
Promoting Sustainability in the Inyo-Mono Region:
Understanding Regional Groundwater Resources and
Upgrading Infrastructure in Disadvantaged
Community Water Systems

Attachment 10: Disadvantaged Community
Assistance

Documentation of the Presence and Needs of a DAC

The Inyo-Mono IRWM region contains a high proportion of disadvantaged communities. Through extensive outreach efforts, the Inyo-Mono RWMG and Program Office have come to understand that while each community is unique, the region’s DACs share several common problems: limited access to resources, antiquated water infrastructure, undesirable water quality, among others. This proposal aims to address some of these needs through four projects. While not all four projects solely benefit DACs, they all involve and/or target, and will benefit, DACs in one way or the other. The four projects included in this proposal, in order of ranking by the Inyo-Mono RWMG, are:

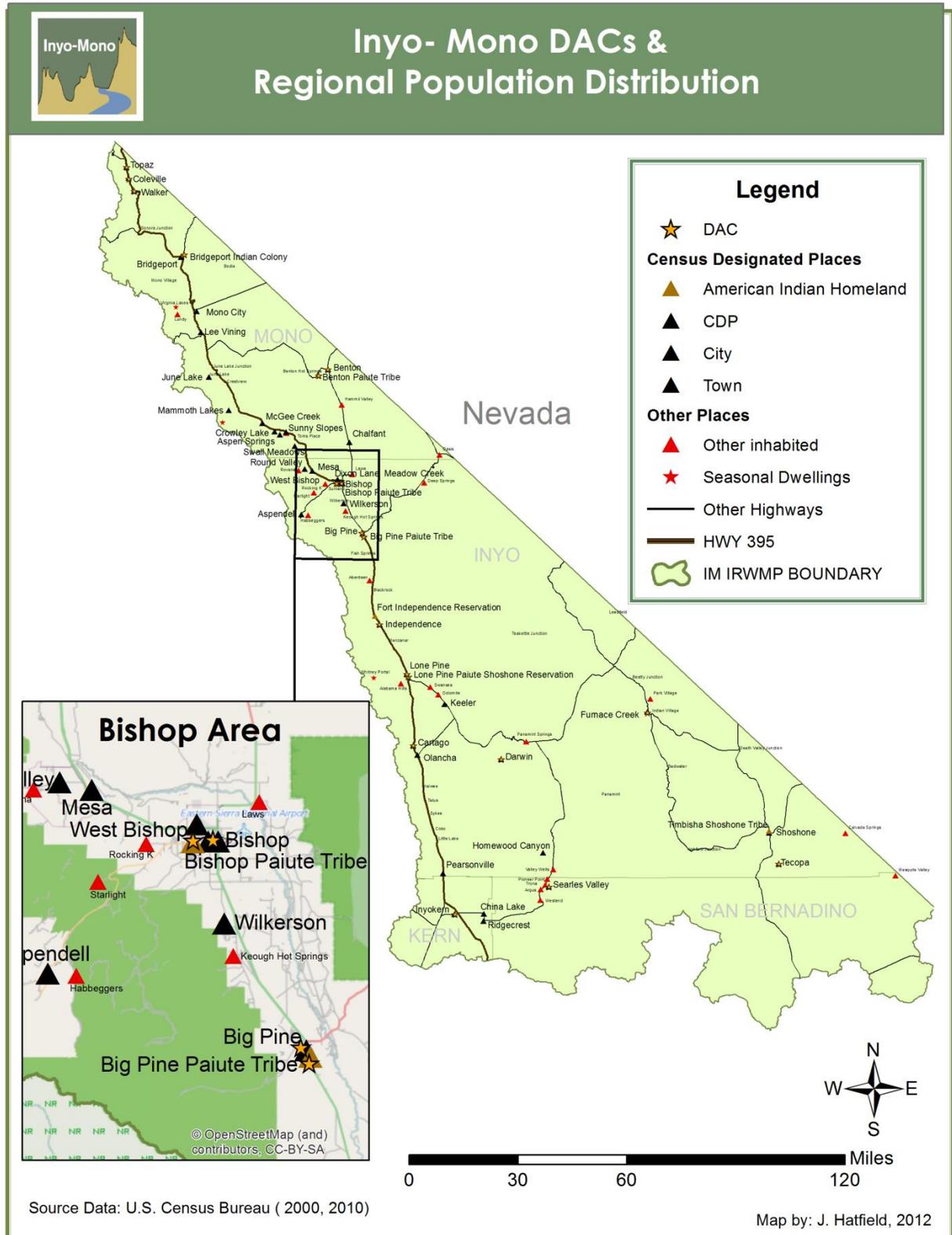
1. Big Pine Fire Protection Improvement Project (serves Big Pine Paiute Tribe – a DAC, and Big Pine Community Services District, which is not a DAC according to 2010 American Community Survey Median Household Income data but would likely qualify as a DAC if an income survey were completed for the CSD service area)
2. Amargosa Basin Water, Ecosystem Sustainability, and Disadvantaged Communities Project (serves the DACs of Tecopa and Shoshone, CA; the remainder of the region, which is largely unpopulated, is also considered disadvantaged according to ACS data; see table below)
3. Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project (serves the three Inyo County DACs of Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine)
4. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Brackish Water Resources Study (the implementing agency, Indian Wells Valley Water District, serves a non-DAC [Ridgecrest], but the results of the study will benefit all water users in the basin, including three DACs – Inyokern, Pearsonville, and Searles Valley [comprised of the communities of Trona, Argus, Pioneer Point, Valley Wells, and West End])

Several analyses of the DAC status of all communities in the Inyo-Mono IRWM Region have been completed over the life of the program. The most recent analysis used 2010 American Community Survey Median Household Income data to develop the most up-to-date list of DACs in the region. This full analysis, along with a complete list of DACs in the region, can be found in Chapter 1 of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Phase II Plan. The relevant data are shown below for the communities receiving benefits from the projects in this proposal.

Community	2010 ACS Population	2010 ACS Median Household Income	DAC? (y/n)	Notes
Big Pine Paiute Tribe	262	\$43,214	Yes	
Big Pine CDP	1,682	\$57,109	No	CDP likely does not have the same boundaries of the Big Pine Community Services

Community	2010 ACS Population	2010 ACS Median Household Income	DAC? (y/n)	Notes
Independence	551	\$47,883	Yes	District service area; a targeted income survey would likely reveal Big Pine to be a DAC.
	1,676	\$31,925	Yes	
Inyokern				Will benefit from the results of the Brackish Water Resources Study
Laws	1,594	\$35,278	Yes	Laws is not part of a CDP; data are for Inyo County Block Group 1, Tract 100, of which Laws is a part
Lone Pine	2,309	\$40,176	Yes	Although no MHI data are available, Pearsonville appears as a DAC on DWR's DAC mapping tool; will benefit from the results of the Brackish Water Resources Study
	5	No data	Yes	
Pearsonville				
Searles Valley	2,088	\$35,147	Yes	Searles Valley is comprised of the communities of Trona, Argus, Pioneer Point, Valley Wells, and West End; will benefit from the results of the Brackish Water Resources Study
Shoshone	33	\$28,750	Yes	The entire Amargosa River Basin, though sparsely populated, is part of Inyo County Block Group 1, Tract 800 and is a DAC (population 392, MHI \$40,417)
	101	\$21,806	Yes	
Tecopa				

Regional DAC Map



Critical DAC Water Supply and Water Quality Needs

Below is a description of how each project addresses critical water supply and/or water quality needs of one or more DACs. Also indicated are which projects are seeking a DAC funding match waiver.

1. **Big Pine Fire Protection Improvement Project:** Currently, the Big Pine Paiute Tribe and town of Big Pine do not have adequate fire protection capacity. This project serves to address a critical water supply need with respect to fire protection through the replacement and addition of fire hydrants in the two communities. The majority (38) of the 43 hydrants being installed through this project will be installed on the Big Pine Indian reservation, which is an identified DAC (see above). Only five hydrants will be installed in the Big Pine CSD service area. A full DAC funding match waiver is being sought for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe portion of the project (\$54,932).

2. **Amargosa Basin Water, Ecosystem Sustainability, and Disadvantaged Communities Project:** Among other things, this project seeks to better understand the groundwater resources that serve as water sources for the DACs of Shoshone and Tecopa. This project builds on a study being conducted (through Round 1 Implementation funding) to determine the feasibility of treating groundwater resources near Tecopa. This study will provide information on the quantity, quality, and seasonal variation in groundwater resources in the region. No funding match waiver is being sought for this project.

3. **Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project:** This project is replacing all water meters in the Inyo County DACs of Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine. All three water systems are in need of significant infrastructure upgrades. Upgrading water meters addresses a critical water supply issue in the three communities. Together with an earlier project that is addressing the SCADA systems of the three communities (a Round 1 Implementation project), this meters project is an early step in implementing major improvements in the systems. Capital Improvement Plans for the systems are woefully underfunded. This project is seeking a partial DAC funding match waiver. Inyo County is matching \$78,157, or 8.56%, of the total project cost of \$913,433.

4. **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Brackish Water Resources Study:** The implementing agency, Indian Wells Valley Water District, serves a non-DAC (Ridgecrest), but the results of the study will benefit all water users in the basin, including two DACs – Inyokern and Searles Valley (comprised of the communities of Trona, Argus, Pioneer Point, Valley Wells, and West End). This project is addressing a critical issue throughout the basin: the aquifer is being overdrafted, the high-quality groundwater is being used first, and the extent and quality of the brackish water resources within the aquifer are unknown. This project will develop a better understanding of the nature of brackish water in the basin. The results will be available to all water users in the basin, including the small DAC water systems in Inyokern and Searles Valley. No DAC funding match waiver is being sought for this project.

Letters of Support

Attached to this document are six letters of support:

1. Letter from Shannon Romero, Big Pine Tribal Council Member, in support of the Big Pine Fire Protection Improvement Project.
2. Letter from Donna Lamm, Executive Director of the Amargosa Conservancy, in support of the Amargosa Basin Water, Ecosystem Sustainability, and Disadvantaged Communities Project.
3. Letter from Matt Kingsley, Fifth District Inyo County Supervisor, in support of the Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project.
4. Letter from Kathleen New, President and CEP of the Lone Pine Chamber of Commerce, in support of the Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project.
5. Letter from Arlene Grider, Clerk of the Independence Community Services District, in support of the Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project.
6. Letter from George Batchelder, owner of G. Batchelder Enterprises, Inc., in support of the Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project.



BIG PINE PAIUTE TRIBE OF THE OWENS VALLEY
Big Pine Paiute Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 700 · 825 South Main Street · Big Pine, CA 93513
(760) 938-2003 · fax (760) 938-2942
www.bigpinepaiute.org

March 24, 2013

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attn: Zaffar Eusuff

Dear Mr. Eusuff:

I am writing on behalf of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley (BPPT) in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. My organization represents the Big Pine Indian Reservation which is an economically disadvantaged community according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The Big Pine Fire Protection Improvement Project will provide specific benefits to the Big Pine Indian Reservation community and BPPT supports the project's application for funding.

Sincerely,

Shannon Romero
Big Pine Tribal Council Member



AMARGOSA CONSERVANCY

Post Office Box 63
Shoshone, CA 92384
(760) 852-4339
(760) 852-4139 fax
www.amargosaconservancy.org

March 25, 2013

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Attn: Zaffar Eusuff

Dear Mr. Eusuff:

I am writing on behalf of the Amargosa Conservancy in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. My organization represents Shoshone and Tecopa which are economically disadvantaged communities according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The "Amargosa Basin Water, Ecosystem Sustainability, and Disadvantaged Communities Project" will provide specific benefits to these communities, and we support the project's application for funding.

Sincerely,

Donna Lamm, Executive Director
Amargosa Conservancy



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

P.O. DRAWER N
INDEPENDENCE, CA 93526
PHONE: (760) 878-8508
FAX: (760) 878-2241

COUNTY
OF
INYO

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attention: Zaffar Eusuff

March 23, 2013

Dear Mr. Eusuff,

I am writing on behalf of Inyo County in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. My organization represents Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine, which are economically disadvantaged communities according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project will provide specific benefits to these communities, and we support the project's application for funding.

Inyo County's Department of Public Works oversees the operation of these three water systems: Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine. All three systems are in need of significant infrastructure repairs and upgrades. This project will replace 950 old analog meters in the three communities with new digital meters as well as provide associated billing software and handheld meter reading devices. The old meters are suspected of under-reporting actual water use, so it is difficult to consider further improvements to the systems, such as rate increases, main line replacement, and so on, until there is an accurate record of water use.

Desired outcomes of this project are:

- More accurate meter reading and water use
- Increased revenue to Inyo County through more accurate billing
- Reduction of un-accounted for water

Based upon available literature specific to the water industry such as the "Journal of the American Water Works Association", and "Water Efficiency", etc, these desired outcomes have a high likelihood of being achieved.

The existing meters were installed within the 1970's and are far beyond their useful life delivering inaccurate metered water use with corresponding diminished revenues. It is not known how much of the approximately 180 af yearly un-accounted for water is a result of faulty meters, billing software known to be problematic, or transmission and distribution system leaks. Accurate metered consumption of water purveyed to the public is necessary preparatory to performing a rate study and then implementing a rate increase. Before a fair and just rate increase can be implemented, an accurate determination of metered consumption is necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this urgently necessary project,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Kingsley".

Matt Kingsley, 5th District Supervisor



California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

March 23, 2013

Attention: Zaffar Eusuff

Dear Mr. Eusuff,

I am writing on behalf of Lone Pine in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. My organization represents Lone Pine, which is an economically disadvantaged community according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project will provide specific benefits to these communities, and we support the project's application for funding.

Inyo County's Department of Public Works oversees the operation of these three water systems: Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine. All three systems are in need of significant infrastructure repairs and upgrades. This project will replace 950 old analog meters in the three communities with new digital meters as well as provide associated billing software and handheld meter reading devices. The old meters are suspected of under-reporting actual water use, so it is difficult to consider further improvements to the systems, such as rate increases, main line replacement, and so on, until there is an accurate record of water use.

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Thank you for your time and consideration in this urgently necessary project,

Sincerely,


Kathleen New
President/CEO

PH. [760] 876.4444 • www.lonepinechamber.org
info@lonepinechamber.org

Independence Community Services District

P O Box 374

Independence, California 93526

March 23, 2013

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attention: Zaffar Eusuff

Dear Mr. Eusuff,

I am writing on behalf of Inyo County in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. Our organization represents Independence which is an economically disadvantaged community according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project will provide specific benefits to these communities, and we support the project's application for funding.

Inyo County's Department of Public Works oversees the operation of these three water systems: Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine. All three systems are in need of significant infrastructure repairs and upgrades. This project will replace 950 old analog meters in the three communities with new digital meters as well as provide associated billing software and handheld meter reading devices. The old meters are suspected of under-reporting actual water use, so it is difficult to consider further improvements to the systems, such as rate increases, main line replacement, and so on, until there is an accurate record of water use.

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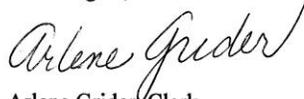
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Thank you for your time and consideration in this urgently necessary project,

Sincerely,

Ben Holgate, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Grider".

Arlene Grider, Clerk

G. Batchelder Enterprises, Inc.
365 Wildrose Ln. Bishop, CA 93514

March 23, 2013

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attention: Zaffar Eusuff

Dear Mr. Eusuff,

I am writing on behalf of Inyo County in support of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group's Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant proposal. My organization represents Laws which is an economically disadvantaged community according to 2010 American Community Survey median household income data. The Inyo County Disadvantaged Communities Meters Project will provide specific benefits to these communities, and we support the project's application for funding.

Inyo County's Department of Public Works oversees the operation of these three water systems: Laws, Independence, and Lone Pine. All three systems are in need of significant infrastructure repairs and upgrades. This project will replace 950 old analog meters in the three communities with new digital meters as well as provide associated billing software and handheld meter reading devices. The old meters are suspected of under-reporting actual water use, so it is difficult to consider further improvements to the systems, such as rate increases, main line replacement, and so on, until there is an accurate record of water use.

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Thank you for your time and consideration in this urgently necessary project,

Sincerely,



George Batchelder
Owner
G. Batchelder Enterprises, Inc.