

## ATTACHMENT 7: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

### Documentation of the Presence of a DAC

#### Determination of DACs in the Project Area

A disadvantaged community (DAC), according to the Proposition 84 Guidelines (DWR, 2015), is a community with an annual Median Household Income (MHI) less than 80% of the California statewide MHI. DWR compiled the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2009 to 2013 and determined that a community with an MHI less than or equal to \$48,875 is considered a DAC. These data were used in GIS to identify DACs within the Westside-San Joaquin Region. Based on these criteria, almost 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 large Hispanic or Latino populations, which are greatly dependent upon agricultural production as a source of employment. At the county level, the percentage of Hispanic population runs from a low of 39.3% in San Joaquin County to 55.6% in Merced County (using the same ACS 5-year data from 2009 to 2013). However, Hispanic populations on the west side of the Valley, where the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region is located, are oftentimes the majority of a given area and are typically dependent on groundwater for their water supply. 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 and improve the ability of groundwater supplies to sustain these populations.

#### DAC Needs and Targeted Project Benefits

The ongoing drought and reduced 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 irrigating of 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 from which DACs draw their potable supplies.

Should the drought continue, this situation is only expected to worsen. The projects contained in this application, for the most part, focus on augmenting groundwater resources to protect 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 (**SLWD Kaljian Drainwater Reuse Project**);
- Diverting and recharging the underlying groundwater using surface water supplies as they are available (**DPWD Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project**); and
- Treating and storing urban and storm water runoff and reusing the resultant treated water for irrigation, offsetting groundwater use and thus providing in-lieu recharge to the underlying

groundwater basin, and improving water quality through the use of LID techniques (**City of Newman LID Project for Water Quality Improvement and Water Conservation**)

The three non-administrative projects described herein will 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 need to offset potable use where possible, and by offsetting potable groundwater supplies with other, non-potable waters, which together reduce extractions from the underlying aquifers and preserving those supplies for DAC communities.

Among the three non-administrative projects included in this application, the **Newman LID Project for Water Quality Improvement and Water Conservation Project** will allow the City, itself a DAC, to achieve sustained, long-term water quality improvement as well as realize water conservation benefits at the least possible cost. Stormwater discharges within the City are regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), Water Quality Order No, 2013-0001-DWQ. Under this permit, new development and redevelopment projects are required to implement permanent measures to address potential water quality impacts from stormwater runoff from a project. The City's Project is proposing to develop a 78 acre parcel which would allow the City to provide a regional solution to development within its municipality and provide treatment of stormwater as well as non-stormwater urban runoff. The proposed LID project will allow DACs to reduce the installation and maintenance costs associated with permanent source control measures and provide great economic and environmental benefits that conventional techniques lack. As stated in Attachments 2 and 3, through the proposed LID BMPs and storage pond, a minimum 903 AFY water can be treated and a minimum of 714 AFY of the treated water can be stored and reused, offsetting the use of potable supplies for non-potable irrigation.

All projects contained in this application were included in the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Water Resources Plan (the Region's IRWM Plan). As part of the IRWMP development process, DACs within the region were contacted to solicit their input and to identify projects that directly benefit them. It is through the IRWMP development process that DACs, such as the City of Newman, have been involved and engaged in the development and preparation of the projects contained herein.

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

**Disadvantaged Communities - Westside-San Joaquin 2015 Implementation Grant Application**

