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## Disadvantaged Community Assistance

### Newhope-Placentia Trunk Sewer (NHP) Replacement Project 2-72

Implementing Agency: Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD)

Not applicable to the proposed project as the benefit area does not include a population or geographical area of at least 25% for disadvantaged community (DAC) coverage.



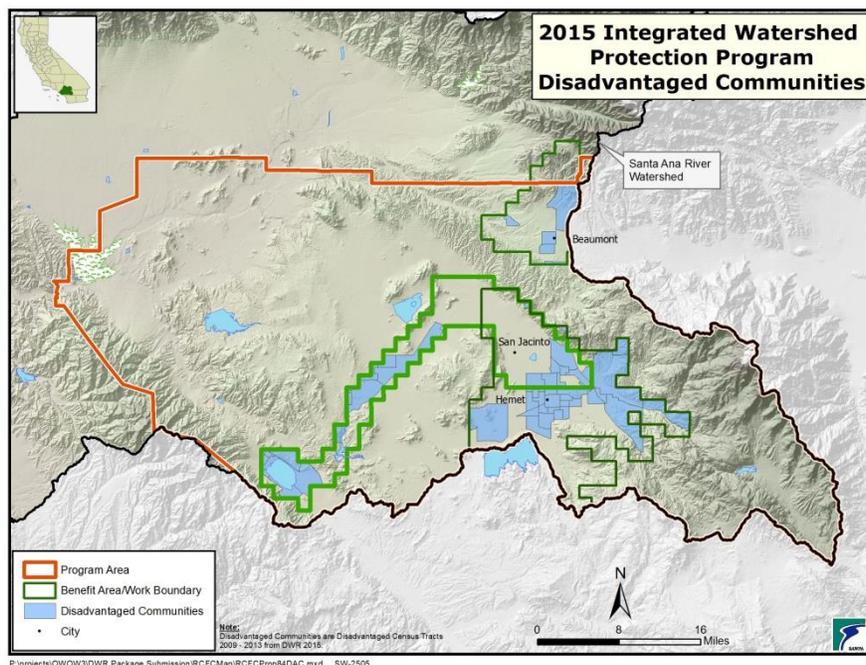
**2015 Integrated Watershed Protection Program**

Implementing Agency: Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD)

As described in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan for the Santa Ana River Watershed, One Water One Watershed 2.0 Plan (OWOW Plan), Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) lack the resources and in-house expertise necessary to apply for grants that will make capital improvement projects more feasible. Additionally, the OWOW Plan recognized that in moving forward with IRWM Planning, it is critical to help with DAC assessments and stakeholder engagement.

San Jacinto River, Stage 4, Phase 1: This project will provide flood risk management for City of San Jacinto, which is **58%** within a DAC, and will improve water quality in the watershed inhabited by the Native American Tribal Council (NATC). This project will also protect a NATC culturally significant cottonwood grove. As part of the Environmental Impact Report development, 24 tribes were contacted via writing and phone. Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resources Director for the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba Tribe), and William Pink, a Native American consultant of Luiseño heritage, offered valuable information during the earlier studies for this Project, especially regarding the cottonwood grove.

Bautista Optimization Pond: DACs, like those in Lake Hemet Municipal Water District’s (LHMWD) service area, face several challenges including: limited funding and funding sources, high infrastructure costs, limited water supplies and increased demand. The increased groundwater supply will reduce reliance on costly imported water supplies and reduce overall water cost benefiting the DAC’s served by LHMWD. Overall, **72%** of the 35,000 acre project benefit area is within a California Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified DAC. Approximately 2,000 acres (or 26%) of Soboba tribal lands are include in the project area. In addition, the Project will help meet litigation settlement agreement requirements with the Soboba Tribe. A legal requisite of the Soboba Tribal Settlement is that the Soboba Tribe has access their water rights in the basin. Meeting a portion of that objective will come from recharge of imported water supplies through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California stipulated agreements.



Beaumont MDP-Line 16: This Project, whose benefit area is geographically **30%** within a DAC, benefits the DAC of Cherry Valley by allowing the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) to maintain reliable and resilient



water supplies and reduce dependency on imported water. Today, DACs face critical and serious water and economic resources challenges, such as isolation, language barriers, flood risk, and lack of funding and/or resources. It is important that the BCVWD recognize proposed DAC water project needs, and engage these communities early in the process. Construction of this project will allow for effective outreach for both the DAC and the water district.



**Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP)**

Implementing Agency: The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, a joint-powers authority, and its five regional member agencies which provide wholesale water to most of the Santa Ana River Watershed:

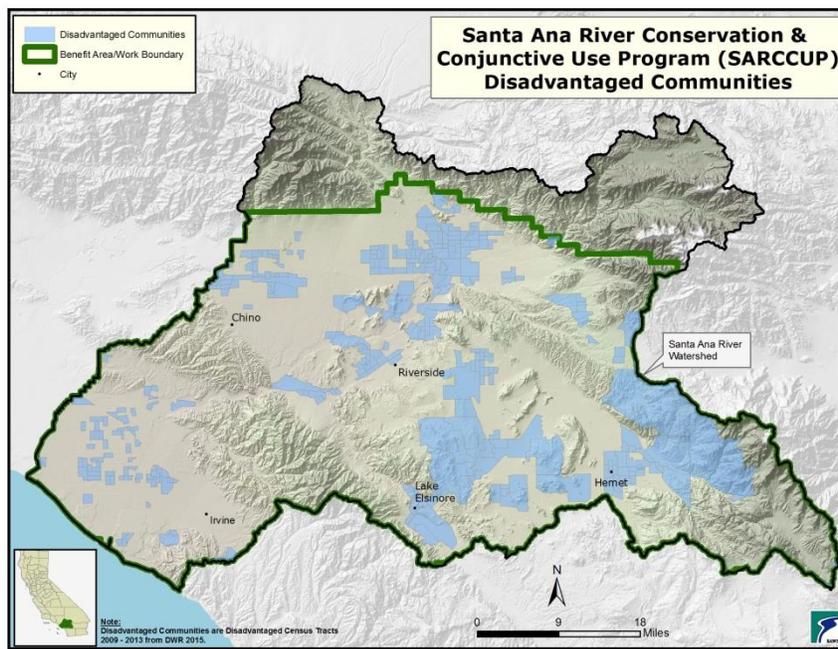
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Orange County Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- Western Municipal Water District

**Critical Water Supply Need of Disadvantaged Communities (DAC)**

Inadequate water supply to support existing communities is a public health risk. The public water systems in DACs are sometimes not able to provide the same level of service as neighboring, more affluent areas due to economic challenges of raising funding for capital improvements and operation and maintenance from water rates, taxes or other funding opportunities.

Long-term planning can also be a concern for DAC communities. If a DAC is struggling to provide robust water service and achieve compliance with regulatory requirements, it may not be performing the advanced planning needed to anticipate the effect of long-term drought, disruption in imported water, or the possible effects of climate change.

In addition, DACs may not be as aware of potential grant opportunities or have the financial ability to have grant writing on staff or hire them as consultants.



By approaching SARCCUP as a watershed-scale program to develop additional dry-year yield, water conservation and habitat improvement, specific economically disadvantaged areas can be “bridged into” rather than bypassed around, and receive benefits from the Project. The planning, financial and project implementation prowess of these five regional agencies will equally benefit DACs. SARCCUP will regionally increase water supply, conservation



and environmental improvement equally, including DAC areas, since the five regional agencies represent DACs in their service area. 27% of the Benefit Area geographically, or 494,080 acres, will benefit DACs.

### **DAC Engagement**

The five regional water agency project proponents, Eastern Municipal Water District, Orange County Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agencies, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District are led by publicly elected Directors from the communities that are within their service areas. Each of these five Regional Water Agencies has both affluent as well as DAC communities in their service areas. As publicly elected officials, they have taken an oath to equally serve all rate payers in their services area, both affluent as well as DAC communities.

The five regional water agencies' staffs are tasked with providing water supply to all within their service area. They work with DAC on an on-going basis and understand the water supply needs, both existing as well as future. With regards to long term planning, such as anticipating water supply issues related to climate change, the staff is providing long range planning and projections as to providing adequate water supply. With this on-going engagement with their water service area, including DAC, input has been provided and used in development of this resilient and sustainable SARCCUP Project.