

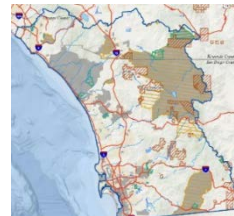
San Diego Funding Area

Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Proposal

In 2017, The San Diego Funding Area (SDFA) - San Diego, South Orange County (SOC), and Upper Santa Margarita Watershed (USMW) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Regions - submitted a proposal to the Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Involvement funds. This proposal included Planning Activities that involve DACs, economically distressed areas (EDAs), and underrepresented communities (URCs) in regional planning efforts and lay the groundwork for future implementation projects.

Program Activities

DAC Needs Assessment. This activity includes the San Diego, SOC, and USMW IRWM Regions' DAC outreach efforts to define their respective DACs, EDAs, and URCs, identify their locations, and define their water management needs. This activity will determine how to improve DAC involvement in the IRWM Program over the long-term. The DAC Needs Assessment will also include information from Local Project Sponsors (LPS) in developing needs assessments for the DACs targeted by the following Planning Activities.



Groundwater Planning for DACs and Tribes in the Anza Valley Groundwater Basin. The Ramona Band of Cahuilla has partnered with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to develop Phase I of a baseline groundwater study for the Anza-Cahuilla Groundwater Basin. The Tribe has partnered with the Anza Groundwater Association to jointly host a series of community outreach to solicit information to inform the targeted DAC needs assessment and the groundwater study. This activity builds on a prior Groundwater Study, funded through the USMW IRWM Program and conducted by USGS. In recent years, the Basin has experienced additional water demands due to increases in pumping, continued residential growth, and pending commercial development, further stressing groundwater resources. This Activity addresses rural DAC issues experienced by the overlying communities, including the need for comprehensive groundwater monitoring and modelling, and land use planning studies.

Groundwater Planning for Pauma Valley DACs and Tribes. Yuima Municipal Water District (Yuima MWD) and its local partners are leading efforts to create a more reliable drinking water supply source for the DACs in Pauma Valley. Current groundwater aquifers are depleted, putting stress on water supplies for the overlying DACs. Yuima MWD will form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the San Luis Rey Groundwater Basin as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). Yuima MWD will also consolidate with Lazy H Mutual Water Company to provide reliable infrastructure and water supply to Lazy H's current customer base of 42 parcels and 40 shareholders/property owners, which face threat of supply interruption from failing wells. Outreach will include community engagement activities for GSA formation, along with community meetings with Lazy H stakeholders to identify current issues and build support for consolidation with Yuima MWD.



Healthy Water for Forester Creek DACs. The San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) will utilize a variety of DAC involvement tools to better understand trash and dumping issues within the Forester Creek Watershed in the City of El Cajon, including the organization of a stakeholder committee and trainings to engage community volunteers in on-the-ground source identification assessments. This Activity will utilize community recommendations for preliminary design and engineering proposals, conduct community outreach and surveys to assess recreational needs, and conduct targeted surveys in Title 1 Schools in El Cajon to evaluate youth understanding of water resources issues. This Activity will contribute to improved local water quality and create a plan for

best practices to address illegal trash and dumping within the Forester Creek Watershed.

Alternative Non-Potable Water Supplies, Xeriscape Design, and Flood Prevention for DACs. Translating current research, science, and policy around alternative non-potable reuse into designs that can be permitted, effectively managed, and useful to residents in DACs and publicly-supported housing is particularly challenging. Through a community "weaving" process, Activity partners will work within existing organizations and structures in the targeted DACs to solicit input, disseminate information, and build community understanding and use of non-potable supplies. Through this activity, the University of California San Diego – San Diego Bioregional Center for Sustainability Science, Planning and Design, along with the San Diego Housing Commission, will engage organizations that work in DACs to identify opportunities for non-potable water use within DACs of the cities of San Diego, Imperial Beach, and Chula Vista, and address core challenges for bringing water resource resilience to these areas.





Sediment Management for Tijuana River Valley DACs. California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA State Parks) will provide the final planning and design elements needed for restoration of the Nelson Sloan Quarry - a project that seeks to fill an abandoned sand and gravel quarry in the Tijuana River Valley and restore it to native habitat through beneficial re-use of sediment. The Tijuana River Valley has a long history of water quality and flooding issues which affect many downstream communities including DACs. This activity will result in a coordinated plan for beneficial reuse of the excavated sediments from the Valley, and supports development of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS)

and permitting for implementation of the plan. Outreach to DACs affected by sedimentation and flooding of the Tijuana River Valley will solicit feedback from these communities during the development of Activity deliverables.

Storm Water Quality for Grape Day Park DACs. The 7-mile long concrete Escondido Flood Control Channel currently bifurcates neighborhoods and affects property values and the quality of life for nearby DAC residents in the City of Escondido. The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) aims to develop a pilot restoration project to 30% design. The pilot restoration project would showcase a restored Escondido Creek at Grape Day Park, a major greenspace within the City. This will be accomplished by providing water quality, hydrologic/hydraulic, geomorphic, sediment transport and biological analyses for opportunities to integrate habitat restoration, including floodplain expansion, water quality enhancement and potential MS4 Alternative Compliance within the quarter-mile site. TECC has partnered with Encuentros, which will lead stakeholder meetings and develop and implement a Conservation Fellows program for high school and college-aged youths from DACs in Escondido. Conservation Fellows will be involved in all aspects of this Activity and be exposed to potential future career paths and opportunities.



Storm Water Quality for Paradise Valley DACs. The City of National City has partnered with the City of San Diego to treat and direct stormwater runoff along Paradise Valley Road within a DAC in National City. This activity will reduce flood risks from the existing creek's undersized capacity for the 100-year storm event, include a bioswale and dry extended detention basin to improve surface water quality and flood conveyance, reduce illegal dumping and trash by installing fences and signage that prohibits such activity, improve recreational space by providing a well-lit educational walking path for the community, and provide education and outreach by distributing mailers and flyers to inform residents of the improvements and new educational pathway. The City will host community meetings to inform DACs about stormwater management and will host Focus Groups to solicit input on creek improvements. This Activity will also plan a community

engagement day for volunteer creek cleanup.

Storm Water Quality for Escondido Creek DACs. The Spruce Street Drainage of Escondido Creek, which runs through a DAC, has a long history of flooding and being chronically wet with standing water (facilitating breeding habitat for mosquitoes). The City of Escondido seeks to complete project plans for the Spruce Street Drainage and Escondido Creek. In addition to development of educational materials, DAC outreach will include discussion of this Activity in DAC Neighborhood Group meetings, and organizing a pilot creek cleanup with at-risk youth and DAC residents. Activity goals include completing the engineering design and permitting process for construction projects to resolve water quality, vector control and flooding issues while creating additional habitat.



Storm Water Quality for Chollas Creek DACs. This activity is sponsored by Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek and focuses on de-channelizing Chollas Creek to remove impervious surfaces and vegetation overgrowth within the creek channel along Federal Blvd. This will improve water quality and reduce high volume surface run-off, while a new trail segment on the project site will augment recreation spaces and connect communities to the emerging Chollas Creek Watershed Regional Park. The Activity will also focus on a conservation easement in an effort to achieve site control on 1.2 acres of creek for the purposes of nonnative vegetation removal, security, habitat, and water quality improvement. Community input will be gathered at three design workshops with stakeholders. In addition, the Webster Community Council (which promotes welfare of community

and citizens within the activity area) will participate in trail design and provide input on interpretive signage and trail user amenities. The project is located within the Encanto CPA, which is one of the most culturally diverse communities in the City of San Diego, where nearly 60% of the population speaks a language other than English at home.