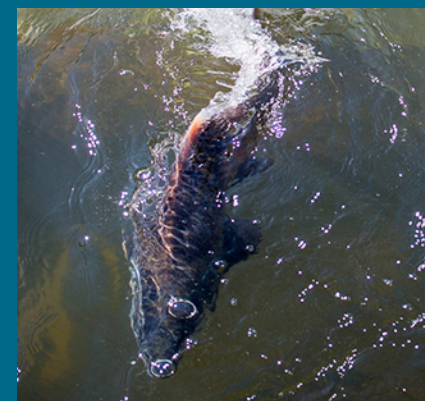


# Appendix E Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Outreach Report



Sacramento River  
Biologic Region

Sacramento

ARB Region

50

## **Appendix E. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OUTREACH REPORT**

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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 1, 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.

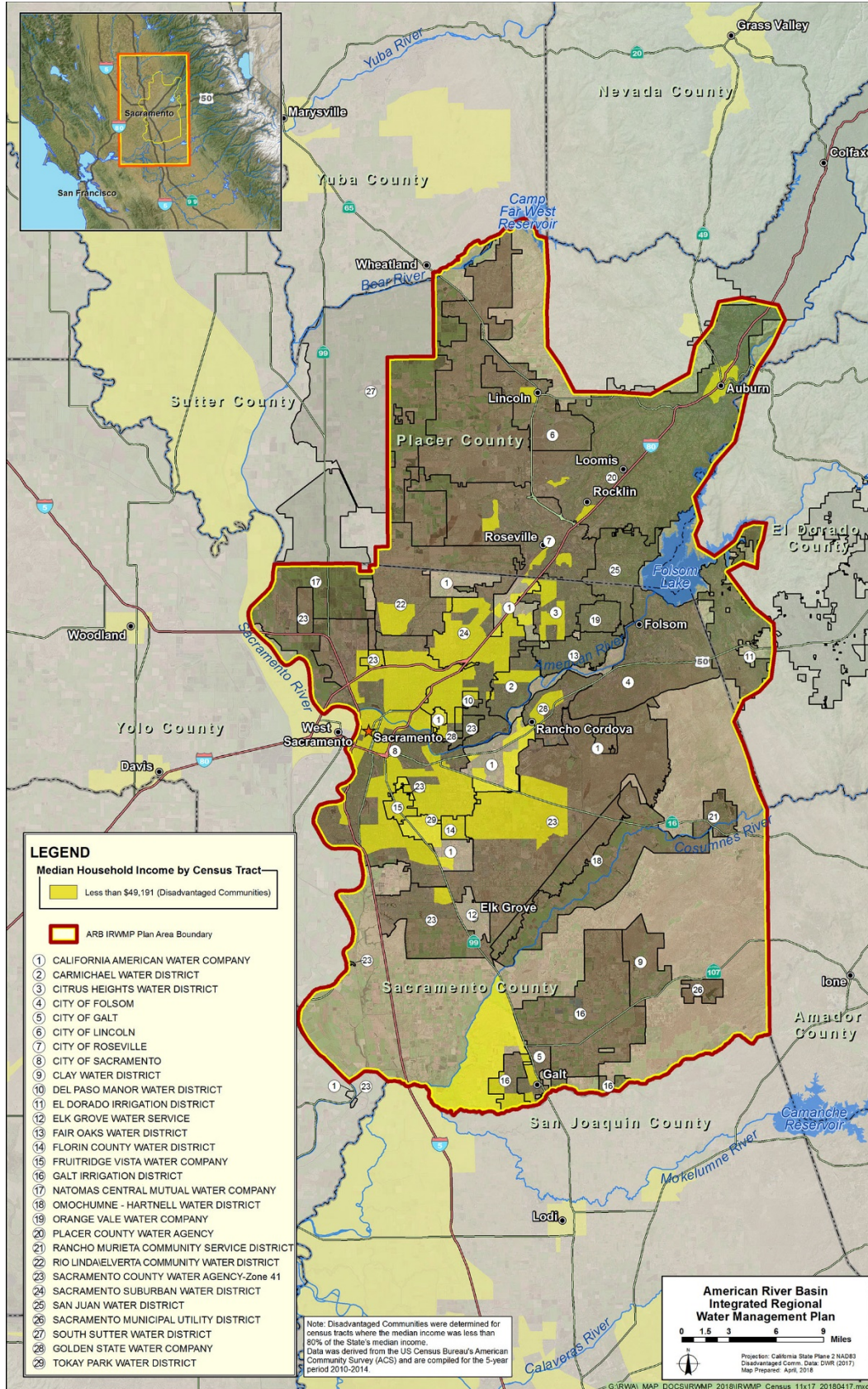
In general, the delineation of DACs has been by determined by U.S.Census tract, as data and boundaries are available. For the purpose of IRWMPs, a Census tract with an annual MHI less than \$49,191 is considered to be DAC (derived from an average of the 5-year period, 2010-2014). To analyze regional

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1 DACs, Geographic Information Systems data of MHI and the populations of each Census tract in the Region  
2 were downloaded. Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county that are  
3 designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status,  
4 and living conditions.

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



**Figure E-1. DACs in the Region**

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

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

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

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

Key:

ARB = American River Basin

DAC = disadvantaged community

5 **E.1.2. Federal Poverty Level Definition**

6 Another useful definition related to DACs is federal poverty. The federal poverty guidelines are also based  
 7 on income but consider the threshold at which families are lacking sufficient resources to meet basic needs  
 8 for food, shelter, and clothing. **Table E-2** illustrates the 2018 federal poverty guidelines. Federal poverty  
 9 guidelines represent an income significantly less than the median income used under the California DAC  
 10 definition. For this reason, poverty estimates will result in fewer people numerically than DAC numbers.  
 11 However, the federal poverty numbers are more commonly used in demographic studies and are very  
 12 helpful for analyzing trends in different locations throughout the nation.

13 **Table E-2. 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines**

Household Size	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$12,140
2	\$16,460
3	\$20,780
4	\$25,100
5	\$29,420
6	\$33,740
7	\$38,060
8	\$42,380

Source: Health and Human Services Department. Federal Register, Vol.83, No.12, January 18, 2018, pp. 2642-2644

Note: Add \$4,320 for each additional person.

14 **E.1.3. Environmental Justice Definition**

15 Another useful concept related and important to DACs is EJ. As defined by the U.S. Environmental  
 16 Protection Agency, “Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people

1 regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and  
2 enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

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

## 8 **E.2. DAC-Related Demographics**

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

16 **Table E-3. 2012-2016 County Quick Facts**

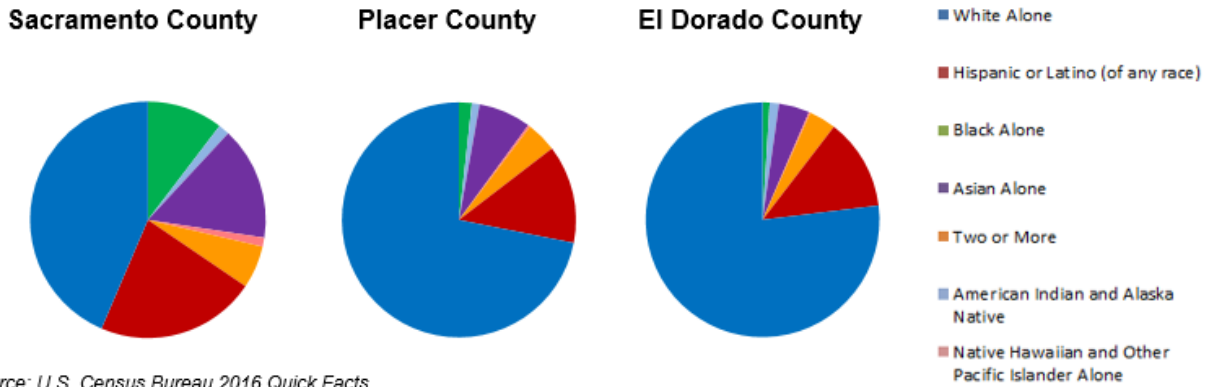
Factor	El Dorado	Placer	Sacramento
Median household income	\$72,586	\$76,926	\$57,509
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$ 379,200	\$ 380,900	\$ 271,300
Persons per household	2.68	2.68	2.76
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons (age 25+)	92.6%	94.2%	86.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons (age 25+)	33.0%	36.9%	29.3%
Persons per square mile	106.0	247.6	1,470.8

*Source: U.S. Census 2016c*

### 17 **E.2.1. Race and Poverty**

18 The Region is extremely diverse, with Sacramento being the most diverse of the counties. While diversity  
19 per se is not an indicator of DAC/EJ needs, it does require special consideration for outreach to ensure that  
20 information is relevant and populations have opportunities to participate in meaningful community decision  
21 making. **Figure E-2** illustrates race as a percentage of total population by county.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2016 Quick Facts

1  
2

Race	Sacramento County	Placer County	El Dorado County
White alone	45.60%	73.30%	78.10%
Hispanic or Latino	23.00%	13.80%	12.80%
Asian alone	16.20%	7.40%	4.30%
Black alone	10.90%	1.80%	1.00%
Two or more races	6.10%	4.30%	3.80%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1.60%	1.10%	1.30%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	1.30%	0.30%	0.20%

Source: U.S. Census 2016c Quick Facts

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

3  
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7

People of color make up more than 50 percent of Sacramento County’s population. Latinos are the largest racial/ethnic group, followed by Asian 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. 2016 Race/Ethnicity and Poverty in Sacramento County**

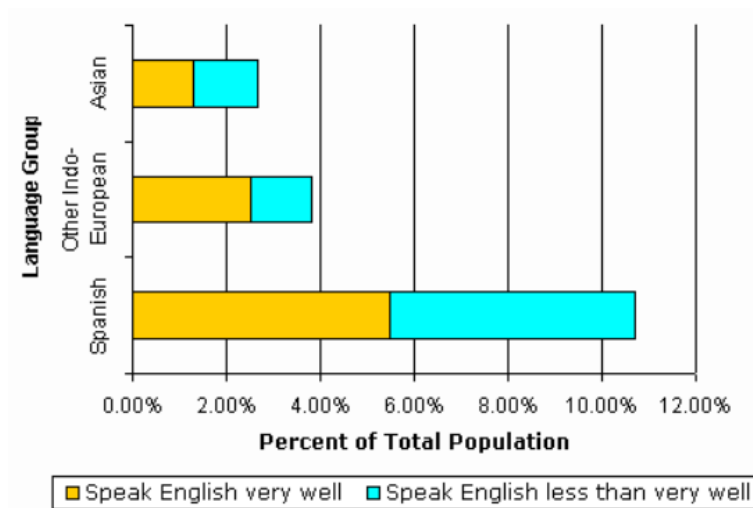
Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Population	Percent of Total Population Below Poverty
African American	9.9%	28.9%
Latino	22.5%	23.6%
Native American/Alaska Native	0.8%	21.3%
Asian	15.2%	17.5%
White	59.2%	12.7%

Source: U.S. Census 2016b ACS Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months and ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates

8

1 **E.2.2. Languages**

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



7

8

9

*Source: Social Science Data Analysis Network 2000, CensusScope.org*  
**Figure E-3. Foreign Language Groups in the Sacramento Region in Year 2000**

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

- 11 • More than 30 percent of people in Sacramento County speak a language other than English at home  
12 (This compares to El Dorado County at 12.9 percent and Placer County at 14.7 percent.) (U.S.  
13 Census 2016a).
  
- 14 • There are approximately 20 language groups represented in Sacramento County. The language  
15 groups are (Statistical Atlas 2015):
  - 16 – Spanish
  - 17 – Chinese
  - 18 – Russian
  - 19 – Tagalog
  - 20 – Hmong



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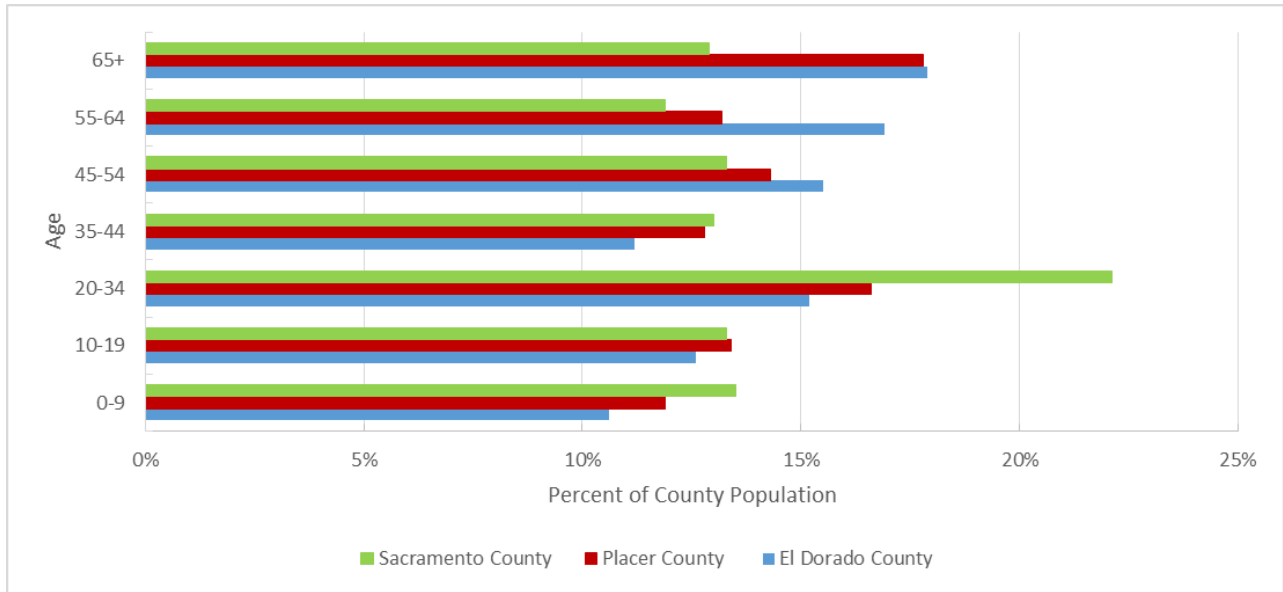
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- 1 - Vietnamese
- 2 - Hindi
- 3 - Other Asian
- 4 - Other Slavic
- 5 - Other Pacific Island
- 6 - Persian
- 7 - Korean
- 8 - Other Indo-European
- 9 - Arabic
- 10 - German
- 11 - Japanese
- 12 - French
- 13 - African
- 14 - Laotian

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

23 **E.2.3. Age**

24 **Figure E-4** shows the percentage distribution of the Region's residents by age. The data indicate that El  
25 Dorado and Placer counties both have a higher percentage of population age 65 and older as compared to  
26 Sacramento County. The figure also indicates that Sacramento County is home to a larger percentage of  
27 younger residents.



Source: U.S. Census 2016a ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates

**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. According to Association of American Retired Persons, the age 75 and older demographic is the fastest growing population, and two out of three have no money in retirement saving accounts.

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.

1 **E.3. DACs/EJ Water-Related Concerns**

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

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

10 The Sacramento region was subject to disproportionate impacts from the housing foreclosure crisis starting  
11 in 2007, due to the rapidly expanding real estate market that preceded the economic downturn. According  
12 to an August 2012 evaluation of Federal Housing Finance Agency reports by the Sacramento Bee, since  
13 1976, the Sacramento housing market has experienced three distinct booms and busts, each one increasing  
14 in intensity (Sangree and Reese 2012).

15 Sangree and Reese described the economic crisis as follows.

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

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

25 Further, as the overall revenues of these utilities decrease, operation and maintenance of important  
26 structures, as well as any planned updates, improvements, and expansions are put on hold. This is not a  
27 sustainable revenue state for those utilities, if the housing market does not recover, and DACs would be  
28 one of the most vulnerable groups to decreases in public utility services. This relationship between DACs,  
29 housing market, and utilities is relevant for water supply, wastewater, and flood management agencies as  
30 well as municipal services reliant on a tax base.

1   **E.3.2.     DACs/EJ and Drinking Water**

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

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

14   That said, some DACs or individuals that would be considered disadvantaged reside in very small pockets  
15   of the Region, served by a small water system and/or private wells. A small water system is defined as a  
16   water system for human consumption that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least  
17   25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year. This includes collection, treatment, storage, and distribution  
18   facilities. In addition to the classification as a small system, use types are divided into the following:

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

27   Areas of special consideration include schools serviced by these systems, due to the characteristics of the  
28   population at risk. Other special situations include facilities such as truck stops or tourist locations, where  
29   exposure to substandard supply and sanitation may be minimal for most users but not all. In the Region,

1 issues with small systems water supply and sanitation are generally related to substandard, aging  
2 infrastructure, rather than larger regional issues.

3 The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department is involved with permitting, inspecting,  
4 and monitoring of 154 small public water systems. In Placer County, there are 95 small systems, which  
5 include some systems outside of the Region in the Tahoe-Sierra or Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba  
6 (CABY) IRWM regions. El Dorado County monitors 175 small systems, most of which are outside of the  
7 Region in the Tahoe-Sierra or CABY IRWM regions as well.

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

### 13 **E.3.3. DACs/EJ and Flood Risk**

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

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

#### 25 **E.3.3.1. Social Vulnerability**

26 In their 2008 paper, *Levee Failures and Social Vulnerability in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Area,*  
27 *California*, Christopher Burton and Susan L. Cutter examined the social vulnerability of residents to  
28 potential levee failures in the Delta region. To assess the differential social consequences of flooding, a  
29 social vulnerability index was computed at the Census tract level for San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Yolo  
30 counties.

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

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

- 9 • Socioeconomic status equivalent to poverty
- 10 • Race/ethnicity of Hispanic
- 11 • Age class of elderly
- 12 • Development density
- 13 • Renters
- 14 • Females
- 15 • Race of African American/Asian
- 16 • Race of Native Americans
- 17 • Health care institutions

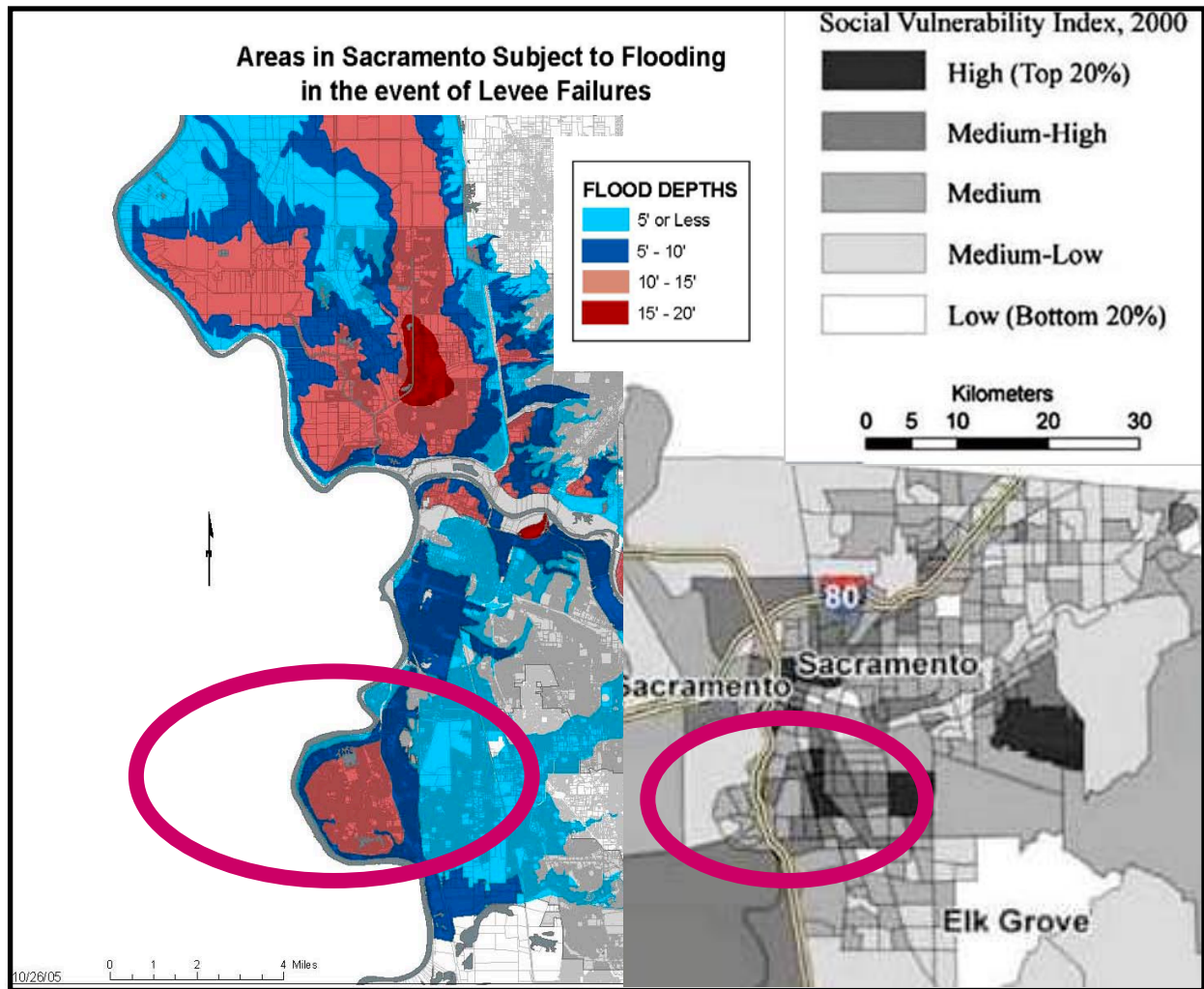
18 Poverty is the primary driver (nearly 25 percent of the overall social vulnerability factor), followed by  
19 race/ethnicity and age. These three factors combined contribute to 50 percent of the overall index. In  
20 addition to a lack of resources to respond to and recover from flood events, housing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

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

1 Age was found to be a significant factor because the elderly may have mobility concerns or constraints  
2 increasing the burden of care and reducing resilience. This group is also more likely to have a fixed income.  
3  
4 Burton and Cutter developed a map displaying the different levels of social vulnerability by Census tract,  
5 which can be directly applied to the Region.

### **E.3.3.2. Social Vulnerability and Flood Risk in the Region**

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



**Figure E-5. Flood and Social Vulnerability**

1  
2

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

10 **E.4. DAC Outreach Within the IRWM Process**

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



1 **E.4.1. Overview of ARB Stakeholder Participation**

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

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

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

- 15 • Members of the public at large
- 16 • Neighboring IRWMP representatives
- 17 • Environmental and watershed groups
- 18 • Local, state, and federal governments
- 19 • Local water supply, wastewater, and flood agencies
- 20 • Business interests
- 21 • Agricultural interests
- 22 • Tribal interests
- 23 • Academics
- 24 • Community groups
- 25 • EJ groups

- 1       • DAC representatives

2       **E.4.2.     The Region’s DAC Outreach Approach**

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

11 The following general approach to DAC outreach was developed as part of the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update  
12 to support the ARB IRWM effort. Each step is described in further detail in the following sections.

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

24       **Step 1. Determine existing DAC interests and efforts within RWVG members.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Regional Water Management Group is the entity responsible for and approved by DWR to lead the IRWMP process. In the Region, RWA assumed the role of the RWVG.

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

4 An outreach inventory to identify potential DAC outreach partners was conducted as part of the 2013 ARB  
 5 IRWMP Update. A limitation of this step was that not all regional DAC locations are served by RWMG  
 6 members; however, the Region intends to provide this report and conduct outreach with non-RWMG  
 7 member agencies and with each county’s public health department to help identify additional potential  
 8 DAC issues and create opportunities for engagement.

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

16 **Table E-5. 2013 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.

17

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

AGENCY	TYPE OF DAC EFFORT
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.
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.

Source: 2013 ARB IRWMP Update

Key:

DAC = disadvantaged community

GSWC = Golden State Water Company

RWA = Regional Water Authority

SCWA = Sacramento County Water Agency

SRCSD = Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

2 RWA members include non-water supply agencies, one of which is Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
3 (SMUD). SMUD also provides programs to assist DACs. SMUD provides direct rate reduction to low-  
4 income ratepayers based on income thresholds.<sup>2</sup> Other programs offer low or no interest loans to support  
5 installation of energy-saving appliances and housing amenities. SMUD also works with non-profit  
6 organizations such as the Community Resource Project and The Salvation Army to provide broader support  
7 for housing-related concerns. These programs all saw increases in enrollments during the recent recession  
8 and regional housing foreclosure crisis. SMUD has indicated a willingness to support ARB DAC/EJ  
9 outreach efforts as appropriate. SMUD’s non-profit partners are included on the DAC/EJ outreach lists.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.smud.org/en/residential/customer-service/rate-information/low-income-assistance.htm>

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1 of Governments (SACOG) and (2) the 2010 Community Needs Assessment (CNA) (a community health  
2 assessment).

3 ***Civic and EJ Organizations***

4 The civic organizations evaluated as potential DAC outreach partners included 14 local Chambers of  
5 Commerce and four related organizations.

- 6 • Sacramento Metro Chamber Of Commerce
- 7 • Citrus Heights Regional Chamber Of Commerce
- 8 • Carmichael Chamber Of Commerce
- 9 • El Dorado County Chamber Of Commerce
- 10 • Folsom Chamber Of Commerce
- 11 • Fair Oaks Chamber Of Commerce
- 12 • Lincoln Area Chamber Of Commerce
- 13 • Orangevale Chamber Of Commerce
- 14 • Placer County Chamber Of Commerce
- 15 • Rio Linda/Elverta Chamber Of Commerce
- 16 • Roseville Chamber Of Commerce
- 17 • Sacramento Hispanic Chamber Of Commerce
- 18 • Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber Of Commerce
- 19 • Sacramento Black Chamber Of Commerce
- 20 • Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus
- 21 • California Legislative Black Caucus
- 22 • California Latino Legislative Caucus

- 1       • Greater Sacramento Urban League

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

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

- 6       • Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

- 7       • California League Of Conservation Voters

- 8       • Envirojustice

- 9       • Clean Water Act’s Safe Drinking Water For The Central Valley Campaign

- 10       • Sacramento Environmental Commission

- 11       • Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

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

14 ***Sacramento Area Council of Governments***

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

21 SACOG is required by the terms of many of its grants to have specific programs and outreach targeting  
22 DAC/EJ populations. As a result, it has compiled and evaluated data to determine communities with special  
23 needs and conducted focus groups to learn more about those communities. SACOG has also established an  
24 Equity, Housing and Health Working Group. The Equity, Housing and Health Working Group first looked  
25 at how transportation planning and development around quality transit can improve social and economic  
26 equity in the area, and discussed equity considerations for Transit Priority Area selection during the first

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1 part of the project. The group also discussed affordable and fair housing issues. Although the group has not  
2 been active recently, a briefing or other outreach is likely to be fruitful.

3 SACOG has conducted some outreach to learn about the concerns of low-income communities. During a  
4 2011 workshop, participants listed 53 community concerns ranging from housing affordability and the need  
5 for trees to health care, jobs, and crime. Interestingly and consistent with the overall analysis in this outreach  
6 report, issues regarding water and sanitation were not raised. However, of the 53 topics, some of the  
7 following related issues could be considered as relevant to the IRWMP:

- 8 • Need for an equity framework to understand where people are disproportionately disadvantaged on  
9 a variety of issues, e.g., bad food, poor air quality, lack of transportation choices
- 10 • DAC use of infrastructure, such as railroad rights-of-way, levees, aqueducts, and flood control  
11 channels for bike and pedestrian trails independent of vehicle traffic
- 12 • Homeless population management
- 13 • Meeting the needs of rapidly aging communities
- 14 • A desire for extra points in grant applications for projects promoting equity
- 15 • Need to better address EJ concerns and to collect more data to support development plans
- 16 • Better accommodation for locally grown food

17 ***The 2016 Community Needs Assessment***

18 The four not-for-profit hospitals working in the Sacramento region—Kaiser Permanente, Catholic  
19 Healthcare West member-hospitals (including Mercy), Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, and the  
20 University of California, Davis, Health System—work collaboratively with one another and in consultation  
21 with the broader community to conduct a Community Needs Assessment (CNA) every 3 years (Ainsworth  
22 2010). The results of these CNAs are used to inform community benefit efforts, ensuring that programs and  
23 services are serving those with the greatest needs. These include practices that are “intended to improve  
24 access by disadvantaged groups or to address important health care matters for a defined population.”

25 Community benefit practices may include:

- 26 • Providing healthcare services without compensation

- 1       • Providing financial and other support to community organizations and programs
- 2       • Offering education programs within the community
- 3       • Conducting research

4 Some of the findings from the 2010 assessment are previously cited in this outreach report. In general,  
5 health risk factors are similar to those already cited as social vulnerability factors, including poverty, age,  
6 education, and ethnicity. One additional factor, related to the previously mentioned desire for locally grown  
7 food, is food security. Lack of access to fresh, healthy food continues to be a vulnerability factor for at-risk  
8 populations. In some cases, the issue is related to physical access or convenience in obtaining the food, and  
9 in other cases the issue is cost.

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

12 ***Additional Targeted Outreach***

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

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

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

- 22       • Catholic Charities
- 23       • Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- 24       • Clean Water Action
- 25       • California Public Utilities Commission Low Income Oversight Board
- 26       • California Water Plan DAC/EJ Caucus



- 1 • Debbie Davis, Office of the Governor
- 2 • Rural Community Assistance Corporation

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

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

- 8 • Community Resource Project, Inc.
- 9 • WayUp Sacramento
- 10 • Loaves and Fishes
- 11 • Western Center on Law and Poverty
- 12 • City Council Member Hansen
- 13 • Community Housing Opportunity Corporation
- 14 • Sacramento Urban League
- 15 • La Cooperativa

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

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

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

24 In the ARB project submission and review process, a special emphasis was placed on including proposed  
25 ARB projects with the potential to address DAC needs. Project proponents were asked to provide narratives,  
26 demonstrating the degree to which projects could help fulfill needs. In the project review process for the

1 IRWMP, the scoring method includes a point awarded to projects that address needs of a DAC or address  
2 EJ issues. Section 3 of the main IRWMP document includes a description of common issues experienced  
3 in DACs to increase the awareness of stakeholders as they consider future project development. As projects  
4 are submitted on an ongoing basis, and reviewed and vetted quarterly, encouraging project proponents to  
5 identify DAC-related projects would be an ongoing task as the ARB IRWMP is implemented.

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

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

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

14 As the RWMG, RWA staff will continue to invite and encourage DAC representatives to participate in  
15 ARB stakeholder meetings and events. Regardless of specific issues, the Region recognizes the need for  
16 the DAC/EJ community to have an opportunity to participate and collaborate in the planning process. The  
17 Region also has a continued commitment to direct representation by DAC/EJ members and advocates. As  
18 the ARB IRWMP is implemented, stakeholder meetings and workshops would be held on an as-needed  
19 basis, and DAC representatives would be invited to participate, accordingly.

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