

Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Disadvantaged Communities Grant

Inyo-Mono DAC/Tribe Conference
June 18, 2014

Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Grants

- \$2.5 million from Prop. 84 IRWM inter-regional funding
- Goal: assist DWR in developing methods to improve DAC participation throughout the State
- Initially given to 5 regions; later 7
 - Inyo-Mono
 - North Coast
 - Imperial
 - Coachella
 - Greater LA
 - Upper Kings
 - Santa Cruz



Inyo-Mono DAC Grant

- Rural/headwaters region
- Objectives of grant:
 - Determining the most effective means of identifying DACs, including metrics other than median household income
 - Determining what methods are most effective in engaging DACs in the IRWM process, including developing targeted and appropriate education and outreach materials
 - Determining DACs' constraints and challenges associated with being involved in the IRWM process and developing projects for eventual implementation, and helping to build capacity to overcome those challenges.
 - Identifying local, county, state and federal legislation/policies relevant to water needs of DACs.
 - Actively participating in local, regional and state fora relevant to DAC water-related issues and needs.
- Started in 2011; completed by September 30, 2014



Inyo-Mono IRWM region

- Land area: 17,259 mi²
 - 11% of California
 - >50% of Lahontan funding region
- Population: ~68,000
 - Major population centers: Ridgecrest, Mammoth Lakes, Bishop
 - 4 people/mi²
- Mountains, desert, saline lakes, water exports
 - Source water for >1 million people in L.A.



DAC Definition: 80% or less of CA Median Household Income = \$48,706 or less



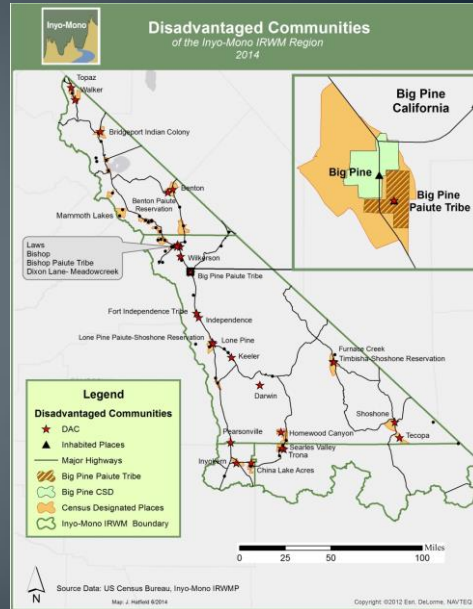
DACs in Inyo-Mono



- ~ 1/2 of population centers are DACs
- 15 severely-DACs
 - 6 out of 10 tribes
- Major industries: tourism, agriculture, resource extraction

BUT...

- Census/ACS data incomplete
- Census geographies do not always match up with service areas
- Community-specific income surveys are expensive
- Is 80% of MHI even the best definition?



So...

- Explore alternative ways of defining & identifying DACs
- Come up with a substitute for MHI data

Which one is the DAC?



Community Surveys (n=10)

Disadvantaged Community Indicators Survey - 2013

Community: Tecopa (incl. Tecopa Hot Spring & Tecopa Heights)

Date of Survey: 11/17/13

Community Characteristics	Yes/No	If no, distance to nearest [neighborhood]
Does the community have:		
Fire station	Yes	
Hospital/medical clinic	No	Shoshone - 15 min. drive
Schools	No	Shoshone - 15 min. drive
Gas station	No	Shoshone - 15 min. drive
Price of gas	N/A	Shoshone
Post office	No	
Grocery store/market	No	Shoshone - 15 min. drive
Bank	No	Shoshone
Police station/sheriff sub-station	No	Shoshone

Notes: drawing? FMS.

Homes

Total number of homes surveyed: 111 (54)

Chain link fence? 111 (15)

Mobile homes? 111 (15)

One-story homes? 111 (15)

Junk cars around home? 111 (15)

Landscaping? 111 (15)

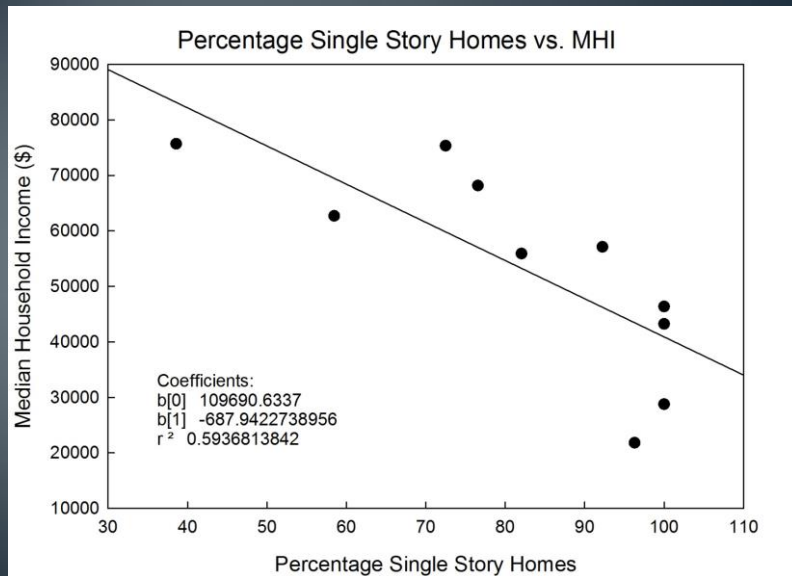
Junk or trash in yard? 111 (15)

House in need of repairs outside? 111 (15)

Notes (continue on back if needed):
 One house with large garden; lots of street planning; multi-family/unit homes.
 Photo evidence? For purposes of comparing
 hard to determine if house is occupied
 (if appts. in addition to home 2)
 H450 camera unit - access to service
 into home
 into city, stuff come out & telecast.
 gardens / food
 growing / food

- Big Pine CDP
- Big Pine Paiute Tribe
- **Big Pine CSD**
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Bridgeport CDP
- **Bridgeport PUD**
- Lee Vining CDP
- **McGee Creek CDP**
- Mesa CDP
- Mono City CDP
- **Pine Creek Village (Rovana)**
- Shoshone CDP
- Swall Meadows CDP
- Tecopa CDP

Preliminary Results



Using results to estimate MHI (DAC = \$48,706)

Community	% Single Story Homes	Estimated MHI	Actual MHI
Big Pine CSD	90.72%	\$47,279	Unknown
Bridgeport PUD	75.00%	\$58,094	\$41,499
McGee Creek CDP	47.06%	\$77,315	Unknown
Pine Creek Village (Rovana)	100.00%	\$40,895	Unknown



Take-homes from metrics exercise

- Data gaps particularly prevalent & challenging in rural communities
- Find metrics that can replace incomplete data sets
- Collect data right in the community – create a rapid-assessment approach
- Our exercise useful for rural, headwaters, sparsely-populated regions
- Exercise not complete; needs more investigation & analysis

Outreach

- Formal meetings in region
 - With individual entities
 - Generic public meetings
- Lessons Learned – outreach
 - Several meetings may be required to engage new communities and involve them in the IRWM process. IRWM is a complex concept to explain to new stakeholders.
 - Don't "lump" tribes with all other DAC stakeholders. Use appropriate outreach techniques.
- Commonalities: water-related concerns
 - Outdated infrastructure
 - Complying with regulations
 - Natural groundwater contamination
 - Volunteer boards
 - Limited technical expertise, limited resources



Outreach

- Formal meetings outside of region
 - Other IRWM groups with high % DACs
 - Upper Pit, South Sierra, Yosemite-Mariposa (incl. Merced & Madera), Tuolumne-Stanislaus
- Commonalities
 - Apathy from ratepayers
 - Lack of knowledge on Boards
 - Concerns about water exports & water rights
- Lessons Learned
 - Water system benefit from trainings

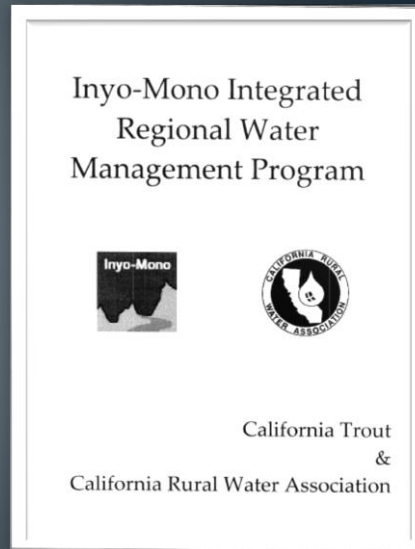


	Inyo/Mono	Upper Pit	Yosemite-Mariposa	Merced	Tuolumne-Stanislaus	South Sierra
Local economies dependent upon volatile industries, such as tourism and resource extraction	x	x	x			
Consistent involvement by local elected officials in IRWM activities, including assisting with outreach to stakeholders		x	x			
Ongoing outreach needed to reach new stakeholders and members of the public	x	x	x			
Significant portion of surface water and/or groundwater resources are exported to downstream and/or urban areas	x	x	x	x	x	x
Opposition to IRWM planning from organized groups such as the Tea Party, which has discouraged IRWM participation by some stakeholders		x				
Desire to educate downstream water users about protecting headwaters portion of watersheds and local communities	x	x	x	x	x	x
Lack of participation by area Native American Indian tribes, largely because of concerns related to tribal sovereignty		x	x		x	
Governing boards of small water districts lack knowledge and need training	x	x				
Reluctance of water system governing boards to increase water and wastewater rates	x	x				
Water resource issue: Wildfire and its effect on water supply and water quality	x	x			x	x
Water resource issue: Agricultural practices and their effects on water quality is a major issue	x	x	x			
Language barriers in Latino DACs prevent their involvement in the IRWM process			x	x	x	
Lack of internet access and poor cell phone coverage	x		x			
Observation that MHI-based definition of DACs does not adequately cover the true disadvantage in local communities	x	x	x	x		
Large proportion of communities in IRWM region are DACs	x	x	x	x	x	
Lack of interest among public to participate in water resources planning and management		x	x			
Outreach and engagement of small community water systems, especially those with volunteer boards and little or no staff, is challenging	x	x	x			

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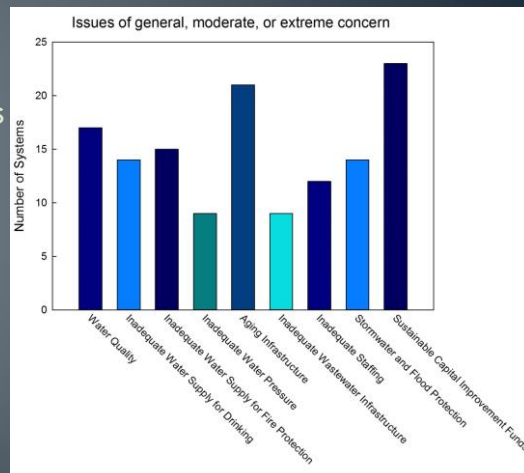
Assessing Needs & Building Capacity

- Needs Assessments
 - 17 DAC water systems
 - 2 tribes, 6 public systems, 9 private systems
- Results (needs):
 - Operating plans
 - Aging infrastructure – tanks, transmission lines, generators
 - Water meters, SCADA
 - Water conservation plans
 - Five-year budgets
 - Capital Improvement Plans
 - Emergency preparedness



Needs Assessment Surveys

- Water system TMF capacity
- Water system concerns
- Project needs
- Climate change needs
- 37 water systems responded

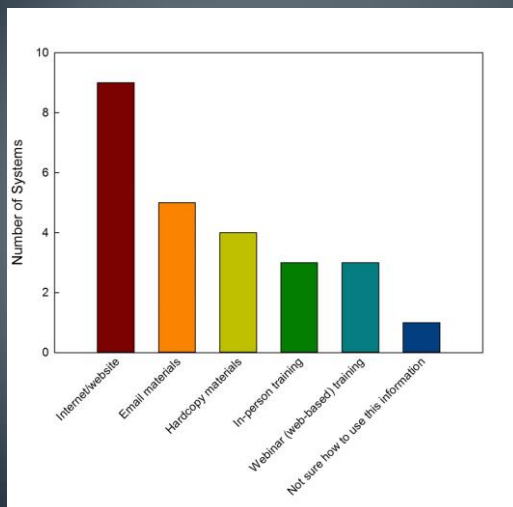


Assessing Needs & Building Capacity



- Trainings followed from needs assessments and outreach
- Targeted to DACs
- Topics:
 - Grantwriting/finding grants
 - Economic analysis
 - Mapping water systems
 - Utility Management
 - TMF Tune-up
 - Water Conservation
 - Budget Planning
 - Regulatory Update
 - Basic Hydrogeology
 - Rate Structures
 - Emergency Planning
 - Sampling Procedures
 - Drought Preparedness

Climate Change & Communication



- Drought webpage
- Region-specific climate change webinars
- Liaison with DWR climate change team

Unexpected Outreach!

- CRWA, grantwriting, maps, CBA trainings
- World Water Day
- Hanging around community events



What's Next?

- Draft recommendations submitted to DWR
- Film premieres
- Presenting results & recommendations
- Final report to DWR: September 30, 2014
- Continued Inyo-Mono DAC & tribe outreach & engagement





Recommendations

Recommendations

- 1. Disadvantaged community outreach in IRWM regions should be recognized as a process that takes time, persistence, understanding, and community-specific knowledge. IRWM regions should look to learn from each other about how to conduct successful and meaningful DAC outreach.*
- 2. In rural, sparsely-populated regions, such as the Inyo-Mono IRWM region, a variety of communication techniques should be used to provide and present information to DACs and their water systems. Agencies and IRWM groups should work to understand the best methods of communication for the communities they work with.*

Recommendations

- 3. DWR and other state water agencies should consider alternative ways of defining disadvantaged communities to take into account communities without clear median household income data.*

Recommendations

- 4. Water system-specific, individualized technical assistance should be made available to DACs to help determine needs and decide how to bring resources to address those needs.*
- 5. Water system-related trainings should be made available to disadvantaged communities in a way that is tailored to their needs: at no charge, with travel assistance or close to the community, at convenient days/times, with continuing education credit, and/or based on water systems' needs.*
- 6. Regional water management programs should facilitate the sharing of resources and expertise among small water systems, larger water systems, and local businesses to address technical and managerial needs. DWR and DPH should promote use of "circuit-rider" services to small rural systems through subsidies or grants.*

Recommendations

7. *Disadvantaged communities wishing to obtain funds from the IRWM grant program should be subject to different and less stringent requirements related to proposal submission and grant administration.*
8. *Small water systems should consider merging at least part of their operations with neighboring systems to distribute costs among a larger customer base and take advantage of economies of scale. DWR and DPH should consider an incentive program to study and implement consolidation of small systems.*

Recommendations

9. *County governments should assume a lead role in overseeing the provision of assistance to DAC water suppliers. DWR and other state water agencies should create a grant program for counties willing to improve water supplies for their DACs.*
10. *DWR and other state and local water agencies should consider ways to ensure adequate rate structures in small, DAC water systems, such as providing assistance to do system-specific rate assessments and relax some Proposition 218 requirements. At the same time, water systems should begin educating their ratepayers about the true cost of water delivery and treatment.*

THANK YOU and Contact Info

- Mark Drew, Program Director: mdrew@caltrout.org
- Holly Alpert, Program Manager: holly@inyo-monowater.org
- Rick Kattelmann, Project Development Specialist:
rick@inyo-monowater.org
- Janet Hatfield, GIS/Data Management Specialist:
janet@inyo-monowater.org
- Andrew Skaggs, CalTrout Outreach Coordinator:
askaggs@caltrout.org
- www.inyo-monowater.org



We want to hear from you!

- What do you think of recommendations?
 - What are we missing?
- What outreach techniques have worked to engage DACs in your IRWMP?
- What non-income indicators would help identify your DACs?
- How might State and local policies change to better serve DAC water needs?
- After everything you have heard today, what are we missing?

We welcome continued input...