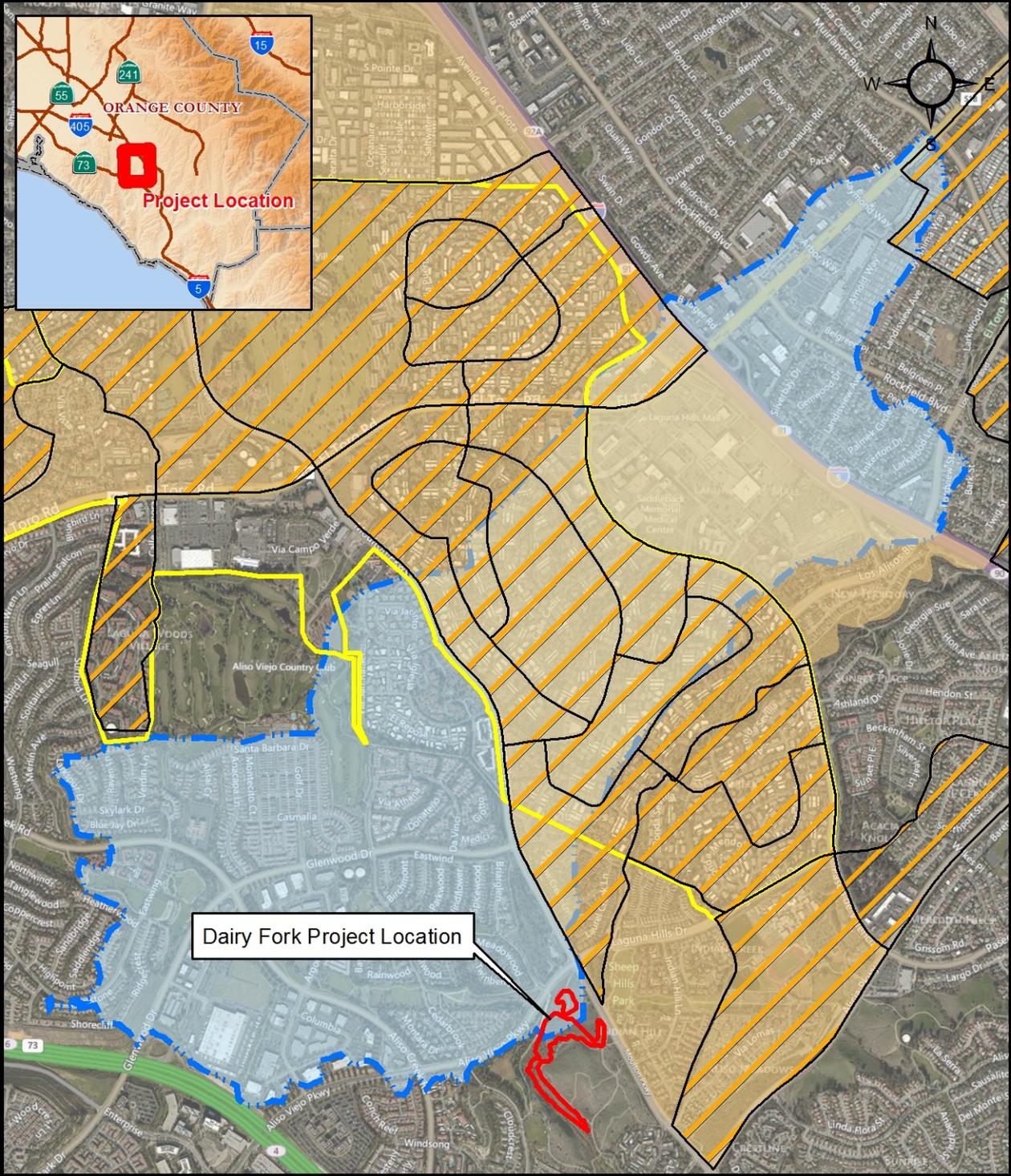


SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WMA 2015 IRWM IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSAL**ATTACHMENT 7****DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE**

One of the proposed projects will serve members of a disadvantaged community (DAC) within the South Orange County WMA. A map of the DACs in the South Orange County WMA is attached. The Dairy Fork Wetland Project will serve DAC members in the City of Laguna Woods. The Dairy Fork Project's constructed wetland and 9 acres of riparian habitat restoration will treat urban runoff from the Dairy Fork Watershed, for which 2010 census blocks indicate a total population of approximately 15,500 people. The 2013 Disadvantaged Communities block groups data shows a population of approximately 4,000 people in the DAC area that overlaps the subwatershed. Therefore, 4,000 DACs out of 15,500 total population, or 25%, will benefit from the Project. The Project addresses long-term drought preparedness for DACs by removing high water-use invasive species such as *Arundo donax* (Arundo), thereby increasing the total amount of surface water in the creek system. The removal of existing and prevention of spreading of Arundo and other invasive plant species from the riparian area will contribute to overall drought preparedness; Arundo requires large quantities of water to support extensive growth, crowding out other bank stabilizing, low-water demanding plants native to California. The presence of the invasive plants also decreases the amount of water available to infiltrate into groundwater, creates unstable stream banks and leads to greater likelihood of erosion and channel incision. Modifications to flow stability for downstream habitat and of channel dimensions reduces riparian habitat available for aquatic and other species as well as providing a hospitable environment for bacterial growth and fire protection. Drought conditions and increasing temperatures have led to more severe wildfires. This Project aids in protecting DACs from the threat of fires.

It is our understanding the Project benefits to DACs described above do not qualify as needs of a DAC. However, reduction in water taken from local surface water sources, improvement in water quality of surface water draining to a local recreation beach area (via Aliso Creek) as well as preservation of essential habitat during periods of drought are important goals met by this project and we aim to demonstrate that our proposal does include a project that directly benefits DACs in the South Orange County WMA as a result.

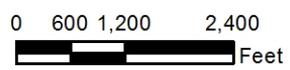


Dairy Fork Project Location



South Orange County
Integrated Regional Watershed
Management Program

Disadvantaged Community Map Dairy Fork Wetland



-  Project Footprint
-  Dairy Fork Watershed
-  Disadvantaged Community Block Groups
-  Disadvantaged Community Place
-  Disadvantaged Community Tracts