Appendix 7-1**.

⁶ Indian Health Services. 2012. *Preliminary Engineering Report for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians: CVWD Sewer Main Extension to Avenue 64 Housing Subdivision*.

⁷ Dickson, Bonneau. 2014. *Report on the Evaluation the Wastewater Facilities at Rancho Garcia*.

⁸ Dickson, Bonneau. 2014. *Report on the Evaluation the Wastewater Facilities at Rancho Garcia*.

⁹ Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. 2014. *Coachella Valley Disadvantaged Community Outreach Demonstration Project: Final Report*.

Appendix 7-1

July 21, 2015

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our support of the Coachella Valley IRWM Region's Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Application for the *Shady Lane Water and Sewer Connection Project*. We represent Shady Lane Mobilehome Park, Inc., which has a strong interest in implementing projects to address the needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Coachella Valley. The public health-related water quality issues that the residents of the Shady Lane Mobilehome Park currently face are significant, and connecting this community to the municipal water and sewer system would directly benefit the community and improve the quality of life for local residents of the Park.

Funding for this program would greatly assist regional efforts to address critical water quality and water supply needs of local DACs, and would therefore benefit our entire region. We would encourage you to give this project careful consideration.

Thank you,

Robert Solomon, Carrie Hempel
Co-Directors, UCI Law Community and Economic Development Clinic

