

TULARE LAKE BASIN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY – ANNUAL REPORT

TULARE COUNTY

November 18, 2016

Prepared for:

County of Tulare
Administrative Office
2800 W Burrel Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Final Submittal to:

Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
South Central Region Office
3374 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Prepared by:

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group
Clovis, California

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB.....	Assembly Bill
CBO.....	Community-Based Organization
CCA	Cleanup and Abatement Account
CCR.....	California Code of Regulations
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFCC.....	California Financing Coordinating Committee
CIP.....	Capital Improvement Program
CRWA.....	California Rural Water Association
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWC	Community Water Center
CWS	Community Water System
CWSRF.....	State Revolving Fund (Clean Water)
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DDW	Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB)
DFA	Division of Financial Assistance
DWP	Drinking Water Program
DWR	Department of Water Resources
DWSAP.....	Drinking Water Source Assessment & Protection
EDA	Economically Distressed Area
EJ	Environmental Justice
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GAMA	Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GSA.....	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP.....	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HHSA.....	Health and Human Services Agency
HUD.....	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IRWM.....	Integrated Regional Water Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
JPA.....	Joint Powers Authority

LAFCo	Local Agency Formation Commission
LPA.....	Local Primacy Agency
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MHI	Median Household Income
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSR.....	Municipal Service Review
NEPA.....	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OES.....	Office of Emergency Services
PAC	Project Advisory Committee
PUC.....	Public Utilities Commission
PUD	Public Utility District
PWS	Public Water System
RCAC	Rural Community Assistance Corporation
RMA.....	Resource Management Agency
RUS.....	Rural Utilities Service
RWQCB.....	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB.....	Senate Bill
SDAC.....	Severely Disadvantaged Community
SDWA.....	Safe Drinking Water Act
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SHE	Self-Help Enterprises
SOAC	Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee
SRF or SDWSRF	State Revolving Fund (Safe Drinking Water)
SSWS	State Small Water System
SWP	State Water Project
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWS	Small Water System
TA.....	Technical Assistance
TLB.....	Tulare Lake Basin
TMF	Technical Managerial & Financial

USDA..... United States Department of Agriculture
USGS United States Geological Survey
WC..... California Water Code
WDR Waste Discharge Requirements

SECTION ONE

1 INTRODUCTION

In partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the County of Tulare completed the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study (TLB Study) in August 2014. The TLB Study endeavored to develop an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment plan to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin, as appropriated by Senate Bill SBX2 1 (California Water Code §83002(b)(3)(D)). The objectives of the TLB Study were defined within the grant agreement as follows:

- Develop a plan that provides rural, disadvantaged communities with a safe, clean and affordable potable water supply and effective and affordable wastewater treatment and disposal.
- The plan will include recommendations for planning, infrastructure, and other water management actions, as well as specific recommendations for regional drinking water facilities, regional wastewater treatment facilities, conjunctive use sites and groundwater recharge, groundwater for surface water exchanges, related infrastructure, project sustainability, and cost sharing mechanisms.
- Identify projects and programs that will create long-term reliability, while optimizing the ongoing operation and maintenance and management costs for small water and wastewater systems.

In order to meet the objectives of the TLB Study, the following five tasks were performed, in accordance with the tasks outlined in the grant agreement from DWR:

1. Baseline Data Gathering, Mapping, and Database Creation of Disadvantaged Communities in the Tulare Lake Basin
2. Stakeholder Consultation and Community Outreach
3. Selection of Pilot Projects and Studies to Develop Representative Solutions to Priority Issues
4. Implementation of Pilot Project Stakeholder Process to Develop Studies and Representative Solutions to Priority Issues
5. Preparation of Final Report

The County of Tulare established a basin-wide Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC) comprised of community representatives, as well as regulatory and funding agency representatives and other organizations that work on and are familiar with disadvantaged community water and wastewater needs. The SOAC worked with the project team to identify priority issues, potential pilot projects, and review project recommendations. The SOAC was a productive group, and while the official SOAC was terminated at the completion of the TLB Study, there was a desire to keep this group of stakeholders active. One of the recommendations of the TLB Study was: "Continue to convene a DAC focused stakeholder group for the Tulare Lake Basin, and expand outreach to further enhance DAC, County, Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), and other local stakeholder engagement and participation."

1.1 Purpose and Goals

Subsequent to completion of the TLB Study, various stakeholders and participants expressed interest in taking advantage of the activity established through the TLB Study to continue to

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TLB DAC WATER STUDY ANNUAL REPORT

engage local stakeholders related to the water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities within the TLB Study Area.

The County of Tulare contracted with Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group to continue to convene stakeholder meetings to discuss DAC needs in the TLB Study Area. Provost & Pritchard led a team of consultants, including Self-Help Enterprises and Community Water Center. The project included convening and facilitating meetings of local stakeholders in order to maintain stakeholder engagement and monitor actions and activities associated with the recommendations identified in the TLB Study.

The project also included preparation of this Annual Report describing the progress made towards implementation of the recommendations, potential action items for the stakeholder group and the County, and any other relevant findings identified through the stakeholder group meetings.

1.2 Background

The Tulare Lake Basin Study Area encompasses most of the four-county area including Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. The Tulare Lake Basin Study Area boundary is shown in Figure 1-1. The TLB Study focused on the drinking water and wastewater needs of rural and unincorporated communities that meet the Proposition 84 definition of “disadvantaged community”, which is a community whose median household income is 80 percent or less of the statewide median household income. The TLB Study included community water systems, wastewater systems, and rural communities with private wells and septic systems. Approximately 353 of the 530 communities identified within the Tulare Lake Basin Study Area are considered to be disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged.

1.3 Scope of the Project

Provost & Pritchard coordinated meetings with the County of Tulare and the project team, prepared meeting agendas and other meeting materials, coordinated with other entities to provide updates or presentations as appropriate and facilitated four (4) stakeholder group meetings.

Community Water Center (CWC) conducted outreach to stakeholders through phone calls and email notifications, worked with the project team to establish meeting agendas and materials including material translation, attended and participated in the stakeholder group meetings, and provided meeting translation services.

Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) conducted outreach to counties, cities and DACs to encourage attendance at the SOAC meetings, worked with project team to establish meeting agendas and materials, attended and participated in stakeholder group meetings, and prepared records of meeting proceedings.


This Annual Report is prepared to summarize the following items as a result of stakeholder meeting activities:


- Record of the stakeholder group meetings;
- Description of progress made towards implementation of recommendations; and
- Conclusions and recommendations based on the meeting discussion items.

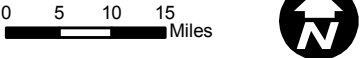
Tulare Lake Basin
Disadvantaged Community
Water Study

Figure 1-1
Tulare Lake Basin Study Area

Legend

 Tulare Lake Basin

 County



EST. 1968

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CONSULTING GROUP

An Employee Owned Company

286 W. Cromwell Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711-6162
(559) 449-2700

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

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2 STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETINGS

2.1 History

The Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC) was created by the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors on August 16, 2011. The SOAC bylaws, created with input from the project team, and adopted by the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors, defined the role of the SOAC and established the SOAC's composition.

The SOAC was comprised of 21 members. Members of the public were also notified and invited to the SOAC meetings. The project team created, utilized, and managed a database of stakeholder contacts throughout the TLB Study. The database included over 1,000 stakeholders.

The goal of the community outreach and stakeholder processes was to communicate with, inform, get input from, and gain support from agencies, local governments, water and wastewater purveyors, and community residents for the various tasks performed throughout the TLB Study. The community outreach and stakeholder consultation process provided an opportunity for the communities potentially impacted by the recommendations of the Study to be involved in the development of solution alternatives to address their water and wastewater issues.

The SOAC played a critical role in identifying priority issues within the Tulare Lake Basin Study Area, selecting representative pilot project studies to address the priority issues, and reviewing and providing input on the Final Report and recommendations.

2.2 Additional Stakeholder Meetings

While the official SOAC was terminated upon completion of the TLB Study in August 2014, the goals and objectives of the additional stakeholder group meetings remained the same: to communicate with, inform, and get input from various agencies, local governments, water and wastewater purveyors, and community residents related to the recommendations of the TLB Study.

This stakeholder group was an informal ad-hoc group convened to discuss current activities, progress, opportunities and action items for the implementation of the TLB Study's recommendations to address regional DAC water and wastewater issues. By bringing together key stakeholders, these meetings allowed for collaboration and information sharing throughout the Tulare Lake Basin.

2.3 Stakeholder Meetings

Four stakeholder group meetings were conducted on the following dates:

- Meeting 1 - October 26, 2015
- Meeting 2 - January 25, 2016
- Meeting 3 - April 18, 2016
- Meeting 4 - October 10, 2016

Meeting notices, participants, and meeting notes are included in Appendix A.

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2.3.1 Meeting 1

The first meeting of the stakeholder group after completion of the TLB Study was held on October 26, 2015. When this meeting took place, it had been over a year since the final SOAC meeting from the TLB Study occurred. Therefore, the first item of discussion was to provide an overview of the role of the group and objectives of these additional meetings. An overview of the TLB Study efforts and recommendations was also provided. Subsequently, there was a discussion regarding progress or activity since completion of the TLB Study related specifically to the efforts of the TLB Study and recommendations.

New Programs and Legislation

The Drinking Water Program was transferred to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on July 1, 2014. In addition, the SWRCB created a new Office of Sustainable Water Solutions, in charge of administering the resources and Technical Assistance (TA) program available through Proposition 1.

California Proposition 1, Water Bond (2014) provided new funding and resources, including programs focused largely on DACs and TA. There are many funding opportunities for water related projects. A handout was provided that summarized the funding programs, which is included in Appendix B.

Consistent with the recommendations of the TLB Study, the State has placed priority on consolidations and shared resources to help improve economy of scale for small communities. Recommendations from the TLB Study related to the need for sharing of resources to increase economy of scale include:

13.1.3. *Encourage Sharing of Resources to Build TMF Capacity.*

A. Even outside of larger infrastructure project development processes, alternatives such as sharing common resources, forming joint governmental agencies, or other forms of consolidation should be evaluated to determine if O&M costs could be reduced or TMF capacity improved.

13.3.2 *Encourage Shared Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability.*

A. Provide funding opportunities to encourage the development of regional cooperation, partnerships, and consolidation of services, where appropriate.

13.4.1 *Improve Scoring Criteria and Guidelines*

C. Continue the Consolidation Incentive Program, however, modify the system so that large systems do not obtain benefits that are significantly out of proportion to the benefits provided by consolidation. Also consider expanding the consolidation incentive program and make it available to larger systems seeking to assist communities of private well owners impacted by the drought and/or facing water quality challenges.

The State also has new powers to require consolidation in certain cases, through Senate Bill (SB) 88. Under SB 88, the SWRCB is authorized to “order consolidation with a receiving water system where a public water system, or a state small water system within a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.” The Bill also provides exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to some drought-related groundwater and water recycling projects.

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed legislation known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). As a result, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are

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beginning to form. This legislation appears to be consistent with recommendation 13.3.1 of the TLB Study.

13.3.1 Prevent Worsening of Problems

C. Improve Groundwater Management Planning to address declining water levels and increased water quality contaminant levels, and evaluate the ways the two trends may be exacerbating each other.

Completed Projects (Case Studies)

Self-Help Enterprises provided a presentation on a water project for Cameron Creek Colony. Cameron Creek's private wells were failing, and Self-Help was receiving a lot of phone calls to access well improvement funds. Those involved began to question whether it made sense to invest in all of the private wells individually. Several community meetings led to a general consensus that connecting to the City of Farmersville made sense, even though most people had previously been opposed to the idea of consolidation. The drought changed the priorities for Cameron Creek Colony residents. The groundwater levels had dropped from about 24 feet below ground surface to 90 feet between 2011 and 2015, and private wells within the community were not sustainable.

Local, State, and Federal officials got involved to help develop a solution and find funding for Cameron Creek. One crucial element was that an Engineering Analysis had already been prepared at the urging of the County and using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. The City of Farmersville received a CDBG Planning and Technical Assistance Grant through a competitive process funded through the State Department of Housing and Community Development. That grant funded the feasibility study related to infrastructure needs in Cameron Creek Colony, including water. Later, Self-Help Enterprises prepared applications to the State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on behalf of the City of Farmersville to fund the construction of the project. An important factor was that Farmersville had sufficient water supply capacity to serve Cameron Creek.

The third critical piece that allowed advancement of this project was the cooperation from the Farmersville City Council and staff, including a last-minute special meeting to approve the project. Additionally, since it was an emergency drought project, it was exempt from CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process went quickly. The bid process was also expedited.

Cameron Creek was able to remain unincorporated, which kept them eligible for USDA funds, and which was what the residents wanted. As of October 2015, just over 80 of the 105 homes in Cameron Creek had connected to the City of Farmersville. As of October 2016, about 96 homes had connected.

Additionally, Tulare County has projects underway for Monson, Okieville, and others to develop long term solutions for communities that currently rely on private wells.

Another case study that was noted was Riverdale Public Utility District, which had funding for an arsenic compliance project. They were able to drill a well deeper than originally planned, and successfully found water that meets the arsenic standard, without the need for treatment. Significant capital and ongoing operation and maintenance costs for the community were reduced with avoidance of treatment.

The drought has triggered a lot of activity and the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) noted that they are seeing efforts by the SWRCB to streamline the funding process, especially for drought related projects.

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Other Comments

Stakeholders should continue to be looking for new funding opportunities for DACs. Various funding agencies, including the SWRCB, USDA, and CDBG have provided assistance during the drought. At some point in time the drought will be declared over, and other funds will be necessary to continue to make improvements to the water infrastructure available to DACs. IRWM is a potential funding application vehicle. There will also be funding opportunities related to implementation of SGMA.

There are concerns about how DACs will fit into SGMA. SGMA is still in its early stages and it is not clear to anyone yet. DWR responded that within SGMA, there is a responsibility to all beneficial uses and users. Entities that use less than 2 acre-feet per year are considered to be “de minimis” users; DWR may not try to track that minimal water use. However, within the law, the districts are still responsible to address the de minimis users as beneficial uses. DWR is finalizing the basin boundaries now, and they hope to have a draft for basin plans by January 2016. DWR offered to provide a presentation on SGMA at the next meeting.

The County participates in SGMA meetings so it can represent the small communities who choose not to or are unable to participate.

Data gathering and tracking needs were also noted to be an important activity. The SWRCB is making a greater effort to track data. There may be potential for counties to get technical assistance money for data gathering and tracking as well.

Priorities identified for the next meeting

- è SGMA education and outreach
- è Data gathering and tracking

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2.3.2 Meeting 2

The second meeting of the stakeholder group was conducted on January 25, 2016. During this meeting, the Department of Water Resources, Division of Drinking Water, and Tulare County gave presentations on items discussed during the previous meeting.

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) – DWR
- Drinking Water Watch Resources – SWRCB
- TLB Disadvantaged Community Water Study Database – Tulare County

SGMA

The Department of Water Resources began the meeting with a presentation on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Slides were provided for attendees and the presentation included groundwater basics, SGMA milestones, legislative intent of the Act, basin prioritization, basins in critical overdraft, basin boundary modifications, SGMA roles and responsibilities, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), development of regulations and resources. The presentation concluded with a group discussion of SGMA and the impacts to DACs. During the discussion it was recommended for DACs to engage with local irrigation districts, since that is where a lot of organization for GSAs is occurring.

It was noted that there are challenges for DACs and other small water districts to participate, such as limited staff availability and lack of resources. Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability and other nonprofits were working to communicate with communities about SGMA because they were finding a lot of disconnect between agencies and communities.

Drinking Water Watch

The next presentation was given by the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water on Drinking Water Watch Resources. The presentation highlighted a website that is available for the public to retrieve information (more information than has been previously available) about public drinking water systems. The website is available by going to the following address: <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW> or by searching “CA drinking water watch”. Information available from the website is more than has been previously available, is downloadable, and includes topics such as: water quality, water system, contact information, monitoring schedules, monitoring results. Information can be accessed through searching by water system name or number, or by county. Consumer confidence reports are now available as well.

It was suggested that consumer confidence reports and other documents be posted in Spanish where available.

TLB Database

The final presentation of the meeting was Disadvantaged Community Water Study Database presented by Tulare County. The presentation covered information that is available at <http://TulareLakeBasin.com>, such as a Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community map.

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Tulare County was also interested in trying to link the system to Drinking Water Watch (the website covered in the previous presentation). Tulare County was trying to create a database that will collect and provide comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) data about water supply wells. It was noted that well information, except the owner's name, is currently available.

Other Comments

The meeting concluded with a discussion on progress as well as recommendations of opportunities relevant to the TLB Study. Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) DAC engagement money was introduced as a funding option. The Tulare-Kern region is able to apply for this non-competitive grant for \$3.4 million to fund DAC engagement and educational programs, and project development. The County of Tulare is willing to be the applicant for the funding.

It was noted that Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare counties have each received \$500,000 from DWR, through the Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program, for GSA development.

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2.3.3 Meeting 3

The third meeting of the stakeholder group was conducted on April 18, 2016. The meeting began with a recap of the Tulare Lake Basin DAC Water Study recommendations. Next, more information about the IRWM DAC involvement funding opportunity was presented, including a brief description of the program and eligible activities under the funding opportunity. A handout was provided that included a list of the eligible activities and a draft funding proposal outline. A map of the Tulare-Kern Funding Area for the DAC Involvement program is included as Figure 2-1. As the identified tasks were discussed, feedback from attendees was requested.

The DAC Involvement Program includes economically distressed areas (EDA) and underrepresented communities, in addition to DACs. An EDA is defined as a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality where the segment of the population is 20,000 persons or less, with an annual median household income that is less than 85 percent of the statewide median household income, and with one or more of the following conditions as determined by the DWR: (1) financial hardship, (2) unemployment rate at least 2 percent higher than the statewide average, or (3) low population density (Water Code §79702(k)). Underrepresented communities have not yet been defined, and it will be up to the funding area to determine what that classification should include.

Needs Assessment

The first category discussed was “Needs Assessment” which is a requirement under the DAC Involvement Program. Part of the Needs Assessment will involve enhancing the database that the TLB Study initiated. One concern was that the TLB Study did not capture the small clusters of homes that are not necessarily considered to be communities, but which still have needs; SB 88, which allows the State to mandate consolidation, may lead to a solution for these small groups of homes, especially those on the fringes of cities.

There was a discussion about making the database and map more useful to the public. Options that have been considered to make the database more useful include the ability to query, differentiate between different overlapping boundaries, and add census data. As discussed in the previous meeting, this would also possibly include linking to the State’s Drinking Water Watch database. When it comes to the completeness of the data, it was determined that the communities are mostly there but input on the data from Fresno, Kings, and Kern counties was limited and would be valuable.

Project Development

The second category highlighted “Project Development Activities”. It was proposed to look for opportunities, via the mapping software, to group households together and/or look for regionalization opportunities. It was also proposed to install package plants to treat clusters of homes’ wastewater. It was noted that using the money from this grant to connect drought-affected households to community water systems was not fitting, but that there were other resources available through SHE and Tulare County for those types of projects.

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Engagement in IRWM Efforts

The next category to receive feedback on was “Engagement in IRWM Efforts”. This topic related to what some have referred to as “DAC coordinators”, and it was suggested that two DAC coordinators may be needed for this task. One concern was that the 350+ DACs identified from the TLB Study were at very different stages of engagement within IRWM and the communities who were unaware have minimal chance of receiving funding.

Following the discussion on “Engagement in IRWM Efforts” was a discussion on “Education”. It was noted that education is critical. A website that describes consolidation/regional collaboration was suggested. On the website it was suggested to have a place to learn terms and concepts as well as a section on case studies/success stories. Another suggestion was to hold workshops that include laptops and access to information about resources.

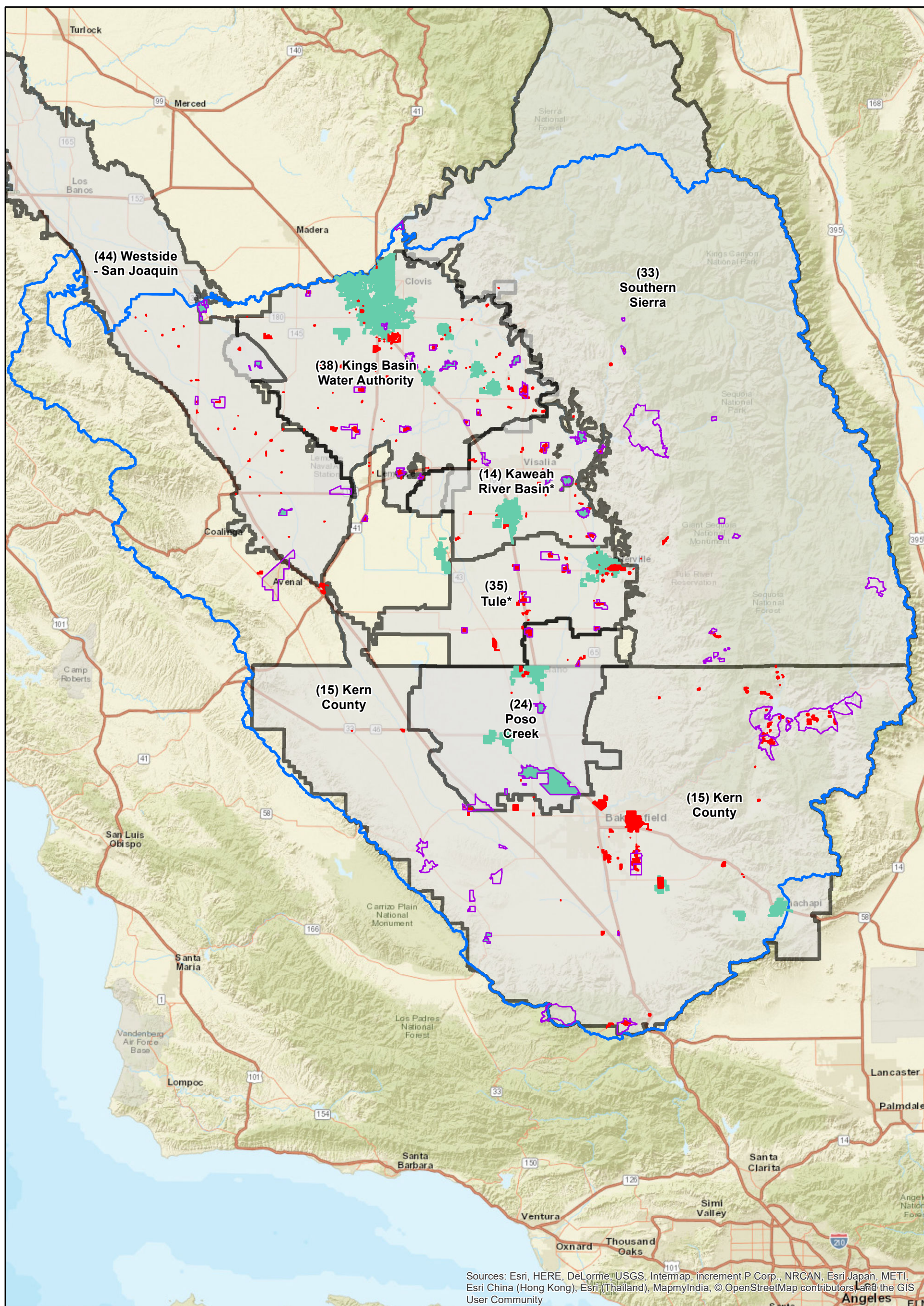
Third Party Facilitation

The final task identified to receive feedback was “Third Party Facilitation”. This topic related to the stakeholder group and it was noted that it was more or less a placeholder for possibly maintaining or modifying the current stakeholder group. A concern about whether or not the current group, or some other similar group, would be the best decision-making body due to the funding being meant to be spread over seven IRWMs within four counties. It was noted that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was being drafted and if no MOU emerged in time, the County of Tulare volunteered to be the funding applicant. A Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between IRWMs was previously attempted but was not successful due to only having a few willing signatories. IRWMs have been involved in the workgroup that is developing the DAC Involvement proposal. The IRWM implementation funding did not have an expected time frame but it was noted that even without this funding, projects could be moved along toward funding through other programs.

To end the meeting, the prioritization and breakdown of tasks and funds was discussed. A concern mentioned was that there was a lot of money not being allocated for projects. There have already been many projects identified as needed, but it was agreed upon that there was a need to prioritize and have the high-priority projects put into motion. No consensus was reached about whether to prioritize based on an IRWM level, or a funding region level. Having two potential coordinators to focus on priorities and projects was suggested. It was noted that the DAC Engagement Program did not have to be a person but instead could be an organization, such as SHE, who could be a program lead but also have a few people on the ground coordinating. SHE has already been involved with and knows the characteristics and inner workings of the DACs; they are familiar with the region.

It was suggested to build on the information collected through the TLB Study to develop projects well enough to include in proposals for implementation funding. Another suggestion was to collect the project lists from the IRWMs and compare the lists to the needs assessment. Challenges of DACs being too small to be sustainable and possibly having a larger entity collect data on an ongoing basis to counteract these challenges were discussed.

The goal for the next meeting is to provide a draft proposal for the DAC Implementation Program funding.



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2.3.4 Meeting 4

The final meeting of the stakeholder group was conducted on October 10, 2016. This meeting was postponed from the originally contemplated July meeting so that the Draft Proposal for the Proposition 1 DAC Involvement Program funding could be presented to the group. The DAC Involvement Program that is planned to begin in early 2017 is directly related to the efforts and recommendations of the TLB Study. It was therefore relevant to share and discuss with this group for awareness and to get stakeholder feedback.

A presentation of the Proposition 1 IRWM DAC Involvement Program proposal was provided. The presentation included an overview of the following:

- DAC Involvement Program objectives
- The development process for the Tulare-Kern Funding Area proposal, led by the County of Tulare
- Draft goals and draft Project Charter developed by the proposal development workgroup
- Draft Project Advisory Committee (PAC) and proposed representation on the PAC
- Draft DAC Involvement Program Tasks and Preliminary Budgets
- Key project activities and work flow description

Needs Assessment

A Needs Assessment will be conducted to provide a better understanding of the water management needs of DACs in the Funding Area. It is proposed that the results of the Needs Assessment will be used to help direct resources and funding for both the Project Development Activities and the DAC Engagement Program activities. A framework for the Needs Assessment was developed in the TLB Study. The database that has already been developed will be updated and expanded upon as necessary for this project.

Project Development

The first step in the Project Development task will be to establish guidelines and selection criteria for project applications. This task cannot commence until the Preliminary Needs Assessment is complete, with a summary of preliminary findings. Establishing guidelines for project applications will involve considering the results of the Preliminary Needs Assessment, Proposition 1 IRWM implementation guidelines for the next anticipated round(s) of implementation funding, and considering feedback from the PAC.

Once applications have been received, the applications will be delivered to the appropriate IRWM group. Each IRWM will select the top one (1) to three (3) projects in their region. The top ranking project from each IRWM shall be included in the Project Development activities. If additional project development funds are available, the PAC may rank the remaining projects from each IRWM against each other to determine what other project applications can proceed to project development.

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Project development activities will depend on the needs of the project. This task may include, but not limited to, any of the following:

- Prepare Feasibility Study Report
- Conduct Community Outreach and Engagement Activities for a specific project
- Conduct Preliminary Design Activities
- Prepare CEQA/NEPA Documents
- Prepare Funding Applications (Implementation/Construction funding) (Must be consistent with the purposes of the Proposition 1 IRWM Funding)
- Coordination with IRWMs/DWR

The goal is to develop projects so IRWM groups can include them as funding-ready components of an implementation grant application under IRWM. Project development funds are intended to be distributed as follows: one project from each IRWM group for a total of seven (7), plus one more that is competitively awarded.

DAC Engagement and Education Program

The regional DAC Engagement Program will provide support to DAC and IRWM groups with the objectives of building shared understanding of DAC needs and the IRWM process, and encourage DAC participation and engagement in IRWM activities. The DAC Engagement Program lead will be responsible for the development of a regional involvement program and will work with and supervise support staff to meet the objectives of the program. The program lead will work to implement this program with input from the PAC. The program lead will be responsible for ongoing reporting, communication, and deliverable development.

Funds are included in the DAC Engagement Program to evaluate the needs of DACs related to involvement in IRWM and develop guidelines for the DAC Engagement Lead (previously referred to as DAC Coordinator).

It has been acknowledged that there is too much work within the DAC Engagement and Education Program for one person. The vision is to have a DAC Engagement Program lead, with support staff. The DAC Engagement Program would be approximately two years in duration. If it is found to be a beneficial program, there may be a desire to seek long term funding for such positions.

Project Advisory Committee (PAC)

The PAC is anticipated to be comprised of one general member from each IRWM (7), one DAC member from each IRWM region (7), and tribal member(s). Each IRWM would likely appoint a general representative and a DAC representative from their region. It is possible that there may be an application process. There is a concern about how to solicit DAC representation in the case of IRWMs who do not choose to participate in the effort. One solution would be for County Boards of Supervisors to appoint those representatives. There was a suggestion made to utilize the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Environmental Justice (EJ) groups to encourage participation by other DACs, to lessen the load on the small group of DAC representatives who continually engage with processes like this.

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One tribal representative member was considered for PAC representation. The one seat was somewhat arbitrary, and it is open to discussion. It was recommended that there be some flexibility with respect to the number of tribal members, in case other tribal interests are identified. The “tribal perspective” is multi-faceted and not necessarily unified. Tribes are becoming increasingly engaged, especially in CEQA. There should be opportunity for more seats on the PAC, if appropriate.

A road show will begin this month (October) to present draft proposal information to IRWM groups and seek support for the County of Tulare to submit the proposal. Most groups meet in October or November, a couple in December, and one in January. Over the course of those months, each IRWM will be visited with the road show presentation. A short support letter and summary explanation will be sent to the IRWM groups.

Final Meeting/Feedback

Comment: This group has come a long way. We are not there yet, but we have really done a lot since the TLB Study began, and this is a good springboard to move forward.

Thank you to Tulare County for taking a leadership role in the TLB DAC Study and now the DAC Involvement Program opportunity. Thank you for an excellent process and project.

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3 REGULATORY CHANGES

Various regulatory changes have occurred since the completion of the TLB Study that impact disadvantaged communities, including the following:

- Transition of the Drinking Water Program to the SWRCB (2014) (toward the end of the Study)
- Office of Sustainable Water Solutions Established (2015)
- California Senate Bill 88 authorizing the SWRCB to order consolidation of water systems (2015)
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2015)

Transition of the Drinking Water Program

As of July 1, 2014, the drinking water division, which was previously operated under the California Department of Public Health, is operated under the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Drinking Water Program is responsible for enforcing the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts. The main responsibilities are to: (1) issue permits to drinking water systems, (2) inspect water systems, (3) monitor drinking water quality, (4) set and enforce drinking water standards and requirements, and (5) award infrastructure loans and grants.

Drinking Water Program regulatory staff are now organized under a new Division of Drinking Water within the State Board. Headquarters staff for the Division were relocated to the CalEPA building with other State Board staff in Sacramento. The remainder of the staff continue to be locally-based in district offices and continue their close working relationships with water system personnel and other interested community groups.

Office of Sustainable Water Solutions

In addition the transition of the Division of Drinking Water, the SWRCB established a new Office of Sustainable Water Solutions (Office) in March 2015 as a result of the Governor signing Assembly Bill (AB) 92. The Office is part of the SWRCB's Division of Financial Assistance (DFA).

The Office was created to promote permanent and sustainable drinking water and wastewater treatment solutions to ensure effective and efficient provision of safe, clean, affordable, and reliable drinking water and wastewater treatment services, focusing on addressing financial and technical assistance needs, particularly for small disadvantaged communities.

Proposition 1 Technical Assistance (TA) funding is available through the Office of Sustainable Water Solutions to help small DACs develop, fund, and implement Proposition 1 eligible drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, or groundwater capital improvement projects. TA funding may include project coordination and development, legal assistance, engineering and environmental analysis, and/or leak detection and water audits.

California Senate Bill 88

California Senate Bill 88 authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation with a receiving water system where a public water system, or a state small water system within a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of

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safe drinking water. This bill authorizes the State Board to order the extension of service to an area that does not have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water so long as the extension of service is an interim extension of service in preparation for consolidation. The bill requires the State Board, prior to ordering consolidation or extension of service, to conduct an initial public meeting and a public hearing and to make specified findings. The bill limits the liability of a consolidated water system, wholesaler, or any other agency in the chain of distribution that delivers water to a consolidated water system, as specified.

The first State Board ordered mandatory consolidation was in Tulare County. The Division of Drinking Water ordered consolidation between the City of Tulare and Pratt Mutual Water Company (Matheny Tract), as part of its commitment that all Californians have access to safe, reliable drinking water.

Under the powers enacted by SB 88, signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. on June 24, 2015, the State Board's Division of Drinking Water issued an order directing the City of Tulare to connect Matheny Tract, a disadvantaged community of approximately 1,500 residents, to its water system. The housing tract is currently served by Pratt Mutual Water Company, which has been in violation of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic since 2010. The consolidation was ordered to be complete by June 1, 2016. The consolidation is now complete and they are in the process of dissolving the Pratt Mutual Water Company.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

California enacted landmark legislation in 2014 known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The legislation provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for state intervention only if necessary to protect the resource.

SGMA requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess the conditions in their local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans. SGMA provides 20 years for GSAs to implement plans and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability.

SGMA provides local GSAs with tools and authority to:

- Require registration of groundwater wells
- Measure and manage extractions
- Require reports and assess fees
- Request revisions of basin boundaries, including establishing new subbasins

Key implementation dates are as follows:

- June 30, 2017: Local groundwater sustainability agencies formed
- January 31, 2020: Groundwater sustainability plans adopted for critically overdrafted basins

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- January 31, 2022: Groundwater sustainability plans adopted for high- and medium-priority basins not currently in overdraft
- 20 years after adoption: All high- and medium-priority groundwater basins must achieve sustainability.

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4 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Various new and ongoing funding opportunities are available for DAC water and wastewater projects.

Proposition 1

Proposition 1 has provided new funding opportunities, in conjunction with existing programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM). There are six key funding areas under Proposition 1: Regional Water Reliability, Water Recycling, Safe Drinking Water, Groundwater Sustainability, Watersheds and Flood Management, and Storage. Each area has a certain amount of money allocated to it for funding projects, programs, and research related to the topic such as water conservation, salt removal, clean water, protection and cleanup of groundwater basins, enhancement of rivers and creeks, surface and groundwater storage, and more (see table below). The funds will typically be distributed through a competitive grant process.

Proposition 1 Key Funding Areas and Allocations	
Safe Drinking Water	\$520 Million
Water Recycling	\$725 Million
Regional Water Reliability	\$810 Million
Groundwater Sustainability	\$900 Million
Watersheds and Flood Management	\$1.89 Billion
Storage	\$2.7 Billion

Proposition 1 allocated \$520 Million for Safe Drinking Water projects, including expenditures, grants, and loans for projects that improve water quality or help provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to Californians. The projects eligible for Safe Drinking Water funding shall help improve water quality for a beneficial use. The purposes of this funding are to: (a) Reduce contaminants in drinking water supplies regardless of the source of the water or the contamination; (b) Assess and prioritize the risk of contamination to drinking water supplies; (c) Address the critical and immediate needs of disadvantaged, rural, or small communities that suffer from contaminated drinking water supplies, including, but not limited to, projects that address a public health emergency; (d) Leverage other private, federal, state, and local drinking water quality and wastewater treatment funds; (e) Reduce contaminants in discharges to, and improve the quality of, waters of the state; (f) Prevent further contamination of drinking water supplies; (g) Provide disadvantaged communities with public drinking water infrastructure that provides clean, safe, and reliable drinking water supplies that the community can sustain over the long term; (h) Ensure access to clean, safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water for California's communities; and (i) Meet primary and secondary safe drinking water standards or remove contaminants identified by the state or federal government for development of a primary

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or secondary drinking water standard. Priority shall be given to projects that serve disadvantaged communities and severely disadvantaged communities.

The Regional Water Reliability area of funding has been allocated \$810 million to support programs that increase local and regional water supplies such as water conservation and stormwater capture. This key funding area includes \$510 million that is split up and distributed among specific regions throughout the state. The Tulare-Kern funding region has been allocated \$34 million; ten percent of which is specifically allocated for disadvantaged community involvement, and an additional ten percent of which is specifically allocated for disadvantaged community implementation projects. The other \$300 million is available for any region to apply for as long as it is used for programs and projects that increase local and regional water supply.

Emergency Drought Funding

Emergency Drought funding is available through the SWRCB, USDA, and DWR.

One funding opportunity available from the SWRCB is the Cleanup and Abatement Account (CCA) Interim Emergency Drinking Water program. Eligible applicants are public agencies, community water systems that serve DACs, nonprofit organizations that serve DACs, and tribal governments that serve DACs. Projects supported by this funding include, but are not limited to: bottled water; well repair, rehabilitation, and replacement; hauled water; point of use devices; emergency interties; and treatment systems.

The funding available from the USDA comes from the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant. This grant helps prevent damage or restore access to clean, reliable drinking water following an emergency that threatens its availability for households and businesses. Most state and local government entities, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized tribes are eligible for funding following a disaster such as drought, chemical spill, or earthquake. Disadvantaged communities qualify as an eligible area for funding. Up to \$150,000 is available through the water transmission line grants for projects related to maintenance necessary to replenish water supply such as construction of waterline extensions and repairs to breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines. Through the water source grants, up to \$500,000 is available for projects such as construction of a new water source, or an intake and/or treatment facility.

DWR has Drought Emergency response funding available for local assistance for emergency drinking water support for small communities, including addressing private well shortages.

Household and Small System Drought Assistance

The SWRCB authorized \$5 million to assist individual households and small water systems to address drought-related drinking water emergencies. Funds are administered by three non-profit organizations: Self-Help Enterprises, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC), and California Rural Water Associations (CRWA). Funding is available as low-interest loans and/or grants based on the recipients' income and affordability.

Eligible applicants include:

- Individual Households (Homeowners)
- Small Water Systems serving less than 15 connections

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: New well construction, design costs of necessary infrastructure, permit and connection fees, well rehabilitation/repair (including extending wells to

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deeper aquifers), distribution/conveyance pipelines (up to point of entry of household), limited consolidation efforts (i.e. laterals, above-ground interties), all necessary appurtenances, etc. The maximum funding amount is up to \$45,000 for Individual Households, and up to \$100,000 for Small Water Systems. Other forms of funding may also be available to eligible applicants.

Senate Bill 208

Senate Bill 208 requires DWR, within 60 days of receiving the project information from an IRWM group, to provide advance payment of 50 percent of the grant award for those projects that satisfy specified criteria. SB 208 authorizes DWR to adopt additional requirements for the recipient regarding the use of the advanced payment to ensure that the funds are used properly.

In order to receive advanced payment, the IRWM group must provide DWR with a list of projects to be funded by the grant funds, where the project proponent is a nonprofit organization or a DAC, or the project benefits a DAC, within 90 days of notice that a grant for projects included and implemented in an integrated regional water management plan (IRWMP) has been awarded.

Ongoing Funding Programs

Other ongoing funding sources are available through the SWRCB, the CDBG Program, and USDA Rural Development.

The SWRCB offers the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and it is designed to help water systems improve drinking water quality within California. Eligible projects involve the planning/designing and construction of drinking water infrastructure such as treatment systems, consolidations, and water sources. Publically and privately owned community water systems, non-profit or publically owned non-community water systems, and community water systems created by a specific project are eligible applicants for this funding. The application can be submitted online and there is no deadline. The interest rate, repayment term, and principal forgiveness are different for water systems serving disadvantaged communities.

The Community Development Block Grant program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. The CDBG program is a federally funded program run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The CDBG program was created by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and continues to provide funding. Grants through this program are only given to cities and counties. Community water systems can receive funding through their local county. [<http://hcd.ca.gov/fa/cdbg/index.html>]

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development provides program assistance funding through direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants. USDA Rural Development provides direct loans and grants to develop water and waste disposal systems in rural areas and towns with a population not in excess of 10,000. These funds are available to public bodies, non-profit corporations, and Indian tribes. Additionally, USDA Rural Development provides loan guarantees for the construction or improvement of water and waste disposal projects serving the financially needy communities in rural areas. The water and waste disposal guarantee loans are to serve a population not in excess of 10,000 in rural areas. [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWEP_HomePage.html]

SECTION FIVE**5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS****5.1 Conclusions**

There was a lot of action over the past year, especially related to groundwater regulations (SGMA), emergency drought response funding, and release of a new DAC Involvement Request for Proposals from DWR.

Various changes have impacted DACs in different ways since the completion of the TLB Study, including the ongoing drought, which has spurred new legislation as well as funding opportunities. Many of the challenges identified in the TLB Study, and related recommendations still apply. However, the immediacy of certain challenges, particularly with respect to water supply reliability, has increased.

The impacts of the drought have encouraged communities, such as Cameron Creek and East Porterville, to work with neighboring cities to work toward consolidation as a long-term solution. In previous years, these communities relied exclusively on private wells, but with significant declines in groundwater levels, many private wells went dry. Rather than drilling new wells throughout these communities, the solution was to work with and connect to neighboring cities of Farmersville and Porterville.

Similarly, action brought about by SB 88 expedited the completion of consolidation for Matheny Tract (Pratt Mutual Water Company) with the City of Tulare, which had been in the process for many years.

There have also been significant changes with respect to groundwater regulations, namely SGMA.

5.2 Recommended Next Steps

Progress continues to be made to assist DACs in resolving their water related issues. The following are recommended next steps to continue the progress.

- Continue to provide awareness of the various resources aimed to help DACs address the various challenges identified through the TLB Study (See 5.3 Resources).
- Submit the IRWM DAC Involvement Program proposal and implement the program. This will be a great opportunity for DACs to become more engaged in the IRWM program, and seek additional sources of funding through IRWMs. Through the DAC Involvement Program, an updated database of information related to DACs will be developed, and project planning or feasibility studies, environmental documents, preliminary design, or other activities will be conducted to develop DAC projects so they are funding ready for the next IRWM implementation rounds.
- Provide outreach, education and engagement of DACs related to the IRWM process through the DAC Involvement Program.
- Form a project advisory committee to provide an advisory role throughout the DAC Involvement Program activities.

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- Continue the existing efforts through State agencies, counties, and NGOs to educate and engage DACs in this region.

5.3 Resources

Many resources exist for DACs as well as other non-DAC communities and districts to utilize, including online data sources, funding information, technical assistance programs, and other resource clearinghouses. Below are links to various resources that already exist and are available to DACs.

5.3.1 Data Sources

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water: **Drinking Water Watch** – California Public Water Systems.

<https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>

County of Tulare, Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance: **DAC Water Study Map** – includes selectable communities and community reports.

<http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-communities-dacs/disadvantaged-community-water-study-map/>

California Department of Water Resources: **CASGEM Online System – Monitoring Entity Portal (California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring)** – The CASGEM Program establishes a basis for collaboration between local monitoring parties (Monitoring Entities) and DWR to collect groundwater elevation information statewide and make that information available to the public. The statewide data are compiled in the CASGEM Online System and made available to the public via the Internet with a GIS interface.

http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/casgem/submittal_system.cfm

California Department of Water Resources: **DAC and EDA Mapping Tools** – An interactive mapping tool to assist interested parties in evaluating DAC and/or EDA status.

http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resources_dac.cfm

http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resources_eda.cfm

5.3.2 Funding Information

State Water Resource Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance: **Financial Assistance Funding** – Information about new, current, past, and other funding programs, including links to other state and federal funding sources.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/#

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State Water Resource Control Board: **FAAST Application Tool** – Information about current funding opportunities through the SWRCB.

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

California Department of Water Resources: **IRWM Grant Programs** – Information about funding through the DWR Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/>

California Financing Coordinating Committee (CFCC) - CFCC members facilitate and expedite the completion of various types of infrastructure projects by helping customers combine the resources of several agencies. Project information is shared between members so additional resources can be identified. CFCC members conduct free Funding Fairs statewide each year to educate the public and potential customers about the different member agencies and the financial and technical resources available. Member agencies include: State Water Resource Control Board; United States Department of Agriculture; California Department of Housing and Community Development; California Department of Water Resources; California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank; Bureau of Reclamation; and California Department of Resources and Recycling Recovery (CalRecycle).

<http://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>

5.3.3 Technical Assistance Programs

The Office of Sustainable Water Solutions is administering the **Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program** to provide assistance to small disadvantaged communities with their drinking water, wastewater, groundwater quality, and stormwater needs. Information about the Proposition 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program can be found at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/

The California State University: **Water Resources and Policy Initiatives**

<http://www.calstate.edu/water/disadvantage.shtml>

USDA Rural Development offers **Water and Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training Grants** for qualified, private non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to (a) identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems; (b) assist applicants in preparing applications for waste and waste disposal loans or grants; and (c) assist associations in improving operation and maintenance of existing water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas and towns with 10,000 or fewer people, or tribal lands in rural areas.

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-technical-assistance-training-grants>

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5.3.4 Resource Clearinghouses

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water: **DRINC Portal (Drinking Water Information Clearinghouse)** – Various resources, tools, and information for water systems (links to Drinking Water Watch for water quality inquiry)

<https://drinc.ca.gov/dnn/>

County of Tulare: **Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance** – A source for water related information within Tulare County and surrounding areas of the Tulare Lake Basin. This website is a resource for the local water agency contacts, latest news, public meetings, forums, and general information on water quantity and quality regulatory matters. It includes information regarding IRWM, SGMA, Tulare County Water Commission, and the TLB Study.

<http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/>

County of Tulare: **Emergency Drought Assistance for Individuals** - List of resources that may be available to individuals affected by the drought emergency.

<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/emergencies/index.cfm/drought/assistance-for-individuals/>

Self-Help Enterprises: **Community Development** – Assistance and information related to: safe drinking water; sanitary sewer systems; leadership development; and drought assistance.

<http://www.selfhelpenterprises.org/programs/community-development/drought-response/>

Community Water Center – Bilingual assistance and information related to: safe drinking water, drought assistance, private wells, leadership development, SGMA, etc.

http://www.communitywatercenter.org/drought_relief

APPENDIX A

STAKEHOLDER MEETING DOCUMENTS

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

Monday October 26, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOMS A&B
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Overview Role of Group and Meeting Objectives (P&P)
3. Overview of the Tulare Lake Basin Study Efforts and Recommendations (P&P)
4. Discuss Progress since Study Completion (CWC)
5. Relevant Case Studies (SHE, Group)
6. Action Items – Recommendations to Pursue (P&P, Group)
7. Other Comments (Group)
8. Adjourn

Stakeholder Group Contact:

Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager (559) 636-5005

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000

Reunión de las Partes Interesadas del Estudio del Agua en las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare

Lunes, 26 de octubre, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm

MESA DE SUPERVISORES CUARTOS DE CONFERENCIA A y B
EDIFICIO DE ADMINISTRACION
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Llamada a la Orden e Introducciones
2. Resumen del Propósito y Objetivos de esta Junta (P&P)
3. Repaso del Estudio de la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare y sus Recomendaciones (P&P)
4. Resumen sobre el progreso desde la finalización del estudio (CWC)
5. Estudios de Casos Relevantes (SHE, Grupo)
6. Asuntos Pendientes - Recomendaciones para Seguir (P&P, Grupo)
7. Otros Comentarios (Grupo)
8. Conclusión

Persona de Contacto por el Grupo de las Partes Interesadas:

Denise England, Administradora del Programa de Recursos Hídricos (559) 636-5005

Como una cortesía a todos en asistencia, favor de apagar o silenciar a todos los teléfonos celulares

En cumplimiento con la Acta de Americanos con Discapacidades, si usted requiere apoyo especial para participar en esta junta, favor de contactar al Secretario de la Oficina de la Mesa al (559) 636-5000

JOIN US FOR A REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON DAC WATER AND WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS

On October 26th, 2015 Stakeholders and other interested parties of the Tulare Lake Basin DAC water study will meet to discuss recent and recommended activity related to DAC water and wastewater issues.

In 2011, The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded \$2 million to the County of Tulare to develop a plan for regional water and wastewater solutions for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in the Tulare Lake Basin, including areas in Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties. The final report, completed in August 2014, included recommendations addressing planning, infrastructure and other management actions for achieving sustainable community water solutions.

The Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC), which provided a key advisory role throughout the Study, created important opportunities for collaboration and information sharing among key stakeholders and served as a catalyst for several projects now moving forward.

Tulare County wants to continue to engage local stakeholders related to the water and wastewater needs of DACs in the Tulare Lake Basin study area, in order to take advantage of the accomplishments garnered through the TLB Study. This stakeholder group will serve as an informal ad-hoc group to discuss current activities, progress, opportunities and action items for the implementation of the Study's recommendations to address regional DAC water and wastewater issues. By bringing together key stakeholders, these meetings will allow for collaboration, information sharing and the implementation of best practices throughout the Tulare Lake Basin. The first meeting will be on Monday, October 26th. We hope to see you there!

Date: Monday, October 26th, 2015

Time: 4:30- 6:30 pm

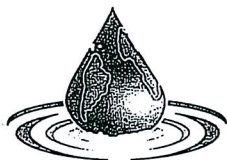
Location: Tulare County Board of Supervisors (2800 W Burrell Ave, Visalia, CA 93291)

RSVP [HERE](#)

For more about the TLB DAC study visit the [Tulare Lake Basin Water Alliance webpage](#)

For more information contact the project team: Denise England, County of Tulare at (559) 636-5005; Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Enterprises at (559) 802-1693; Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center at (559) 733-0219; Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard at (559) 636-1166.

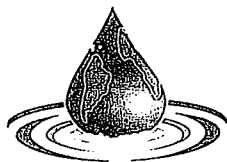
Community Meeting Sign In Sheet



**COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER**
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Quarter: Q4 Event/Engagement: meeting Campaign: TLB follow up Date: 10-26-15
Description: TLB study stakeholder meeting Community: Tulare BAS

	Name / Nombre	Phone Number / Número de Teléfono	Email
1	Greg Fenton	661-862-5075	gregf@co.kern.ca.us
2	DENISE KADARA	925 872-8050	dedestined@aol.com
3	Lisa Butler	734-8732 x103	lisa.butler@ca.usda.gov
4	Ana Lucia Garcia	415-559-6615	agarciaabrones@edf.org
5	Robert Neilson	559-734-8732 x113	robert.neilson@ca.usda.gov
6	Karl Longley	209-873-0630	karl1@csu.fresno.edu
7	Pengsun	547 2509	
8			
9			
10			



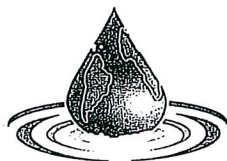
**COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER**
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Community Meeting Sign In Sheet

Quarter: Q4 Event/Engagement: TLB Study Stakeholder Meeting Campaign: TLB follow up Date: 10-26-15
Description: _____ Community: Tulare BOS

	Name / Nombre	Phone Number / Número de Teléfono	Email
1	Sandra Murray	559-949-8412	cbaxndra@neteze.com
2	Dana Ritschel	559-600-4212	dritschel@co.fresno.ca.us
3	Frank Ohnesorgen	661-792-2545	fohnesorgen@pond.k12.ca.us
4	Eric Osterling	559-237-5567	esterling@kred.org
5	Matt Hurley	559-992-8980	
6	Anthony Medrano	559-488-4395	amedrano@winterslows.com
7	Ralph Gutierrez	Cell 901-6099 559-686-9649	Woodvillerg@yahoo.com
8	Dennis Keller	559/732-7938	kellweg1@aol.com
9	Buddy Mendes	559/600-4000	
10	Mark Larson		

Community Meeting Sign In Sheet



**COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER**
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Quarter: Q4 Event/Engagement: Meeting Campaign: TLB follow up Date: 10-26-15
Description: TLB study stakeholder meeting Community: Tulare BOS

	Name / Nombre	Phone Number / Número de Teléfono	Email
1	Jim Maciel	559-707-1601	jimmacie166@gmail.com
2	Marhelle Hunter	559 324.5666	
3	Aravaya Bagalayas	209 984 3887	Aravaya@gmail.com
4	John E Burchard	559-303-9082	johnb@alpaughesd.org
5	Betsy Lichti, SURCS DOW	559 447-3485	betsy.lichti@waterboards.ca.gov
6	Ernie Taylor, DWR	559-230-3352	ernest.taylor@water.ca.gov
7	CHAD FISCHER, SURCS DOW	559 447 3302	CHAD.FISCHER@WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV
8	MARK LARSEN	559 747-5601	MLARSEN@DWR.CA.GOV
9	Shelly Abajian	559-485-7430	shelly_abajian@fernsterne-senate.gov
10	Rogelio Caudillo	559 585-7161	rogelio.caudillo@sen.ca.gov

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study
Stakeholder Group Meeting (Initial meeting of the Re-convening)

Tulare County Board of Supervisors Meeting Rooms A & B
Monday, October 26, 2015
Convened at 4:30pm

Call to Order & Introductions

1. Maija: Role of the Group
2. Maija: Goals of Meeting

Review of TLBDAC study: study wastewater and water issues faced by DACs within the Tulare Lake Basin; summarized study findings and priority issues.

3. Laurel: Priorities for Implementation, Progress since Study Completion (esp Policy)

-Drought. Our area is the epicenter of the drought. Extensive resources exist but the onus is on counties and local NGOs to step up and provide the relief. Mathis and Alejo authored a bill (now dead) for funding for private well owners to get some help with well rehab. Some are working on an administrative path to help with this effort.

-Drinking Water Program transferred to the SWRCB; created new Office of Sustainable Water Solutions, in charge of administering the resources & TA available from Prop 1

-New Funding & Resources. Proposition 1: over half a billion, focused largely on DACs and TA. There are many water-related areas of funding. Handout is available that summarizes the funding programs. Prop 1/SRF drinking water guidelines are out and applications can be submitted now via online FFAST system.

-Focus on Consolidations. Consistent with the findings of the DAC Study, the state is prioritizing consolidations and increasing economy of scale through shared resources. State also has new powers to require consolidation in certain cases.

-Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Lots going on; GSAs are forming. This too is consistent with the recommendations of the DAC Study. This year there were expedited adjudication laws passed. There is a new grant source for counties to access SGMA planning funds.

4. Relevant Case Studies (SHE)

Paul: Cameron Creek Colony. This was an extraordinary project; we wish we could replicate the circumstances in other projects. Cameron Creek's private wells were failing; Self-Help was getting lots of phone calls to access well improvement funds. Began to question whether it made sense to invest in all those private wells. Community meetings led to a general consensus that connecting to Farmersville made sense, even though most people had previously been opposed. The drought changed their

thinking. The water level dropped from 24 feet below ground surface to 90 feet (since 2011). Identified some ways that families coped while they were out of water. Discussed the interim water storage tanks & the prototype in CC. Described the process of getting local, state and federal officials involved. One crucial element was the recently completed (already existed) Engineering Analysis prepared at the urging of the County and using CDBG funding. Another important factor was that Farmersville had sufficient supply. Third critical piece: cooperation from the Farmersville council & staff including a last-minute special meeting. Fourth: because it was an emergency drought project, it was CEQA exempt and the NEPA went quickly too. Also an expedited bid process. Fifth: Cameron Creek was able to remain unincorporated (which kept them eligible for USDA funds) which is what the residents wanted. At this point, just over 80 of the 105 homes in CC have connected.

Comment from the public: That's a good example of how things can be done, and how collaborations can come together—in this case, under emergency circumstances.

Other success stories/case studies?

Denise: TC staff have gotten pretty good at cobbling together different sorts of funding; projects are underway in Monson, Okieville and others.

Comment from DDW: the drought has provoked a lot of movement and we're seeing a lot of efforts to streamline.

Comment from Alpaugh: Alpaugh CSD's primary well basically went dry, dropped too low to operate (drop of over 100' in three years). Got a USDA emergency grant to lower the bowls by 300' and install a VFD and other improvements. The well is back online now. This could turn out to be a short-term solution if we don't get a grip on our groundwater use.

Laurel: We are at a point where we have a lot of money available from the State; we are in a good position to access it and solve some problems; it will help us to organize and work together to accelerate getting to solutions.

What are priorities for implementation?

Comment from Angiola: The Tule IRWM group is just about ready to come online. They are soliciting projects and other floodwater projects.

Comment from DWR: Each of the funding agencies have come together during the drought; the problem is that each agency has its own particular rules, gaps, etc, but we've been able to get around them because of the emergency. At some point in time the drought will be declared over; at that point we'll have to seek other funds. IRWM is one such source. There will be planning funds for SGMA (and also implementation). We need to look ahead to the future and how to keep going once the emergency funds are gone.

Comment from Kings Basin/KRCD/Kings IRWM: Big priority of their DAC study was to address the “white areas.” Stratford & Armona were white areas in the Kings IRWM; those have been addressed and are now covered.

Comment from Alpaugh: we haven’t talked about water quality today. 10% of CA water agencies have a source water contamination problem. Now that Alpaugh’s Well 1 is lowered, there is less arsenic than before; it remains to be seen whether that lasts.

Comment from the Fresno County supervisor: Arsenic is tricky; tests can work one day and not the next. It’s difficult to treat because of this variability. Better strategy in Riverdale was a carefully engineered well that meets the Arsenic standard.

Comment from Woodville: we are extracting too much groundwater. Tulare County has been granting too many new well permits. Until we get a handle on that, we’re not going to get out of trouble.

Comment from Tulare County: The County will probably not pass a groundwater ordinance until the GSAs are formed and the GSPs are written. There are three critical basins in Tulare County; at least 6 or 8 GSAs are in the works. The County is staying in touch with all of those efforts and is optimistic for the future. Also, in the northern County there is a project that will ultimately serve seven communities with surface water and will take them (mostly) off of groundwater use.

Question from Allensworth: Where do the DACs fit into SGMA? Are they covered? Outreach and inclusion is crucial. They have to be engaged and be a part of the process. If they aren’t at the table, how will they participate at all?

Answer from Tulare County: It depends... different areas work differently. Coverage area is patchy based on authority of existing agencies; [SB13](#) clarified that if an agency doesn’t have fee authority over a given area, they can’t cover them.

Comment from Woodville: Our district wants to participate in IRWM (and SGMA) but there’s a cost associated with joining.

Question from Fresno State: We know there are a lot of DACs with this engagement issue. Is there a mechanism for getting them included in GSAs?

Answer from LF: If they’re a public entity, they are eligible to participate as a GSA in formation process. But each one is different and in the formative stages. It’s hard to engage, especially if you don’t have full-time staff and/or engineers.

Comment from Tulare County: DWR/SWRCB is doing a “road show”—first one was held in Visalia last week. The first session was technical; the second was supposed to be “non-technical” and directed at the public, but it was pretty technical! Left more questions than answers. Hope that they come back and do another, better presentation. Will be talking about doing better, more targeted outreach to Tulare County communities to explain what SGMA is all about.

Comment from Fresno County Supervisor: sometimes we don't need to re-invent the wheel. Alta Irrigation District is doing a good job in its area. [Some expressed disagreement with this statement.] It's being done and it's being done well in Alta ID and Fresno ID.

CWC Comment: A lot of these SGMA engagement problems we're talking about are the same as IRWM. That's part of what this group can do: bridge the gaps and employ cross-learning. DAC coordinator can potentially be the same person(s) for SGMA and IRWM.

CWC comment: there is some funding for the planning processes. DAC coordinator-type work can be included in the planning applications that jurisdictions prepare and submit.

Woodville comment: As a contractor, I work with at least 10 very rural, very small water systems. Who's speaking for them?

Answer from Tulare County: if they're within an irrigation district, that district should be reaching out to landowners in their area.

Comment from Woodville: The big districts protect their own interests; they aren't concerned with the small users.

DWR Response: included in SGM Act, there is a responsibility to all beneficial uses and users. Using less than 2AF a year is a "de minimis" user; they're probably not going to bother to track that little water use. But within the law, the districts still have to address the de minimis users as beneficial users. Also, Tulare County's comment about the public meeting last week was correct: DWR isn't ready for the public just yet. Finalizing the basin boundaries now; we hope to have a draft for basin plans by January.

Comment from Kings RCD: As a district perspective, we are trying hard to work within these evolving guidelines and raw legislation. It is very challenging.

Comment from Tulare Co: The reason the County participates in all the SGMA meetings is so it can represent the small communities who aren't representing themselves.

Comment from Allensworth: People don't even know what sustainable groundwater management is. They're just going to be surprised when they get a tax bill way down the road.

Comment from Tulare Co: It's really hard to get people's attention. Kaweah is concerned that the first thing people will actually take notice of is when they receive a bill for an assessment.

Comment from DWR: There will be more public workshops down the road. If you hear about your local irrigation district having a meeting, barge on in.

Comment from Angiola: The process requires a certain number of public meetings; these do not necessarily equate to public education. They're more technical.

Comment from Woodville: I've been to several meetings and I'm still confused! In small communities we rely heavily on our engineers. How many can't afford engineers?

Comment from Allensworth: There should be a required/mandated meeting for small water district general managers about SGMA.

Comment from Alpaugh: And what about the board members? Those are the people with authority.

Comment from Tulare Co: Suggest SGMA outreach & education should be an agenda item for this group's next meeting

Comment from Woodville: Small water district general managers are often operators and many other things—how do they find time? They lack the perspective, too

Comment from Alpaugh: We pump so little in comparison to the irrigation district that surrounds us. Why aren't they constrained?

General comment: That's why we have SGMA, but implementation will be very slow.

Comment from CWC: Other priorities: Let's discuss consolidations and the incentives that exist. Small systems with less than 500 connections have a very hard time funding the staff that they really need to function well. An example is coming together in northern Tulare County. There are lots of questions about control, cost, reliability, etc. This is a big focus of the SWRCB; they have exercised their new authority with the City of Tulare. Also, policy of non-proliferation (issuing fewer new permits).

Comment from Fresno State: Would be helpful to have a spreadsheet showing the various DACs we're concerned about and some indication of their issues and where they are in the process.

Comment from CWC: The TLB DAC study did create such a database; it's being updated on a continuous basis (although Counties other than Tulare need to take initiative to make updates). There may be an opportunity to add fields relating to groundwater, etc.

Q from Fresno State: Is there planning funding available to update the database? We need data to move things forward.

A from CWC, TC: Yes—IRWM and groundwater funding would be good fits.

Comment from CWC: SWRCB is making a greater effort to track data. We have data about communities that aren't on the SWRCB's radar because they don't have a centralized water system; which makes our database very valuable. Maybe counties could get some technical assistance money for data gathering & tracking.

Comment from Allensworth: Must get board members to SGMA meetings; they have to understand. Make it a requirement somehow.

Observation: Priorities include database and SGMA educational outreach.

Comment from Fresno State: Groundwater recharge is another tool in the tool box. Discussions at SWRCB begin this week about BMPs for using ag land to do groundwater recharge. There is some

evidence that groundwater recharge has a positive influence on groundwater quality, sufficient to meet public health goals. Therefore there is an opportunity for a win-win here.

Next Meeting: Approximately three months.

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

Monday January 25, 2016, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOMS A&B
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Recap of Previous Meeting and Goals of this Meeting (P&P)
3. SGMA Presentation (DWR)
 - a. California's Groundwater
 - b. Legislative Intent of SGMA
 - c. SGMA Overview and Timeline
 - d. Implementation of SGMA
 - e. Group Discussion – SGMA and Impacts to DACs
4. Drinking Water Watch Resources (DDW)
<https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>
 - a. Water System Details
 - b. Monitoring Results
 - c. Monitoring Schedules
 - d. Violations/Enforcement Actions
 - e. Site Visits
5. Disadvantaged Community Water Study Database (Tulare County)
<http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-community-water-study-map/>
 - a. Mapping Tool
 - b. Group Discussion – Needs and Opportunities
6. Discuss Progress/Opportunities Relevant to Study Recommendations (Group)
 - a. Data Availability
 - b. Consolidations
 - c. Funding
 - d. Action Items
7. Adjourn

Stakeholder Group Contact:
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager (559) 636-5005

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000

Reunión de las Partes Interesadas del Estudio del Agua en las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare

Lunes, 26 de octubre, 2015, 4:30pm to 6:30pm

MESA DE SUPERVISORES CUARTOS DE CONFERENCIA A y B
EDIFICIO DE ADMINISTRACION
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Bienvenida e Introducciones
2. Resumen de la Junta Anterior y los Objetivos de esta Junta (P&P)
3. Presentación Sobre SGMA (DWR)
 - a. El Agua Subterránea de California
 - b. La Intención Legislativa del SGMA
 - c. Resumen del SGMA y Fechas Importantes
 - d. Implementación del SGMA
 - e. Conversación de Grupo – SGMA y sus Impactos a los Comunidades de Bajos Recursos
4. Supervisión Para el Agua Potable (DDW)
<https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/>
 - a. Detalles de Sistemas de Agua
 - b. Los Resultados del Monitoreo
 - c. Horarios de Monitoreo
 - d. Violaciones/Multas
 - e. Visitas de Sitio
5. Base de Datos de Comunidades de Bajos Recursos (El Condado de Tulare)
<http://tularelakebasin.com/alliance/index.cfm/disadvantaged-community-water-study-map/>
 - a. Mapas como Herramientas
 - b. Conversación de Grupo – Necesidades y Oportunidades
6. Conversación sobre el progreso/Oportunidades Relevantes a los Recomendaciones del Estudio (Grupo)
 - a. La Disponibilidad de Datos
 - b. Consolidaciones
 - c. Financiamiento
 - d. Asuntos Pendientes
7. Conclusión

Persona de Contacto por el Grupo de las Partes Interesadas:
Denise England, Administradora del Programa de Recursos Hídricos (559) 636-5005

Como una cortesía a todos en asistencia, favor de apagar o silenciar a todos los teléfonos celulares

En cumplimiento con la Acta de Americanos con Discapacidades, si usted requiere apoyo especial para participar en esta junta, favor de contactar al Secretario de la Oficina de la Mesa al (559) 636-5000

TULARE LAKE BASIN STAKEHOLDER MEETING: DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER AND WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS

Join us on January 25th, 2016 to discuss new developments and resources for the implementation of the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Study recommendations.

In 2011, The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded \$2 million to the County of Tulare to develop a plan for regional water and wastewater solutions for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in the Tulare Lake Basin, including areas in Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties. The final report, completed in August 2014, included recommendations addressing planning, infrastructure and other management actions for achieving sustainable community water solutions. The Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC), which provided a key advisory role throughout the Study, created important opportunities for collaboration and information sharing among key stakeholders and served as a catalyst for several projects now moving forward.

In order to continue to engage local stakeholders and leverage of the accomplishments garnered through the TLB Study, this Tulare Lake Basin stakeholder group serves as an informal ad-hoc group to discuss current activities, progress, opportunities and action items for the implementation of the Study's 57 recommendations. By bringing together key stakeholders, these quarterly meetings aim to promote collaboration, information sharing and the implementation of best practices throughout the Tulare Lake Basin. Our second meeting will be on Monday, January 25th. We hope to see you there!

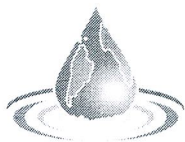
Date: Monday, January 25th, 2016

Time: 4:30- 6:30 pm

Location: Tulare County Board of Supervisors (2800 W Burrel Ave, Visalia, CA 93291)

For more information contact the project team: Denise England, County of Tulare at (559) 636-5005; Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Enterprises at (559) 802-1693; Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center at (550) 733-0219; Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard at (559) 636-1166.

Sign In Sheet



COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

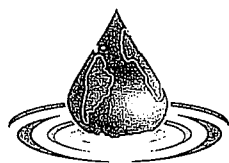
Quarter: Q1 Event/engagement: TLB meeting Campaign: Community Solutions Date: 1-25-16

Event Description: Stakeholder meeting

Before filing, please attach a copy of the event invite/flyer.

	Name / Nombre	Address Direccion	Phone Number Número de Teléfono	Email	Affiliation or Community Afiliación o Comunidad	Please sign me up for CWC's water justice updates, action alerts and inspiring stories ✓	Office Use New Participant ✓
1	John Orellana	Reedy CA		JOHN.ORELLENA@TREDLEY.CA.GOV.	City of Reedy		
2	MIKE MCKENZIE	FRESNO, CA	230-3308	CMCKENZIE@WATER.CA.GOV	DWR		
3	Machelle Hunter	Tulare, CA.	329-5666		CBA		
4	Jessi Snyder	Visalia / SHE	802-1693		CWC		
5	Bethany Soto	Fresno CA		bsoto@waterboards.ca.gov	RWQCB		
6	Leticia Corona	Fresno, CA	(559) 289-9410	lcorona@leadershipcounsel.org	LCJA		
7	Denise England		209 936 3337	denise@deniseengland.com	TBWB-TBWI		
8	Bob IRVINE	Tulare County ICT	636-4865	birvine@co.tulare.ca.us	TCICT		
9	Michael Prado	PO BOX 169 SULMAGA	85T-7330		SCSD/AGUA		
10	Paul Boyer				Sefton Ent.		

Jessi Snyder
Denise England
Kristin Bohlin
Susana de Anda



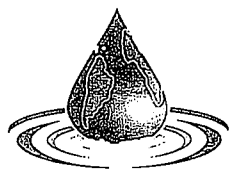
COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Community Meeting Sign In Sheet

Quarter: 1 Event/Engagement: TLP meeting Campaign: community solutions Date: 1-25-16

Description: Stakeholders meeting Community: _____

	Name / Nombre	Phone Number / Número de Teléfono	Email
1	Julie Allen	559-288-9411	julallen@springvillewireless.com
2	Enz Osterling	559-237-5567	easterling@trod.org
3	Tricia Wathen	447-3398	tricia.wathen@waterboards.ca.gov
4	DENISE KADAKA		dedestined@aol.com
5	Bobby Kamansky	287-3311	southern sierra irwmp@gmail.com
6	ROSANNA ESPARZA	661-401-1355	resparza@cleanwater.org
7	Anthony Medrano	559-48 ⁵ 4395	amedrano@waterboards.ca.gov
8	Jesús Quevedo	559-286-6911	
9	Delia Martínez	559-528-3918	15630 Seville Ave Visalia Ca 93292
10	Erasto Teran		



COMMUNITY
WATER CENTER
EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Community Meeting Sign In Sheet

Quarter: 1 Event/Engagement: TLB meeting Campaign: community solutions Date: 1-25-16

Description: Stakeholder meeting Community: _____

	Name / Nombre	Phone Number / Número de Teléfono	Email
1	Regina Houchin	461 764-5273	agcentercbak.rc.com
2	MARCO CERVANTES	461 -764- 5405	—
3	JOHN E. BURCHARD	559-303-9082	JohnB@alpaughcsd.org
4	Albert Ghilarducci Ghilarducci	(661) 764-5075	—
5	Michael THARP/RLS	559-281-2948	mtharp@RLSMAP.com
6	Sandra Meraiz	559-944-8412	cbaxndra@neteze.com
7	Grog Fenton	(261) 862-5075	gregf@okern.ca.us
8	María Maria Magaña	(559) 967-9371	Teach—maria@yahoo.com
9	Simona Magaña	(559) 528-9605	—
10	Merced Barrera	(310) 499-8034	mbarrera@leadershipcounsel.org

TULARE LAKE BASIN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY
MINUTES OF THE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2016 4:30-6:30pm

TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOMS A&B

AGENDA

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS (Jessi)
2. RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS & GOALS OF THIS MEETING (by Kristin)
3. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT PRESENTATION BY DWR (Mike McKenzie)
 - a. Slides provided. Presentation included groundwater basics, SGMA milestones, legislative intent of the Act, basin prioritization, basins in critical overdraft, basin boundary modifications, SGMA roles & responsibilities, GSAs & GSPs, development of regulations, resources)
 - b. Group Discussion of SGMA & impact to DACs
 - i. Recommendation to engage with local irrigation district; a lot of organization for GSAs is occurring there
 - ii. Leadership Counsel and other nonprofits are working to communicate about SGMA. Finding a lot of disconnect between agencies and communities.
 - iii. Discussion of voting and cost to participate; also how to participate and selecting representatives
 - iv. Challenge for small water districts (of all kinds) to participate due to small staff, small boards, lack of resources
4. DRINKING WATER WATCH RESOURCES PRESENTATION BY DDW (Tricia Wathen)
 - a. Website: <https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW> or simply search "CA drinking water watch"
 - b. Information available, much more than previously available: water quality, water system, contact information, monitoring schedules, monitoring results (downloadable). Can search by water system name or number, or by county. Coming soon: Consumer Confidence Reports. Comment: please ensure CCRs are also posted in Spanish where available.
 - c. Discussion re: languages other than English and the difficulty achieving clear communication with all consumers. Communication barrier is enhanced by lack of computer/internet access, and also by the difficulty understanding technical language, even in one's native tongue.

5. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY DATABASE
PRESENTATION BY TULARE COUNTY (Mike Hickey et al.)
 - a. TulareLakeBasin.com (works across platforms & devices).
Presentation included: TLB DAC map; comments can be made and will be received by Denise England; hoping to link this system to Drinking Water Watch.
 - b. Mapping tool: Tulare County is trying to create a database that will collect & provide comprehensive GIS data about water supply wells. Well information is now public information again (except owner's name).
6. DISCUSS PROGRESS / OPPORTUNITIES RELEVANT TO STUDY
RECOMMENDATIONS
 - a. Funding: Denise introduced the Prop 1 IRWM DAC engagement money: \$3.4 is available to the Tulare-Kern region, non-competitive, to propose DAC engagement methods/approaches/priorities. The County of Tulare is willing to be the applicant; a lot of the work will likely be done within the inter-IRWM working group that meets 1st Mondays at Provost & Pritchard.
 - b. Other funding: Counties have also received \$500K for GSA development.
7. ADJOURN at 6:30pm.

Next meeting agenda: Focus on reviewing the Study's recommendations with a focus on prioritizing selected recommendations for inclusion in the region's proposal to DWR for IRWM DAC engagement funds.

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

Monday April 18, 2016, 4:30pm to 6:30pm
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOMS A&B
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Goals for Meeting
 - a. Discuss DAC Involvement Funding Opportunity
 - b. Get Feedback from this Stakeholder Group
3. Recap of TLB Study Recommendations
4. IRWM DAC Involvement Funding Opportunity
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p1DACinvolvement/2016Prop1IRWM_DACI_RFP_PublicReviewDraft.pdf
5. Discussion and Feedback on Funding Proposal Development
 - a. DAC Involvement Committee and Proposal Development Process
 - b. Goals and Objectives Identified
6. Discussion and Feedback on Tasks Identified
 - a. Needs Assessment (Mandatory)
 - b. Project Development Activities
 - c. Engagement in IRWM Efforts (DAC Coordinator(s))
 - d. Education
 - e. Third Party Facilitation (for stakeholder group)
 - f. Administration
 - g. Final Report- Updated
7. Discuss Prioritization/Breakdown of Tasks and Funds
8. Adjourn

Stakeholder Group Contact:
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager (559) 636-5005

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000

Reunión de las Partes Interesadas del Estudio del Agua en las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare

Lunes, 18 de abril, 2016, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

MESA DE SUPERVISORES CUARTOS DE CONFERENCIA A y B
EDIFICIO DE ADMINISTRACION
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Bienvenida e Introducciones
2. Los Objetivos de esta Junta
 - a. Hablar de una Fuente de Financiamiento para Involucrar Más Comunidades de Bajos Recursos en el Manejo del Agua Regional
 - b. Recibir Comentarios y Sugerencias de este Grupo de Partes Interesadas
3. Repaso de las Recomendaciones del Estudio del Agua para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare
4. Solicitud de Propuestas para Involucrar Comunidades de Bajos Recursos en el Manejo del Agua Regional Integrada (IRWM por sus siglas en inglés)
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/p1DACinvolvement/2016Prop1IRWM_DACI_RFP_PublicReviewDraft.pdf
5. Conversación y Comentarios Sobre el Desarrollo de una Propuesta Regional
 - a. El Comité y el Proceso de Desarrollo
 - b. Metas y Objetivos Identificados
6. Conversación y Comentarios Sobre las Actividades Identificadas
 - a. Evaluación de las Necesidades Comunitarias (requerido)
 - b. Actividades para Desarrollar Proyectos
 - c. Participación en IRWM (Coordinadores por Comunidades de Bajos Recursos)
 - d. Educación
 - e. Facilitación por grupo externo (por el grupo de partes interesadas)
 - f. Administración
 - g. Reporte Final
7. Hablar de la Priorización/Distribución de actividades y Fondos
8. Conclusión

Persona de Contacto por el Grupo de las Partes Interesadas:
Denise England, Administradora del Programa de Recursos Hídricos (559) 636-5005

Como una cortesía a todos en asistencia, favor de apagar o silenciar a todos los teléfonos celulares

En cumplimiento con la Acta de Americanos con Discapacidades, si usted requiere apoyo especial para participar en esta junta, favor de contactar al Secretario de la Oficina de la Mesa al (559) 636-5000

Save the date:
TULARE LAKE BASIN DAC WATER STUDY STAKEHOLDER MEETING
April 18th, 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Join us for our next quarterly stakeholder meeting to discuss the implementation of the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study. Quarterly TLB stakeholder meetings are an opportunity to track progress, discuss opportunities for the region and prioritize next steps to promote disadvantaged community water and wastewater solutions in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties. This meeting, we will be focusing on a funding opportunity from the Department of Water Resources for increasing DAC involvement in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups. We hope to see you there!

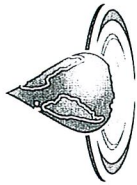
Date: Monday, April 18th, 2016

Time: 4:30- 6:30 PM

Location: Tulare County Board of Supervisors (2800 W Burrel Ave, Visalia, CA 93291)

Agenda to follow. For more information contact the project team: Denise England, County of Tulare at (559) 636-5005; Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Enterprises at (559) 802-1693; Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center at (550) 733-0219; Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard at (559) 636-1166.

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COMMUNITY
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EL CENTRO COMUNITARIO
POR EL AGUA

Quarter: _____ Event/engagement: _____

Campaign: _____

Date: _____

Event Description: TLB meeting

April 2016 - DW - Meeting - TLB - 4/18/16 - 3rd TLB Stakeholders meeting

Name / Nombre	Address Direccion	Phone Number Número de Teléfono	Email	Affiliation or Community Afiliación o Comunidad	Please sign me up for CWC's water justice updates, action alerts and inspiring stories ✓	Office Use New Participant ✓
1. <u>Ernstotera</u>		<u>202-9004</u>		<u>Aqua</u>		
2. <u>Shane Smith</u>	<u>POB 202</u>	<u>742-5601</u>	<u>ssmith@kduca.com</u>	<u>KDWC</u>		
3. <u>John Burchard</u>	<u>2354 Coachman Rd</u>	<u>559-303-9082</u>	<u>JohnBurchard@kduca.com</u>	<u>ACSD</u>		
4. <u>David Hoffman</u>	<u>2354 Coachman Rd</u>	<u>209-966-2155</u>	<u>dave93257@yahoo</u>	<u>DCTRIA</u>		
5. <u>Jessi Snyder</u>	<u>PO Box 6520</u>	<u>559-802-1693</u>	<u>jessis@selfhelp</u>	<u>SHE</u>		
6. <u>Penny Carlo</u>	<u>Carollo Engineers</u>	<u>559-436-6614</u>	<u>pccarlo@carollo.com</u>	<u>Carollo Engineers</u>		
7. <u>Paul Boyer</u>	<u>8445 W. Elbow Ct</u>	<u>559-802-1681</u>	<u>paulb@selfhelpenterprises.org</u>	<u>SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES</u>		
8. <u>Fred Quinley</u>	<u>14181 AVE. 24</u>	<u>661.725.2526</u>	<u>EQQUINLEY@DEED.ORG</u>	<u>DEED</u>		
9.	<u>DELANO CA 93215</u>					
10.						

Sign In Sheet

Quarter: _____ Event/engagement: _____ Campaign: _____ Date: 4-18-16

Event Description: TLB meeting

COMMUNITY
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Before filing, please attach a copy of the event invite/flyer.

Name / Nombre	Address Direccion	Phone Number Número de Teléfono	Email	Affiliation or Community Afilación o Comunidad	Please sign me up for CWC's water justice updates, action alerts and inspiring stories ✓	Office Use New Participant ✓
1 Karl Longley	6941 N Cedar Ave Fresno 93720	209-873- 3624	Karl10cs@fresno.edu	Fresno State		
2 Matt Hurley				AUD		
3 Jim Maciel	13405 Hartford-Armstrong Hartford, Ca 93230	559-707-1641	jimmacie16@gmail.com	Armonia Community Services		
4 DENISE KADIENT Ross Miller	5961 S Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 93295	559-624- 7000		Res. Mgmt. Assoc		
5						
6 Kristin Debbin						
7 Maija Madec						
8						
9						
10						

TLB DAC Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee

April 18, 2016

4:30-6:30 pm

Tulare County Administrative Office, Rooms A&B

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2. GOALS FOR MEETING
 - a. Discuss DAC Involvement Funding Opportunity
 - b. Get feedback from this Stakeholder Group
3. RECAP OF TLB STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS (Maija reviewed)
4. IRWM DAC INVOLVEMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Maija reviewed eligible activities under the funding opportunity and gave a brief description of the program. A handout was provided that listed these eligible activities, and a draft funding proposal outline for the Tulare Lake Basin funding area. The committee requests feedback from stakeholders present today.

5. DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK ON FUNDING PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT
 - a. DAC Involvement Committee and Proposal Development Process
 - b. Goals & Objectives Identified

6. DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK ON TASKS IDENTIFIED
 - a. Needs Assessment (Mandatory)

Feedback:

Were there projects identified in the TLB DAC study that could be brought forward as part of this proposal? A: Yes, there were some and it should be a first step to look back at those.

DAC water needs were a big part of the TLB study. Encourage looking at those needs and getting those organized into stages and priorities. A: Part of the needs assessment will involve enhancing the database that the TLB study got started.

Needs Assessment: Required. Discussion of various uses of Prop1 funds, between DWR and SWRCB.

In the 1970s, Tulare County conducted a study of unsewered communities. Since then, some (but not all) of those problems have been

solved. We should consider doing another similar study, accounting for new regulations, etc.

How can we make the database and map more useful to the public? The data available on the website is very stripped down. Ex: only nitrate contamination is displayed. As part of this proposal, Tulare County IT is working on a proposal and ideas to make the data more useful. Include ability to query; ability to differentiate between different but overlapping boundaries; add census data, etc. Also, we previously discussed linking to the State's Drinking Water Watch database. Denise will also ask about the "grouping" opportunity.

There is a bill being carried by Dodd that relates to groundwater data.

How complete is our data? A: Communities are mostly in the database, but the data from Fresno, Kings and Kern counties is sparse.

One thing the TLB study didn't capture are the small clusters of homes that aren't necessarily whole communities (especially on the fringes of cities, for instance) that have needs but don't stand out as their own DAC. Not sure how we would capture this.

SB88: Matheny Tract is first test case. There are other places that are small and isolated, may be future candidates for SB88.

b. Project Development Activities

Feedback:

Could this money be used to connect drought-affected households to community water systems? A: Probably not a good fit but other resources are available through SHE and Tulare County.

Could we look for opportunities (via our mapping software) to group households together, and/or look for regionalization opportunities? What about wastewater, and installing package plants to treat clusters of homes' wastewater?

We should use this money to look for ways to encourage collaboration between community water systems (even if no pipe).

c. Engagement in IRWM Efforts (DAC Coordinators)

Feedback:

Two DAC coordinators would probably be enough.

The TLB Study identified 360+ DACs in the TLB. The various communities are at very different stages of engagement with IRWM. The ones who are unaware have very little chance of being funded for anything.

It would be helpful to break down the 360 DACs into the 7 IRWM regions. That would make the lists more manageable for the IRWM group to begin to work on the problems. This funding is the perfect opportunity to begin to use the data the TLB study gathered.

d. Education

Feedback:

Education is critical. Prop 218 empowers communities to vote against their own best interests in some cases.

Suggestion to build a website that describes consolidation/regional collaboration. A place to learn the terms and learn the concepts. Need to work on the glue so the little bits will start to stick together. Should include a section on case studies/success stories.

Suggestion to hold workshops that include laptops and access to information about resources. "We'd like to teach you about resources and how to help yourself." People like to be proud of what they've done for themselves.

e. Third Party Facilitation (for stakeholder group)

Feedback:

Third-party facilitation is sort of a placeholder for possibly sustaining this stakeholder group. Because this funding is meant to be spread over four counties, would this group (or a similar one) be a good decision-making body?

Would an MOU between IRWMs be appropriate? A: we're starting to put together an MOU; a JPA between IRWMs was attempted previously but has only a few signatories. All IRWMs except Kern and Westside have been involved in the committee that is developing the DAC-I proposal.

If no MOU emerges in time, Tulare County volunteers to be the funding applicant.

In developing the SOAC, elected officials were at the table. That seemed to help. Suggest using a similar process as the SOAC to form a diverse body. Involving electeds affects buy-in.

Application deadline? There is none; it's over the counter, we expect to be funded around August.

What about IRWM implementation funding—when is it expected?
Unknown. Even without IRWM implementation funding, projects can be moved along toward funding through other programs.

How do we distribute the project development funding over seven IRWMPs? We don't want to create competition, but to empower the groups to identify their own priorities and move forward with them.

f. Administration

g. Final Report – Updated

7. DISCUSS PRIORITIZATION / BREAKDOWN OF TASKS & FUNDS

Feedback:

Armona discussed this funding opportunity at a meeting; there was a concern that so much money is being put out there without going to projects.

We've already identified so much need; we need to prioritize and move the high-priority projects along. Should these priorities be determined on an IRWM level or a funding region level? [no consensus]

We should be able to build on the information collected by the TLB study to actually develop projects. It's a big problem in IRWM that DAC projects are often not well-developed enough to actually be matched into funding implementation proposals. It seems like all the groups would want to be involved if they knew this funding could help solve that problem for them. Better DAC projects make for stronger funding proposals.

Suggest collecting the project lists from the IRWMs; comparing to the needs assessment.

One of the big challenges for DACs is that they are often too small to be sustainable. The local approach to IRWM may be missing ways to improve this sustainability—does there need to be a larger entity that collects data on an ongoing basis, keeps the ball rolling forward?

It's also part of the problem that the DACs themselves don't always fit together all that well. Maybe this is an opportunity to get DAC representatives into a room together and get them talking to each other.

Consolidation is good but there shouldn't be any losers. Fairness to all parties is essential and voluntary consolidation is always best. If clusters

of small communities can get on board with the realization that they can do better working together than standing apart, then the clusters will grow.

Prioritizing Funds:

Identify two potential coordinators. Then talk to them about focusing in on priorities and projects.

Identify projects that are close to a construction phase. Push them forward. Project development.

Need to get projects onto project lists at IRWMPs.

DAC Coordinator doesn't necessarily have to be a person, could be an organization such as SHE. Could be a program lead coordinating the efforts but also a few people on the ground coordinating.

Self-Help Enterprises is involved with DACs and already knows issues, leaders etc. Familiar with our region.

How much money is needed to do the necessary coordination? Whatever's left over could be earmarked for use by the individual IRWMPs, assuming that they have projects identified that need to be moved forward. Committees are working on defining the needs/costs. Next step would be to get the draft proposal out to the IRWMPs to review and approve ("road show").

Isn't an MOU between the IRWMPs a pretty important piece? Even if all IRWMPs aren't sending anyone to engage in the planning/proposal, still need to communicate to them and document it. It's important to make DWR's ground rules very clear to all IRWMPs.

8. ADJOURN

Next meeting will be in July. Goal to have a draft proposal for the DAC-I funding to bring back to the group. CWC will announce the date soon.

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study
Stakeholder Group Meeting

Monday October 10, 2016, 5:00pm to 7:00pm
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONFERENCE ROOMS A&B
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Goals for Meeting
 - a. Discuss DAC Involvement Program Proposal
 - b. Get Feedback from this Stakeholder Group
3. Proposition 1 IRWM DAC Involvement Program
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/p1_dac_involvement.cfm
4. Recap of DAC Involvement Proposal Development
 - a. DAC Involvement Committee and Proposal Development Process
 - b. Goals and Objectives
 - c. "Road Show" to seek Buy-In on Proposal
5. Discussion on DAC Involvement Program Tasks
 - a. Needs Assessment (Mandatory)
 - b. Project Development Activities
 - c. DAC Engagement Program
 - d. Education
 - e. Third Party Facilitation (for Project Committee)
 - f. Project Administration and Reporting
6. Final Meeting – Discussion and Feedback
7. Adjourn

Stakeholder Group Contact:
Denise England, Water Resources Program Manager (559) 636-5005

As a courtesy to those in attendance, please turn off or place in alert mode all cell phones.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board's Office at (559) 636-5000

Reunión de las Partes Interesadas del Estudio del Agua en las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare

Lunes, 10 de octubre, 2016, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

MESA DE SUPERVISORES CUARTOS DE CONFERENCIA A y B
EDIFICIO DE ADMINISTRACION
2800 W. BURREL AVE.
VISALIA, CALIFORNIA 93291

AGENDA

1. Bienvenida e introducciones
2. La Meta
 - a. Hablar de una propuesta de financiamiento para involucrar más comunidades de bajos recursos en el manejo del agua regional
 - b. Recibir comentarios y sugerencias de este grupo de partes interesadas
3. Solicitud de propuestas de Proposición 1 para Involucrar más comunidades de bajos recursos en el Manejo del Agua Regional Integrada (IRWM por sus siglas en inglés):
http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/p1_dac_involvement.cfm
4. Resumen del desarrollo de una propuesta regional
 - a. El Comité y el proceso de desarrollo
 - b. Metas y objetivos identificados
 - c. Presentaciones de la propuesta para recibir sugerencias y fomentar interés y apoyo
5. Conversación y comentarios sobre las actividades identificadas
 - a. Evaluación de las necesidades comunitarias (requerido)
 - b. Actividades para desarrollar proyectos
 - c. Participación en IRWM (coordinadores comunitarios)
 - d. Educación
 - e. Facilitación por grupo externo (por el comité del vigilancia)
 - f. Administración y reporte
6. Junta final - comentarios y sugerencias
7. Conclusión

Persona de contacto por el grupo de las partes interesadas:
Denise England, Administradora del Programa de Recursos Hídricos (559) 636-5005

Como una cortesía a todos en asistencia, favor de apagar o silenciar a todos los teléfonos celulares

En cumplimiento con la Acta de Americanos con Discapacidades, si usted requiere apoyo especial para participar en esta junta, favor de contactar al Secretario de la Oficina de la Mesa al (559) 636-5000

Save the date:

TULARE LAKE BASIN DAC WATER STUDY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

October 10th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Join us for our final stakeholder meeting to discuss recent and recommended activity related to the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study! For the last year, these meetings have been an opportunity to track progress, share successes and promote advancement of sustainable solutions for addressing disadvantaged community water and wastewater challenges in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties. This time we will be presenting and discussing a draft regional funding proposal for Disadvantaged Community Involvement in Integrated Regional Water Management through Proposition 1. This funding is an excellent opportunity to continue to implement recommendations for the TLB study and continue these important efforts in the years to come. We hope to see you there to provide your ideas and suggestions!

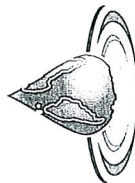
Date: Monday, October 10, 2016

Time: 5:00- 7:00 PM

Location: Tulare County Board of Supervisors (2800 W Burrel Ave, Visalia, CA 93291)

For more information contact the project team: Denise England, County of Tulare at (559) 636-5005; Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Enterprises at (559) 802-1693; Kristin Dobbin, Community Water Center at (550) 733-0219; Maija Madec, Provost & Pritchard at (559) 636-1166.

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Quarter: Q4 Event/engagement: Meeting Campaign: DW Date: 10/10/16

Event Description: TLB stakeholder meeting 4

Before filing, please attach a copy of the event invite/flyer.

Name / Nombre	Address Direccion	Phone Number Número de Teléfono	Email	Affiliation or Community Afilación o Comunidad	Please sign me up for CWC's water justice updates, action alerts and inspiring stories ✓	Office Use. New Participant ✓
1 DENISE KADARA		661 849-2708	dedestined@aol.com	KUENSUNORTH		
2 KAYONE KADARA		661 849-2708	KKADARA@aol.com	KUENSUNORTH		
3 Michael Prado Sr				SCSD/AGUA		
4 John E Borchard	Alpamula CSD P.O. Box 262 Alpamula, CA 93201	559 303 9082	johnb@alpamula-csd.org	ALPAMULA CSD		
5 Ethan Rayner				CWC		
6 Michael Taylor		559-449-2700	mtaylor@ppeng.com	Poso & Patched		
7 Travelle Innes	Pond School 24585 Pond Rd, Wasco	661-792-2575	shmesage@pond.k12.co.us	DAC - Poso CSD		
8 Jim Maciel		559 707 1601	jimmacie166@gmail.com	Armona CSD		
9 Bethany Soto			Bethany.Soto@waterboards.ca.gov	RWQCB - Fresno		
10 Dwayne Springs	visalia, CA	209 984 9397	dwayne@visaliawaterdist.org	TBWT		



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Sign In Sheet

Quarter: Q1 Event/engagement: TLB Meetings Campaign: DW Date: 10/10/16

Event Description: SOAC yth meetings

[Signature]

Name / Nombre	Address Direccion	Phone Number Número de Teléfono	Email	Affiliation or Community Afiliación o Comunidad	Please sign me up for CWC's water justice updates, action alerts and inspiring stories ✓	Office Use: New Participant ✓
1 Ralph Gutierrez		559-901-6097	woodrilleng@yahoo.com	educative & ad		
2 Matt Hurlan						
3 Eric Quinlan		661 725 2526				
4 Jessi Snyder		559 802-1693	jessieceltholpente@gmail.com	SHS		
5 Karl Longley		209 873-0670	kavil@csufresno.edu	CV Red QB		
6 Pitt Kersner		597 2504	perisue3@gmail.com	LCSD		
7 Anthony Meliano		(573) 8-4395	amedrano@waterboards.org	RW QB		
8 Paul Bavel		802-1681	paulb@	SHS		
9 Amanda Monaco		352-359-0963	amonaco@leadershipcounsel.org	Leadership Counsel	✓	
10 Kristin Dehlin				CWC		

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study

Stakeholder Group Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2016

Board of Supervisors Conference Rooms A&B

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Kristin gave an overview introduction of IRWM and how we got to the point where the DAC-involvement funding is now available.
2. Goals of the Meeting were reviewed
3. Proposition 1 IRWM DAC Involvement Program
 - a. Maija presented the DAC-Involvement program objectives from DWR and explained the program.
4. Recap of DAC Involvement Proposal Development
 - a. Maija's presentation continued to describe the process of developing the Tulare-Kern Funding Region's proposal, led by County of Tulare.
 - b. Described goals & Project Charter
 - c. Project Advisory Committee & its composition
 - d. Consultant Team TBD
 - e. Denise & Maija described the intent and content of the road show to solicit feedback & support
5. Discussion of DAC Involvement Program Tasks
 - a. Proposed Project Budget
 - b. Maija described the Needs Assessment activity.
 - i. Question was asked: where does the work product go? Answer: the idea is to develop projects so IRWM groups can include them as funding-ready components of an implementation grant application under IRWM.
 - ii. Discussion of the database maintenance. Some funds are included in the DAC Engagement Program to refine the job of the DAC-Coordinator(s) and that could be part of that person's job.
 - c. Project development funds are intended to be distributed as follows: one project from each IRWM group for a total of 7, plus one more that is competitively awarded.
 - d. Maija reviewed Key Project Activities (see slides 17-20)
 - e. Discussion by the Stakeholder Group:
 - i. Q: Is there more than one DAC-Coordinator? A: Yes, we quickly realized there is too much work for one person. Vision is for a program lead plus support staff.
 - ii. Q: How long would the DAC-Coordinator position last? A: Approximately 2 years. There is a need for permanent funding of such positions.
 - iii. Q: How will representatives to the PAC be selected? A: Not totally firm yet—but it looks like each IRWM would appoint DAC reps from their region. There may be some kind of application. There is a concern for how to solicit DAC representation in the case of IRWMs who don't participate in the effort. One solution is for Boards of Supervisors to appoint. Suggestion was made to utilize

the NGOs and EJ groups to help find new DAC representatives, to lessen the load on the small group of DAC reps who engage with processes like this.

- iv. Q: How did we arrive at one tribal rep to the PAC? A: Only one of our local IRWMs has tribal participation. The one seat was somewhat arbitrary; it is open to discussion. Comment: recommend some flexibility on that one seat, in case other tribal interests are identified. The “tribal perspective” is multi-faceted and not necessarily unified. Comment: Tribes are becoming increasingly engaged especially in CEQA.
 - v. Q: When will the road show presentations start? A: Tule’s meeting may be the next one up. Most groups meet in October or November, a couple in December and one in January. Over the course of those months, each IRWM will be visited with the road show presentation. In advance, a short support letter and summary explanation will be sent to the IRWM groups.
6. Final Meeting/Feedback
- a. Comment: this group has come a long way—we aren’t there yet, but we have really done a lot since the TLB study began and this is a good springboard to moving forward.
 - b. Comment: Thank you to Tulare County for taking a leadership role in the TLB DAC study and the DAC-Engagement opportunity.
7. Thank you for an excellent process and project!

APPENDIX B
MEETING HANDOUT MATERIALS



STATE WATER PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAMS
October 2016

Recent actions by Governor Brown and legislators have created emergency and long-term drinking water resources. The table below provides a snapshot on current funding sources.

Drinking Water and Groundwater		
Prop 1 Drinking Water Program Funding was approved by voters, through a statewide bond initiative, Proposition 1, November 2014	Funding	\$250 million until exhausted
	Eligible	Small DACs, Under 3,300 connections & and up to 10,000 population
	Projects	Infrastructure, Technical Assistance
	Apply	FAAST (https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/)
	Contact	Dat Tran (916) 248-2719
State Revolving Fund Annual funding is made up of a 80% federal allocation with 20% state match. Actual amount varies and is based on federal allocation for the given year	Funding	\$80-85 million per year
	Eligible	Community water systems, non-profit, non-community water systems. DACs prioritized
	Projects	Infrastructure, water meters, consolidation
	Apply	FAAST
	Contact	Meghan Tosney (916) 341-5729
Groundwater Quality Programs Two new funding programs to be administered by SWRCB: Prop 1 Groundwater Sustainability And SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (SCAP)	Funding	Prop. 1 Groundwater Sustainability: \$800 million SB 445 SCAP: \$19.5 annual appropriation for FY 15/16
	Eligible	Prop. 1 Groundwater Sustainability: Public Agencies, Public Utilities, Non-Profits, Mutual Water Companies SB 445 SCAP: Applicants with eligible projects
	Projects	Groundwater contamination prevention or clean up
	Apply	FAAST (https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/)
	Contact	Lisa Babcock (916) 341-5797

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(559) 733-0219

141 North A Street, Suite M
Arvin, CA 93203
(661) 390-4808



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Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning	Funding	\$100 million
	Eligible	Public agencies, non-profit organizations, public utilities, federally recognized tribes, state Indian tribes, mutual water companies
	Projects	SGMA implementation (and other groundwater sustainability projects) including planning, coordination, and investigations
	Apply	http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/index.cfm
	Contact	Muzaffar Eusuff 916-651-9266
Wastewater		
Prop 1 Wastewater Program Funding was approved by voters, through a statewide bond initiative, Proposition 1, November 2014	Funding	\$250 million
	Eligible	Small DACs, Under 20,000 people
	Projects	Wastewater Infrastructure
	Apply	FAAST
	Contact	Meghan Tosney 916-341-5729
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)		
IRWM Grant Program	Funding	\$510 million (\$34 million for the Tulare/Kern Region including \$3.4 million for DAC involvement/engagement)
	Eligible	IRWM groups
	Projects	Water infrastructure, treatment, planning, management
	Apply	http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/prop1index.cfm
	Contact	Contact your local IRMWP group coordinator.

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Arvin, CA 93203
(661) 390-4808



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Emergency Funding		
Cleanup and Abatement	Funding	\$19 million
	Eligible	DACs - Public Agencies, Community Water systems, Non-profits, tribal governments
	Projects	Interim water supplies and water system repairs.
	Apply	FAAST
	Contact	Conny Mitterhofer conny.mitterhofer@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 341-5720
DWR Private Well Program	Funding	\$5 million
	Eligible	Private well owners
	Projects	Current available information indicates funding will be available to households with documented domestic well failures.
	Apply	To be determined
	Contact	Bill Croyle William.Croyle@water.ca.gov (916) 464-4611

Additional DAC Drought Resources	
Relocation Assistance	\$6 million to assist drought impacted residents relocate. This drought relief program is eligible to local government agencies, or nonprofit corporations and is intended for eligible tenants and homeowners to relocate and receive rental assistance for 12 months. For more information contact your local county housing authority, or the California Department of Housing and Community Development at 916.263.7400.
Job Training and Assistance	\$7.5 million to assist unemployed farmworkers in job training and assistance. Details of program to be determined in July 2015. For more information contact the Community Services & Employment Training at (559) 732-4194.
Food Assistance	\$17 million for food assistance in drought impacted areas. For more information contact the Community Services & Employment Training at (559) 732-4194.
Rental Assistance	La Cooperativa is administering a Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program with grant funding made available through the California Department of Housing and Community Development. More information on the Drought Housing Rental Subsidies program is available by calling La Cooperativa at (916) 388-2228

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CONSOLIDATION: A NEW TOOL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

What is consolidation?

The term consolidation refers to the restructuring, regionalization and/or cooperation of two or more water systems. This can involve systems physically interconnecting their water infrastructure (e.g. via pipeline, connections) to begin sharing water service. The physical consolidation of systems leads to managerial consolidations where one set of staff is used to manage the new system. In this way, physical consolidation allows small systems to be absorbed by larger systems to gain more reliable service that they otherwise lacked.

Why is it important?

Many small water systems in rural, disadvantaged communities throughout California struggle to provide safe, affordable drinking water to their customers due to aging infrastructure or long-standing water quality and supply issues. Systems dependent on a sole water source are particularly susceptible to water emergencies in the event that their one water source becomes contaminated or overdrafted. In many cases, local drinking water challenges and vulnerabilities can be addressed simply by connecting residents on private domestic wells or very small water systems to larger, neighboring systems. Consolidation then creates economies of scale by spreading costs over a larger customer base. Additionally, consolidating drinking water service provides more reliable service and more orderly, efficient and sustainable growth and investment practices throughout the state.

What are the SWRCB's new powers?

Vital mergers often fail to happen because the communities face legal, social, political, or economic barriers to consolidating. In June 2015, the Governor signed SB 88, the Drought Consolidation Budget Trailer Bill. SB 88 encourages and incentivizes voluntary consolidations, and authorizes the SWRCB to intervene to order water system consolidation if economic, political, or financial barriers prevent systems from consolidating voluntarily. By encouraging extensions from or connections to larger water systems, SB 88 helps customers of small, struggling water systems access safe and affordable drinking water. The legislation also provides technical assistance and financing to assist local governments and water systems in implementing voluntary and mandatory consolidations.

What is the process for consolidation under those powers?

1. SWRCB will give local agencies 6 months or more, if necessary, to arrive at a voluntary consolidation or service extension agreement. During this time, SWRCB will:
 - a. Provide technical and financial assistance to further the consolidation;
 - b. Obtain consent of domestic well owners that will receive water through a service extension and provide notice to customers of water systems impacted by the consolidation; and
 - c. Hold at least one public meeting to provide information and receive input from residents and customers of relevant communities and water systems.
2. After the deadline for the consolidation has expired, SWRCB may order the consolidation and service extension following a public hearing. SWRCB must make the following findings prior to ordering consolidation or service extension:
 - a. The water system or community that will receive water from another system cannot provide an adequate drinking water supply;
 - b. The water systems and communities have been unable to negotiate a voluntary consolidation or service extension agreement; and
 - c. Consolidation or service extension is feasible and the most cost-effective means of providing water.
3. Once the consolidation or service extension has been ordered, SWRCB must also:
 - a. Make funds available to facilitate the consolidation, and
 - b. Compensate owners of a privately owned water system that ceases to exist following a consolidation.

Community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy.

Sustainable Groundwater Management

Historically, California has not regulated groundwater resulting in the overextraction of many groundwater basins in the state. This long-term over-exploitation of groundwater has caused negative effects such as subsidence and saltwater intrusion in groundwater basins around the state for decades. Our current unprecedented drought has compounded the problem, forcing groundwater users to rely almost exclusively on underground reserves to meet their needs, thereby accelerating the decline of groundwater levels and catalyzing groundwater reform. As regional water managers work towards the state's new sustainable groundwater management mandate, there are some important opportunities to be aware of.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014

- In August 2014, the California Legislature passed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which went into effect January 1, 2015.
- SGMA marks a fundamental shift in the management of water resources in California. For the first time, groundwater in the state will have to be managed to protect the long-term reliability of the resource.
- SGMA requires that high- and medium-priority groundwater basins in the state establish Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017 and then create a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2020 or 2022 which will demonstrate how the basin will achieve sustainability within 20 years of plan submittal.
- Achieving the objective of sustainability will ultimately depend on the commitment and participation of a large number of actors. While the first step of forming GSAs requires an unprecedented level of collaboration among diverse local stakeholders, the opportunity to establish effective institutional structures for groundwater management through robust stakeholder engagement is an extremely important one.

Local land-use reform

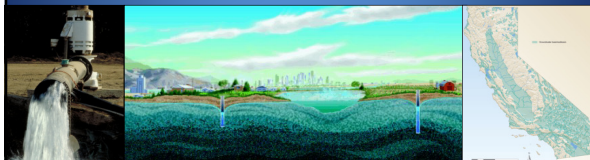
- SGMA establishes a process by which groundwater extraction can be managed, but it does not replace the local land-use authority of counties.
- It is important that local land-use policies are developed to compliment and further the work of local GSAs in meeting the state's sustainability mandate.
- Groundwater protection and monitoring through local ordinances is one aspect of sustainable groundwater management that can be implemented now, prior to the formation of GSAs, to better position those agencies for success.
- Policies such as limiting the proliferation of small, unsustainable water systems, preventing further over-exploitation of groundwater resources or requiring metering on newly drilled wells and the proper abandonment of retired wells can do a lot to protect a region's groundwater quality and supply.

Proposition 1 sustainable groundwater planning funding

- Prop 1 is the \$7.5 billion water bond passed by California voters in 2014. It includes \$900 million for groundwater projects, of which \$100 million is dedicated to sustainable groundwater planning.
- In August 2015, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the draft guidelines for the program along with the draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the first round of funding.
- Counties that overly non-adjudicated, critically over-drafted groundwater basins are the only eligible applicants for the first round of funding, which is available for the development of local ordinances and/or work promoting GSA formation/coordination or GSP development.
- The maximum grant allotment is \$500,000 for Disadvantaged Community (DAC)/ Economically Distressed Area (EDA) counties. The maximum grant allotment for non DAC/EDA counties is \$250,000. There is a minimum 50% local cost share which can be waived or reduced for projects that directly benefit DACs/EDAs.
- A final PSP will be released for this funding round in late October. An application workshop will be held in early November. Applications for round one will be due in late November. Check the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Program website for more information and to receive information on future funding rounds (<http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/sgwp/index.cfm>).

Community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation



Mike McKenzie
January 25, 2016

Presentation Outline

- Background
- Designation of Critically Overdrafted Basins
- Basin Boundary Modification Process
- DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Program
- Overview of Potential Groundwater Sustainability Plan Regulation Components

2

Acronyms

- **SGMA** – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- **GSA** – Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- **GSP** – Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- **BMP** – Best Management Practice
- **CASGEM** – California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring
- **SWRCB** – State Water Resources Control Board
- **CWC** – California Water Commission

3

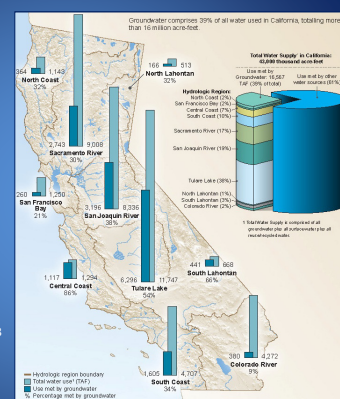
Statewide Groundwater

Regions with highest use:
(relative to statewide total)

- **Tulare Lake 38%**
- **San Joaquin River 19%**
- **Sacramento River 17%**
- **South Coast 10%**
- **Central Coast 7%**

(2005 to 2010 Average Annual Data)

Source: California Water Plan Update 2013



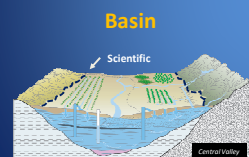
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Bulletin 118 California's Groundwater

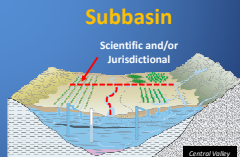


Groundwater Basin: "...an alluvial aquifer or a stacked series of aquifers with reasonably well-defined boundaries in a lateral direction and a definable bottom."

- 515 Groundwater Basins and Subbasins identified statewide



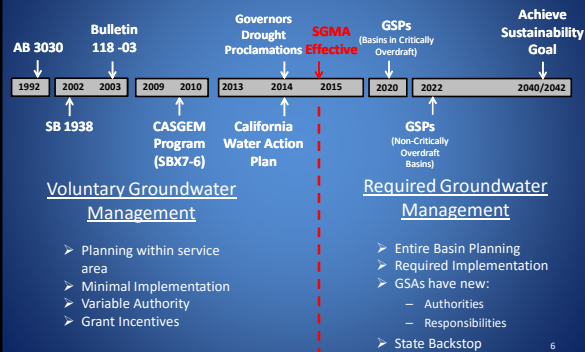
Basin



Subbasin

5

California's Major Groundwater Milestones



6

Legislative Intent of SGMA

Water Code Section 10720.1

- To provide for the **sustainable management** of groundwater basins
- To enhance **local management**
- To **establish minimum management standards**
- To provide local groundwater agencies with **authority** and the necessary **technical and financial assistance**
- To avoid or **minimize subsidence**
- To **improve data collection**
- To **increase groundwater storage**
- To manage groundwater basins through the actions of local governmental agencies while **minimizing state intervention**

7

SGMA Basin Prioritization

- 127 high & medium priority basins account for:
 - 96% of average annual GW supply
 - 88% of 2010 population overlying GW basin area
 - Required to prepare GSPs**

BASIN RANKING	BASIN COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL	
		GW USE	POPULATION
High	43	69%	47%
Medium	84	27%	41%
Low	27	5%	1%
Very Low	361	1%	11%
Totals	515	100%	100%

Basin Prioritization Results – June 7, 2014



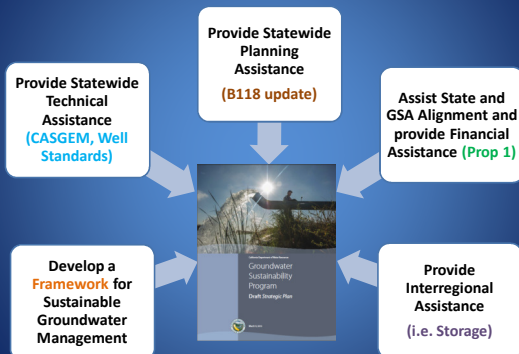
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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

- Requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans in **127** high- and medium-priority basins
- Authorizes management tools for local agencies
- Creates State “backstop”
- Defines time frame for accomplishing goals
- Does not apply to adjudicated basins

9

Groundwater Sustainability Program Strategic Plan



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DWR Near-term Actions

- Jan. 2015 • Basin Prioritization
- Nov. 2015 • Basins in Critical Conditions of Overdraft
- Jan. 2016 • Basin Boundary Modification Requests
- Jun. 2016 • Adoption of GSP Regulations & Alternative to GSPs
- Sept. 2016 • Draft Basin Boundary Modifications to CWC
- Dec. 2016 • Water Available for Groundwater Replenishment
- Jan. 2017 • Bulletin 118 Interim Update

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Critically Overdrafted Basins



- DWR updated the list of basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft
- Analysis used non-drought hydrologic base period of 1989 – 2009
- Based on obvious presence of adverse impacts:
 - Chronic lowering of GW levels
 - Seawater intrusion
 - Land subsidence
 - Degraded water quality
- Basins with critical overdraft designation required to have GSPs in place by January 31, 2020.

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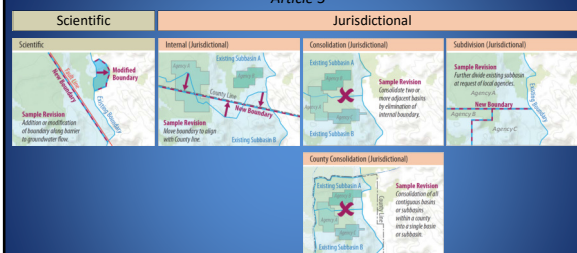
Basin Boundary Modification Regulations

- Emergency Regulation - Establishes a Process for Local Agencies to request changes to existing Basin Boundaries
 - Scientific** - Based on Geologic or Hydrologic Conditions that Define the Basin
 - Jurisdictional** - Promote Sustainable Groundwater Management.

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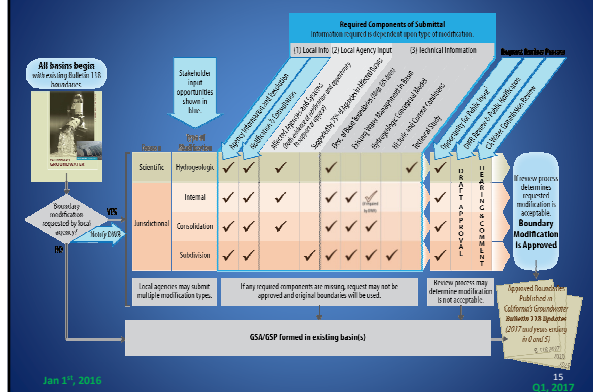
Types of Modification

Article 3



14

Modification Request Requirements



15

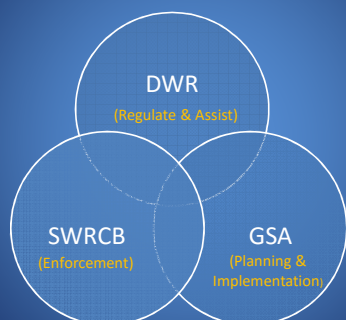
Basin Boundary Regulation Timeline

- October 21, 2015** – CWC Adopted Proposed Emergency Regulations
- November 16, 2015** – Regulation became effective
- January 1, 2016** – DWR Starts Accepting Boundary Modification Requests (3 Month period).
- Sep. 2016*** – DWR Approves Draft List of Boundaries and Presents to CWC for review and comment.
- Early 2017*** – DWR Approves & Publishes Final Boundaries
- Future Revisions to Regulations.** – Re-adopted by CWC.

*Estimated – Subject to Change

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SGMA Roles and Responsibilities

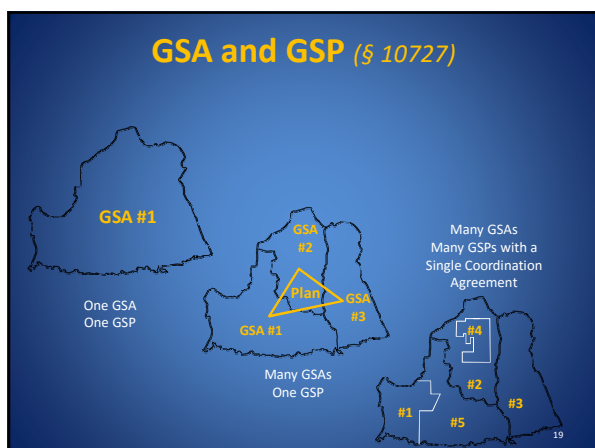


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Authority and Management Tools

- Establish GSAs
 - Local agency (water and land use planning agencies)
 - County
 - No GSA overlap (SB 13)
- Empowers GSAs (*Water Code §10725, 10726*)
 - Prepare and adopt GSP
 - Propose and update fees
 - Monitor compliance and enforcement





Potential Regulation Components

Overview	Potential Regulation Content	Stakeholder Input
Governance & Coordination "Who is managing & participating?"	Governance Coordination Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6- Coordination Agreements 7- State Agency Coordination 8- Water Budgets and Coordination 3- Land Use & County Involvement
Basin Setting "What are the current conditions?"	Basin Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2- Pre SGMA Conditions and Undesirable Results
SGM Planning "How will GW be managed & measured?"	Sustainability Goal (Sustainable Yield, SGM) Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results Monitoring Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Measurable Objectives 2- Pre SGMA Conditions and UIRs 8- Water Budgets and Coordination 9- Data Collection, Mgt. & Reporting 10- Adaptive Mgt. and Focus Areas
Evaluation "Reporting, Evaluation, & Adaptive Management"	Implementation & Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9- Data Collection, Mgt., & Reporting 10- Adaptive Mgt. and Focus Areas
Equivalent GSPs	Alternative GSPs & Fringe Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4- Alternative GSP 5- Boundaries, Overlapping & Downstream Areas

Governance

Governance

Coordination

Land Use

Basin Conditions

Sustainability Goal

Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results

Monitoring Plan

Implementation & Reporting

Alternative Plans & Fringe Areas

GSA Formation – Chapter 4 of SGMA (§10723)

- Entire basin must be covered by a GSA(s) by June 30, 2017
 - A local agency can decide to *become* a GSA or a combination of local agencies can *form* a GSA through a JPA or other legal agreement
 - A water corporation or mutual water company may participate in a GSA through a legal agreement
 - Senate Bill (SB) 13 changed DWR's role in reviewing GSA notices and addressed overlapping service area boundaries

GSP Governance – Chapter 6 of SGMA (§10727)

- Adoption or Amendment of Plan Following Public Hearing (§10728.4)
- Public Notification and Participation (Advisory Committee) (§10727.8)

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Coordination

Governance

Coordination

Land Use

Basin Conditions

Sustainability Goal

Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results

Monitoring Plan

Implementation & Reporting

Alternative Plans & Fringe Areas

Intra-Basin (Within Basin)

Coordination Agreement is required if there are multiple GSP's in basin (§ 10726.6)

Inter-Basin (Between Basins)

DWR shall evaluate if one GSP adversely affects an adjacent GSP (§ 10733 (c))

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Land Use

Planning and Land Use

- **Review and Consideration of GW Requirements (Govt. Code 65350.5)**
 - Before adoption or amendment of a city's or county's general plan, the planning agency shall review and consider the GSP
- **Consideration of All Beneficial Uses and Users of Groundwater (§10723.2)**
 - GSAs shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater including local land use planning agencies
- **Required GSP Elements (§10727.2 (g))**
 - GSP description of consideration of county and city general plans and how GSP may affect general plans

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Basin Conditions

State of the Basin (§10727.2 (a))

- Physical characteristics and aquifer system
- Historical data
- Reporting of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, and land subsidence data
- Groundwater-surface water interaction
- Map of boundaries
- Map of recharge areas
- Map of appropriate planning agencies

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Groundwater Sustainability

Sustainability Goal Entire Basin

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT Entire Basin

Sustainable Yield Entire Basin

Undesirable Results: Significant and Unreasonable...

Surface Water Depletion

Reduction of Storage

Degraded Quality

Seawater Intrusion

Land Subsidence

Lowering GW Levels

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Measurable Objectives

Measurable Objectives & Interim Milestones (§10727.2 (b))

- GSPs shall include Measurable Objectives, as well as Interim Milestones in increments of five years, to achieve the sustainability goal in the basin within 20 years of the implementation of the plan

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Undesirable Results


Undesirable Results (§10721)

- Significant and Unreasonable
 1. Chronic lowering of GW levels indicating a depletion of supply
 2. Reduction of groundwater storage
 3. Seawater intrusion
 4. Degraded water quality
 5. Land subsidence substantially interferes with surface land uses
 6. Depletions of interconnected surface water that adversely impact beneficial uses of the surface water

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Monitoring Plan (§10727.2 (e)(f))

- Existing monitoring sites (identification of data gaps)
- Types of measurements
- Frequency of monitoring
- Monitoring protocols

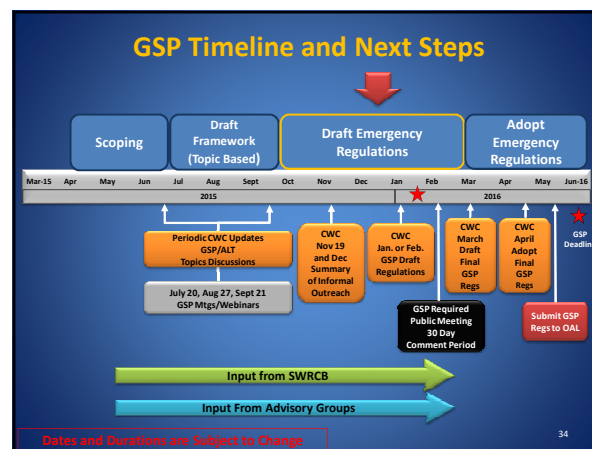


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Governance	Implementation & Reporting	
Coordination		
Land Use		
Basin Conditions		
Sustainability Goal		
Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results		
Monitoring Plan		
Implementation & Reporting	Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DWR review and assessment (§10733.8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of GSPs at least every 5 years Identification of corrective actions to address deficiencies GSA's periodically evaluate GSPs for effectiveness (§10728.2) 	Annual Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater elevations Annual aggregated groundwater extraction Surface water supply used for groundwater recharge Total water used Change in groundwater storage
Alternative Plans & Fringe Areas		

Governance	GSP/Alternative Plans	
Coordination		
Land Use		
Basin Conditions		
Sustainability Goal		
Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results		
Monitoring Plan		
Implementation & Reporting	GSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers Entire Basin Multiple GSPs Require Coordination Agreement Submitted by GSA(s) Annual Reporting 5 Year Evaluation Submitted to DWR by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/31/2020 (Critical Overdrafted) 1/31/2022 (all other High/Medium Priority) 	ALTERNATIVE PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers Entire Basin Submitted by Local Agency or GSA Eligibility: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existing GMP Adjudication Basin Operated within Sustainable Yield for 10 years CASGEM Compliant Annual & 5 Year Reporting Submitted to DWR by 1/1/2017
Alternative Plans & Fringe Areas		

Governance	Fringe Areas	
Coordination		
Land Use		
Basin Conditions		
Sustainability Goal		
Measurable Objectives & Undesirable Results		
Monitoring Plan		
Implementation & Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small portions of a basin not fully covered within boundaries of an Adjudication County possibly only eligible GSA Fringe areas not defined in SGMA 	
Alternative Plans & Fringe Areas		



Key Milestones of SGMA

- January 1, 2016:** Basin boundary modification request period opens and concludes on **March 31, 2016**.
- June 1, 2016:** The Department adopts regulations for evaluating and implementing GSPs/Alternatives to GSPs and coordination agreements.
- June 30, 2017:** GSAs (or equivalent) must be identified for all medium- and high-priority basins.
- January 31, 2020:** Medium- and high-priority basins that are subject to critical conditions of overdraft must be managed under a GSP.
- January 31, 2022:** All other medium- and high-priority basins must be managed under a GSP.
- State Intervention:** If GSAs are not established by June 30, 2017, or if GSPs are not adopted by their required dates, the State Water Resources Control Board may intervene and designate a basin as a probationary basin.

Web Resources

- DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM)**
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/index.cfm>
- DWR GSP Emergency Regulation Website**
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/gsp.cfm>
- Subscribe to DWR SGM Email List**
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/subscribe.cfm>
- DWR Region Office Contacts**
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/gwinfo/contacts.cfm>
- Questions or Comments**
sgmps@water.ca.gov

South Central Region Office Contacts



South Central Region
3374 E. Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

C. Michael McKenzie
Senior Engr. Geologist
559-230-3308
cmckenzi@water.ca.gov

Critically Overdrafted Basins, SCRO Hydrologic Regions

San Joaquin River

- Delta-M

Tulare Lake HR

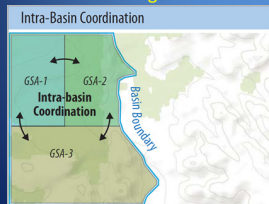
Central Coast HR



GSA – Coordination Requirements

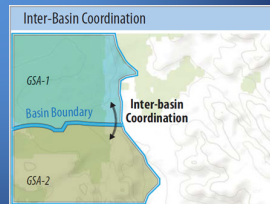
Water Code §10727.6

- Intra-basin coordination is required when multiple GSAs develop multiple GSPs.
- Requires GSPs use **same data and methodologies**



Water Code §10733(c)

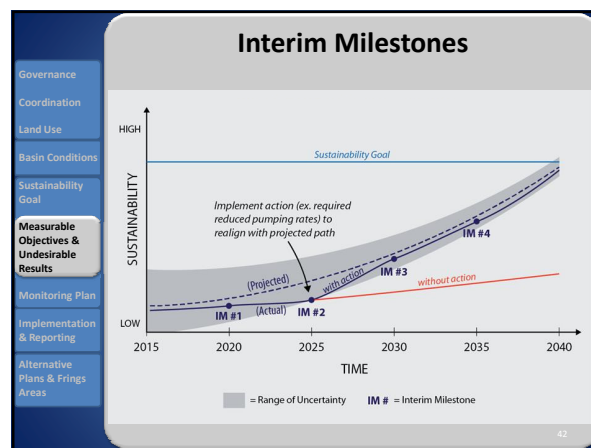
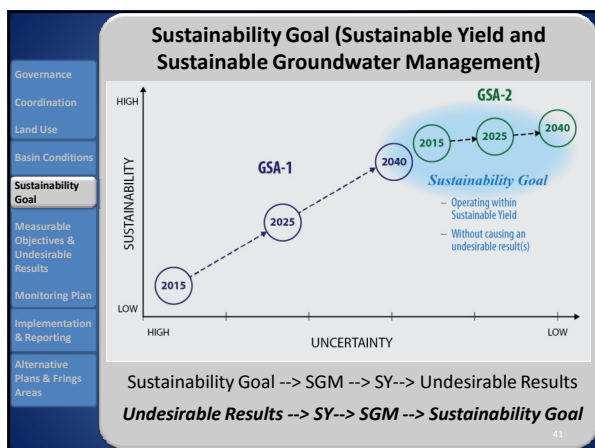
- DWR shall evaluate whether a GSP adversely affects the ability of an adjacent basin to implement its GSP.



SGMA GSP Requirements

- **By June 1, 2016, DWR shall adopt regulations for:**
 - Evaluating GSP
 - Implementation of GSP
 - Coordination agreements
- **The regulations shall identify:**
 - Required Plan Components (§ 10727.2)
 - Additional Plan Elements (§ 10727.4)
 - Coordination of Multiple GSPs in Basin (§ 10727.6)
 - Other information that will assist local agencies in developing and implementing GSPs and coordination agreements.
- **The department may update the regulations, including to incorporate the best management practices (§ 10729)**

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Undesirable Results (cont.)

SGMA Accountability Date (§10727.2 (b))

- GSP may *but is not required* to address undesirable results that occurred before but have not been corrected by January 1, 2015.

Stakeholder Comments

- GSP regulations should provide flexibility for GSAs to manage undesirable results below levels observed at the SGMA Accountability Date if they are not significant and unreasonable.
- In some cases, undesirable results will continue based on prior actions that occurred before the SGMA Accountability Date and therefore should be addressed as a requirement in the GSP regulations.

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GSP/ALT Regulations

Sustainable Groundwater Management
Required for All High and Medium Priority Basins (127)

GSP	Alternative Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers Entire Basin Multiple GSPs Require Coordination Agreement Submitted by GSA(s) Annual Reporting 5 Year Evaluation Submitted to DWR by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/31/2020 (Critical Overdrafted) 1/31/2022 (all other High/Medium Priority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers Entire Basin Submitted by Local Agency or GSA Eligibility: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Existing GMP Adjudication Basin Operated within Sustainable Yield for 10 years CASGEM Compliant Annual & 5 Year Reporting Submitted to DWR by 1/1/2017

Rush to Form GSAs Can Lead to 'Disintegrated Regional Water Management'

State Water Board Oct 2015 Workshop Slide

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Groundwater Sustainability

Undesirable Results:
Significant and unreasonable...

Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Reduction of Groundwater Storage	Seawater Intrusion
Water Quality Degradation	Land Subsidence	Depletions of Surface Water

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Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. As IRWM has evolved, there have been ongoing challenges to engage and address the needs of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). As a result, ten percent (10%) of the total IRWM funding allocated in Proposition 1 has been set aside to encourage involvement of DACs, economically distressed areas, and underrepresented communities in IRWM planning efforts. The Tulare/Kern Funding Area (covering most of Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties) will be allocated \$3.4 million for involvement activities. A single, unified proposal for this Funding Area must be prepared and submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to define the funding recipient and to propose the scope of work to be performed. The table below includes several eligible activities and desired outcomes presented in the Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) from DWR.

Eligible DAC Involvement Activities (Draft RFP)

Table 3 – Eligible DAC Involvement Activities		
General Activity	Examples of Activity	Desired Outcome
Technical assistance	Service provider trainings, local circuit rider programs to train water and wastewater staff	Technical, financial or managerial assistance that results in community staff that are able to support local water resource decision making, gain knowledge, and retain technical skills within the Funding Area
Needs assessments	Surveys or meetings with community members to identify water management needs	Needs assessments provide a better understanding of water management needs of the community to help direct resources and funding
Project development activities	Planning activities, environmental compliance, or pre-construction engineering/design activities	Project development activities for future implementation/construction funding
Site assessment	Water quality assessments, median household income surveys, data and mapping activities	Site assessment that results in extensive knowledge gained by staff and DAC members on specific water management needs, data, and development for future water-related project(s)
Engagement in IRWM efforts	DAC regional engagement coordinator role, DAC Advisory Committee to RWMG, DAC representatives in governance	Engagement activities should result in increased activity and roles of DACs in RWMG decision making and increased participation in IRWM efforts
Governance Structure	Evaluation of existing governance structures and related plan financing efforts, assessments of the level of DAC involvement in decision making processes	Development or implementation of RWMG governance structures that ensure participation in IRWM efforts regardless of the ability to contribute financially to the IRWM plan
Community outreach	Public project meetings open to community members, door-to-door outreach	Outreach should result in increased participation of DACs in project development activities and IRWM planning activities
Education	Translation or interpretive services for information sharing, water education campaigns for community members, education for RWMGs on DAC needs	Education and interpretive services should result in the better understanding by community members of their water management needs
Facilitation	Facilitated RWMG meetings, facilitated project development meetings	Facilitation services should result in community participation and stakeholders being able to resolve or overcome obstacles in communicating water management needs
Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM Plans	Development of Funding Area-wide DAC plan to be utilized as a unified approach for all IRWM plans	IRWM Plan DAC-related changes should result in tangible changes to the IRWM plan that support the IRWM's understanding of their DAC water management needs in the region

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study Stakeholder Group Meeting

Draft Funding Proposal Outline for the Tulare/Kern Funding Area

Goals Identified

- Generate proposal ready DAC projects for IRWM Implementation Funding and other construction funding opportunities
- Encourage ongoing DAC involvement to develop a lasting ability to develop DAC projects that can be funded through IRWM
- DAC outreach, education and engagement on regional water management issues/processes
- Build regional relationships to advance other benefits beyond IRWM projects
- Comply with the new legislative requirement for mapping contaminants of concern
- Address drought issues (vulnerability reports, water quality impacts)
- Produce a meaningful update to the TLB DAC water study

Proposed DAC Involvement Activities and Desired Outcomes

General Activity	Examples of Activity	Desired Outcome
Needs Assessment (Mandatory)	Framework from TLB DAC Study Database update Site assessments Mapping	Provide a better/updated understanding of the needs of DACs to help direct resources and funding applications
Project Development Activities	Develop guidelines, solicit, and select projects Perform planning activities, environmental documents, preliminary design activities	Project development activities for future implementation/ construction funding
Engagement in IRWM Efforts (DAC Coordinator(s))	DAC engagement coordinators Community outreach and education Governance structure assistance Reporting on engagement activities Recommendations for ongoing engagement	Engage DACs to encourage and develop increased activity and roles of DACs in RWMG decision making and increased participation in IRWM efforts
Education	Educate DACs on IRWM process and purposes Educate non-DAC IRWM members on DAC needs Translation services Tours and field trips Informational video	Increase DAC understanding of the IRWM process and opportunities. Increase understanding of DAC needs.
Third Party Facilitation (for Stakeholder Group)	Facilitate DAC Involvement Committee meetings Evaluate SOAC makeup and involvement Identify DAC need gaps that should be addressed Define "Underrepresented Community" Facilitate prioritization of projects to be developed	Third party facilitation of project related discussions, advisory committee recommendations, and necessary decision making (e.g. project selection activities)
Administration	Project coordination and administration	Achieve project goals and objectives; report to DWR as required
Final Report	Area-wide assessment of DAC needs Mapping of DACs, EDAs, and underrepresented communities Summary of tasks performed and deliverables completed Description of successful involvement activities Identification of projects developed Identification of ongoing barriers for DAC involvement in IRWM efforts Recommendations on future DAC involvement activities	Final Report to DWR

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. As IRWM has evolved, there have been ongoing challenges to engage and address the needs of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). As a result, ten percent (10%) of the total IRWM funding allocated in Proposition 1 has been set aside to encourage involvement of DACs, economically distressed areas, and underrepresented communities in IRWM planning efforts. The Tulare/Kern Funding Area (covering most of Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties) will be allocated \$3.4 million for involvement activities. A single, unified proposal for this Funding Area must be prepared and submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to define the funding recipient and to propose the scope of work to be performed. The table below includes several eligible activities and desired outcomes presented in the Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) from DWR.

Eligible DAC Involvement Activities

Table 3 - Eligible DAC Involvement Activities		
General Activity	Examples of Activity	Desired Outcome
Needs Assessments (required)	Surveys or meetings with community members to identify water management needs	Needs Assessments provide better understanding of water management needs to help direct resources and funding
Education	Translation or interpretive services for information sharing, water campaigns for community, RWMGs education on DAC needs	Education and interpretive services provide better understanding by community members or RWMGs of water management needs
Community Outreach	Public meetings open to DAC community members, door-to-door outreach	Outreach increases participation in IRWM planning or project development activities
Engagement in IRWM Efforts	DAC regional engagement coordinator role, DAC Advisory Committee to RWMG, DAC representatives in governance	Engagement activities increase activity and roles of DACs in RWMG decision making and increased participation in IRWM efforts
Facilitation	Facilitated RWMG meetings, facilitated project development meetings	Facilitation services encourage participation and stakeholders resolving or overcoming obstacles in communicating needs
Technical Assistance	Service provider trainings, local circuit rider programs to train water and wastewater staff	Technical, financial, or managerial assistance results in community staff able to support local decision making, knowledge, and skills
Governance Structure	Evaluation of governance structures and related plan financing, assessment of DAC involvement in decision making processes	Evaluation of RWMG governance to ensure DAC participation in IRWM regardless of ability to contribute financially
Site Assessment	Water quality assessments, median household income surveys, data and mapping activities	Site assessment results in knowledge gained by community staff on water management needs and data for project development
Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans	Development of Funding Area-wide DAC plan to be utilized as a unified approach for all IRWM plans	IRWM plan DAC-related changes result in IRWM plan updates that support the RWMG's understanding of DAC needs
Project Development Activities or Construction	Planning activities, environmental compliance, pre-construction engineering/design activities, or construction activities	Project development activities for future implementation/construction funding or construction activities

Reunión de las Partes Interesadas del Estudio del Agua en las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos para la Cuenca del Lago de Tulare

Financiamiento para la Participación de las Comunidades de Bajos Recursos en el Programa del Manejo del Agua Regional Integrada (IRWM por sus siglas en inglés)

El Manejo del Agua Regional Integrada (IRWM, por sus siglas en inglés) es un esfuerzo de colaboración cuyo fin es la identificación e implementación de soluciones para el manejo del agua a escala regional que aumentan la autosuficiencia regional, reducen los conflictos y gestionan el agua para lograr simultáneamente los objetivos sociales, ambientales y económicos. A medida que IRWM ha ido evolucionado, ha habido desafíos constantes para entablar un diálogo con, y abordar las necesidades de, las comunidades de bajos recursos (DACs, por sus siglas en inglés). Como resultado, el diez por ciento (10%) del total de los fondos de IRWM asignados en la Proposición 1 se ha destinado a fomentar la participación de las DACs, las áreas con dificultades económicas, y las comunidades insuficientemente representadas en los esfuerzos de planificación de IRWM. Al Área del Financiamiento de Tulare/Kern (que abarca la mayor parte de los condados de Fresno, Kings, Tulare y Kern) se le asignará \$3.4 millones para actividades de participación. Una propuesta única, unificada para esta Área del Financiamiento debe ser preparada y presentada al Departamento de Recursos de Agua (DWR, por sus siglas en inglés) para definir al destinatario del financiamiento y para proponer el alcance del trabajo a realizar. El siguiente cuadro incluye varias actividades elegibles y los resultados deseados presentados en el Solicitud de Propuestas (RFP, por sus siglas en inglés) borrador de DWR.

Actividades de Participación Identificados por el Estado como Elegibles

Cuadro 3 – Actividades de Participación Elegibles		
Actividad General	Ejemplos de Actividades	Resultados Deseados
Evaluación de Necesidades (obligatorio)	Encuestas o reuniones con miembros de la comunidad para identificar las necesidades del manejo del agua	Las evaluaciones de necesidades proporcionan una mejor comprensión de las necesidades del manejo del agua de la comunidad para ayudar a dirigir los recursos y el financiamiento
Ayuda Técnica	Capacitación de proveedores de servicios, programas locales de expertos técnicos itinerantes para capacitar al personal del agua y aguas residuales	Ayuda técnica, financiera o de gestión que se traduce en un personal de la comunidad que es capaz de apoyar la toma de decisiones relacionadas con los recursos del agua locales, adquirir conocimientos, y retener conocimientos técnicos dentro del Área del Financiamiento.
Actividades de desarrollo de proyecto	Actividades de planificación, cumplimiento ambiental, o actividades de ingeniería y diseño previas a la construcción	Actividades de desarrollo de proyectos para el financiamiento de futura implementación/construcción
Evaluación de sitio	Evaluaciones de calidad del agua, encuestas de hogares de ingreso medio, datos y actividades de mapeo	Evaluación de sitio que se traduce en un amplio conocimiento adquirido por el personal y los miembros de las DAC sobre las necesidades específicas del manejo del agua, datos, y desarrollo para futuro(s) proyecto(s) relacionado(s) con el agua
Participación en los esfuerzos de IRWM	Papel del coordinador de compromiso regional de las DAC, Comité Asesor de las DAC para el RWMG, representantes de las DAC en las mesas directivas	Actividades de compromiso deben dar lugar a una mayor actividad y funciones de las DAC en la toma de decisiones del RWMG y una mayor participación en los esfuerzos de IRWM
Estructura de Gobierno	Evaluación de las estructuras de gobierno existentes y los esfuerzos del financiamiento relacionados con el plan, evaluaciones del nivel de participación de las DAC la toma de decisiones	Desarrollo o implementación de estructuras de gobierno del RWMG que garanticen la participación en los esfuerzos de IRWM independientemente de la capacidad de contribuir financieramente al plan de IRWM
Alcance Comunitario	Reuniones de proyecto públicas abiertas a los miembros de la comunidad, alcance comunitario de puerta a puerta	El alcance comunitario debe dar lugar a una mayor participación de las DAC en las actividades de desarrollo de proyectos y actividades de planificación de IRWM
Educación	Servicios de traducción o interpretación para intercambio de información, campañas de educación del agua para miembros de la comunidad, educación para los RWMGs sobre necesidades de las DAC	Servicios de educación y de interpretación deben dar lugar a una mejor comprensión de parte de los miembros de la comunidad de sus necesidades del manejo del agua
Facilitación	Reuniones del RWMG facilitadas, reuniones de desarrollo de proyectos facilitadas	Servicios de facilitación deben resultar en la participación de la comunidad y en que los interesados puedan resolver o superar los obstáculos en la comunicación de las necesidades del manejo del agua
Mejora de los aspectos de las DAC en los planes de IRWN	Desarrollo del plan del financiamiento para toda el área de DAC para ser utilizado como un enfoque unificado para todos los planes IRWM	Cambios del plan IRWN relacionados con las DAC deben resultar en cambios tangibles en el plan IRWN que apoyan la comprensión del IRWM de las necesidades del manejo del agua de sus DAC en la región

APPENDIX C

TULARE LAKE BASIN DAC WATER STUDY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT



FINAL REPORT

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY FOR THE TULARE LAKE BASIN

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 4600009132
SAFE DRINKING WATER, WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL,
RIVER AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006 (PROPOSITION 84)
November 2010 through November 2014

AUGUST 2014

Prepared for:
County of Tulare

Final Submittal to:
Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
South Central Region Office
3374 East Shields Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Prepared by:



FINAL REPORT

BOOK 1: SUMMARY REPORT

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY WATER STUDY FOR THE TULARE LAKE BASIN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

In partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), the County of Tulare has undertaken the Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study (TLB Study) to develop an integrated water quality and wastewater treatment program plan to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin, as appropriated by Senate Bill SBX2 1 (California Water Code §83002(b)(3)(D)) (see **Appendix A**). The objectives of the TLB Study are defined within the grant agreement as follows:

- Develop a plan that provides rural, disadvantaged communities with a safe, clean and affordable potable water supply and effective and affordable wastewater treatment and disposal.
- The plan will include recommendations for planning, infrastructure, and other water management actions, as well as specific recommendations for regional drinking water facilities, regional wastewater treatment facilities, conjunctive use sites and groundwater recharge, groundwater for surface water exchanges, related infrastructure, project sustainability, and cost sharing mechanisms.
- Identify projects and programs that will create long-term reliability, while optimizing the ongoing operation and maintenance and management costs for small water and wastewater systems.

The Tulare Lake Basin Study Area encompasses most of the four-county area, including Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. The Tulare Lake Basin Study Area boundary is shown in **Figure 1-1**. The TLB Study focused on the drinking water and wastewater needs of rural and unincorporated communities that meet the Proposition 84 definition of “disadvantaged community”, which is a community whose median household income is 80 percent or less of the statewide median household income. The TLB Study includes community water systems, wastewater systems, and rural communities with private wells and septic systems. Approximately 353 of the 530 communities identified within the Tulare Lake Basin Study Area are considered to be disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged.

In order to meet the objectives of this Study, the following five tasks were performed, in accordance with the tasks outlined in the grant agreement from DWR (**Appendix B**):

1. Baseline Data Gathering, Mapping, and Database Creation of Disadvantaged Communities in the Tulare Lake Basin
2. Stakeholder Consultation and Community Outreach
3. Selection of Pilot Projects and Studies to Develop Representative Solutions to Priority Issues
4. Implementation of Pilot Project Stakeholder Process to Develop Studies and Representative Solutions to Priority Issues

5. Preparation of Final Report

Database

The County of Tulare and project team developed a database of all disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin. The project team coordinated with other local, state, and federal agencies as well as appropriate organizations to collect existing data and create the database. The project team utilized Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to map the location of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin and other available and relevant data in order to identify regional challenges and opportunities.

The database is a collection of information from PolicyLink, CDPH, Self-Help Enterprises, County of Fresno, and County of Tulare, Carolina Balazs, Provost & Pritchard GIS data resources, as well as other sources. The database has been reviewed to evaluate the water quality and supply source issues as well as wastewater treatment and disposal issues within the Study Area. The database will continue to be maintained and updated by the County of Tulare after completion of this Study.

Based on the database collected for this Study, there are 353 disadvantaged communities (DACs) identified within the Tulare Lake Basin Study Area, of which 201 are severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs). Collectively, disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities are referred to as DACs. Many water and wastewater systems serving these DACs face challenges meeting drinking water and wastewater regulations. Disadvantaged communities within the Study Area are shown in **Figure 1-2** through **Figure 1-5**.

Approximately 196 of the 353 DACs in the Study Area had water quality data available. Of those DACs with water quality data available, approximately 89 were considered to have a water quality issue, based on an exceedance of a drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) of a primary constituent more than one time between 2008 and 2010. While not all of these systems were in violation of a drinking water regulation, an exceedance indicates there may be a potential issue. Many communities (approximately 96) also rely on a single source of water supply, typically a single well. This puts the system at risk if that well were to fail. Communities with the various water quality and supply issues are presented in **Figure 3-1** through **Figure 3-4**.

In addition to water supply issues facing DACs, there are also challenges related to the treatment and disposal of wastewater. Of the 353 DACs in the Study Area, 38 communities have their own wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). Some of the communities not having their own wastewater treatment facility may have their wastewater treated at a nearby WWTF operated by another community or city, or they may rely on individual septic systems. Of these 38 DACs with WWTFs, 25 are listed as having a violation of their waste discharge requirements.

Stakeholder Process

The County of Tulare established a basin-wide Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC) comprised of community representatives, as well as regulatory and funding agency representatives and other organizations that work on and are familiar

Executive Summary

with disadvantaged community water and wastewater needs. The SOAC worked with the project team to identify priority issues, potential pilot projects, and review project recommendations.

The project team also conducted outreach to community representatives, including residents and local water board members that were the subject of individual pilot projects. These community representatives assisted the project team in confirming the viability of the proposed solutions.

In order to ensure that each pilot project was developed with input from stakeholders, a separate Pilot Project Stakeholder Advisory Group (PSAG) was convened for each of the four pilot studies. Each group was comprised of members of impacted communities, regulatory and funding agencies, local water or wastewater providers, and other agencies and organizations as appropriate, in order to provide input and recommendations to the project team.

An evaluation of each stakeholder process was conducted to learn from the process and develop conclusions and recommendations for improvements to stakeholder involvement processes. A Stakeholder Involvement Report describing the stakeholder processes conducted, evaluation criteria, and lessons learned is provided in **Appendix H**.

Project Focus and Goals

The main goals of the Study were: (1) to provide useful information and tools that can function as a roadmap or guidelines for multiple audiences, and (2) to provide recommendations for legislation, funding opportunities, and other support that Federal, State, and local agencies can provide to address the water and wastewater issues in the Study Area.

The information presented in this study includes descriptions of actual community efforts toward solving water supply, water quality, wastewater treatment and disposal, and/or system efficiency challenges. The information may also include recommendations for other communities to consider regarding:

- a) Steps toward solving remaining existing water supply and wastewater collection or treatment challenges,
- b) Identifying obstacles interfering with solving remaining existing water supply and wastewater collection or treatment challenges, and
- c) Steps toward minimizing or mitigating future water supply and wastewater collection or treatment issues.

Identification of Issues and Potential Solutions

In consultation with the SOAC, the project team utilized the database to identify common problems associated with providing safe, reliable water and wastewater services to disadvantaged communities. Using this list of common problems, the project team worked with the SOAC to identify priority issues facing disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin. From the list of common issues that was

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developed, five (5) priority issues were identified through the SOAC. The five priority issues included:

- Lack of funding to offset increasingly expensive operations and maintenance costs in large part due to lack of economies of scale;
- Lack of technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity by water and wastewater providers;
- Poor water quality;
- Inadequate or unaffordable funding or funding constraints to make improvements; and
- Lack of informed, empowered, or engaged residents.

The project team developed a list of potential solution sets or alternatives to address each of the priority issues identified. Using the list of potential alternatives to address the identified priority issues, the SOAC selected a final roster of representative pilot projects and studies that are the focus of this Final Report. Four (4) pilot studies were selected, including:

1. Management and Non-Infrastructure Solutions to Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency;
2. Technical Solutions to Improve Efficiency and Reduce Operation & Maintenance;
3. New Source Development; and
4. Individual Household Solutions.

Four Pilot Projects

The project team further developed and evaluated the possible solutions recommended under each of the four (4) pilot studies identified. Recommendations and roadmaps for each pilot study were developed in consultation with the Pilot Project Stakeholder Advisory Groups as well as pilot specific Community Review groups. Full reports of the four pilot studies are included in **Books 2-5** of this Final Report. Recommendations developed through each of the pilot studies are included in the plan recommendations described in Section 13.

Decision trees were also developed for each of the pilot studies (**Appendix J**). The decision trees are intended to be a tool or roadmap for community leaders (or private well owners in the case of the Individual Households pilot study) to use to assist them in developing appropriate solutions to their water and wastewater challenges.

Recommendations developed for each of the four pilot studies include the following:

- A description of the particular problem being addressed;
- A description of the solution(s) recommended by the pilot project;
- Funding opportunities available to implement the recommended solutions;

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- A discussion of steps that may be taken to ensure long-term sustainability of the implemented solution;
- Identification of any obstacles or barriers to implementation of the recommended solution; and
- Recommendations for how to eliminate those obstacles or barriers.

Funding Opportunities

State regulators and funders can begin encouraging solutions to drinking water and wastewater needs by providing educational material as well as funding opportunities. Existing funding opportunities and proposed drinking water legislation are presented in this Study. Traditional drinking water funding programs include the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SDWSRF), Proposition 84, Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWM), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. Some wastewater funding opportunities include the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Small Community Wastewater Grant program (SCWG), Community Development Block Grant Program, and United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Conclusions and Recommendations

In order to meet the objectives of this Study, baseline data was gathered, stakeholder consultation and community outreach was conducted, priority issues were identified, pilot studies were developed to address those priority issues, and this Final Report was prepared to document the process and develop recommendations for a plan to implement solutions identified through the pilot studies.

Each of the pilot studies evaluated various solution types and alternatives to help address the different water and wastewater issues identified for the Study Area. However, there were barriers identified through various stakeholder efforts that make implementation of such alternatives challenging. The purpose of the recommendations presented in this Final Report is to provide a plan to address the priority issues and barriers identified through the stakeholder processes and pilot studies. Implementation of the recommendations discussed herein would enable water and sewer service providers in rural, disadvantaged communities to provide safe, clean and affordable potable water supply and effective and affordable wastewater treatment and disposal.

Summary of Findings

Upon completion of the Study, several major successes of the project were noted:

- A comprehensive inventory of DACs has been prepared;
- A “roadmap” or set of decision trees was developed to guide communities and funding agencies through some critical steps to selecting an appropriate alternative for their specific issues and situation;

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- Through various stakeholder outreach efforts, the interest and awareness of communities related to water and wastewater issues within the Tulare Lake Basin was expanded;
- Priority issues common to communities throughout the Study Area, and various obstacles and barriers to address those issues, have been identified and acknowledged;
- Recommendations for local service providers, various regulatory and funding agencies, as well as the Legislature were developed to help overcome those obstacles and barriers so that the priority issues afflicting DACs within the Study Area can be adequately addressed;
- A database of DACs within the Tulare Lake Basin, and their water and wastewater challenges was compiled; and
- The Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Water Study Final Report was compiled and made available on the Tulare County website.

For communities that are interested in pursuing any of the alternatives presented in this Study, action is recommended in addition to the plan recommendations below. To implement an alternative, communities should work on the following:

- Prepare a Self Assessment of the existing infrastructure, capacity, demands, and items that may impact any of the items (information may be available in recent sanitary surveys and inspection reports) (see **Appendix K**)
- Seek funding to conduct a feasibility study to evaluate alternatives
- Prepare a Technical, Managerial, and Financial Assessment (see **Appendix L**)
- Consider the impact to consumers (cost per connection)
- Consider the impact to water system (revenues versus expenses)
- Confirm that the solution will satisfy regulatory requirements

Plan Recommendations

Tulare County and the project team were tasked with preparing a plan to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin. Through the SOAC process and in consultation with the database developed through this Study, several common problems were identified as the major challenges faced by disadvantaged communities in the Study Area. Of the common problems identified, five (5) priority issues were selected through the SOAC, as discussed above.

Four pilot projects were selected which sought to identify: 1) solution alternatives to address those priority issues; 2) funding opportunities that are available to implement the recommended solutions; 3) steps to insure long-term sustainability of an implemented solution; 4) identification of obstacles and barriers to implementation of a recommended solution; and 5) a proposal for how to eliminate those obstacles or barriers. Those recommendations related to funding opportunities, long-term

sustainability, and overcoming obstacles and barriers to implementing solutions to the priority issues that have been identified, are the basis for the plan to address the drinking water and wastewater needs of DACs in the Study Area. Implementation of the recommendations presented herein will set the stage to start making progress toward resolution of the priority issues that are faced by DACs in the Tulare Lake Basin. These recommendations therefore serve as steps toward improving the drinking water and wastewater challenges of disadvantaged communities in the Tulare Lake Basin, and toward reducing the instances of perpetuating the circumstances that contribute to the creation of additional challenges.

Various state, federal, and local agencies are involved directly in the provision of drinking water and wastewater services, or provide regulatory oversight of drinking water and wastewater systems. This plan describes various recommendations on how the appropriate agencies at various levels can help the communities in the region address their water and wastewater challenges.

Recommendations were developed to facilitate and encourage potential solutions aimed at addressing the five (5) priority issues that were selected through the SOAC. Additionally, through the course of the Study, several other common problems that were previously identified also emerged as important issues to be addressed. Those additional common problems included the following:

- Lack of vision and integrated planning to develop solutions (ranked 6th by the SOAC on the list of common problems, see **Appendix G**);
- Inadequate existing infrastructure (ranked 7th by the SOAC);
- Lack of information on DACs (ranked 8th by the SOAC);
- A changing regulatory environment (ranked 9th by the SOAC); and
- Insufficient quantity of water (ranked 10th by the SOAC).

Seven (7) main categories of recommendations were identified to address the five (5) priority issues as well as the additional common problems determined to be of high importance. The seven main categories of recommendations are as follows:

1. Improve Local Technical, Managerial and Financial Capacity
2. Improve Operation and Maintenance Funding
3. Improve Water Supply Quality and Reliability
4. Improve Funding for Disadvantaged Communities
5. Improve Disadvantaged Community Awareness and Participation
6. Improve Land Use Planning to Minimize Creation of New Water/Wastewater Issues
7. Develop and Maintain Information on DAC Water/Wastewater Needs

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Complete recommendations are presented in Section 13 of this Final Report. A handout document of the recommendations is provided in **Appendix N**. A summary of the recommendations is provided below.

Recommendation	Lead Agency/Entity	Pg #
13.1 Improve Local TMF Capacity		
Priority Issue: Lack of Technical Managerial and Financial Capacity by Water and Wastewater Providers		
13.1.1 Enhance Internal Awareness		
A. Ensure that the specifics regarding existing infrastructure are known. The location, size, condition, and depth of private well or septic system facilities should be known by the property owner and maintained in a database by the county [See Recommendation 13.7.1.C].	Private well or septic owner	202
B. Ensure that specifics regarding existing water or wastewater system infrastructure are known. The location, size, condition, and capacity of facilities should be known and records maintained by the community services management personnel.	Water or wastewater system owner	203
C. Conduct a review of fiscal resources annually and determine the necessary levels of reserves for replacement and maintenance of infrastructure. Determine an appropriate time frame and funding plan to achieve the necessary levels of reserves.	Water or wastewater system owner	204
D. Consider adding a requirement for more frequent or comprehensive and standardized assessment of TMF capacity for local water and wastewater providers, as well as updating regulatory and permit requirements for water and wastewater systems to clarify that providers must meet TMF requirements to maintain a permit to operate.	State Agencies and Local Primacy Agencies	205
13.1.2. Provide Assistance and Training		
A. Attend training programs and encourage or require staff and board members to attend training programs.	Water or wastewater system owner	206
B. Create a single local point of contact for local service providers and private well owners to obtain information and access resources to provide guidance related to water and wastewater challenges.	Counties and State Agencies	207
C. Consider providing regular Special District Board training opportunities, including leadership and ethics training.	Counties	208
D. Continue to convene a DAC focused stakeholder group for the Tulare Lake Basin, and expand outreach to further enhance DAC, County, IRWM, and other local stakeholder engagement and participation.	Non-profit organizations, Counties, IRWMs, State Agencies	208

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Recommendation	Lead Agency/Entity	Pg #
E. Target existing technical assistance training programs to specific communities who have shown a need and interest, to focus on their needs and provide locally available and specialized training programs.	State Agencies and Technical Assistance Providers	210
F. Improve the operator certification process by providing more frequent testing, and offering certification tests in more locations.	State Agencies	210
G. Consider developing operator training programs at local community colleges to address the lack of licensed water and wastewater system operators.	Local Community Colleges	211
13.1.3. Encourage Sharing of Resources to Build TMF Capacity		
A. Even outside of larger infrastructure project development processes, alternatives such as sharing common resources, forming joint governmental agencies, or other forms of consolidation should be evaluated to determine if O&M costs could be reduced or TMF capacity improved. [Same as Recommendation 13.2.1.B]	Water or wastewater system owners, state and federal funding agencies, LAFCo	212
B. Establish local DAC coordinator(s) for the Tulare Lake Basin to support DAC outreach, help link communities to funding sources and training opportunities, and help integrate DACs into planning processes, including IRWMPs.	Existing Local Non-Profit Organizations, with support from State Agencies, Counties, IRWMPs	213
C. Support the evaluation and development of a regional entity or entities to provide regional operations, management, or other services in regions that are interested in exploring such services.	Local Non-Profit Organizations, Counties, LAFCo, Legislature	214
13.2 Improve O&M Funding		
Priority Issue: Lack of Funding to Offset Increasingly Expensive Operations and Maintenance Costs in Large Part due to Lack of Economies of Scale		
13.2.1 Reduce Costs		
A. Project alternatives should be analyzed to minimize ongoing costs. If O&M costs cannot be supported, other alternatives should be pursued.	Water or wastewater system owner	217
B. Even outside of larger infrastructure project development processes, alternatives such as sharing common resources, forming joint governmental agencies, or other forms of consolidation should be evaluated to determine if O&M costs could be reduced or TMF capacity improved. [Same as Recommendation 13.1.3.A]	Water or wastewater system owner, state and federal funding agencies, LAFCo	218
C. Consider providing increased funding for capital improvements for water (or wastewater) related projects when it would allow for reduced O&M costs over the long term.	State and Federal funding agencies	218
D. Support the development and implementation of water conservation policies/measures by providing incentives and technical assistance to DACs and promoting the use	State Agencies	219

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Recommendation	Lead Agency/Entity	Pg #
of water and energy efficient equipment upgrades, such as energy-efficient or solar powered pumps.		
13.2.2 Increase Revenues		
A. Evaluate water and sewer rates at least every three to five years and when any major improvements are constructed, and modify as appropriate to achieve the necessary financial resources for annual operations and reserves.	Water or wastewater system owner	219
B. Each local service provider (water or wastewater) should develop a single rate structure (which may include different categories, such as residential, commercial, and industrial), and no exceptions should be made to that structure. A tiered rate structure should be developed with appropriate base rates and water usage rates to encourage conservation while ensuring sufficient revenue.	Water or wastewater system owner	220
C. Seek funding to install or replace water meters. The replacement meters should be capable of being read remotely (if the system size or agreements with neighboring systems support it) to reduce labor costs.	Water or wastewater system owner, technical assistance providers	221
D. Establish appropriate connection fees for any new connections to support the capital improvements required to provide service to those new connections.	Water or wastewater system owner	221
E. Consider establishing a transitional funding program to assist with O&M costs on a temporary basis.	State agencies and the legislature	222
13.2.3 Provide Assistance, Training, and Information		
A. Develop an O&M plan that includes the types of ongoing O&M costs needed, O&M servicing and parts replacement schedule, and amount needed for O&M fund reserve to help the community plan ahead to address covering O&M adequately.	Water or wastewater system owner	223
B. Continue to provide, expand, and better publicize technical assistance training on developing rate studies and establishing rate policies, which should also include guidance on conducting a Prop 218 hearing.	State Agencies, Technical assistance providers	224
13.3 Improve Water Supply Quality and Reliability		
Priority Issues: Poor Water Quality, Inadequate Supply Reliability, Inadequate Existing Infrastructure, and Insufficient Quantity of Water		
13.3.1 Prevent Worsening of Problems		
A. Do not allow new connections if the service capacity is not confirmed. This may require imposition of a moratorium. Developing appropriate connection fees, as recommended above, is necessary to provide a means to ensure that capacity can be made available for planned new connections.	Water or wastewater system owner	225

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B. [See Recommendations under "Improve Land Use Planning to Minimize Creation of New Water/Wastewater Issues"]	County	226
C. Improve Groundwater Management Planning to address declining water levels and increased water quality contaminant levels, and evaluate ways the two trends may be exacerbating each other.	State Agencies	226
D. Clarify the interpretation of a well site control zone with a 50-foot radius, as referred to in Title 22, Chapter 16, Article, Section 64560 of the California Regulations Related to Drinking Water.	State Agencies	227
E. Consider ways to encourage and provide funding to sewer communities that rely on individual septic systems that are failing or are on inadequately sized lots.	SWRCB, RWQCB and other Funding Agencies	228
F. Allow drinking water funding agencies to fund infrastructure for fire flow requirements. Where affordability or feasibility of the project is jeopardized by meeting full fire flow requirements, also allow drinking water projects to be funded for domestic purposes provided a limited level of fire flow is available. Where a viable option, the feasibility of installing a dual water distribution system to meet domestic supply and fire flow requirements, should be considered (especially where irrigation demands can be accommodated through the non-potable system used for fire flow).	County Fire, County Board of Supervisors, Funding Agencies	228
13.3.2 Encourage Shared Solutions to Reduce Vulnerability		
A. Provide funding opportunities to encourage the development of regional cooperation, partnerships, and consolidation of services, where appropriate.	State Agencies	229
13.4 Improve Funding for DACs		
Priority Issue: Inadequate or Unaffordable Funding or Funding Constraints to Make Improvements		
13.4.1 Improve Scoring Criteria and Guidelines		
A. Consider changes on Category E (insufficient source water capacity or delivery capability) project rankings, to make it easier to get funding for that category of projects.	State Agencies	230
B. Continue the Pre-Planning and Legal Entity Formation Assistance Program. Consider creation of similar programs for wastewater for areas currently on septic.	State Agencies	231
C. Continue the Consolidation Incentive Program, however, modify the system so that large systems do not obtain benefits that are significantly out of proportion to the benefits provided by consolidation. Also consider expanding the consolidation incentive program and make it available to larger systems seeking to assist communities of private well owners impacted by the drought and/or facing water quality challenges.	State Agencies	231

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D. Consider ways to expedite the funding process, so that communities applying for funding do not spend several years drinking water that does not meet primary drinking water standards, and/or relying on insufficient water supply.	State and Federal Funding Agencies	232
E. Streamline the process for payment of claims for state-funded projects, so that local water providers can receive more timely reimbursement.	State Funding Agencies	232
F. Require privately owned for-profit systems to conform to all requirements (including audits and other fiscal requirements) of publicly owned systems in order to receive public funding assistance.	State Agencies	233
13.4.2 Target Outreach and Technical Assistance		
A. Local service providers should attend existing grant application workshops, including CFCC Funding Fairs, and participate in other training opportunities provided through SWRCB, CWEA, CRWA, RCAC, and other resources.	Water or wastewater system owner	234
B. Participate in Integrated Regional Water Management Planning group meetings and consider becoming an “Interested Party” or “Member” of an IRWMP group.	Water or wastewater system owner	234
C. IRWM groups should consider organizing pre-application and grant application workshops or training opportunities for DACs that are “Interested Parties” or “Members” of the IRWM group, as well as prepare and distribute outreach and educational materials to those DACs as funding from DWR is made available.	IRWM groups	235
D. Consider ways to allow communities in IRWM “white areas” (areas not currently within and IRWM group boundary) to participate in the IRWM process.	DWR, IRWM groups	236
13.5 Improve DAC Awareness and Participation		
Priority Issue: Lack of Informed, Empowered, or Engaged Residents		
13.5.1 Provide Community Outreach and Engagement		
A. Provide the community as much information as possible on potential projects, and opportunity to provide input early on in the process.	Local water or wastewater providers	237
B. Attempt to use in-person, phone or mail outreach to DAC residents as much as possible; email and website should be utilized, but are not sufficient on their own.	Local water or wastewater providers	239
C. Expand community engagement in the development of projects. Funding to facilitate community engagement should be included in project budgets and standard approved scopes of work for project development at both the planning and construction phase.	Local water or wastewater providers and State Agencies	239

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13.6 Improve Land Use Planning to Minimize Creation of New Water/Wastewater Issues		
Priority Issue: Lack of Vision and Integrated Planning to Develop Solutions		
13.6.1 Restricting Permits for Development		
A. County planning departments should require any new development near an existing system (within 1-2 miles) to evaluate the feasibility of connecting to the existing system, rather than permit the creation of a new system.	County Planning Departments, LAFCos, State Agencies	241
B. Require and actively support investment in bringing existing systems into compliance and developing long-term sustainable and affordable solutions before allowing growth, and as part of permitting growth in communities where the existing water system cannot accommodate growth due to inadequate drinking or wastewater infrastructure.	County, LAFCo	241
C. In cases where there is a moratorium on connecting to a public water system, the county should not issue a permit to drill a private well on a property within the district boundary. Additionally, public water systems should consider implementing an ordinance prohibiting new well drilling within the PWS boundary and notify the county of this ordinance.	County, local service provider	242
D. In areas where there is no existing water system infrastructure available, building permits should only be issued if adequate supply and quality from a private well is confirmed to be available. This may include installation of a viable treatment system (POU or POE) with acceptable maintenance service.	County	243
E. Provide enforcement action when people do not obtain a permit for drilling of a new well or installation of an on-site wastewater system.	County	243
13.6.2 Planning and Zoning		
A. All counties shall identify areas where new growth should be directed based on the existence of public water and sewer governance and infrastructure. Counties shall only zone for residential development where there is safe and reliable water, except in situations where there are viable plans to provide safe and reliable drinking water, and additional growth will create more economy of scale and bring a greater rate payer base that will allow for a system to be sustained.	County Planning Departments, LAFCo	243
B. The water quality from private wells shall be analyzed and any contaminants exceeding primary drinking water quality standards should be disclosed to the buyer upon sale of a property.	State Agencies, Department of Real Estate, Legislature	244

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C. Clarify conflicting policies related to farm worker housing. The policy that counties shall permit and encourage the development of sufficient farm labor housing (California Health and Safety Code Section 17021.6) can be inconsistent with the requirement to provide safe drinking water (in areas where water quality does not meet drinking water standards).	State Agencies	245
13.7 Develop & Maintain Information on DAC Water/Wastewater Needs		
Priority Issue: Lack of Information on DACs		
13.7.1 Improve Data Collection		
A. Tulare County should continue to update and maintain the database that was developed through this Study.	Tulare County (Lead), Fresno, Kern, and Kings Counties	246
B. Tulare County should track progress with respect to the priority issues identified in this Study. The current condition should be clearly identified. Monitor and measure the success of improving the circumstances through implementation of recommendations of this Study, relative condition of drinking water supplies, and condition of wastewater service.	Tulare County (Lead), Fresno, Kern, and Kings Counties	247
C. Improve County Environmental Health Department responsibilities, fee authorities, and requirements to permit and monitor on-site systems.	County Environmental Health Departments	247
13.7.2 Improve Data Management and Accessibility		
A. [See Recommendation 13.7.1.C]	County Environmental Health Departments	248
B. Develop a centralized reporting and data management system so that water supply related data can be shared and coordinated among agencies. For example, well logs retained by DWR can be correlated with water quality information retained by SWRCB. This will likely require confidentiality agreements between agencies.	State Agencies	248
C. Disclosure of water quality data – Require disclosure to the buyer of water quality on sale of property. In areas where there is a Public Water System, this may be in the form of recent Consumer Confidence Reports. For properties with private wells, this would be laboratory reports for samples collected from the private well.	State Agencies, Department of Real Estate	249