

**Tulare Kern Funding Area  
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program  
White Areas Working Group**

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**IRWM Participation Recommendations/Approaches  
For DACs and SDACs Outside an IRWM Region**

**Amend Integrated Regional Water Management Group (IRWMG) Boundaries**

- DWR currently has the wrong boundaries for the Kings Basin Water Authority on the mapping tool. Therefore, the Authority will be seeking a boundary revision. Soua (Kings Basin Water Authority) is willing to initiate discussions about potential boundaries changes. Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) that could potential benefit from the boundary amendment include the City of Lemoore and Santa Rosa Rancheria. Kings River Conservation District (KRCD) will be talking to South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency about potentially joining the Kings Basin Water Authority since the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) includes these white area communities. Incentive to the GSA is possibly one more funding opportunity.
  - General Process Overview to Amend IRWM Group Boundaries (Kings Basin Water Authority)
    - Convene working group
    - Consult the Advisory Committee
    - Seek approval from the Board of Directors
    - Initiate DWR's Regional Acceptance Process (RAP)
    - Application to IRWM (Armona previously submitted an application to the Kings Basin Water Authority). See Kings Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study.

**Engage IRWM Groups, DACs, Existing Members and Non-participating Entities**

- There is an urgent need to rebrand the IRWM program. This could be a good opportunity to discuss boundary modifications. Rebranding of the IRWM program should include an education and messaging campaign to teach new members and remind existing members of the importance of the IRWM program. The campaign must include positive messages/examples of success. It should be noted that agencies and DACs currently not covered by an IRWM region may not have enough information to make a firm/final

decision about joining an IRWM group and may need to be outreached to and engaged more than once.

### **Department of Water Resources**

- Evaluate whether DWR can secure and allocate additional funding (perhaps from other bonds and or programs) to the funding area (FA) and or provide funding/incentives to IRWM groups that agree to provide coverage to DACs in white areas.
- Clarify eligibility for DACs not covered by an IRWM region.
- Provide funding for boundary modifications that would include additional communities currently outside of an IRWM group boundary.

### **Legislature/Governor**

- Continue to invest in IRWM – allocate funding in bonds – provide separate allocations for DACs not covered by an IRWM group.
- Match local funds generated to maintain IRWM program if IRWM group is providing ongoing technical assistance to DACs
- Consider covering membership fees for DAC members (IRWM must fully include DACs and address participation barriers by establishing appropriate technical and engagement programs)

### **Local IRWMs/Funding Area**

- SHE to work with Westside San Joaquin IRWM to gauge interest in expanding existing IRWM boundaries to provide coverage to Kettleman City and Community 241.
- SHE to work with Kaweah River IRWM to gauge interest in expanding IRWM's existing boundaries to provide coverage to the City of Exeter.
- Develop outreach and messaging campaign to teach new members and remind existing members of the importance of the IRWM. This messaging memo will include positive messages/examples of success.
- Consider generating local funds to maintain spirit of IRWM – develop diverse projects and proposals. Will likely require funding to provide ongoing technical assistance to DACs.
- Track Governor Newsom's Water Resiliency Portfolio and explore ways to obtain funding to pilot a program that supports Governor's Water resilience vision.