

Attachment 10 Disadvantaged Community Assistance

For the purpose of Proposition 84 funding, a DAC is identified as “a community with an average median household income less than 80 percent of the stateside average.” All three of these projects address critical water supply and water quality needs in the disadvantaged communities and thus qualify under DWR meet the program preference to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits by focusing on water quality needs of disadvantaged communities (DACs) within the region. All three of the proposed projects will increase the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process, develop multi-benefits for projects located in disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, and will address the state policies intended to provide access to safe, clean, and affordable water

These projects are requesting that the funding match cost share be waived for this application.

City of Holtville Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvement Project

The City of Holtville is a disadvantaged community (DAC) with a Median Household Income (MHI) that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income as defined under (PRC §75005 (g)) and as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Mapping Tool. The MHI for the City of Holtville (DAC) is \$36,202 (2006-2010 American Community Survey) which is significantly less than the State’s MHI at \$48,706. The City of Holtville DAC boundary is consistent with the incorporated City Limits. The proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project serves the entire DAC in addition to a few isolated home sites outside of the City limits as depicted under *DAC Exhibit A* (depicts the DAC as it relates to the service area).

The proposed project meets the program preferences identified under PRC §75026.(b)(6) for disadvantaged communities as the project will address critical water quality needs identified for project preference. Specifically, the project will address, “Wastewater treatment required to protect beneficial uses or meet a discharge standard.” The City is operating under a Cease and Desist Order by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for not meeting the minimum discharge standards. The current wastewater treatment plant is out of compliance with the existing NPDES permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges into the Pear Drain, a tributary to the Alamo River, a United States impaired body of water. The City has experienced effluent quality problems, including toxicity and priority pollutant violations. The new discharge requirement, specifically the effluent ammonia concentration limit, is the most significant driver of the plant upgrade project. The Plant failed to meet the final effluent ammonia concentration limits established by the RWQCB and will be unable to comply without this project.

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The project is under the design phase and would not necessitate expanded project eligibility for any studies, however, the City of Holtville is seeking the funding match waiver and grant subsidy for the construction phase of the project. A letter of support for the entire proposal is attached hereto as *DAC Exhibit A* from Alexander P. Meyerhoff, City Manager of the City of Holtville (DAC).

Interconnection Project between the City of El Centro, City of Imperial and Heber Utility District

The City of El Centro and the Heber Public Utility District are disadvantaged communities with a Median Household Income that is less than 80 percent of the Statewide annual median household income as identified by the California Department of Water Resources Mapping Tool. The MHI for the City of El Centro is \$38,481, and the MHI for the Heber Public Utility District is \$37,472 (2006-2010 American Community Survey). Both of these agencies have a MHI that is lower than the State's MHI of \$48,706. The City of Imperial is not a Disadvantaged Community as their Median Household Income is \$54,617, however the project serves an area that is inscribed in one or more census tracts or block groups and some of the census tracts or block groups have an MHI of less than the Statewide MHI.

When determining the MHI, the City of El Centro's DAC boundary identified by their city limits was used, and the HPUD's DAC boundary was determined by their Zip Code (92249).

The City's water system is vulnerable to extreme emergencies such as earthquakes due to its single source of supply and additional remote storage is cost prohibitive to address this deficiency. The interconnection project will provide infrastructure renovations to a public water supply system which is necessary in order to assure continued reliability of the minimum quality and quantity of water for this disadvantaged community. These disadvantaged communities are in a high risk area and it is imperative that this project is completed in order to provide a reliable water source for the region. Please find attached in *DAC Exhibit A* a letter of support from the City of El Centro indicating their support for this project.

Drainage Improvements in the Township of Seeley

Seeley is classified as a disadvantaged community. The US Census Bureau, in the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate, reports that the mean household income in Seeley is \$34,432, which is less than 80 percent of the statewide

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annual median household income. Please find attached in DAC Exhibit A, the U.S Census Bureau that provides supporting information on the project service area.

The project meets the Program Preferences by expand environmental stewardship because this project will include a passive storm/nuisance water treatment system to cleanse the storm water as it drains into the New River. In addition this project will practice integrated flood management by providing Seeley with much needed drainage infrastructure, to prevent the flooding that occurs in the streets with even a minor rain storm. The improvements will provide better and safer access for vehicles, including emergency vehicles, and pedestrians. The project will prevent rapid deterioration of the streets, and reduce the need for maintenance and repairs.

Please find attached, *DAC Exhibit A*, a letter from Michael Kelley, Imperial County Supervisor of District 3, in support of this project.