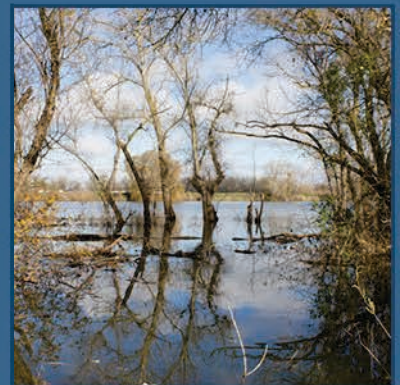


APPENDIX E

Disadvantaged Community and
Environmental Justice
Outreach Report



Appendix E. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH REPORT

This outreach report outlines efforts to date (and planned for the future) with disadvantaged communities (DAC) as well as efforts to address related environmental justice (EJ) issues. The current California Department of Water Resources (DWR) guidelines for Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding, allocated through voter-approved Propositions 84 and 1E, identify statewide priorities, among which is a goal to “ensure equitable distribution of benefits.” For implementation grants, DWR has prioritized proposals that:

- Increase the participation of small communities and DACs in the IRWM process
- Develop multi-benefit projects with consideration of affected DACs and vulnerable populations
- Address safe drinking water and wastewater treatment needs of DACs

This American River Basin (ARB) Outreach Report documents the outreach efforts to characterize and fulfill these goals. DACs benefit from outreach efforts due to improved understanding of what potential ARB projects may help meet critical DAC needs. This report is an appendix to the ARB Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and substantially references that document.

E.1. Introduction and Definitions

The goal of ARB DAC-related efforts has been to conduct outreach with DACs and gain their meaningful participation in the IRWM process. This section introduces and defines the terms DAC, federal poverty level, and EJ.

E.1.1. DAC Definition

DAC is a term defined by the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 75005(g): “Disadvantaged community” means a community with a median household income (MHI) of less than 80 percent of the statewide average. “Severely disadvantaged community” means a community with a MHI of less than 60 percent of the statewide average. The California PRC is not specific as to how DACs are delineated, so different methods of determining the boundaries of a DAC can be considered valid by DWR.

In general, the delineation of DACs has been by determined by U.S. Census tract, as data and boundaries are available. For the purpose of IRWMPs, a Census tract with an annual MHI less than \$48,706 is considered to be DAC (derived from an average of the 5-year period, 2006-2010). To analyze regional

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DACs, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data of MHI and the populations of each Census tract in the ARB Region were downloaded from DWR's Web site.¹ Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county that are designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions.

The downloaded data are presented in **Figure E-1** and summarized in **Table E-1**. **Figure E-1** illustrates the Census DAC boundaries overlaid by water supply agency jurisdiction.

¹ <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>

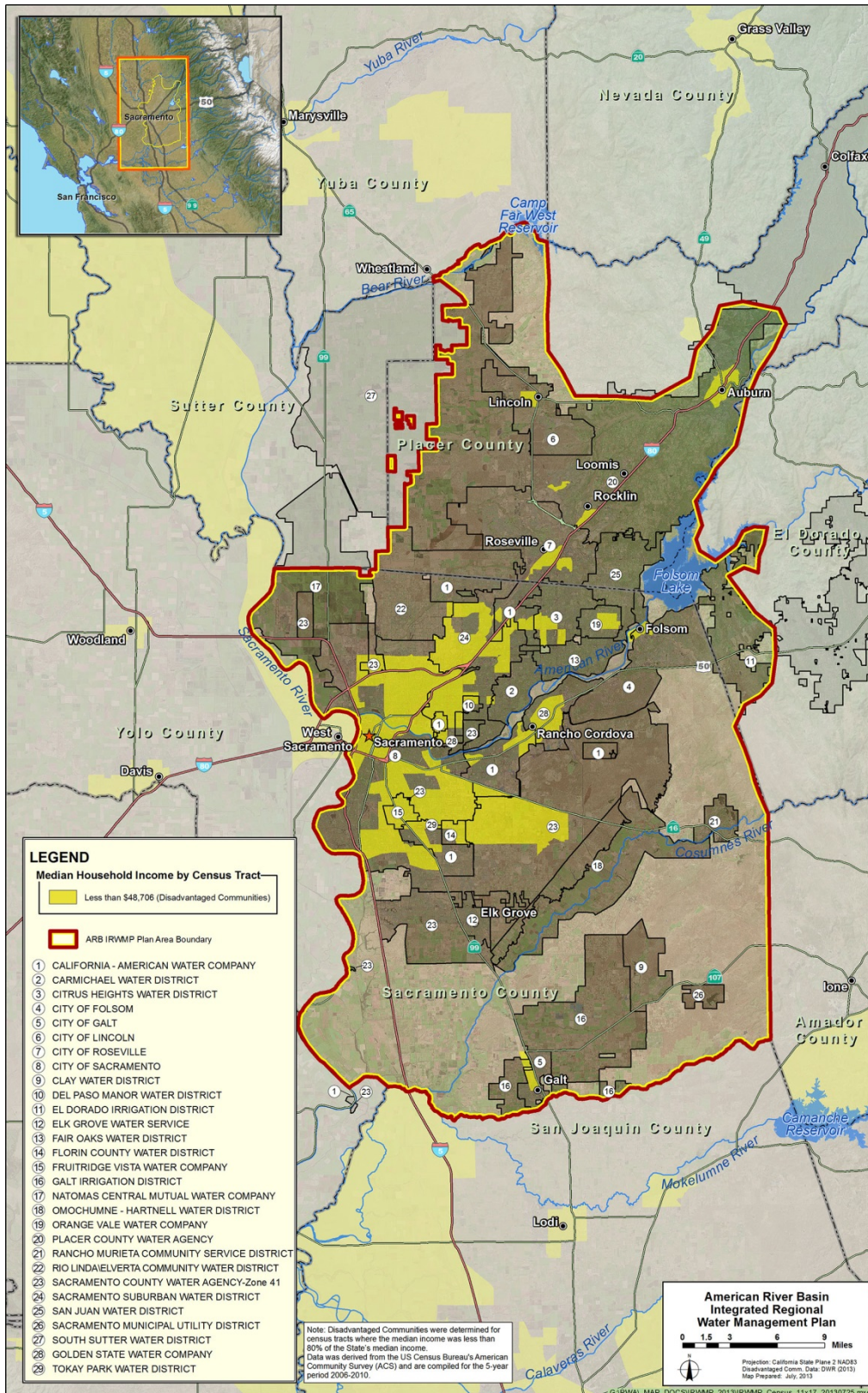


Figure E-1. DACs in the ARB Region

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The data presented in **Table E-1** include all Census tracts that overlap the ARB Region, and thus slightly overestimate the total population. The data show that slightly less than 30 percent of the population lives in DACs, as defined by tract MHI

Table E-1. Summary of DAC Data in the ARB Region

Total Population of Tracts Overlapping the ARB Region	Total Population of DAC Tracts	Percentage of Population living in DACs
1,738,876	502,938	28.9%

Data Source: U.S. Census 2010 as presented by DWR 2013a

Key:

ARB = American River Basin

DAC = disadvantaged community

E.1.2. Federal Poverty Level Definition

Another useful definition related to DACs is federal poverty. The federal poverty guidelines are also based on income but consider the threshold at which families are lacking sufficient resources to meet basic needs for food, shelter, and clothing. **Table E-2** illustrates the 2013 federal poverty guidelines. Federal poverty guidelines represent an income significantly less than the median income used under the California DAC definition. For this reason, poverty estimates will result in fewer people numerically than DAC numbers. However, the federal poverty numbers are more commonly used in demographic studies and are very helpful for analyzing trends in different locations throughout the nation.

Table E-2. 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$11,490
2	\$15,510
3	\$19,530
4	\$23,550
5	\$27,570
6	\$31,590
7	\$35,610
8	\$39,630

Data Source: Health and Human Services Department. Federal Register, Vol.78, No.16, January 24, 2013, pp. 5182-5183

Note: Add \$4,020 for each additional person.

E.1.3. Environmental Justice Definition

Another useful concept related and important to DACs is EJ. As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, “Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

The focus on outreach to DACs is of particular importance in IRWM programs to address EJ concerns. In some parts of California, DACs are underserved by water infrastructure or disproportionately impacted by negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies. For this reason, special emphasis is placed on ensuring DACs have an opportunity for meaningful involvement in the IRWM planning process.

E.2. DAC-Related Demographics

Understanding the demographic characteristics of DACs within the ARB Region is important to determine their needs and concerns as well as the appropriate ways to address them. Most of the demographics data presented in the following sections are presented by county. The ARB Region encompasses most of Sacramento County but only some western portions of Placer County and a very minor portion of El Dorado County. The ARB Region was defined, in part, dependent on the extent of urbanized areas. While information for all three counties is presented, Sacramento County demographics may be the most representative of the ARB Region as a whole. **Table E-3** provides an overview of information about the three counties in the ARB Region.

Table E-3. 2007-2011 County Quick Facts

Factor	El Dorado	Placer	Sacramento
Percent persons below federal poverty level	8.4%	7.20%	14.90%
Median household income	\$68,815	\$74,645	\$56,553
Median value owner-occupied housing	\$409,400	\$387,400	\$285,000
Persons per household	2.6	2.61	2.7
Percent high school diploma (age 25+)	93.0%	93.4%	85.2%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher (age 25+)	30.8%	34.6%	27.7%
Persons per square mile	106.0	247.6	1,470.8

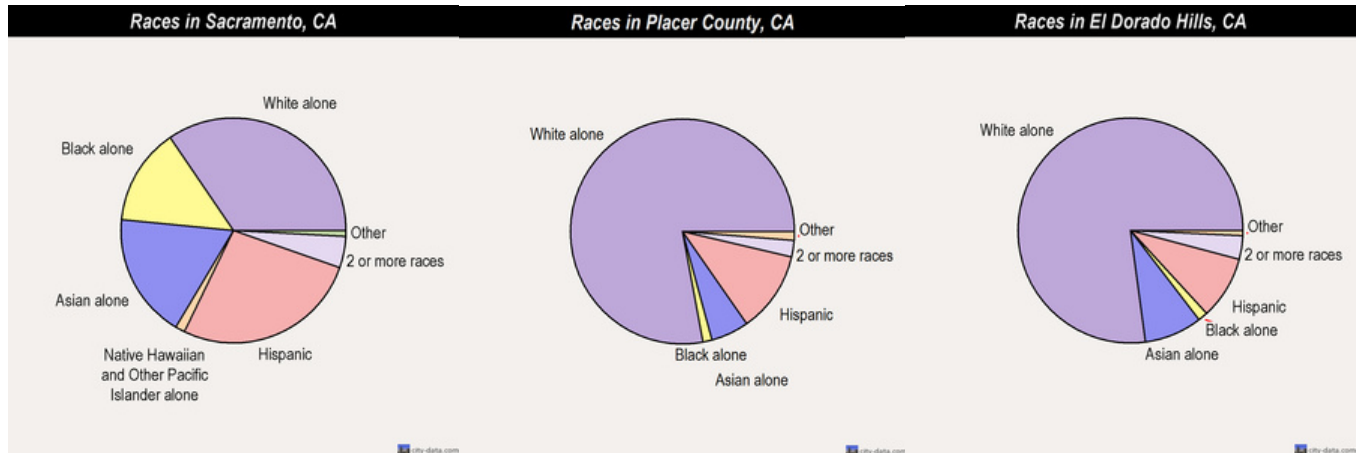
Data Source: U.S. Census 2012

E.2.1. Race and Poverty

The ARB Region is extremely diverse, with Sacramento being the most diverse of the counties. While diversity per se is not an indicator of DAC/EJ needs, it does require special consideration for outreach to ensure that information is relevant and populations have opportunities to participate in meaningful community decision making.

Figure E-2 illustrates race as a percentage of total population by county.

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Race	Sacramento County	Placer County	El Dorado County
White alone	37.8%	78.1%	77.1%
Hispanic or Latino	25.1%	11.8%	9.0%
Asian alone	18.0%	5.3%	8.3%
Black alone	13.2%	1.4%	1.4%
Two or more races	3.5%	2.2%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone	1.2%	N/A	0.2%
American Indian alone	0.5%	0.7%	N/A

Data Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2008, www.city-data.com

Key:

N/A = not applicable

Figure E-2. Race as a Percentage of Total Population by County

People of color make up more than 50 percent of Sacramento County’s population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by African Americans. In Sacramento County, a disproportionate number of people of color live below the federal poverty level. **Table E-4** illustrates the relative numbers of the population.

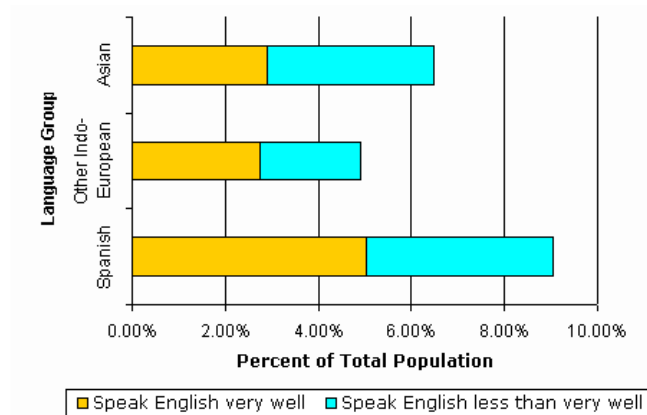
Table E-4. 2006 Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in Sacramento County

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Population	Percent of Total Population Below Poverty
African American	13.2%	23.7%
Latino	25.1%	19.5%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.5%	20.9%
Asian	18.0%	20.3%
White	37.8%	11.4%

Data Source: California Department of Health Services. Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2006, <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/pubsforms/Pubs/OHIRdatasummariesCA2006.pdf>

E.2.2. Languages

While an overwhelming majority of ARB Region residents are fluent in English, multiple languages are also spoken in the Region. **Figure E-3** illustrates primary language spoken as a percent of total population in the Sacramento metropolitan area, which includes urbanized areas in Placer County. This figure also displays what percentages of those foreign language speakers do not speak English very well. This language diversity is expected to have increased in the past decade.



Data Source: Social Science Data Analysis Network 2000, CensusScope.org

Figure E-3. Foreign Language Groups in the Sacramento Region in Year 2000

The following list further describes the linguistic diversity in Sacramento County.

- More than 30 percent of people in Sacramento County speak a language other than English at home (This compares to El Dorado County at 12.4 percent and Placer County at 14.2 percent.) (Social Science Data Analysis Network 2000).
- There are more than fifty-three language groups represented by students in Sacramento County.
- There are more than 1,000 students in each of Sacramento County’s largest seven non-English language groups.
 - Spanish or Spanish Creole
 - Other European languages

- Other Asian or Asian Pacific blend languages
 - Slavic languages
 - Chinese
 - Tagalog
 - Vietnamese
- The remaining 17.5 percent of the English learner population² speak more than 50 other languages, but have fewer than 990 students in each group.

In general, readers of the ARB IRWMP are fluent in English; however, multiple languages are spoken in the Region. This illustrates that depending on project type and location, consideration should be given, on a case-by-case basis, as to the extent other language communication will be needed for non-English speaking stakeholders. For example, public health outreach materials produced by Sacramento County are translated to five languages. Some Sacramento area community service providers provide language assistance for up to 10 languages. While language diversity per se is not an indicator of DAC/EJ needs, it does indicate that special consideration for outreach may be required to ensure that populations have opportunities to participate in community decision making.

E.2.3. Age

Figure E-4 shows the percentage distribution of the Region's residents by age (U.S. Census 2010c). The data indicate that El Dorado and Placer counties both have a higher percentage of population age 65 and older as compared to Sacramento County. The figure also indicates that Sacramento County is home to a larger percentage of younger residents.

² The official state English learner count for 2010-2011 was derived from two separate data collections. School districts submitted and certified data through the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Spring 1 student-level data collection, and provided additional information on the Language Census.

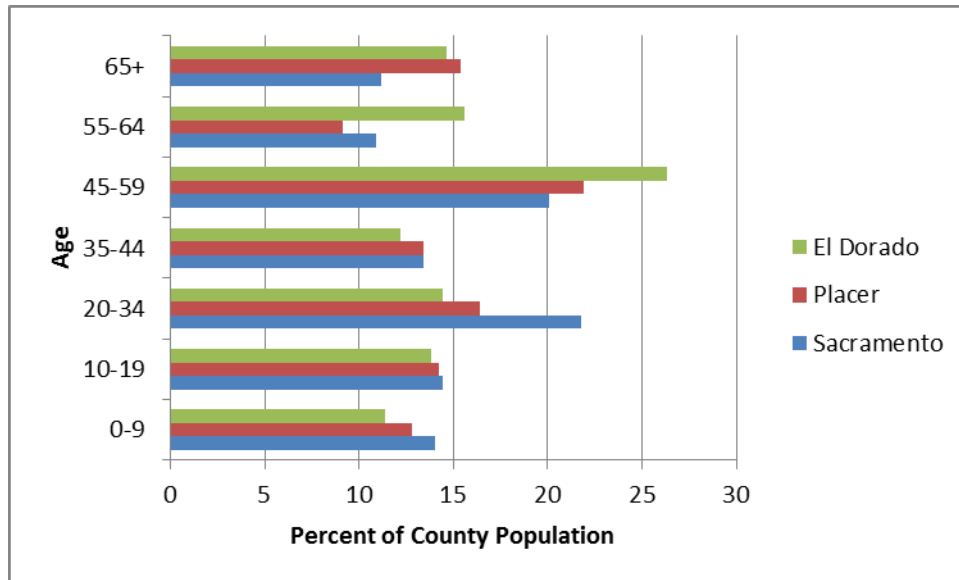


Figure E-4. Age Distribution by County

Age is relevant because it correlates with:

- Income brackets
- Preferences that drive priorities for infrastructure improvements (e.g., a desire for more community amenities)
- Low tolerance to change due to fixed incomes
- Lack of physical mobility to react to and to recover from natural disasters

The relationship between age, income, and vulnerability can be complex. The highest income earning years are considered to be ages 45 to 54, with second highest ranges being the five years before 45 and after 54 years old. However, older segments of the population in retirement can be more susceptible to economic fluctuations or unforeseen natural disasters, and have a much more difficult time recovering due to set incomes. A report by AARP’s³ Public Policy Institute (Trawinski 2012) found that the fastest growing segment of the population in foreclosure or at risk of foreclosure is people older than 50. Serious mortgage delinquency in that age group increased 456 percent between 2007 and 2011. According to AARP, the age 75 and older demographic is the fastest growing population, and two out of three have no money in retirement saving accounts. Over the past 5 years, housing counselors at the Greater Sacramento Urban League have seen an increase of people who are retired or of retirement age seeking their help.

³ AARP changed its name in 1999 from the American Association of Retired Persons to just four letters: AARP.

This combination of age-specific needs for water-related amenities and higher vulnerability to change (e.g., rate increases and flood events) implies that age demographics should be a consideration in water management planning.

E.3. DACs/EJ Water-Related Concerns

This section describes the nature and severity of impacts of the housing market, drinking water, and flood risk concerns of DACs and other identified vulnerable groups within the ARB Region. The demographic characteristics explained in **Section E.2** are intricately tied with the identified vulnerabilities and, on a case basis, justify the need for targeted outreach to these stakeholders. Other water management aspects, such as wastewater service and environmental resources issues are not specifically applicable to just DACs. In the ARB Region, the same wastewater agencies serve both DAC and non-DAC areas. Environmental resources concerns relate to the habitats and species of watersheds, which are again, non-DAC specific issues.

E.3.1. DACs/EJ, Housing Market, and Water Utilities

The Sacramento region was subject to disproportionate impacts from the housing foreclosure crisis starting in 2007, due to the rapidly expanding real estate market that preceded the economic downturn. According to an August 2012 evaluation of Federal Housing Finance Agency reports by the Sacramento Bee, since 1976, the Sacramento housing market has experienced three distinct booms and busts, each one increasing in intensity (Sangree and Reese 2012).

Sangree and Reese described the most recent economic crisis as follows.

“Spurred by easy credit and subprime lending, Sacramento home prices soared 135 percent after being adjusted for inflation, compared to a 50 percent increase nationwide. So far during the bust, home prices have fallen 53 percent. The average drop across the United States has been about 25 percent.”

These boom and bust cycles have disproportionately affected the Sacramento area and have DAC/EJ impacts. Beyond the clear, extensive economic consequences for many regional residents who lose their homes, these cycles have created infrastructure impacts. Empty housing tracts have stranded the area’s utilities with no customer base, increasing utility costs for remaining residences and rate payers. This marginal cost increase would be a strain on DACs with less financial stability and resources.

Further, as the overall revenues of these utilities decrease, operation and maintenance of important structures, as well as any planned updates, improvements, and expansions are put on hold. This is not a

sustainable revenue state for those utilities, if the housing market does not recover, and DACs would be one of the most vulnerable groups to decreases in public utility services. This relationship between DACs, housing market, and utilities is relevant for water supply, wastewater, and flood management agencies as well as municipal services reliant on a tax base.

E.3.2. DACs/EJ and Drinking Water

Most of the ARB Region overlies the North American, South American, or the Cosumnes groundwater subbasin and receives water supply, directly or indirectly, from the American, Sacramento and Cosumnes rivers. These common water supply sources, and related water supply issues and physical features, link the ARB stakeholders together and make the Region appropriate for integrated regional water planning and management.

Unlike some parts of the state, the DACs in the Region are not isolated communities with particular water supply or quality concerns (for example, the Central Valley community of Allensworth is isolated with few alternatives to its high-arsenic groundwater supply). The water supply and water quality needs of DACs in the ARB Region are generally served effectively by water agency efforts to provide high-quality water supplies to their entire service area (see **Figure E-1**) and through the regional planning efforts described in the main IRWMP document. Under this structure, DACs are represented through their elected representatives to water district boards, city councils, and county boards of supervisors.

That said, some DACs or individuals that would be considered disadvantaged reside in very small pockets of the Region, served by a small water system and/or private wells. A small water system is defined as a water system for human consumption that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. This includes collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities. In addition to the classification as a small system, use types are divided into the following:

- A **Community Water System** is a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-long residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-long residents of the area served by the system.
- A **Non-Transient, Non-Community Water System** is a public water system that is not a community water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons during 6 months of the year.
- A **Transient Non-Community Water System** is a non-community water system that does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons during 6 months of the year.

Areas of special consideration include schools serviced by these systems, due to the characteristics of the population at risk. Other special situations include facilities such as truck stops or tourist locations, where exposure to substandard supply and sanitation may be minimal for most users but not all. In the ARB Region, issues with small systems water supply and sanitation are generally related to substandard, aging infrastructure, rather than larger regional issues.

The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is involved with permitting, inspecting, and monitoring of 154 small public water systems. In Placer County, there are 158 small systems, which include some systems outside of the ARB Region in the Tahoe-Sierra or Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) IRWM regions. El Dorado County monitors 175 small systems, most of which are outside of the ARB Region in the Tahoe-Sierra or CABY IRWM regions as well.

Some of those small systems servicing mobile home parks and developments, particularly in the area of Auburn, are in DAC areas. Other small systems are primarily isolated facilities such as California Department of Transportation rest stops or campgrounds. There are no reported problems from any of these locations; however, monitoring will continue to determine if locations exist with specific issues that should be considered at the IRWMP level.

E.3.3. DACs/EJ and Flood Risk

Although water supply and water quality are not significant ARB Region DAC factors, flood risk is. Recent reports on Central Valley flooding found that the current flood control system in the Region is incapable of handling the threat of severe flood, thus, exposing urban areas to considerable risk. Multiple sources consider Sacramento to be the nation's most vulnerable large urban area in the United States to catastrophic flooding. Reviews of catastrophic flood events have found a disproportionate impact on low-income communities related to flood risk. As was demonstrated during flood events related to Hurricane Katrina, a lack of resources hindered the ability of the community to evacuate as well as to recover.

To examine the relationship between flood risk and DACs, social vulnerability factors were considered. These factors were developed by researchers specifically studying levee failures and social vulnerability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) region. In the following two sections, the concept of social vulnerability is explained first, followed by a DAC flood risk description for the ARB Region.

E.3.3.1. Social Vulnerability

In their 2008 paper, *Levee Failures and Social Vulnerability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Area, California*, Christopher Burton and Susan L. Cutter examined the social vulnerability of residents to potential levee failures in the Delta region. To assess the differential social consequences of flooding, a

social vulnerability index was computed at the Census tract level for San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Yolo counties.

For the study, Burton and Cutter defined vulnerability as the potential for loss, involving a combination of factors that determine the degree to which a person's life or livelihood is put at risk by a particular event. They cite research that indicates that "differences according to wealth, gender, race and class, history, and sociopolitical organization influence the patterns of disaster damages, mortality, and the ability of communities to reconstruct following a disaster. These factors also produce variations in vulnerability among groups of people and between places."

The researchers weighted and ranked the following nine primary factors for social vulnerability in the Delta region.

- Socioeconomic status equivalent to poverty
- Race/ethnicity of Hispanic
- Age class of elderly
- Development density
- Renters
- Females
- Race of African American/Asian
- Race of Native Americans
- Health care institutions

Poverty is the primary driver (nearly 25 percent of the overall social vulnerability factor), followed by race/ethnicity and age. These three factors combined contribute to 50 percent of the overall index. In addition to a lack of resources to respond to and recover from flood events, housing for the poor may not be adequately maintained or conform to building standards. Standard mitigation measures (such as flood proofing) may be out of reach. The poor also have higher mortality rates.

Greater vulnerability related to race and ethnicity, particularly for the Hispanic population, was associated with a lack of access to resources due to language, culture, and educational levels. As noted earlier, economic marginalization is also associated with regional racial and ethnic disparities. For example, there are higher proportions of this population in low-wage agricultural employment and rural populations.

Age was found to be a significant factor because the elderly may have mobility concerns or constraints increasing the burden of care and reducing resilience. This group is also more likely to have a fixed income.

Burton and Cutter developed a map displaying the different levels of social vulnerability by Census tract, which can be directly applied to the ARB Region.

E.3.3.2. Social Vulnerability and Flood Risk in the ARB Region

The social vulnerability information as defined by Burton and Cutter were examined in relation to potential flood depth data. When the data are integrated, there is a clustering of high social vulnerability zones within Sacramento's high-risk flood areas, which also nest in the ARB Region DAC areas. **Figure E-5** illustrates the extent to which areas exposed to flooding are also socially vulnerable according to the social vulnerability index. The black and white map is from the Burton and Cutter report. The colored map is from the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and illustrates the flood depths that would result in the event of a failure of the levee systems protecting the Sacramento area. The two red circles highlight the Greenhaven-Pocket/South Sacramento area in Sacramento County to provide a common reference point. The maps show that a significant portion of Sacramento's socially vulnerable population is at risk of flooding in the event of a levee failure. Within the ARB Region, Sacramento County contains the highest proportion of the DAC population at risk from flooding.

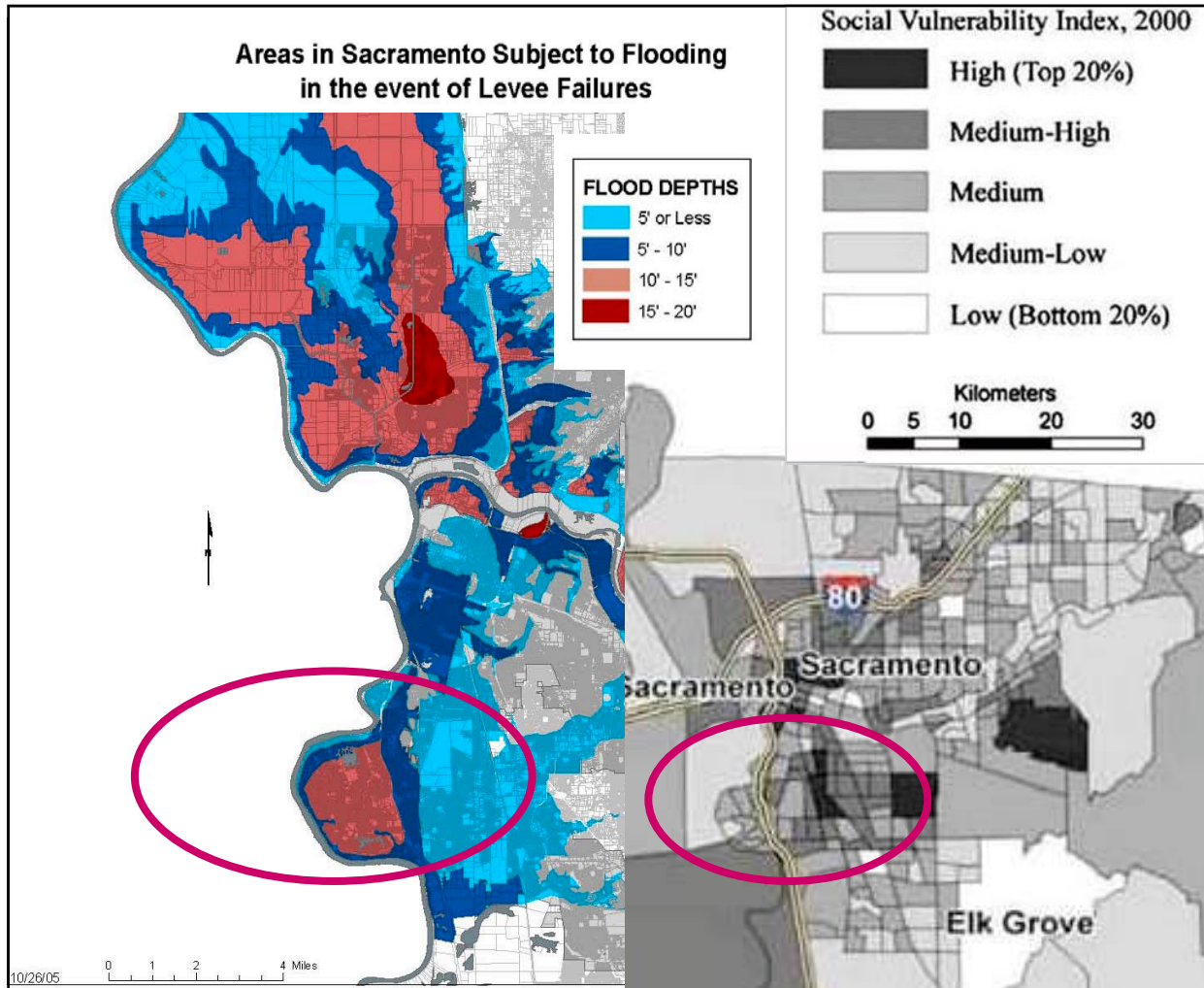


Figure E-5. Flood and Social Vulnerability

SAFCA is the flood agency in the Sacramento area that addresses Sacramento area's vulnerability to catastrophic flooding. Their jurisdiction includes those DACs throughout much of Sacramento County, and their projects benefit all residents, including those of DACs. SAFCA is an active stakeholder in the ARB IRWM process, as are representatives of several of its board members. SAFCA also works closely with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), state, regional, and local officials to consider DAC/EJ needs in project planning. SAFCA is undertaking a comprehensive program of flood protection projects that will reduce flood risk throughout its jurisdiction for DAC and non-DAC households alike.

E.4. DAC Outreach Within the IRWM Process

This section describes the ARB Region's approach and effort to communicate and coordinate with DACs and to consider DAC concerns for the IRWMP. This section begins with an overview of the general stakeholder participation in the ARB Region and then characterizes the ARB framework for DAC outreach, which has been implemented.

E.4.1. Overview of ARB Stakeholder Participation

The ARB Region is committed to stakeholder participation. Any stakeholder or any person of the public is welcome to participate in the ARB Planning Forum, where s/he can play a role in developing the IRWMP. The public process is open, inclusive, and welcoming to participants. Meetings are held in both large- and small-group formats and in different locations to accommodate participation. Stakeholders are invited to join a notification list for meetings and events. A virtual community has been set up Online, called Opti or the Web portal, where stakeholders can also interact with each other and post relevant announcements and materials. The 2013 ARB IRWMP is also available publically Online.

Stakeholders with plans or ideas for water management projects with potential multiple benefits, including those for DACs/EJ communities, are encouraged to share them with other stakeholders in the ARB Region. Since the IRWMP is a living document, project descriptions are welcome anytime for consideration to be added to the IRWMP. The only limitation is that to be eligible, projects must have a direct relationship to water resources.

Following are some of the individuals and organizations participating in the ARB planning process.

- Members of the public at large
- Neighboring IRWMP representatives
- Environmental and watershed groups
- Local, state, and federal governments
- Local water supply, wastewater, and flood agencies
- Business interests
- Agricultural interests
- Tribal interests
- Academics
- Community groups
- EJ groups
- DAC representatives

E.4.2. The ARB Region's DAC Outreach Approach

Outreach is needed to encourage stakeholders of underrepresented groups (such as DACs) to feel welcome and to participate in the above described stakeholder driven IRWMP processes. Outreach is most effective when the unique characteristics of each community are considered. The goal is for DACs to be engaged in meaningful partnership with other ARB IRWMP stakeholders, agencies, or resource managers. Traditional outreach is replaced with an approach that engages the entire community through its most active members. This approach promotes no preconceived project concepts and is driven by participation. In a given community, the ideal outreach partner is a community leader such as a pastor, businessperson, local civic leader, or the head of a local utility.

The following general approach to DAC outreach was developed to support the ARB IRWM effort. Each step is described in further detail in the following sections.

1. Determine existing DAC interests and efforts within Regional Water Management Group (RWMG)⁴ members (Regional Water Authority [RWA] members) and leverage efforts in support of the IRWMP.
2. Determine existing DAC interests and efforts within ARB stakeholder groups that can be leveraged to support outreach and involvement.
3. Prepare and maintain a DAC contact and mailing list to encourage participation.
4. Encourage ARB stakeholders and project proponents to identify project(s) with the potential to address DAC needs.
5. Provide RWA staff and/or members as speakers for any interested community group that would like to know more about the IRWMP and/or DAC participation.
6. Invite DAC representatives to participate in stakeholder meetings and events.

Step 1. Determine existing DAC interests and efforts within RWMG members.

The initial step was to determine if existing DAC outreach efforts by RWA members could be leveraged to provide additional DAC participation in the IRWM process. The goal was to not duplicate efforts and to improve efficiencies.

⁴ Regional Water Management Group is the entity responsible for and approved by DWR to lead the IRWMP process. In the ARB Region, RWA assumed the role of the RWMG.

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Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Outreach Report

An outreach inventory to identify potential DAC outreach partners was conducted. A limitation of this step was that not all regional DAC locations are served by RWMG members; however, the Region intends to provide this report and conduct outreach with non-RWMG member agencies and with each county’s public health department to help identify additional potential DAC issues and create opportunities for engagement.

For the majority of the RWMG members, service and infrastructure are at an equal level among DAC and non-DAC areas. Exceptions have been previously noted. Water affordability is a macro DAC issue. Of the inventoried agencies, several offered rate payer assistance. For the remaining agencies, significant limitations exist in being able to provide life-line or other reduced rates as a result of Proposition 218, which limits use of ratepayer funds. Of the 19 RWMG members inventoried, few had active programs specifically addressing DAC issues. **Table E-5** lists inventoried agencies providing some form of assistance or outreach to DACs.

Table E-5. Survey of RWMG Water Agencies with DAC Efforts

Agency	Type of DAC Effort
California American Water	Provides information on the CARE program, which provides a reduced straight rate for low-income households. The reduced rates are approved by the California Public Utilities Commission.
City of Sacramento	Has programs to extend the fee deferral period for affordable housing developments. Provides sewer credits to 200 affordable housing units annually, and improves the quality of rental housing in the city through an inspection program.
El Dorado Irrigation District	Has a Helping Hands program where employees and customers can donate money to a pool that can be used to help a customer pay their bill after a one-time catastrophic event. Applicants for the Helping Hands program are approved through El Dorado County. The amount varies on a case-by-case basis.
Golden State Water Company	Works with the community council, but does not reach out to specific DAC organizations. They do provide reduced rates, which are based on household income, and are 15 percent off regular rates. The rates are approved by the California Public Utilities Commission.
City of Roseville	Used to have a lifeline rate program, but after a Proposition 218 review, no longer provides them. City of Roseville has identified a rehabilitation need in their DAC area. The project would be to replace water lines, which would increase the fire-fighting capacity in the area of the project.
Sacramento County Water Agency	Works with the communities of Hood and Walnut Grove on their water quality issues (iron and manganese issues in Hood and arsenic issues in Walnut Grove). SCWA also has a deferral and waiver program for development fees (used toward infrastructure costs) for new low-income housing developments. There are also some areas (documented in the Sacramento General Plan) that have poor water/sewer/storm drainage infrastructure that inhibit development and redevelopment.

Table E-5. Survey of RWMG Water Agencies with DAC Efforts (contd.)

Agency	Type of DAC Effort
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	Has a sewer lifeline program. Based on household income, SRCSD provides reduced rates (\$8.33 per household per month versus approximately \$20). Approximately 13,300 low-income customers are currently taking advantage of this program.
Sacramento Suburban Water District	Applies a lifeline rate to the first 10 units of water per billing cycle (1 unit = 100 cubic feet). The price per unit increases after the first 10 units are used. This program is available to all customers due to the passage of Proposition 218.

Key:
 DAC = disadvantaged community
 GSWC = Golden State Water Company
 RWA = Regional Water Authority
 SCWA = Sacramento County Water Agency
 SRCSD = Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

RWA members include non-water supply agencies, one of which is Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). SMUD also provides programs to assist DACs. SMUD provides direct rate reduction to low-income ratepayers based on income thresholds.⁵ Other programs offer low or no interest loans to support installation of energy-saving appliances and housing amenities. SMUD also works with non-profit organizations such as the Community Resource Project and The Salvation Army to provide broader support for housing-related concerns. These programs all saw increases in enrollments during the recent recession and regional housing foreclosure crisis. SMUD has indicated a willingness to support ARB DAC/EJ outreach efforts as appropriate. SMUD’s non-profit partners are included on the DAC/EJ outreach lists.

Step 2. Determine existing DAC interests and efforts within ARB stakeholder groups.

Another goal was to identify ARB stakeholders and organizations with known DAC efforts. Civic and EJ organizations were first identified as a potential source of DAC representatives and as an audience for IRWM input. Next, a desk analysis of other ARB regional programs was conducted to determine what, if any, disparate effects would occur to those programs as a result of poverty and/or a lack of social equity. The ARB Region also considered to what extent the outreach efforts of these related programs could be leveraged for the ARB IRWMP. Two particular efforts are explained: (1) programs of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and (2) the 2010 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) (a community health assessment).

Civic and EJ Organizations

The civic organizations evaluated as potential DAC outreach partners included 14 local Chamber of Commerces and four related organizations.

⁵ <https://www.smud.org/en/residential/customer-service/rate-information/low-income-assistance.htm>

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- Sacramento Metro Chamber Of Commerce
- Citrus Heights Regional Chamber Of Commerce
- Carmichael Chamber Of Commerce
- El Dorado County Chamber Of Commerce
- Folsom Chamber Of Commerce
- Fair Oaks Chamber Of Commerce
- Lincoln Area Chamber Of Commerce
- Orangevale Chamber Of Commerce
- Placer County Chamber Of Commerce
- Rio Linda/Elverta Chamber Of Commerce
- Roseville Chamber Of Commerce
- Sacramento Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce
- Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber Of Commerce
- Sacramento Black Chamber Of Commerce
- Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
- California Legislative Black Caucus
- California Latino Legislative Caucus
- Greater Sacramento Urban League

While a large number of the organizations were engaged in civic activities related to DAC issues, none of the organizations had activities related to water concerns. That said, these organizations may provide good outreach venues to disseminate IRWM information that is suitable for DAC and non-DAC audiences.

Six organizations with a specific emphasis on EJ issues were also evaluated as potential partners.

- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- California League Of Conservation Voters
- Envirojustice

- Clean Water Act's Safe Drinking Water For The Central Valley Campaign
- Sacramento Environmental Commission
- Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

Each of these organizations was found to have a least some program or effort that may be leveraged to engage stakeholders.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments

The ARB Region is contained within the SACOG footprint. SACOG is an association of local governments in the six-county Sacramento region. Its members include the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba, as well as 22 cities within those counties. SACOG provides transportation planning and funding for its area, and serves as a forum for the study and for resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the area's long-range transportation plan, SACOG approves the distribution of affordable housing in the area and assists in planning for transit, bicycle networks, clean air, and airport land uses.

SACOG is required by the terms of many of its grants to have specific programs and outreach targeting DAC/EJ populations. As a result, it has compiled and evaluated data to determine communities with special needs and conducted focus groups to learn more about those communities. SACOG has also established an Equity, Housing and Health Working Group. The Equity, Housing and Health Working Group first looked at how transportation planning and development around quality transit can improve social and economic equity in the area, and discussed equity considerations for Transit Priority Area selection during the first part of the project. The group also discussed affordable and fair housing issues. Although the group has not been active recently, a briefing or other outreach is likely to be fruitful.

SACOG has conducted some outreach to learn about the concerns of low-income communities. During a March 2011 workshop, participants listed 53 community concerns ranging from housing affordability and the need for trees to health care, jobs, and crime. Interestingly and consistent with the overall analysis in this outreach report, issues regarding water and sanitation were not raised. However, of the 53 topics, some of the following related issues could be considered as relevant to the IRWMP:

- Need for an equity framework to understand where people are disproportionately disadvantaged on a variety of issues, e.g., bad food, poor air quality, lack of transportation choices
- DAC use of infrastructure, such as railroad rights-of-way, levees, aqueducts, and flood control channels for bike and pedestrian trails independent of vehicle traffic
- Homeless population management

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- Meeting the needs of rapidly aging communities
- A desire for extra points in grant applications for projects promoting equity
- Need to better address EJ concerns and to collect more data to support development plans
- Better accommodation for locally grown food

The 2010 Community Needs Assessment

The four not-for-profit hospitals working in the Sacramento region—Kaiser Permanente, Catholic Healthcare West member-hospitals (including Mercy), Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, and the University of California, Davis, Health System—work collaboratively with one another and in consultation with the broader community to conduct a CNA every 3 years (Ainsworth 2010). The results of these CNAs are used to inform community benefit efforts, ensuring that programs and services are serving those with the greatest needs. These include practices that are “intended to improve access by disadvantaged groups or to address important health care matters for a defined population.”

Community benefit practices may include:

- Providing healthcare services without compensation
- Providing financial and other support to community organizations and programs
- Offering education programs within the community
- Conducting research

These four healthcare systems conducted the 2010 CNA over a 2-year period spanning from October 2008 to October 2010.

Some of the findings from the assessment are previously cited in this outreach report. In general, health risk factors are similar to those already cited as social vulnerability factors, including poverty, age, education, and ethnicity. One additional factor, related to the previously mentioned desire for locally grown food, is food security. Lack of access to fresh, healthy food is a vulnerability factor for at-risk populations. In some cases, the issue is related to physical access or convenience in obtaining the food, and in other cases the issue is cost.

This particular finding may have some relevance to the IRWM planning to the extent that local farms and neighborhood gardens are hindered or helped by proposed projects.

Additional Targeted Outreach

Once it was determined that the initial concept of leveraging existing DAC outreach efforts would not yield the fully desired result (direct participation in water planning), ARB staff also initiated additional direct contacts with affiliated organizations to find outreach partners and/or determine interest in providing a stakeholder representative to engage in the ARB Planning Forum.

Initially, and again consistent with other findings, water issues within the ARB Region were a relatively low priority for these groups. It should be noted that all of these groups are interested in water-related DAC/EJ issues; they just did not perceive a need for an extremely active presence within the ARB Region boundaries.

All agreed to participate as time permitted but warned that other priorities may override a request from the ARB staff. DAC/EJ representatives contacted in this round of outreach were:

- Catholic Charities
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Clean Water Action
- California Public Utilities Commission Low Income Oversight Board
- California Water Plan DAC/EJ Caucus
- Debbie Davis, Office of the Governor
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Since this more intensive outreach effort, a representative of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water has started to attend outreach events and updates have been provided to other interested groups. Continued progress in engaging this community is expected as the IRWMP process continues.

Contacted representatives also provided additional names of individuals they believed may want to be on an ARB IRWMP DAC/EJ mailing list. These included:

- Community Resource Project, Inc.
- WayUp Sacramento
- Loaves and Fishes
- Western Center on Law and Poverty

- City Council Member Hansen
- Community Housing Opportunity Corporation
- Sacramento Urban League
- La Cooperativa

Step 3. Prepare and maintain a DAC contact and mailing list

A DAC contact and mailing list has been prepared based on the research documented in Step 1 and Step 2. This mailing list allows for direct communication with DAC stakeholders and focused, targeted outreach. As the 2013 ARB IRWMP is implemented and planning moves forward, staff will prepare outreach material on what the IRWMP might mean to their interests and identify ways to participate. Maintaining this DAC contact and mailing list would be an ongoing task as the 2013 ARB IRWMP is implemented.

Step 4. Encourage ARB stakeholders and project proponents to identify projects with the potential to address DAC needs.

In the ARB project submission and review process, a special emphasis was placed on including proposed ARB projects with the potential to address DAC needs. Project proponents were asked to provide narratives, demonstrating the degree to which projects could help fulfill needs. In the project review process for the IRWMP, the scoring method includes a point awarded to projects that address needs of a DAC or address EJ issues. Section 3 of the main IRWMP document includes a description of common issues experienced in DACs to increase the awareness of stakeholders as they consider future project development. As projects are submitted on an ongoing basis, and reviewed and vetted quarterly, encouraging project proponents to identify DAC-related projects would be an ongoing task as the 2013 ARB IRWMP is implemented.

Step 5. Provide RWA staff and/or members as speakers for any interested community group that would like to know more about the IRWMP and/or DAC participation.

Understanding that many community groups may prefer occasional and high-level contact to more intensive involvement, ARB staff and/or members are available to provide presentations to any interested DAC-related groups. Invitations (will be) issued to groups in the DAC contact and mailing list (see Step 3) advising them of this service. This service would be available on an ongoing, as-needed basis as the 2013 ARB IRWMP is implemented.

Step 6. Invite DAC representatives to participate in stakeholder meetings and events.

As the RWMG, RWA staff will continue to invite and encourage DAC representatives to participate in ARB stakeholder meetings and events. Regardless of specific issues, the ARB Region recognizes the need

for the DAC/EJ community to have an opportunity to participate and collaborate in the planning process. The ARB Region also has a continued commitment to direct representation by DAC/EJ members and advocates. As the 2013 ARB IRWMP is implemented, stakeholder meetings and workshops would be held on an as-needed basis, and DAC representatives would be invited to participate, accordingly.

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