

Grant Support for Small Community Water/Wastewater Systems Serving Disadvantaged Communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed – Cal Rural Agrmt



**Mark Norton, Water Resources & Planning Manager
SAWPA Commission | September 7, 2021
Item No. 6.A.**



Assistance Fund for Small Systems that serves DACs

- **Purpose:** Provide support for small systems with chronic issues that lack the staffing and technical expertise to apply for grants
- **Scope of Assistance:**
 - Assemble and evaluate project information
 - Prepare OWOW and DWR grant applications
 - Participate in OWOW stakeholder process and DWR grant documentation coordination
- **Outcome:**
 - Prepare Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM grant applications for 5-10 small systems serving DACs



Assistance Fund – Scope Overview

- Build on information from SAWPA's recently completed Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI)
- Partner with Cal Rural Water Association (CRWA)
 - CRWA would assist in preparing grant applications
- Prepare applications for 5 - 10 small systems (with DACs) for OWOW Prop 1 Round 2

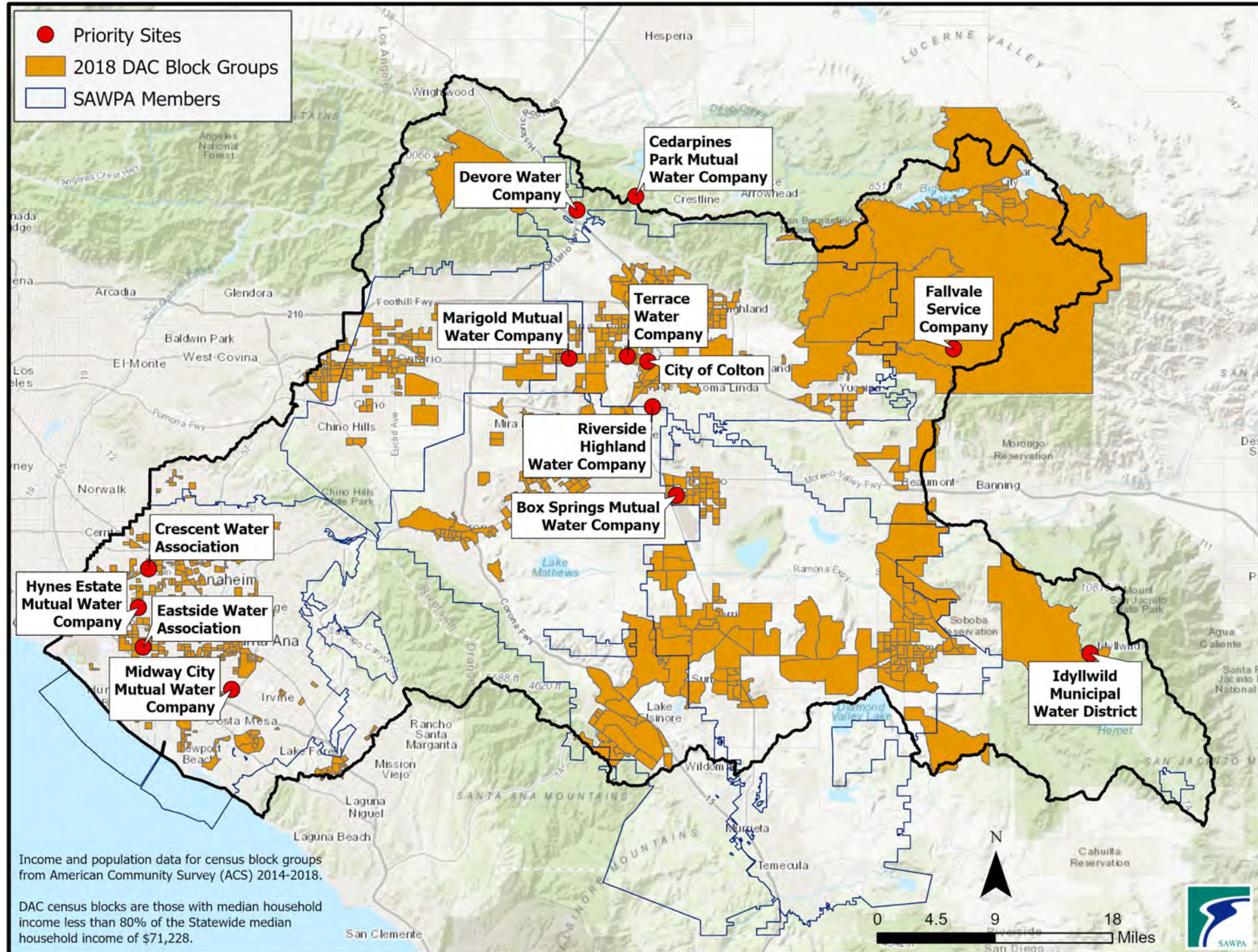


California Rural Water Association (CRWA) Support

- CRWA is a non-profit Statewide organization based in Sacramento.
- CRWA was a subgrantee partner with SAWPA in implementing the Prop 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DCI) grant program
- CRWA was tasked to work directly with six communities in the watershed through the SAWPA DCI Technical Assistance program but has also worked with other small communities in the watershed.
- CRWA has provided a scope of work to provide grant application preparation services for 5-10 small communities



High Need Small Systems supporting DACs in watershed



SAWPA Commission approved Phased Grant Application Funding on 8/17/21

- Budget estimate:
 - \$150,000 for 5-10 applications
- Phase I
 - CRWA will work with Review Committee to determine which small community projects are most eligible and competitive for grant application preparation
 - \$25,000 (Funded by SAWPA member agency -\$5000 each)
- Phase II
 - 5-10 small community grant applications prepared including participation in OWOW and DWR coordination meetings
 - Up to \$125,000 depending on number of grant applications prepared (Funded by proportionate share of projects in SAWPA member agencies)



Oversight Committee would be formed for Assistance Fund – Phase I

- Committee would be formed to include SAWPA staff; SAWPA's consultant, CRWA; and SAWPA member agency staff to oversee and administer the fund.
- Under the guidance of the committee, specific high-need small water systems projects could be recommended for support.
- Support would be reflective of those systems that lack the staffing, resources, or expertise to effectively apply for grant funding but subject to their ability to maintain and operate proposed project



Proposal Phasing, Costs, Member Agency Share, Timing

Phase	Total Cost Estimate	SAWPA Member Agency Cost	Support Timing
1	\$ 25,000	\$5000	Sept – Oct. 2021
2	Up to \$125,000	Proportionate share	Oct. 2021 - Sept. 2022




Proposal Schedule - Draft* Round 2 (R2) Schedule



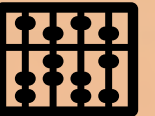
Steering Committee approves Prop 1 Policy

Nov 2018



DWR Releases Draft R2 Grant Guidelines

Aug 2021



Scoring Criteria Adopted by Steering Committee

Sep 2021



OWOW R2 Call for Projects

Oct 2021 - Jan 2022



DWR Releases Final R2 Grant Guidelines

Dec 2021

Small Community Water/Wastewater System-Grant applications due



SAWPA finalizes R2 grant agreement

Feb 2023



R2 Application Submittal to DWR

Sep 2022



Steering Committee Approves R2 Projects

Mar 2022



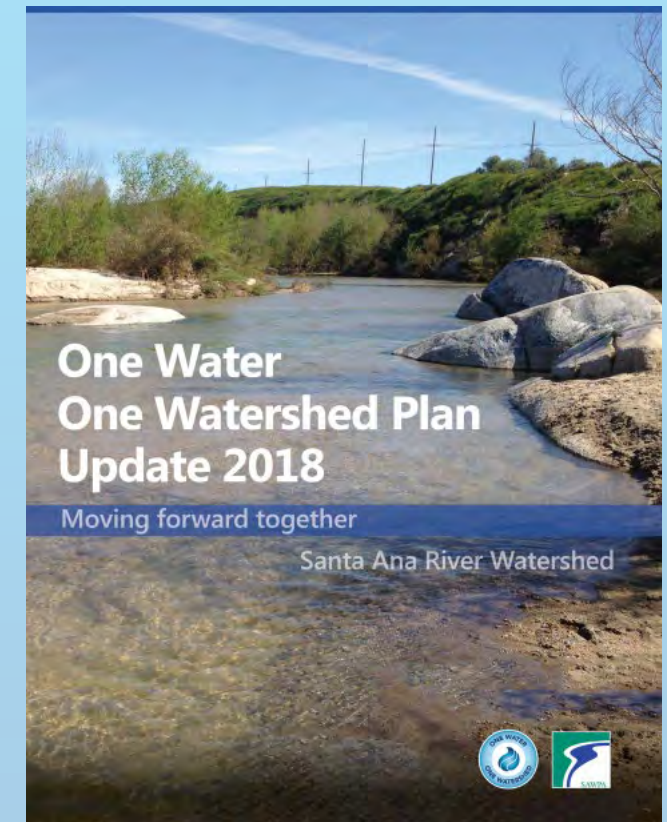
Staff Review & Participatory Budgeting

Jan 2022



Assistance Fund - Benefits

- Builds on outcomes of the SAWPA's Prop 1 IRWM DCI program
- Supports small systems serving DACs in our watershed
- Creates working relationships with communities most in need
- Supports DWRs initiatives for DAC assistance in IRWM regions
- Supports OWOW Plan Update 2018 implementation
- Continues SAWPA's OWOW leadership role in the region on compelling issues



Recommendation

- Authorize the execution of an agreement between the California Rural Water Association and SAWPA to conduct the implementation of the grant application assistance program for small community water/wastewater systems serving disadvantaged communities in the Santa Ana River Watershed in a phased approach for an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000, with Phase I work estimated cost of \$25,000 and Phase II up to \$125,000 depending on number of project grant applications prepared.



Questions?

