



A10. Disadvantaged Community Assistance

The Santa Barbara Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region's commitment and follow-through to disadvantaged communities (DACs) has been historically robust and tangible, both in technical and outreach support to DACs to assist them in participating in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) process to projects that exclusively benefit DACs. While meeting the regional needs through the implementation of this proposal will provide overall benefits to the DACs in Santa Barbara County, this proposal also includes two projects that will directly address critical water supply needs of DACs within the county.

This attachment will explain how DACs are involved in IRWM planning, the steps taken to engage DACs, how DACs were determined, the critical water supply or water quality needs of each DAC, how the proposed projects meet the needs of the DACs, and support rendered to DACs.

Overall Participation of DACs

The following information provides an overview of how all regional DACs and their representatives are participating in the planning and project implementation process. It portrays the general approach the region takes to engaging DACs and how they are influencing the IRWM process.

There are presently three recognized DACs in the IRWM region that are signatories of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including the cities of Guadalupe and Lompoc, as well as the community of New Cuyama. Although the City of Santa Maria as a whole is not a DAC, multiple block groups in Santa Maria qualify as a DAC. All DACs, including the community of Casmalia, which is not an MOU signatory were involved in the development of the IRWM Plan 2007.

The region is very inclusive and supportive of DACs, and all DAC projects directly impact DAC communities. DACs have historically been woven into the fabric of the Cooperating Partners (RWMG), and the region continually strives to become more inclusive and reach out to other DAC communities that have not previously participated. The Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe are participating members of the Steering Committee, which guides the decision-making of the RWMG. The Steering Committee generally meets monthly and guides the overall direction of the IRWM processes, including actions such as the project selection process, stakeholder and DAC outreach, grant applications, MOU/governance updates, and IRWM Plan updates. Guadalupe and Cuyama participate in the RWMG by attending general meetings. All DACs are included using the processes and procedures discussed below.

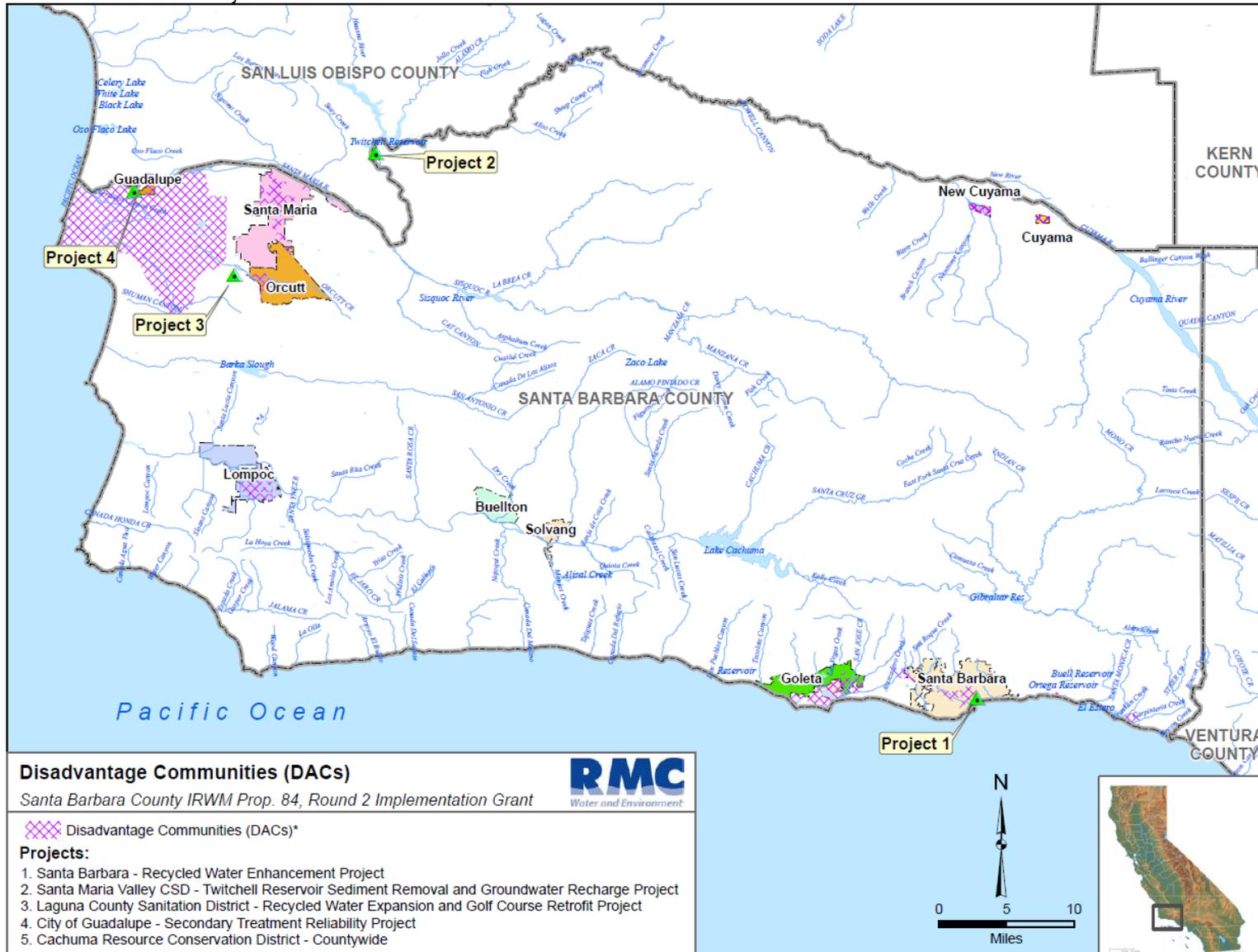
Multiple processes and procedures are in place to promote access to and collaboration with DACs in the region. During the IRWM planning, grant application preparation, project selection process, and grant administration process, the Steering Committee works with the DACs in the region to ensure that they are integrated into the IRWM process. For example, the Prop 50 Implementation Grant funded by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) included a DAC project in Guadalupe and Casmalia and two projects in Cuyama. This demonstrates the high level of involvement of DACs and direct benefits to DACs in the IRWM planning, decision-making, and implementation processes.

The RWMG keeps DACs apprised of developments and opportunities in the IRWM process through regular e-mail and phone communication. DACs and their representatives are encouraged to participate in the governance structure in place and to submit projects for inclusion on the Master Project List. Some communities do not have the resources to consistently participate, attend meetings, and send representatives; however, Steering Committee representatives and Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) staff and representatives regularly outreach to DACs and representatives to provide information and support. The addition of a Cooperating Partner representing a broad geographic area (Cachuma Resource Conservation District) in 2012 has further advanced the interests of DACs because the organization has the ability to outreach bilingually and with communities that do not have access to conventional means of communication (for example, the internet and e-mail), such that a whole new segment of the population can be represented.

As mentioned above, numerous DACs are active RWMG members and project proponents, therefore project benefits to DAC communities are generally direct. In other instances, DAC communities have partnered with other DACs and non-DACs on projects. Cooperating Partners also are encouraged to have dialogues with the DACs in their area to ensure information is disseminated in a complete and timely fashion.

As indicated above, the region has long recognized the staffing and technical challenges that present obstacles to DACs and how these may impair a DAC's ability to effectively plan and implement IRWM projects. The RWMG recognizes that one or more members need to take a role in working with the DACs to provide support. To that end, the County of Santa Barbara has taken an active role for several years in working on behalf of the DACs as their advocate with SWRCB, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). For example, the County of Santa Barbara and City of Santa Maria have continued to work on behalf of Casmalia to sort out the administrative challenges and provide infrastructure improvements proposed for Prop 50 Implementation Grant funding. Cuyama also has received support from the County of Santa Barbara in the form of financial support for technical documents, technical support for potential projects, and in obtaining funds for other projects. Other members of the RWMG have mentored a DAC or advocated on behalf of their needs and/or issues. Figure 10-1 identifies the locations of the regional DACs that have projects included in this Proposal.

FIGURE 10-1
 DAC Location Relative to Project Locations



Determination of DAC Status

A DAC is defined as a community with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide annual median household income. The annual MHI for California is estimated to be \$60,883 in 2010 dollars (U.S. Census, <http://factfinder2.census.gov>). Block groups in the City of Santa Maria and the City of Guadalupe qualify as DACs and benefit from the projects in this Proposal.

DAC: City of Santa Maria Block Groups

The average estimated MHI for 28 block groups in the City of Santa Maria that are DACs from 2006-2010 American Community Survey data is \$36,777. Therefore, the average median household income for the Santa Maria block groups is 60% of the statewide annual MHI.

Santa Maria is a census-designated place and its boundaries were used to determine information relevant to DAC status. Figure 10-2 provides information that was used to confirm that these block groups qualify as a DAC, and MHI data for these block groups is presented in Figure 10-3. The DAC determination was further confirmed by utilizing the DWR Methodology for the identification of DACs and the DAC mapping tool (<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>).

A map of the DAC block groups in Santa Maria and the nearby Project 2 location are provided in Figure 10-4.

FIGURE 10-2

Qualification of Block Groups in Santa Maria as DACs

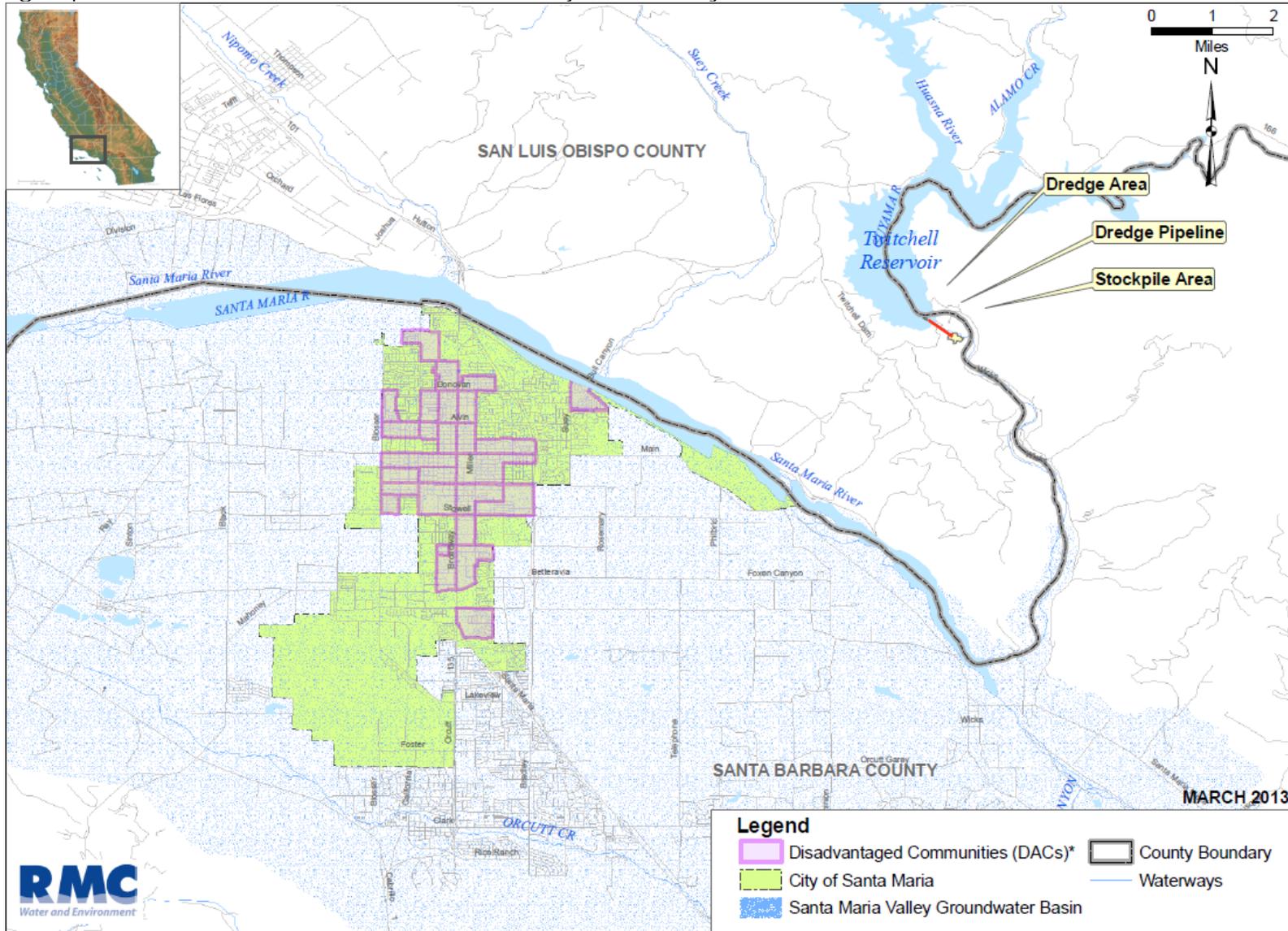
DAC Evaluation Criteria	Response
Is the entire DAC community benefitted by this Project?	Yes, the specified block groups in Santa Maria are DACs and the entire area will benefit from the Project.
Median household income (MHI):	\$36,777 (2010 dollars, block group average)
Year for the median household income	2010
Source of information	U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010

FIGURE 10-3

Median Household Incomes of Block Groups in Santa Maria that Serve a DAC

Census Tract Code (State Code-County Code-Tract Number)	Block Group Number	Median Household Income (MHI)
06-83-002007	5	\$29,904
06-83-002007	6	\$45,714
06-83-002101	1	\$41,125
06-83-002102	1	\$46,750
06-83-002102	2	\$36,714
06-83-002103	1	\$39,831
06-83-002103	2	\$47,969
06-83-002205	3	\$21,545
06-83-002206	2	\$38,125
06-83-002206	3	\$16,445
06-83-002209	2	\$39,375
06-83-002211	1	\$41,272
06-83-002303	1	\$38,036
06-83-002303	2	\$41,724
06-83-002303	4	\$46,500
06-83-002304	1	\$21,033
06-83-002304	2	\$40,658
06-83-002304	3	\$43,412
06-83-002305	1	\$44,028
06-83-002306	3	\$31,341
06-83-002402	3	\$35,278
06-83-002402	4	\$38,750
06-83-002403	1	\$35,636
06-83-002403	2	\$33,229
06-83-002403	3	\$27,778
06-83-002404	1	\$43,409
06-83-002404	2	\$32,083
06-83-002404	4	\$32,104
Average:		\$36,777

FIGURE 10-4
 Block groups in Santa Maria that serve a DAC and Project 2 Activity Locations



*Based on 2010 Census Data. DAC defined as a block group with a median household income (MHI) of less than \$48,706 (80% of the Statewide MHI).

DAC: City of Guadalupe

The average estimated MHI for the City of Guadalupe from 2006-2010 American Community Survey data is \$42,978. Therefore, the average median household income for the Santa Maria block groups is 71% of the statewide annual MHI.

The City of Guadalupe is a census-designated place and its boundaries were used to determine information relevant to DAC status. Figure 10-5 provides information that was used to confirm that the City of Guadalupe qualifies as a DAC. The DAC determination was further confirmed by utilizing DWR Methodology for the identification of DACs and the DAC mapping tool (<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>).

A map of the City of Guadalupe and the project boundary are presented in Figure 10-6.

FIGURE 10-5
Qualification of the City of Guadalupe as a DAC

DAC Evaluation Criteria	Response
Is the entire DAC community benefitted by this Project?	Yes, the entire City of Guadalupe is a DAC, and the entire community will benefit from the Project.
Median household income (MHI):	\$42,978 (2010 dollars)
Year for the median household income	2010
Source of information	U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010

FIGURE 10-6
 Guadalupe DAC and Project Boundary



*Based on 2010 Census Data. DAC defined as a census place with a median household income (MHI) of less than \$48,708 (80% of the Statewide MHI).

Meeting Critical Water Supply and Water Quality Needs of DAC

Project 2: Twitchell Reservoir Sedimentation Management and Groundwater Recharge Project, Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District

Project 2 is a reservoir management project that will dredge about 9,000 cubic yards of sediment at the bottom of Twitchell Reservoir (Reservoir) and allow for the continuation of significant groundwater recharge in the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (Basin).

Project 2 addresses both critical water supply and water quality needs of the DACs. The Cities of Santa Maria and Gaudalupe depend on groundwater as one of its most reliable water sources and it is important that the Cities maximize the use of its groundwater supply, while reducing the use of expensive imported Bay-Delta water. The project will continue to allow the maximum infiltration of 32,000 acre-feet of water per year into the Basin. Additionally, the project will improve groundwater quality by reliably providing this considerable volume of rainwater to the Basin for the DACs and other communities that depend upon the Basin for water supply.

For the DACs, it is critical to ensure that all infrastructure, which benefits their water supply, is performing optimally and as efficiently as possible. There are few resources available to deal with mishaps, violations, repairs, extra maintenance, and other problems at Twitchell Reservoir. Hence, the Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (SMVWCD), the lead agency for Project 2, must efficiently and effectively pursue projects like this one to minimize any risks. With Project 2, the SMVWCD is being proactive by anticipating sedimentation problems at the Reservoir.

The entire City of Santa Maria, including the DAC block groups, and the City of Guadalupe will benefit from the completion of Project 2. A description of the targeted benefits and impacts to the DAC as a direct result of this Project, relative to the 2013 Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan Update, is presented in Figure 10-7.

FIGURE 10-7

How Project 2 Accomplishes Regional Objectives (IRWM Plan Update 2013)

Regional Objective	How Project Accomplishes Objective
 Protect, conserve, and augment water supplies	The Project will provide much-needed sedimentation management to protect the continued infiltration of 32,000 acre-feet per year of groundwater recharge.
 Protect, manage, and increase groundwater supplies	The Project will improve operational efficiency and increase groundwater supply reliability by removing 9,000 cubic yards of sediment from the Reservoir. Sediment removal will keep the sediment from obstructing flow in the outlet works and allow water to continue to recharge the Basin.
 Practice balanced natural resource stewardship	Sediment that enters the outlet works ultimately flows downstream and damages wetlands that are a habitat for many sensitive species. The Project will prevent excessive sediment from flowing downstream and harming these natural habitats.
 Protect and improve water quality	The Project improves the operation of the Reservoir, supporting its function to replenish the region's groundwater with high quality, natural water, which improves the Basin's water quality and helps the Basin meet the Water Quality Objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin (Basin Plan).
 Improve flood management	The Project will improve flood management by decreasing the chance of potential flood and sediment damage to downstream vineyards and agricultural properties and allowing for additional stormwater storage in the Reservoir.
 Ensure equitable distribution of benefits	The Project supports disadvantaged communities in Santa Maria.

Project 4: Secondary Treatment Reliability Project, City of Guadalupe

Project 4 is an important infrastructure and treatment reliability project that will provide the City of Guadalupe DAC with reliable secondary treatment of its wastewater.

Project 4 addresses both critical water supply and water quality needs of the City of Guadalupe. The project meets the critical water needs of the DAC by improving operational reliability and treatment performance of the existing Guadalupe wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to produce consistent, high-quality secondary effluent (reclaimed water) for irrigating neighboring pastureland and incidental percolation. This use is consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin (Basin Plan). The project also extends the useful life and reduces maintenance demands of existing facilities at the Guadalupe WWTP. In addition, the project reduces operational costs (i.e., labor, energy, mechanical wear) in routine operation of Guadalupe WWTP.

For a DAC, it is critical to ensure that all infrastructure is performing optimally and most efficiently since there can be no margin of error. There are few resources available to deal with mishaps, violations, repairs, extra maintenance, and other problems at the Guadalupe WWTP. Hence, the City must both efficiently and effectively pursue

projects like this one to minimize any risks. With the Project, the City of Guadalupe is being proactive by anticipating potential problems at the Guadalupe WWTP and addressing them.

The entire City of Guadalupe will benefit from the completion of the Project. A description of the targeted benefits and impacts to this DAC as a direct result of Project 4, relative to the 2013 Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan Update, is presented in Figure 10-8.

FIGURE 10-8
How Project 4 Accomplishes Regional Objectives (IRWM Plan Update)

Regional Objectives	How the Project Accomplishes Objective	
	Protect and Improve Water Quality	The installation of improved influent pumps and a grit removal system will improve the reliability of the treatment system and result in consistent attainment of waste discharge requirements
	Maintain and Enhance Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Efficiency and Reliability	The Project improvements will enhance the operational reliability and treatment performance of the City's WWTP; extend the useful life of the facility; and reduce operational costs by removing the grit in the system, which can wear down equipment. These improvements will increase the WWTP's efficiency and reliability. In addition, the Project will improve pumping efficiency and reduce energy consumption by 90 kW/h per day.
	Address Climate Change	The Project will address climate change by improving pumping efficiency and reducing energy consumption by 90 kW/h per day.
	Ensure Equitable Distribution of Resources	The Project will directly benefit the entire City of Guadalupe, which is a disadvantaged community (DAC).

Documentation of DAC Representation and Participation

The Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe are dedicated to development and implementation of Projects 2 and 4. Letters of support from the cities indicating support for these Projects is included in Appendix 10.

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