

Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Competition Process

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager
OWOW Steering Committee | July 22, 2021
Item No. 4.A.



Purpose of Presentation

- ▶ Update on Communication Plan implementation for OWOW Prop 1 Round 2,
- ▶ Present feedback from OWOW stakeholders regarding OWOW rating and ranking criteria, and
- ▶ Present two new potential updates to the rating and ranking criteria.

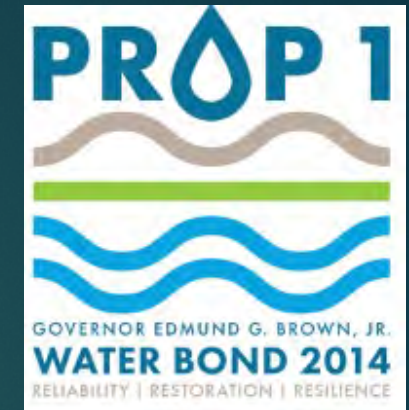
Prop 1 and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)

All overall IRWM Round 1 and 2 project proposals must:

- Respond to climate change, and
- Contribute to regional water self-reliance.

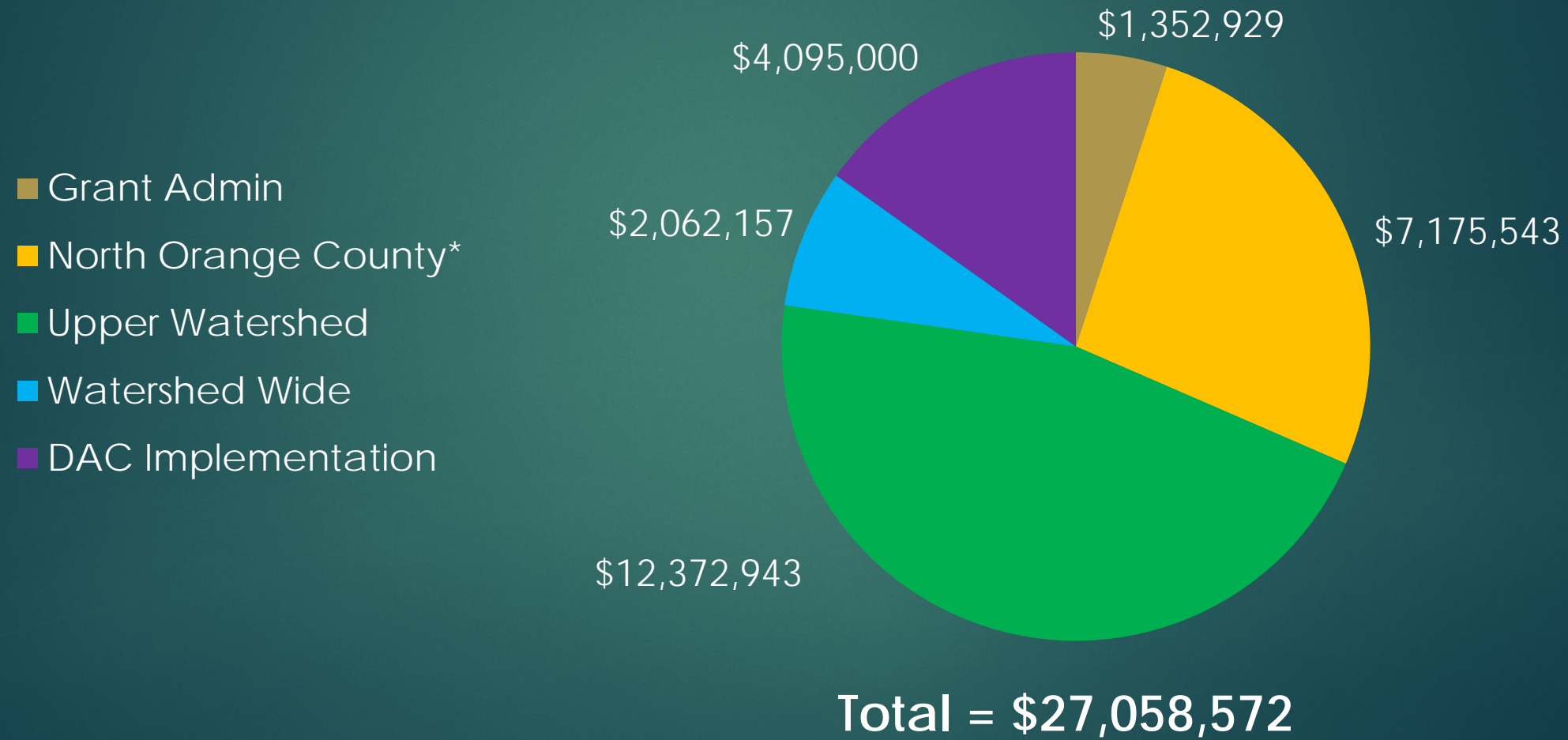
All individual projects must:

- Be “implementation” projects (may have small component for related education efforts),
- Have an expected useful life of 15 years, and
- Have CEQA/permits acquired within 18 months after execution of grant agreement with Department of Water Resources (DWR).



Prop 1 Round 2 Amounts by Category

Santa Ana River Watershed



*Includes \$989,072 carry over from Round 1

Draft* Round 2 (R2) Schedule



*Schedule assumes DWR will release draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) by August 2021, and all other Round 2 deadlines will reflect the same timing of the Round 1 schedule of events.

Communication Plan Implementation

Focus of Next Couple Slides



Communication Plan Implementation

Entity from Communication Plan	Status*
Council of governments	Presentations scheduled
Flood control districts	Coordinating
SAWPA member agencies and large to mid-sized retail water agencies	Coordinating
Small water agencies (mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities)	Coordinating
Tribes	Will reach out soon
Non-governmental organizations	Will reach out soon
Disadvantaged communities	Will reach out soon
Resource conservation districts	Will reach out soon
Forest related groups (National Forests, fire safe councils, Cal-Fire)	Coordinating

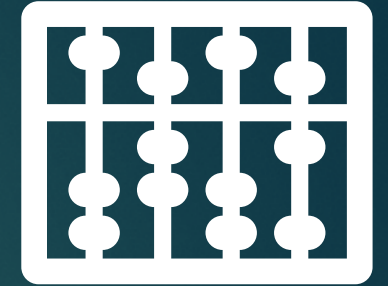
*As of July 2, 2021

OWOW Rating and Ranking Criteria

Focus of Next Couple Slides



Possible Updates to Criteria



- Shared with Committee
 - ▶ Change small project threshold of $\leq \$500,000$ of grant request, and/or change the 10% and 90% split for small and large projects,
 - ▶ Add more categories or change the weighting factors of benefits,
- New Items
 - ▶ Add more descriptors for benefit area limits, and
 - ▶ Mirror DWR definition of benefits to disadvantaged communities (DAC).

Note: OWOW criteria may be updated once we know DWR's priorities and areas of focus as part of the future PSP, anticipated to be released in August 2021.

Weighted Scores

- ▶ Step 1 – Max Quantity:
Identify max quantity in a benefit class
- ▶ Step 2 – Raw Score:
(Project Quantity / Max Quantity) x 20
- ▶ Step 3 – Weighted score:
Raw Score * Weighting Factor

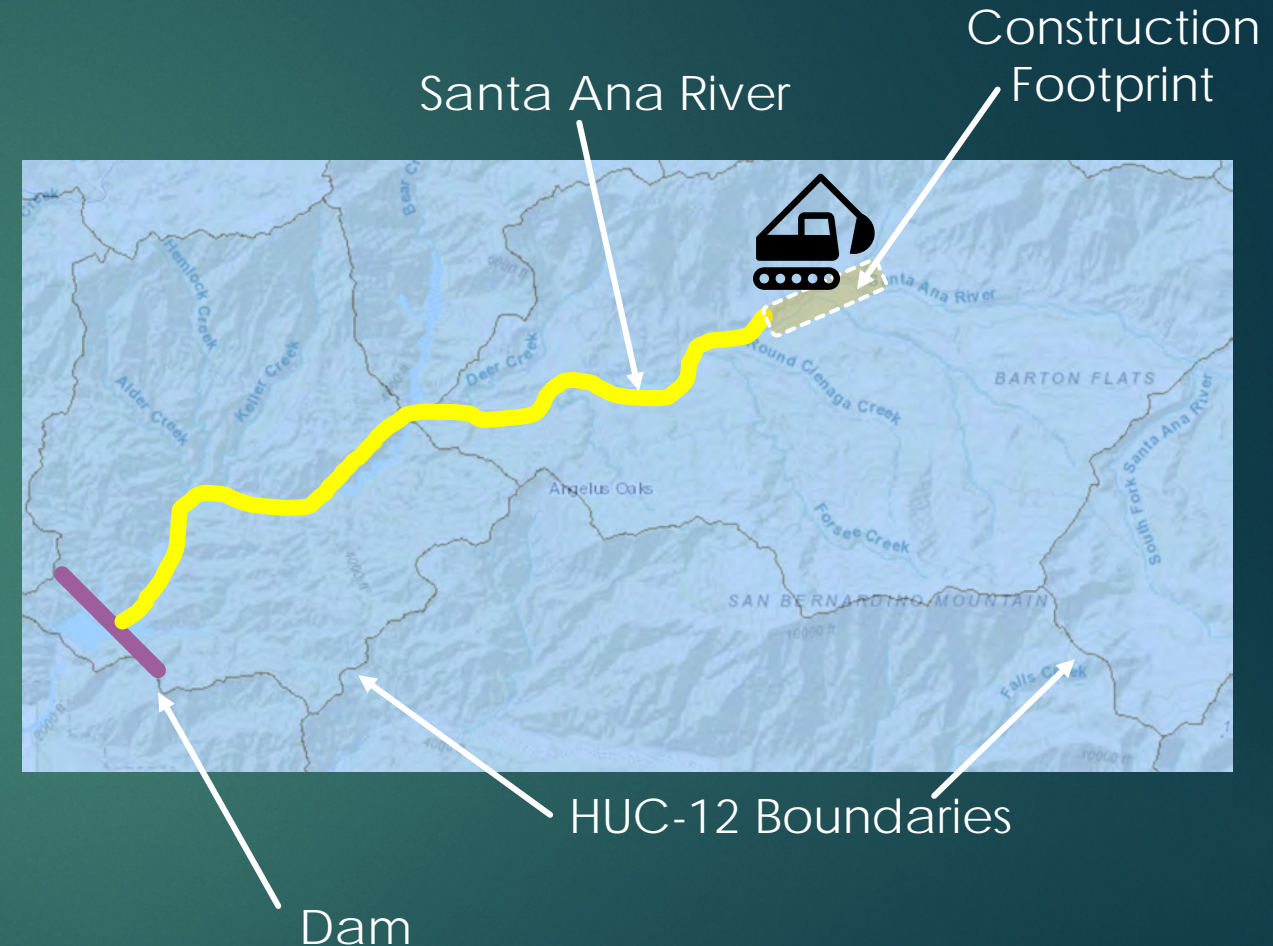
Example: $\left(\frac{x \text{ acre feet}}{X \text{ acre feet}} \times 20 \right) \times 9.2$

Current OWOW Benefit Classes	Weighting Factor
Water supply reliability, efficiency	9.2
Groundwater recharge and management	8.9
Reclaim water, treat and convey	8.5
Multipurpose flood & Stormwater	8.4
Watershed / ecosystem / wetland	7.7
Benefits to members of DACs	7.7
Benefits large area of watershed	7.6
Drinking water treatment, distribution	7.4
Contains public education component	7.4
Non-point source pollution reduction, etc.	7.1
Fisheries restoration / protection	6.9
Removal invasive non-native species	6.3

Benefit Area Definitions

Through the participatory budgeting process in Round 1, stakeholders were comfortable with the following limits to benefit areas:

- ▶ **Ecosystem Projects:** US Geological Survey designated HUC-12* level watersheds,
- ▶ **Surface Water Quality and Groundwater Quality:** HUC-12s and DWR-118 Groundwater Basins,
- ▶ **Coastal water quality/recreation:** 10-mile buffer areas, and
- ▶ **Inland park or water-body Recreation:** ½ mile buffer areas.



*HUC = Hydraulic Unit Code (more info: <https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>)

Benefit Area Definitions

- ▶ Much of the discussion in Round 1 process was ensuring the same methodology was used by applicants for designating their **benefit areas**.
- ▶ This largely affected the two benefit classes highlighted.
- ▶ Under Round 2, SAWPA could develop more examples and benefit area limits that help project proponents define their benefit areas.

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DWR and OWOW Past Definition of DAC Benefit Area



DWR

Method:

- Count the DAC areas within either a construction footprint area, or (larger) benefit area.
- Use MHI* Survey if no data exists for a given area.

Purpose:

- To determine if a project is
 - 1) eligible for waiver of the cost share requirement, and
 - 2) eligible for receiving DAC grant funding set aside.



OWOW

Method:

- Count the DAC areas within the larger benefit area.

Purpose:

- To determine how a project scores in the OWOW "Benefits to members of DACs" benefit class.

*Medium Household Income

Potential Issue with Past DAC Definition

- ▶ OWOW allowed project proponents to claim open-space areas, like surface water bodies and the river bottom, as a direct benefit to DAC.
- ▶ Was done to encourage project proponents to think regionally and find interlinkages with other potential project partners.
- ▶ **A possible change to the OWOW** process could be done to mirror DWR methodology as DWR interpreted “direct benefit to DAC” very specifically (can only claim benefits to end use customers and non-open space parcels).

Pros/Cons of Modifying DAC Definition

- ▶ **Pro:** No confusion later in process when DWR does analysis of final application, and
 - ▶ Incentivizes projects that mirror the goals of Prop 1 legislation.
- ▶ **Con:** Could make OWOW application complicated as benefit areas created via OWOW project portal are currently drawn regardless of parcel type (investigating GIS fix to portal), and
 - ▶ Doesn't incentivize project proponents to think as regionally.



Next Steps



- ▶ Hold another OWOW virtual workshop on August 26, 2021 and get additional feedback from stakeholders,



- ▶ Take recommendation of any updates to OWOW Steering Committee on September 23,

- ▶ Staff will share recommendation of rating and ranking criteria at that meeting,



- ▶ Open OWOW Call for Projects from October 2021 to January 2022.



Note: If DWR makes major policy changes in their draft PSP in August, 2021, SAWPA may delay the call for projects in order to gather further input from stakeholders and Steering Committee.

Recommendation

Receive and file.

Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program

Summary Report

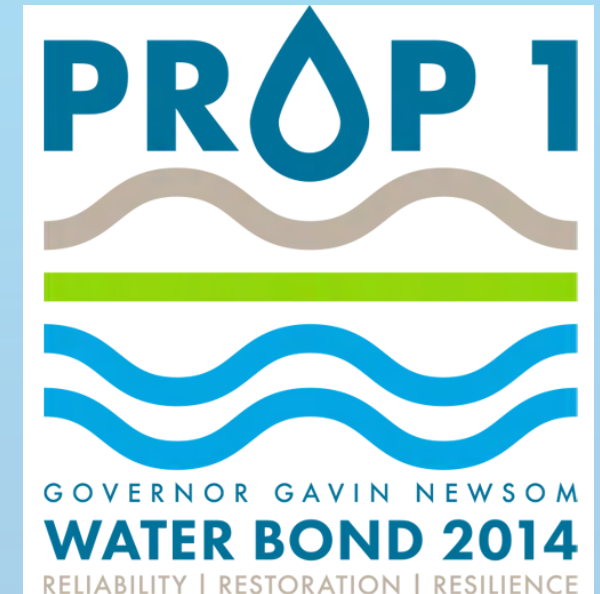
**Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager
OWOW Steering Committee | July 22, 2021
Item No. 4.B.**



Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Program (DCI) Program

DWR established the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program to support the following objectives:

- 1) Work collaboratively to involve DACs, community-based organizations, and stakeholders in IRWM Planning efforts
- 2) Increase the understanding, and identify the water management needs of disadvantaged communities
- 3) Develop strategies and long-term solutions that appropriately address the identified DAC water management needs
- 4) Support technical assistance for planning of future construction projects including feasibility, design, CEQA, etc. - Not construction at this stage.



Program Partners

Leveraging Resources for Biggest Impact

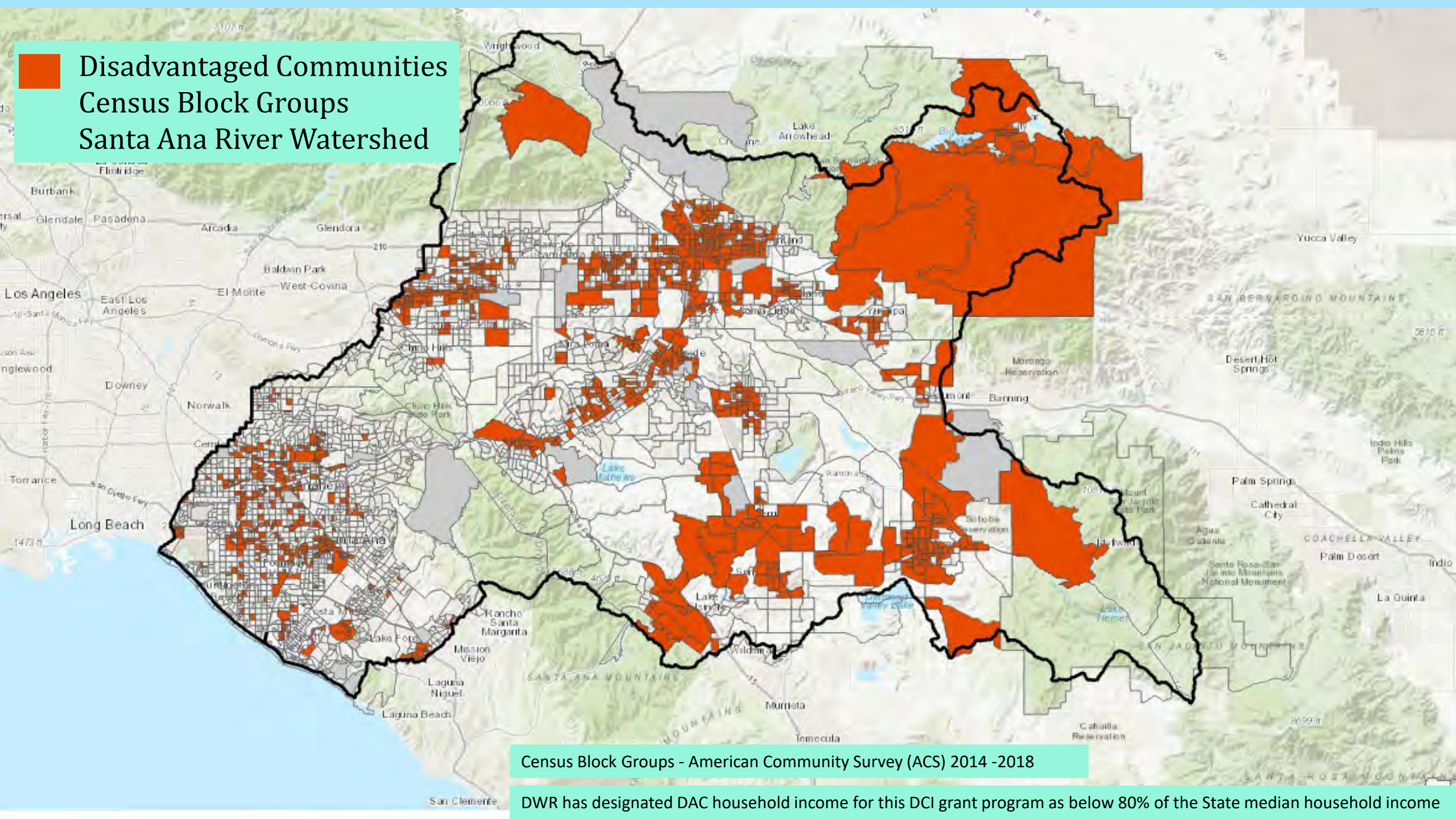


CivicSpark Water Fellows Program

- SAWPA hosted two CivicSpark Water Action Fellows each year of the program to support program implementation.
- CivicSpark was launched in 2014 as Governor Brown's Initiative AmeriCorps program (managed by Local Government Commission).
- Water Action Fellowship is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program, building on success of CivicSpark.
- Water Action Fellows serve on research, planning, and/or implementation projects to fill immediate gaps and build long-term capacity within their beneficiary agencies to address critical water resource challenges.



**Disadvantaged Communities
Census Block Groups
Santa Ana River Watershed**

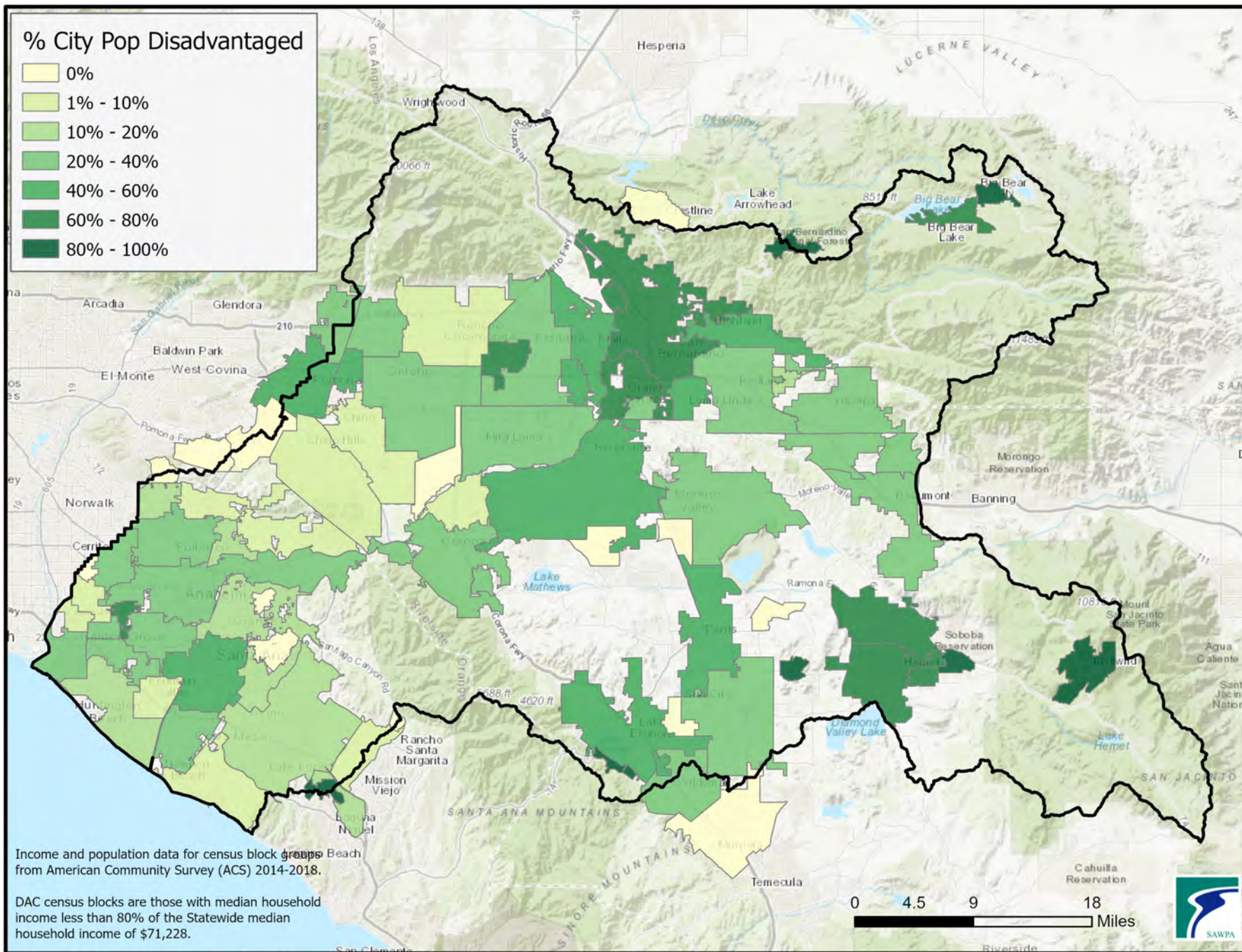


Census Block Groups - American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 -2018

DWR has designated DAC household income for this DCI grant program as below 80% of the State median household income

Santa Ana Watershed Cities

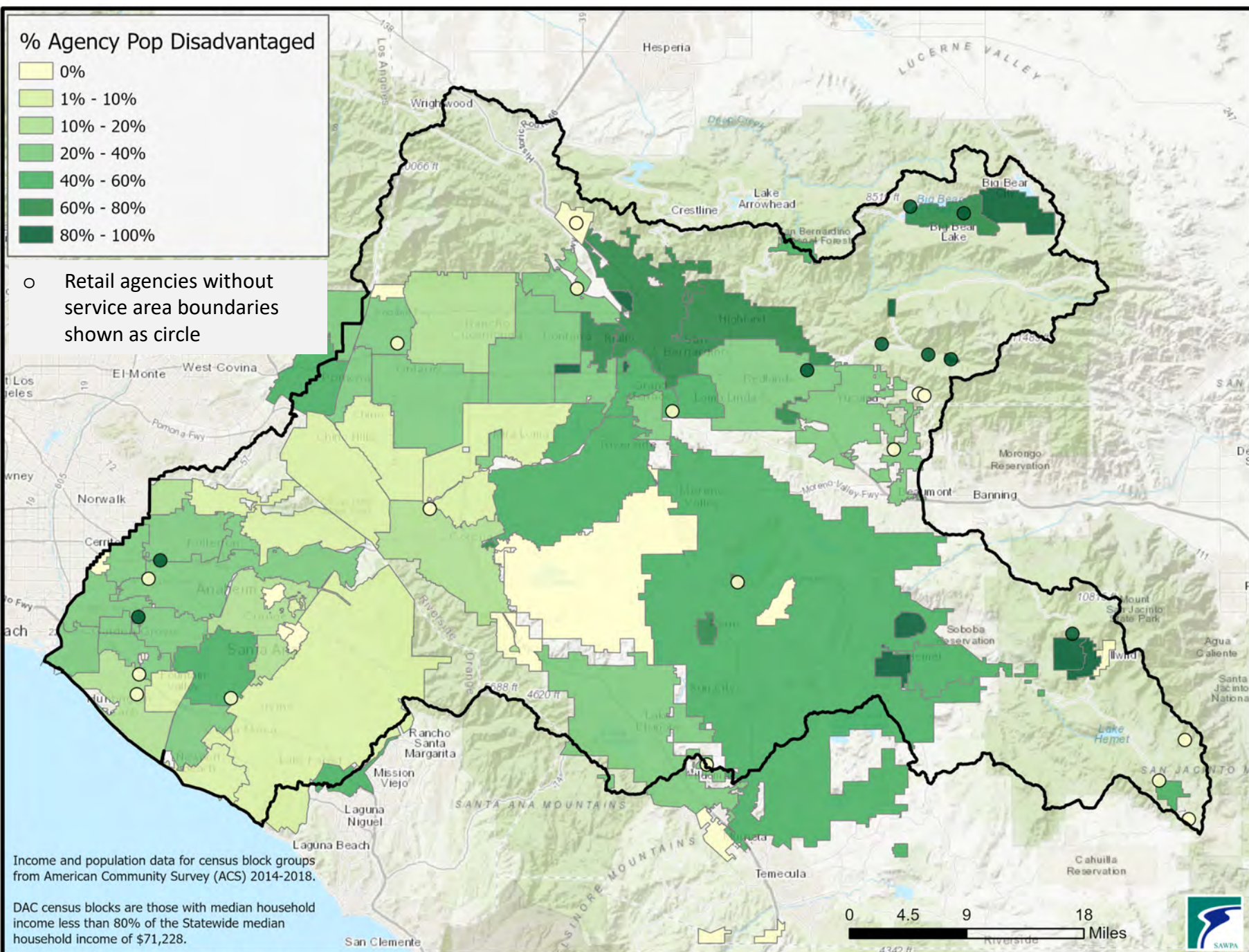
Percent Disadvantaged Community Population



% Agency Pop Disadvantaged



○ Retail agencies without service area boundaries shown as circle



Income and population data for census block groups from American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018.

DAC census blocks are those with median household income less than 80% of the Statewide median household income of \$71,228.

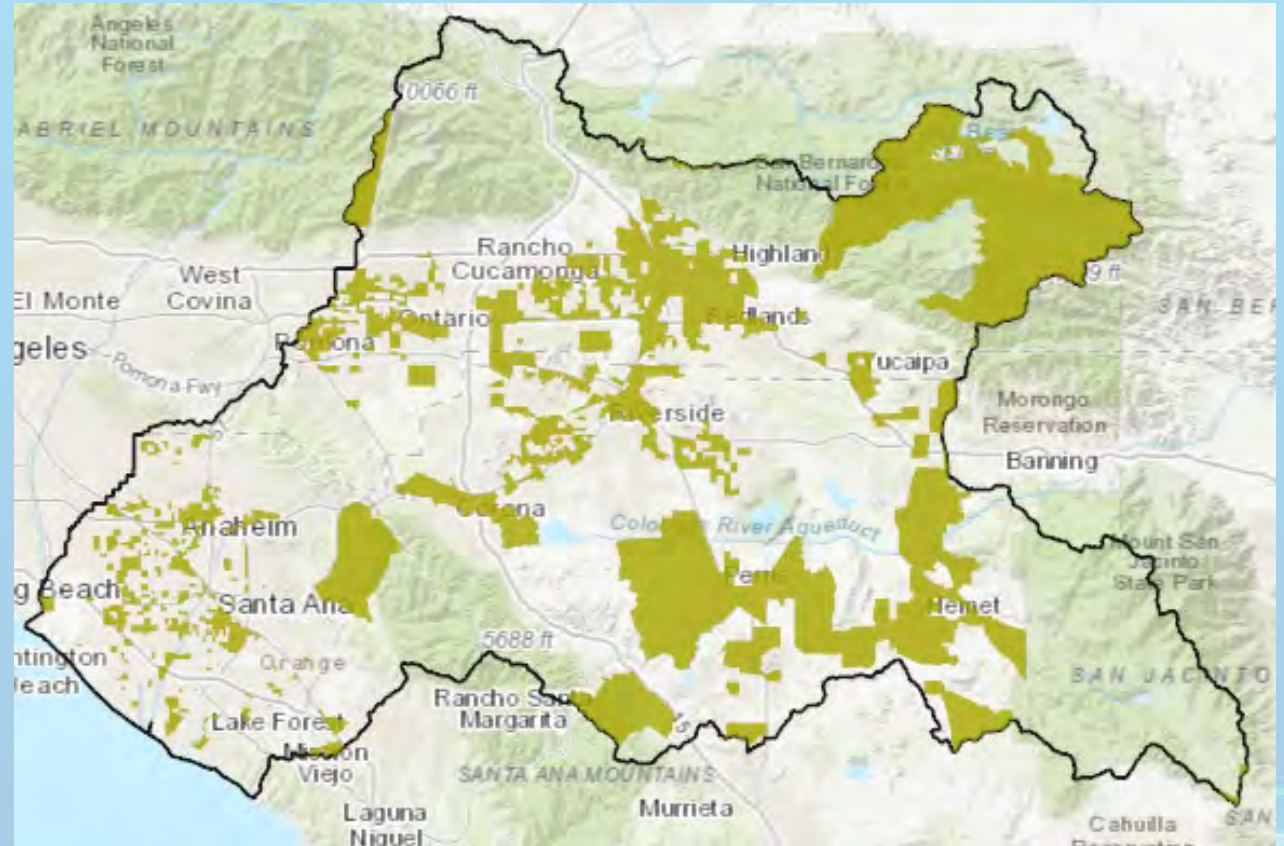
Santa Ana Watershed Water Retailers

Percent Disadvantaged Community Population



DCI Program Elements

1. Strengths and Needs Assessment
2. Education and Engagement
3. Project Development
4. Administration



Program Budget

Program Element	Budget Allocation
1. Strength & Needs Assessment	\$898,644
2. Engagement & Education	\$1,853,068
3. Project Development	\$3,233,288
4. Grant Management/ Administration	\$315,000
Total:	\$6,300,000



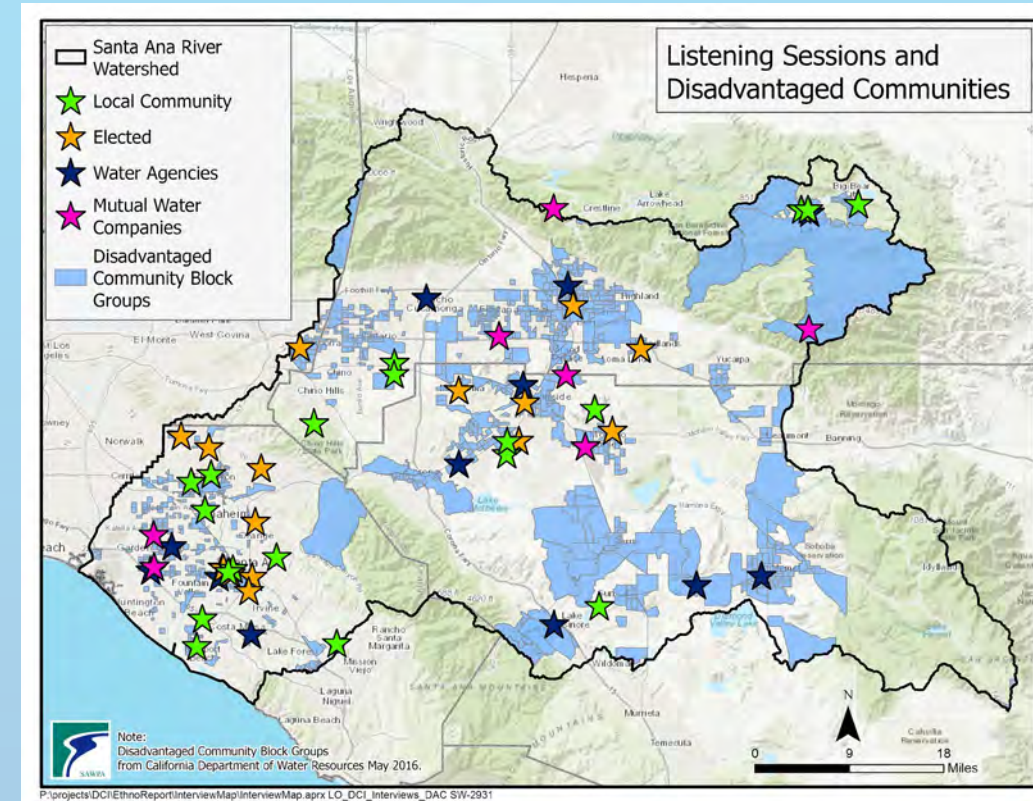
Program Element 1 - Strengths and Needs Assessment

Objectives:

Acknowledge and document strengths of overburdened and underrepresented communities.

- Interview and/or survey local elected leaders.
- Engage with mutual water companies.
- Conduct community workshops throughout the watershed

Create new networks of familiarity between local elected or community leaders and water management leaders



Ethnographic Approach

- Ethnography is a qualitative method that produces holistic analyses of social experiences.
- Conducted over a two-year period
- Four Key activities:
 - engagement,
 - listening,
 - analysis
 - community conversation report-backs.
- Engaged five social groups
 - Native communities,
 - other diverse local communities,
 - elected officials,
 - water agencies,
 - mutual water companies.

Core Tenants of Community Engagement



Listen

Respectful listening fosters community "inreach" and knowledge sharing as opposed to uni-directional "outreach"



Value Local Expertise

People are experts on their own communities and experience(s)



Understand Belonging

Each person is a member of multiple communities. These communities are defined shared experiences, values, and perspectives, not simply by geographic boundaries

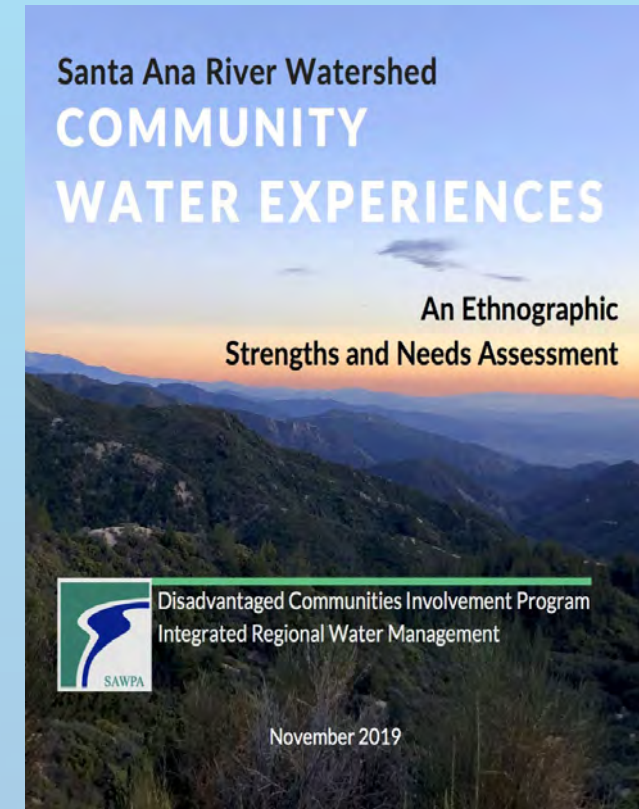


SAWPA

Ethnographic Strengths and Needs Assessment

Objective: Strengths and needs assessment designed by SAWPA and its partner agencies to take the next step in integrated and inclusive watershed planning.

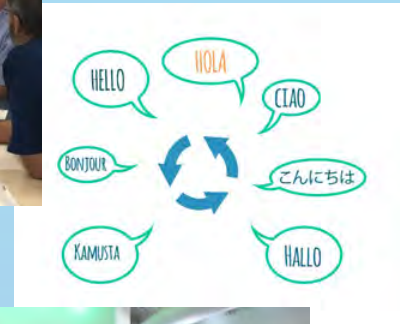
- SAWPA partnered with the University of California, Irvine's Department of Anthropology and California State University, San Bernardino Water Resources and Policy Initiatives.
- Initial phase 1 Report available on SAWPA DCI webpage



Program Element 2 - Education and Engagement

Objectives of this program element included activities intended to accomplish multiple long-term outcomes for the region:

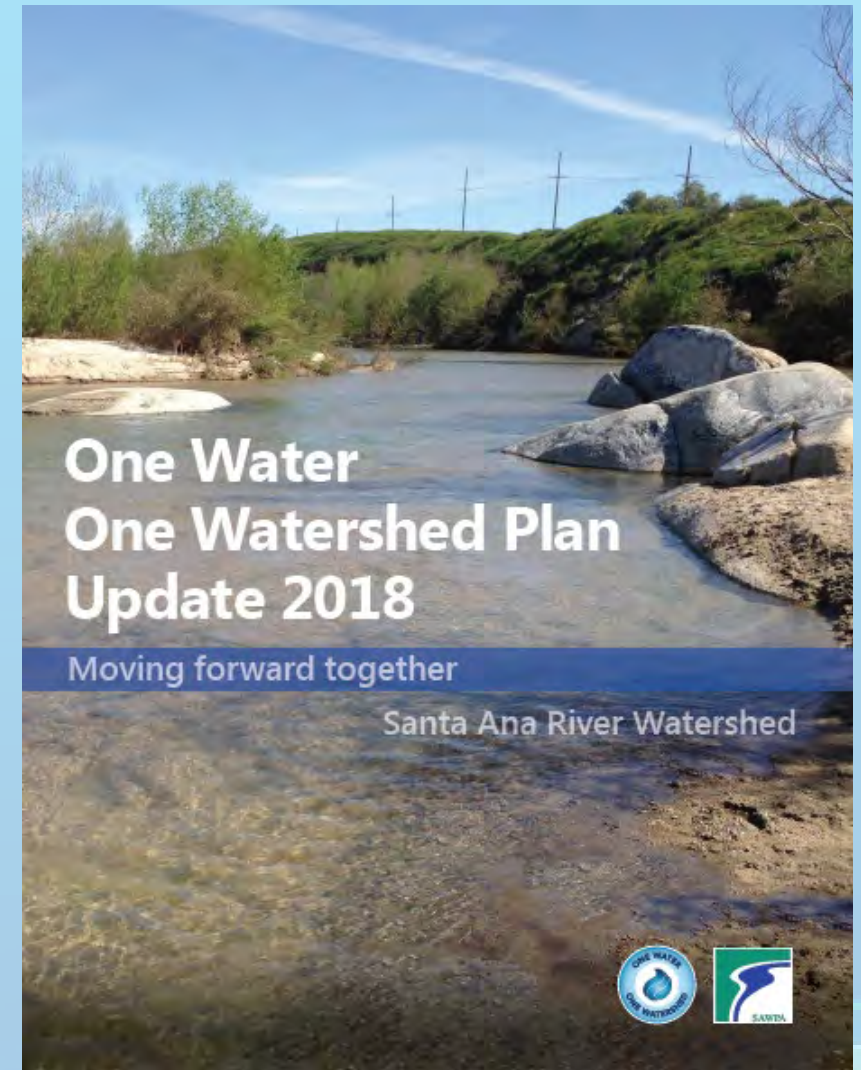
- Provide community members better understanding of water management.
- Strengthen participation in the OWOW process.
- Engage and educate elected representatives.



OWOW Plan Update 2018

Objective: incorporate findings from the Disadvantaged Community Involvement program into the 2018 OWOW Plan update.

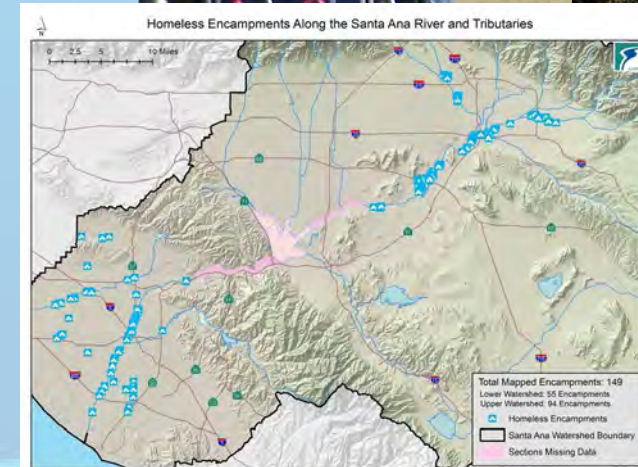
- Updated Subchapters of the OWOW Plan
 - 5.3 Tribal Communities
 - 5.5 Disadvantaged Communities
- Plan Adopted: February 2019
- Available on the SAWPA DCI Program webpage



Homelessness & Water Convening

Objective: reveal synergies and develop new partnerships between those seeking to manage homelessness and those engaged with water management

- SAWPA Hosted two events (2017)
- Identified linkages between water & homelessness
 - Homeless considered underrepresented community
 - Water quality degradation (trash, bacteria)
 - Hydromodification (damming, debris)
 - Riparian / Aquatic habitat (physical disturbance, fire)
 - Flood risk (unsheltered people)
 - Access to drinking water
 - Access to sanitation (sanitary sewer, hygiene)
 - Repurposing of multi-use recreation facilities



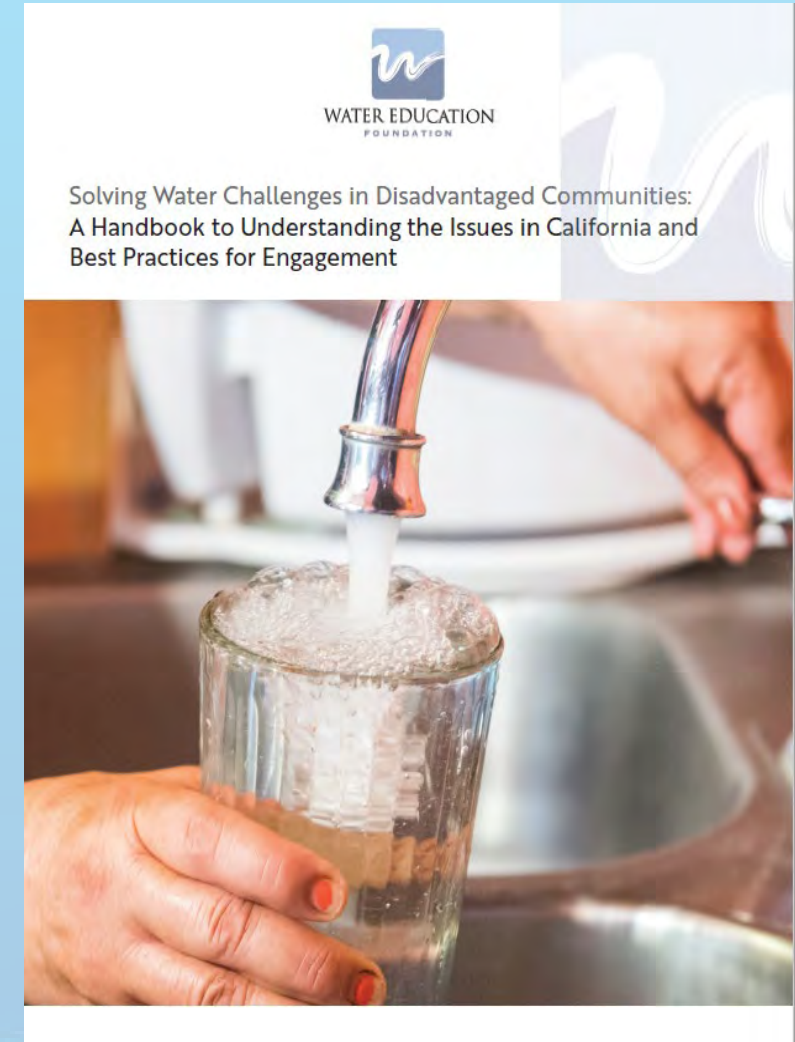
Note: Encampment data provided by the Orange County Department of Public Works, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. Data for the Santa Ana River tributaries is incomplete or absent.



Engagement Best Practices Publication

Objective: Produced publication to report on engagement of disadvantaged communities and water management

- Highlighted case studies from around the state, including the SAWPA region
- Activity Lead: Water Education Foundation
- Final Report: July 2020
 - Printed publication distributed Statewide
 - *SAWPA has a limited number of copies available!
 - Digital version available on the SAWPA DCI webpage



Water Agency Community Engagement Training

Objective: Conducted six virtual training events directed at agency staff of small Community Water Systems and Mutual Water Companies.

- Activity Lead: California Rural Water Agency
- Courses offered included:
 - Leak Detection & Water Loss Accountability
 - Rates & Rates Structure
 - Water Conservation/Water Shortage Management Plans
 - AB 54 Board Member Training
 - Emergency Preparedness/Response
 - Grant Funding & Infrastructure Planning
 - Well Diagnostics, Rehab, & Maintenance



Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers

Objective: Provided trainings for local elected leaders and their staff in the watershed.

- Relayed the findings of the Strengths & Needs Assessment
- Provide basic information on water management topics, and best practices
- **Workshop 1:** Getting to Know Your Watershed (September 2019)
- **Workshop 2:** Collaborative Planning in the Face of Uncertainty (January 2020)
- **Workshop 3:** Communicating the Value of Water to Your Constituents (July 2020)
- Spring 2021 - conducted condensed versions of the 2019-2020 Watershed Ambassador Certification Program.
 - Materials used to develop on-line mini-series to be hosted on SAWPA Watershed Ambassador website to continue the program
- Materials available on SAWPA DCI Program website



Santa Ana River Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers - Virtual Mini Series



How To Get Certified

- 1 WATCH THE RECORDINGS
- 2 COMPLETE THE ACTIVITY
- 3 COMPLETE THE EVALUATION
- 4 EMAIL AMBASSADOR@SAWPA.ORG
- 5 RECEIVE YOUR CERTIFICATE!

Workshop 1: Getting to Know Your Watershed

Workshop 2: Collaborating in the Face of Uncertainty

Workshop 3: Communicating the Value of Water



SAWPA

Statewide Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Lessons Learned Virtual Summit

Focus: Disadvantaged Communities and Tribes
Lessons Learned through Prop 1 IRWM Program

- Highlighted SAWPA's DACI Program
- Findings from IRWM regions around the State
- Key Speakers:
 - Wade Crowfoot, California Natural Resources Agency
 - Laurel Firestone, State Water Resources Control Board
 - Yana Garcia, California Environmental Protection Agency
 - Carmel Brown and Anecita Agustinez, Department of Water Resources
- Conducted as three half day events
- Over 450 Attendees
- Summit Presentation materials available on the SAWPA DCI webpage



Wade Crowfoot
California Natural
Resources Agency



Laurel Firestone
State Water Resources
Control Board



Yana Garcia
California Environmental
Protection Agency



Community Engagement Interns Program

Objective: Program, administered by the CSU DACC, sought applications from public agencies and environmental or social justice NGOs for the services of pairs of interns to assist with community engagement or public affairs work related to disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, or underrepresented communities.

- Provided internships for students from the CSU, UC and community college campuses of the watershed.
- Activity Lead: CSUSB / Civic Sparks
- Placement 60 Interns (complete)



Public Outreach Services

Trust the Tap

Objective: Trust the Tap is a multi-lingual informational campaign focused on spreading awareness about the values and safety of tap water within communities of the watershed that have historically mistrusted the safety of water from the tap..

- Materials available in Spanish, Vietnamese, and English.
- Tool Kit includes:
 - Bill stuffers
 - Informational videos
 - News releases
 - Social media posts
 - Posters
 - Trifold brochures
 - Outreach plan
- Available on the SAWPA webpage

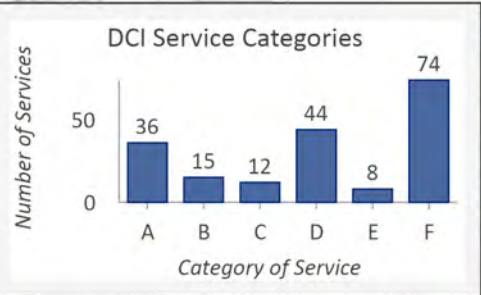
Translation Services

Objective: Translation services for documents and meetings.

- Multiple languages.
- Completed: 80 jobs at \$85 K



SAWPA Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Involvement Program - DAC Census Block Groups Benefited




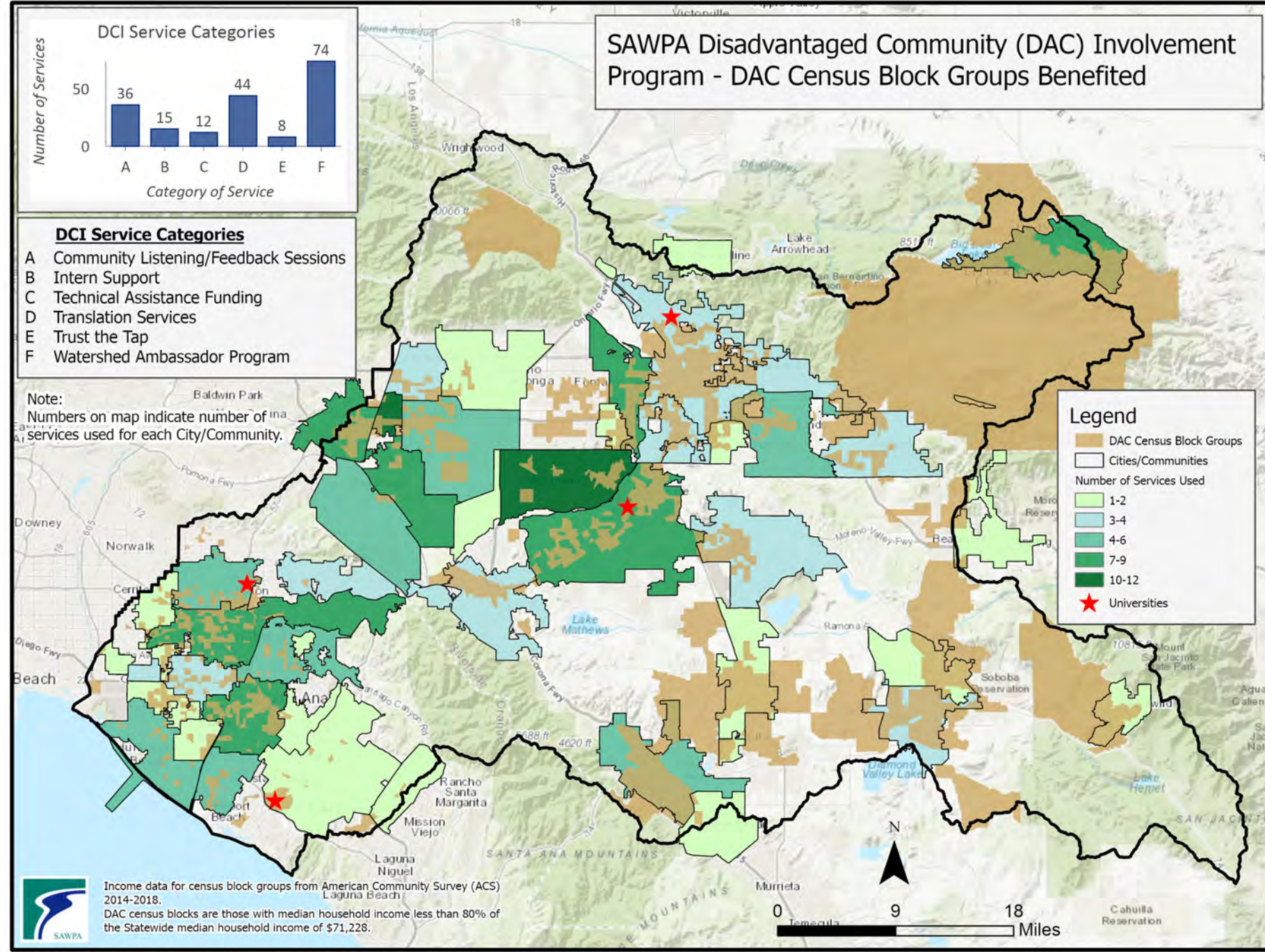
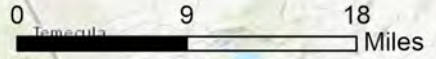
- DCI Service Categories**
- A Community Listening/Feedback Sessions
 - B Intern Support
 - C Technical Assistance Funding
 - D Translation Services
 - E Trust the Tap
 - F Watershed Ambassador Program

Note:
Numbers on map indicate number of services used for each City/Community.

Legend

- DAC Census Block Groups
- Cities/Communities
- Number of Services Used
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 4-6
- 7-9
- 10-12
- ★ Universities

 Income data for census block groups from American Community Survey (ACS) 2014-2018.
DAC census blocks are those with median household income less than 80% of the Statewide median household income of \$71,228.



Program Element 3 - Project Development

Technical Assistance for Community Need

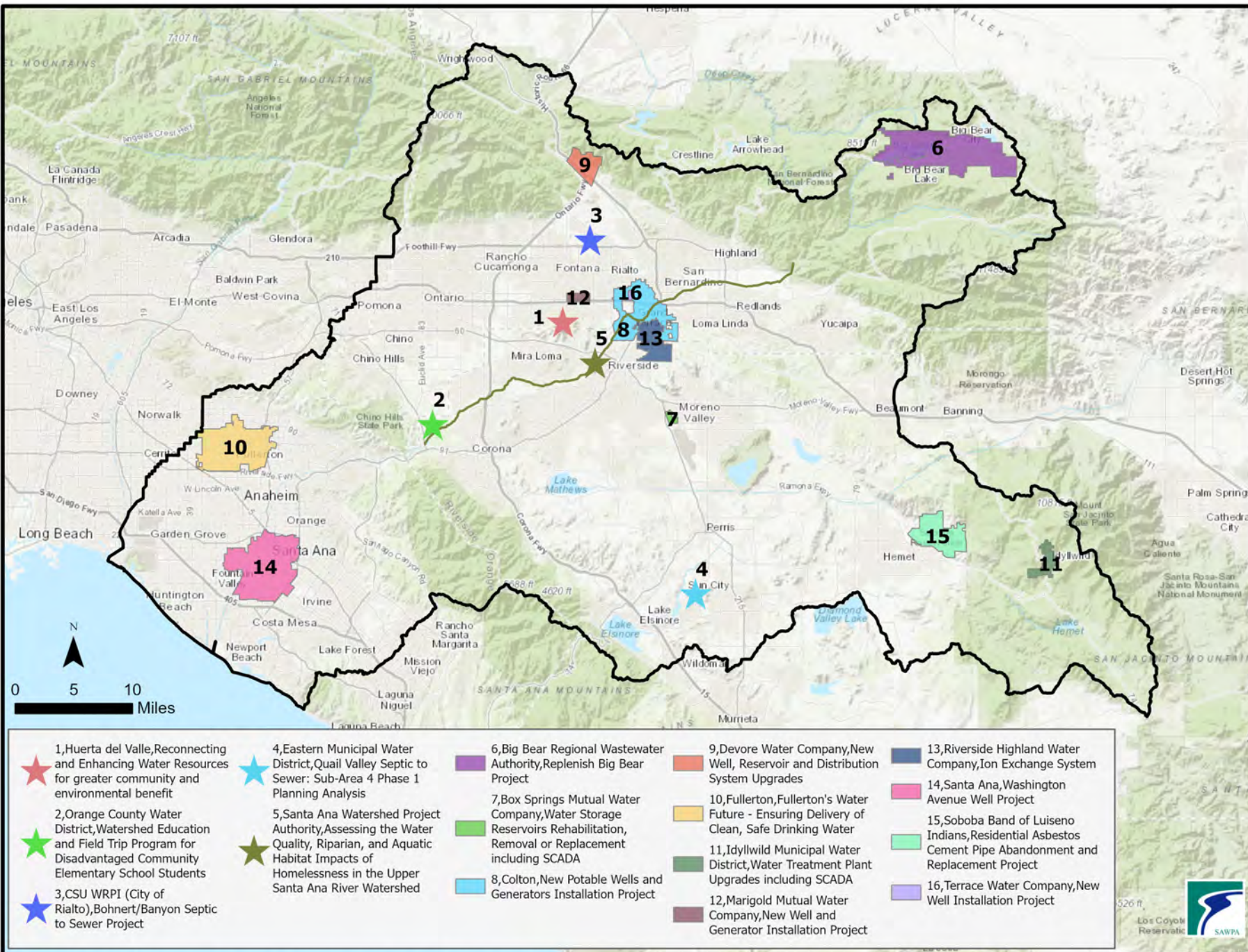
Objectives:

- Building upon what was learned through the outreach and engagement efforts to overburdened and underserved communities a suite of potential project and program types were identified as eligible to receive technical assistance funding.
- Develop evaluation criteria to rate, rank and score the potential projects, plans and programs.
- Allocated Technical Assistance funding.
- Allocated Funding \$2.9 M



DCI Program Technical Assistance Funding		
TA Award	Project Sponsor:	Project Title:
\$25,000	CSU WRPI	Median Household Income Surveys
\$75,000	SAWPA	Assessing the Water Quality, Riparian, and Aquatic Habitat Impacts of Homelessness in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed
\$350,000	Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	Residential Asbestos Cement Pipe Abandonment and Replacement Project
\$500,000	Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency	Replenish Big Bear
\$150,000	California Rural Water Association	Tribal Advisory Committee (Tribal AC)
\$175,000	Box Springs MWC	Rehabilitation, Removal or Replacement of Water Storage Reservoirs with SCADA
\$200,000	City of Colton	Two New Potable Wells with Generators
\$100,000	Devore WC	New Reservoir, Distribution System Upgrades and New Well
\$150,000	Idyllwild WD	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade with SCADA
\$100,000	Marygold MWC	New Well and Generator Project
\$25,000	Riverside Highland WC	Ion Exchange System
\$250,000	Terrace MWC	New Potable Well
\$200,000	Eastern Municipal WD	Quail Valley Sub-Area 4 Septic to Sewer, Phase 1 Planning Analysis
\$250,000	City of Rialto	Bohnert/Banyon Septic to Sewer Project
\$100,000	Orange County WD	Watershed Education and Field Trip Program for Disadvantaged Community Elementary School Students
\$100,000	City of Fullerton	Fullerton's Water Future - Ensuring Delivery of Clean, Safe Drinking Water
\$50,000	Huerta del Valle	Reconnecting and Enhancing Water Resources for greater community and environmental benefit.
\$100,000	City of Santa Ana	Washington Avenue Well Project
\$2,000,000	East/Tulare/Wendell	Water Treatment Plant

Technical Assistance Projects



Conclusions & Recommendations

- Core community concerns to be addressed:
 - Language Barriers
 - Communication
 - Tap Water Quality
- Recommendations to water decision-makers
 - Devote staff to maintaining long-term relationships with community-based that have relationships with underrepresented and overburdened communities.
 - Work directly with community-based organizations to hear and respond to the localized concerns that people have about tap water.
 - Design strong and inclusive working group structures that are able to connect the strengths and needs surfaced by communities to actionable projects and programs.
 - More regional involvement and support is needed for small water community systems/mutual water companies serving disadvantaged communities
 - Continue to fund disadvantaged community involvement programs.



SAWPA Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Webpage

Direct links to the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program resources and materials can be found at:

<https://sawpa.org/owow/dci-program/>



Questions

