

Proposal to the

**California Department of Water Resources
Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM)**

**Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community
Involvement Program**

**On behalf of the
Los Angeles-Ventura Funding Area**

Greater Los Angeles County IRWM / Los Angeles County Flood Control District
Upper Santa Clara River
Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County

November 13, 2017

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

A. APPLICANT

CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPLICANT SELECTION

This IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program Grant Proposal is being submitted by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) as the authorized applicant on behalf of the Los Angeles-Ventura Funding Area for the following Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) and their stakeholders:

- Greater Los Angeles County;
- Gateway;
- Upper Santa Clara River (USCR); and
- Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WVCV).

(supporting letters attached)

The recommendation to have LACFCD as applicant was vetted through the Greater Los Angeles County Region's five sub-regions, WVCV, and USCR's voting members including non-profit organizations, stakeholders, the public at large and other non-voting, non-profit organizations.

B. Disadvantaged Communities Background

The Los Angeles-Ventura Funding Area (Funding Area) includes three independent Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning regions: Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC), Upper Santa Clara River (USCR), and Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) (see *attached map*).

The largest of the three, the GLAC IRWM Region, with 87 cities, has 9.8 million residents¹ representing 26% of California's population and approximately 42% residing in traditionally defined disadvantaged communities (DACs)². A majority of the GLAC DAC communities are located within three of the five IRWM sub-regions: South Bay (35), Upper Los Angeles River (34), and Lower San Gabriel-Lower Los Angeles River (27). There are an additional nine communities within the Upper San Gabriel/Rio Hondo sub-region but none in North Santa Monica Bay.

The USCR IRWM Region encompasses the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated County of Los Angeles (COLA) land in addition to Angeles National Forest and state park land, with a rapidly growing urban population in unincorporated COLA of 60,000 and 213,000 living within the City. There are an estimated 6,700 people in unincorporated COLA and over 18,000 people within city limits known today to meet the DAC criteria. The disadvantaged communities in the USCR region include the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) DAC areas of Newhall, Valle del Oro/Upstream Newhall Creek, Canyon Country, Bouquet Canyon/Seco Canyon Neighborhood, Lake Hughes/Munz/Elizabeth, Val Verde, Castaic, Acton, and Agua Dulce.

The WCVC IRWM Region includes ten cities, including the two densely urbanized and suburbanized cities of Oxnard and San Buenaventura, unincorporated areas of Ventura County, the watersheds of the Calleguas Creek, Santa Clara River, and Ventura River, as well as vast rural and agricultural areas that include a population of more than 850,000. Nearly 100,000 of those residents live within disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities, many of whom are served by small mutual water companies. The underrepresented communities in Ventura County include the DWR DAC areas of Casitas Springs, portions of Oxnard and Ventura, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru.

Underrepresented communities in the Funding Area not captured by census data include migrant and resident farmworkers, Native American tribal members, and homeless people, many of whom are living in or near rivers.

¹ 2010 Census Population (Block Group)

² DWR DAC Population (Block Group)

IRWM Region Involvement or Engagement of DAC Members in Planning Efforts

In 2016, a Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) Task Force for the Funding Area was established to facilitate a consensus-based approach to implement a Funding Area-wide DACIP that meets the objectives of the Proposition 1 DACIP IRWM Grant Program. Below is a summary of each IRWM's involvement leading up to the formation of the DACIP Task Force:

- **GLAC** – The GLAC Leadership Committee formed an ad-hoc committee to develop an outreach plan for GLAC DACs in 2008. Since that time, disadvantaged community involvement occurs most consistently at the sub-region level. Each sub-region holds monthly public meetings that allow disadvantaged community members, non-profit organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs) and other stakeholders to participate in IRWM Plan discussions, project submissions and other issues that come before the GLAC IRWM Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). In addition, DAC subcommittee monthly meetings give agencies, non-profits, and other disadvantaged community stakeholders opportunity to be involved in IRWM planning. To assist with localized engagement, outreach, and project development, GLAC RWMG also funded a dedicated DAC coordinator for three years beginning in 2012. Lessons learned from the coordinator's role in the GLAC DACs helped frame recommendations outlined in the DWR DAC Visioning Workshop and subsequent white paper.

In 2013, DWR sponsored two local studies that were conducted to evaluate and recommend strategies for future DAC engagement processes around IRWM. Council for Watershed Health carried out the *Disadvantaged Community Outreach Evaluation Study: An Analysis of Technical Assistance and Outreach Methods* (Outreach Study) on effective outreach strategies for disadvantaged communities within the GLAC Region. The Outreach Study provided the most comprehensive identification of DACs for investments in water-related planning efforts and project development. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) also published the Alcanza Outreach Project: *Engaging Disadvantaged Communities in Resource Management* to assess the planning process of developing projects that meet IRWM guidelines within urban DACs (the Cities of Compton and Lynwood were the focus areas).

The Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment was released in 2016 (LA County Department of Parks and Recreation). Focusing on park and public health needs, it was the result of direct outreach to 185 communities across the county (including all DAC areas), and provides a model and structure for conducting outreach in Los Angeles, along with a database of community contacts.

In the fall of 2016, the GLAC DAC Committee initiated a series of outreach surveys, meetings, and interviews to help engage disadvantaged community members in the development of the Funding Area's DACIP. Three community-based organizations and a water agency association conducted engagement efforts and solicited feedback on local priorities for funding. The contractors targeted unique perspectives – community residents,

adults, high school students, and water agency retailers. Furthermore, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, a supporter of the DACIP, was the main speaker at a DAC Involvement Forum where DACIP engagement and involvement activities were prioritized by participating NGOs and CBOs. Over 200 attendees surveyed identified outreach and education as a top priority, followed by technical assistance and site assessment. The priorities identified from these outreach events have been incorporated into the list of proposed DACIP Activities.

- **USCR** – The USCR DAC Committee was formed during their 2008 IRWMP process and is led by staff from the City of Santa Clarita’s Environmental Services Division and the Castaic Lake Water Agency. Efforts to reach out to DACs have been focused within city limits. A “DAC IRWM Grant Process Strategy Concept” was prepared that included meeting with the City’s Community Services Division staff members (who currently provide services and outreach to those DACs) to receive initial input on potential projects in the Canyon Country and Newhall areas.
- **WCVC** – Building on past efforts to identify DAC areas and needs within Ventura County, the WCVC formed a DAC Committee that has been meeting since September 2016. Its membership, which is open to all WCVC members, is charged with advising the two WCVC IRWM representatives to the Funding Area DACIP Task Force regarding local priorities and projects, and serving as ambassadors to their communities.

The WCVC DAC Committee discussed the areas identified in DWR’s Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool to determine where to focus local efforts for the DACIP grant. The DAC areas that have the most compelling needs based on local knowledge include: two communities within the Ventura River Watershed (Casitas Springs and Westside Ventura), and seven communities within the Santa Clara River Watershed (El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Oxnard, Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore and Piru). The Committee decided to also incorporate other underrepresented communities within these two watersheds that were not mapped including people who reside along the river without homes and farmworkers that were not captured by the census. The two WCVC watershed groups with high priority DAC areas, the Ventura River Watershed Council and the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee, reviewed the preliminary focus areas and confirmed the strategy.

In order to get an initial understanding of the known water needs within the seven priority communities, a preliminary survey was conducted of service providers and NGOs within the WCVC DAC Committee. Participating entities included water districts, mutual water companies, sanitary districts, cities, and the County of Ventura (planning and stormwater), County Watershed Protection District (flood management), local NGOs serving DACs and environmental interest groups. WCVC has also reached out to technical service providers including the California Rural Water Association to identify complimentary programs and other opportunities for DAC assistance.

Known Water Management Needs in Disadvantaged Communities

All three IRWM regions have identified the need for resources to support a more comprehensive assessment and education process as a critical step forward in further understanding the water management needs within their disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, and underrepresented communities (collectively referred to as DACs) including Native American tribal members, migrant and resident farmworkers, and homeless people. Results and lessons learned from each area's planning efforts over the past eight years have helped frame the Funding Area's water management needs and engagement strategies to assist in addressing those needs. Water and river management needs identified through the previously mentioned studies and surveys for these communities within the Funding Area include the following:

- Flood and storm water management
- Surface water and groundwater quality and quantity
- Access to clean affordable drinking water
- River ecosystem impacts
- Aging water infrastructure
- Alternative water supplies
- Drought contingency, fire flow requirements and other emergency planning; vulnerability assessments
- Water education and job training
- Wastewater treatment

The Funding Area also has the opportunity to address other needs such as access to and recreation in open space and natural areas, while addressing local water quality and supply needs. These needs include the following:

- Public safety as it relates to flooding and water quality as well as the sharp rise in homelessness occurring within rivers and streams;
- Access to safe pedestrian routes with related recreational opportunities (ex: lack of green streets and active transit routes that can capture stormwater and reduce water use through native landscaping); and
- Neglected transportation infrastructure (ex: flooding on road surfaces, missed opportunities for stormwater capture and conveyance).

Barriers to Previous Engagement Efforts with Disadvantaged Communities

GLAC – for the GLAC region, barriers to engagement can be seen through both the 2013 Outreach Study, and the 2016 DAC Committee outreach surveys and workshops. These suggest there are not so much “barriers” to engagement as there are “missing links” – that is to say, missing resources needed to fully connect the community to the creation of new water projects through the many steps involved in the IRWM process. This same lack of links affects public education provided by IRWM agencies, and translates to lack of knowledge at the community

level. If a community has little or no awareness of water management issues, they are not likely to respond to outreach and engagement efforts to help address them.

For example, the 2013 Outreach Study recognized that surface water quality is a significant water management issue in urban areas (MS4 Compliance) and yet none of the community members surveyed expressed concerns about surface water quality. Similarly, while safe drinking water remains a high priority for all residents in general, the perceived threat to safe drinking water remains relatively low, specific to small providers and areas where old pipes (schools, public housing) are contributing factors. The disconnect between community understanding of surface water quality and its impact on their rivers, streams and beaches *remains*, and speaks to the need to proactively engage underserved communities in meaningful dialogue about these challenges that resonate with their experiences and priorities.

At the end of the Outreach Study engagement efforts, technical assistance was provided to develop projects. This revealed that disadvantaged communities, particularly with smaller municipalities and water retailers, do not have either the resources or the training to assess, develop and prepare for funding opportunities that will move projects forward.

The Outreach Study found that the most effective engagement strategies were based on highly localized efforts, where “links” in the form of partnerships between agencies, nonprofits, and community-based groups were supported.

The 2016 DAC Committee surveys showed a desire from the community for Outreach and Education, as well as Project Site Assessment, Project Development and Coordination, and Technical Assistance. While safe drinking was again identified as an important issue in general, it was NOT identified as a specific concern for a majority of respondents – again showing a potential disconnect in knowledge.

USCR – IRWM representatives feel the greatest barrier to date has been, again, a lack of connection; they often haven’t known who to talk to in order to gain access to local disadvantaged communities. Recent efforts in mapping the DAC areas have provided some help with this barrier.

WCVC – IRWM representatives report a similar situation, of either not knowing the entities that represent and can connect them to a given DAC, or that some DACs don’t have any representative group that can help connect IRWM to the local community. Hence there is often a marketing and communication barrier – for example, being able to reach a community to engage in a workshop, and having limited success in getting people to show up.

Strategies to Address Water Management Needs in Disadvantaged Communities Across the Funding Area

Based on the lessons learned from the three studies³ combined with each region's outreach efforts described in the Planning Efforts section (p4), the Funding Area has incorporated the following strategies into the proposed DACIP activities that address the water management needs identified previously:

Local Outreach: Engagement should occur in precise and small-area communities, as it is there that communities are empowered to make collective decisions. Efforts will need to include multiple touch points within the communities for engagement to be effective. *Identifying the proper scale of engagement to reach a community is critical and will be carefully planned with local CBOs before engagement activities begin.* This strategy has been incorporated into the Community Outreach and Needs Assessment Activities.

Partnering: The Funding Area, through partnerships, will leverage existing engagement and project planning efforts (ex: IRWM DAC Committees, Enhanced Watershed Management Plans, local urban greening plans, stormwater resource and TMDL plans, etc.). Building on existing investments in local community initiatives can significantly improve water engagement results. Partnerships are productive, permitting outreach contractors to reach significantly more residents of the community, as well as municipal agency representatives. Partnerships also facilitate the most effective form of involvement, community-led engagement. The best messengers for engagement do not always have the subject matter expertise to carry effective messaging forward. *Therefore, partnering organizations together, both traditional and non-traditional water organizations, builds the capacity of local leaders to deliver effective outreach and education.* This strategy has been incorporated into the Community Outreach Activity.

Local Capacity Building through Technical Assistance: Disadvantaged Communities, particularly with smaller municipalities, communities and water retailers, do not have either the resources or the training to assess, develop and prepare for funding opportunities that will move projects forward. When technical assistance can provide mentoring for community organizations and local water related service providers, all parties are empowered through relationships and enhanced capabilities. *This approach breaks down systemic barriers to access for DACs through capacity building and leads to a higher level of success and sustainability for regional water policies and objectives, as well as water projects.* This strategy has been incorporated into the Project Development Activity.

³ 1) *Disadvantaged Community Outreach Evaluation Study: An Analysis of Technical Assistance and Outreach Methods* (2013, Council for Watershed Health and Department of Water Resources). 2) *Alcanza Outreach Project: Engaging Disadvantaged Communities in Resource Management* (San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy). 3) *The Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment* (2016, LA County Department of Parks and Recreation).

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE FUNDING AREA

The above strategies will be used to ensure the involvement in IRWM planning efforts of disadvantaged communities, economically distressed communities, and under-represented communities (collectively referred to as DACs), including Native American tribal members, migrant and resident farmworkers, and homeless people.

Those census geographies that meet the DWR DAC definition are listed below for both USCR and WCVC regions. The GLAC region further refined its disadvantaged communities based on additional indicators (ex: level of education, unemployment, parks access, etc.) that were evaluated and presented in the Outreach Study (previously cited). A synopsis of those disadvantaged communities and designated DAC priority activity areas within each IRWM region are summarized below and within the attached map:

- **GLAC** – includes -105 disadvantaged communities as presented in the Outreach Study.
- **WCVC** – includes the nine (9) areas of Casitas Springs, portions of Oxnard and Ventura, El Rio, Nyeland Acres, Saticoy, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru. While there are other areas that qualify as DACs, these are the priority areas with known needs chosen for targeted outreach and engagement.
- **USCR** – includes the nine (9) areas of Newhall, Valle del Oro/Upstream Newhall Creek, Canyon Country, Bouquet Canyon/Seco Canyon Neighborhood, Lake Hughes/Munz/Elizabeth, Val Verde, Castaic, Acton and Agua Dulce.

In addition to the listed DAC priority activity areas above, the Funding Area will outreach to those underrepresented communities not captured by census data including migrant and resident farmworkers, Native American tribal members, and homeless people, many of whom are living in or near rivers and streams.

C. ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

As developed by the Funding Area's DACIP Task Force and based on strategies derived from studies and surveys in all three IRWM Regions, we propose that the DACIP be carried out by grouping Activities into the following Tasks and sub-tasks (color-coding matches Schedule and Budget):

- **Task 0: Pre-Program & Administration**

- 0.1 Proposal Development*
- 0.2 DACIP Administration*

- **Task 1: Community Outreach** (*ongoing and iterative throughout the grant*)

- 1.1 Design Outreach Program*
- 1.2 Community Outreach & Education*
- 1.3 Broad-based Public Education*
- 1.4 Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans*
- 1.5 Project Management & Reporting*

- **Task 2: Needs Assessment**

- 2.1 Design Needs Assessment*
- 2.2 Community - Needs Assessment*
- 2.3 Institutions - Needs Assessment*
- 2.4 Project Management & Reporting*

- **Task 3: Project Development**

- 3.1 Technical Assistance*
- 3.2 Project Development*
- 3.3 Project Management, Reporting & Final Report*

Community Outreach will be an ongoing and iterative process through the DACIP, assuring disadvantaged community involvement at each stage and leading to multiple desired outcomes including long-term DAC engagement in the IRWM process. The Activities of **Needs Assessment** and **Project Development** will be phased so that results of the Assessment will guide which projects receive development support through the DACIP.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (Grantee) will provide oversight of the Activities throughout the grant period with the support of the designated program managers for the Funding

Area, and ensure that DACs in all three IRWM regions are represented and served appropriately. DAC consultants will be contracted and tasked to complete Activities on a Funding Area-wide basis or within IRWM Regions as needed.

Task 0 - Pre-Program & Administration

Pre-Program and Administration Activities:

The DACIP Task Force for the Funding Area coordinated strategies and approaches for implementing the DACIP, drawing from past research and workshops held in multiple communities to compile initial feedback on priorities, and understand the baseline from which to build a program. The DACIP Task Force also engaged directly with NGOs, CBOs, and consultants to advise on program development and assist with the DACIP Application.

- **Outcome:** Approved Application and Agreement between DWR and LACFCD (Grantee).

Administration includes grant administration and program management and is carried out by agencies representing LACFCD, County of Ventura and City of Santa Clarita and other designated member agencies of the three IRWM Regions. LACFCD will provide primary contact with DWR including direct grant administration, reporting, coordination between the Funding Area IRWM Regions, and compliance of the Grant Agreement. The three agencies and other designated member agencies have program management oversight including monitoring the grant engagement and involvement activities in their respective Regions, and supporting coordination and reporting.

Fiscal management support, especially invoicing and contracting of consultants for all regions across the Funding Area will be carried out by West Basin Municipal Water District.

County of Ventura, City of Santa Clarita, and West Basin Municipal Water District under an agreement with LACFCD will perform the grant activities oversight and support in the implementation of the DACIP.

- **Outcome:** Meeting all terms of the Grant Agreement.

Task 1 – Community Outreach

DWR Activity Categories:

Community Outreach, Education, Facilitation, Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans

Task 1 Description:

Community Outreach will be ongoing throughout the grant period, providing multiple touch points with the community, and intersect with all three major Tasks.

Prior to launch of Community Outreach, approaches and materials appropriate to the Funding Area will be developed. NGOs and CBOs will be involved with this process and will build on existing community contacts and outreach tools used for the 2016 Needs Assessment conducted by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). The outreach tools will be tailored to address water management needs for the Funding Area. A database that houses all the information gathered from DACIP Community Outreach and Needs Assessment will also be developed by adding to the DPR Assessment Database and creating a parallel database for Ventura County.

Community Outreach Design considerations may include:

- A unified, or diversified, approach to Outreach and Education;
- Approaches and materials that address the unique cultural, physical and linguistic characteristics of DACs in the Funding Area; and
- Approaches to Outreach and Education that address the unique characteristics of the three IRWM regions.

Community Outreach will be carried out by or with the help of a variety of NGOs and CBOs, Native American Tribal members or other qualified community representatives who are embedded and actively involved in the communities. These organizations, tribal members and other representatives will have strong ties and expertise with the DACs in the Funding Area, and will help build the relationship between the community, their water related service providers and the IRWM process. They will be subcontractors paid to provide outreach services. The DACIP consultants will engage and support these NGOs and CBOs, tribal members and other representatives with whatever training, materials and resources they need to be effective.

Community Outreach will support multiple stages of the DACIP, and help achieve “waves” of engagement to address the need and desire for outreach and education (as described in the Background Section of this Application).

The “waves” are envisioned as follows:

- First wave: making a clear connection with a community and providing basic education on IRWM, Prop 1 and their local water issues, and inspiring them to participate in the Needs Assessment.
- Second wave: participation in a Needs Assessment Projects (Task 2),
- Third and other waves: feedback on what was learned in the Needs Assessment, specific local education called for in the Needs Assessment as well as later Task Categories of Technical Assistance Projects, and Project Development Projects under Task 3. These outreach efforts are not contingent on a set timeframe of outreach.

Multiple waves also help address disparity in readiness; some DACs are more up-to-speed on water issues and have created project plans that are acknowledged by the IRWM regions. But many others have not begun basic community engagement around local water issues. Taking the “waves” approach is intended to help level the playing field before carrying out the Needs Assessment; otherwise, the DACIP could increase inequity; in that the Needs Assessment, may be incomplete in some DAC areas, Technical Assistance would not be as effective, and projects may not reflect need.

Task 1 Activities

1 Design Outreach Program

The *Multi-Indicator Analysis* – a tool used in the Outreach Study – will be updated for the GLAC Region to help organize DACs into a manageable framework, and determine the support needed in education and assistance for each DAC (or grouping of DACs); some are already very involved, while others don't have an identifiable group or leader to represent them. Similar analysis will be completed for the USCR and WCVV Regions as needed and approved by these Regions. This research and analysis effort will help establish a methodology for determining the level of engagement efforts including technical assistance and project development in each DAC, and associated criteria for allocating funding.

Specific research will be conducted to identify tribal interests in the Funding Area, and be included as part of DAC outreach as well as inclusion in any IRWM Plan updates. Exploration will be done through assessment with known tribal leaders and representatives and dataset research, as well as information about historical watersheds, water sources and cultural implications.

From this data gathering and analysis, Outreach and Education messaging and materials will be designed and produced with Region and/or community-specific customization. Whenever possible and practical, existing outreach and education materials from traditional water organizations and agencies may be reviewed for potential inclusion in the program. Materials will take the form of “kits” that include all presentation materials and data and will be shared with a network of organizations, NGOs, CBOs, and community representatives for their input. Members of this network who will be directly involved in Outreach and Education will be

required to participate in training on conducting workshops and other outreach events (see sub-task 1.2) for uniform messaging and best results.

1.2 Community Outreach & Education

This is a “qualitative” education effort, envisioned through a series of outreach events with interested community members that provide detailed education on local water issues. Events may take the form of workshops, presentations to community groups, small group discussion, door-to-door outreach or linked to appropriate action-based events such as community litter clean-ups. These events occur both before and after the Needs Assessment Workshops (Task 2.2, below), and are not contingent on a set timeframe of outreach.

Before the Needs Assessment, they will be used for initial outreach, awareness raising and as marketing to attract as many people as possible to the Needs Assessment process. After the Needs Assessment, events are used to “close the loop” and share with the community what was learned through the Needs Assessment, and to provide specific education needs identified through the Needs Assessment. Community members who participate are then assumed to become messengers, and share their knowledge within a given community network.

Each Region has identified disadvantaged communities they plan to engage and serve. Both USCR and WCVC Regions will engage each of the high priority disadvantaged community groupings in their regions (9 and 9, respectively) up to 3 times (once per year for 3 years on average). The GLAC Region anticipates needing 50 outreach or education events or workshops (annually for 3 years, on average) to serve their estimated 105 DACs. It is anticipated the events will be promoted and hosted by local NGO’s, CBOs, or other representatives familiar with the community, with oversight from the DAC Consultants. They will be given all materials necessary, and funding for staff time to prepare logistics, marketing, and hosting.

Because these Education workshops continue throughout the three years of the program, they will overlap with the Needs Assessment and Project Development Tasks. Education can therefore:

- Support pre-Needs Assessment - introducing basic water issues to a community;
- Relay post-Needs Assessment Information - bringing Assessment findings back to the community to “close the loop;”
- Bring together community representatives and local water management agencies to discuss water needs, and increase DAC participation in IRWM efforts; and
- Support Project Development education to engage local communities on projects that emerge as a result of the DACIP.

1.3 Broad-based Public Education

This is a “quantitative” education effort, designed to reach large numbers of community members with as much targeting as possible on identified DACs. The funding for this activity

assumes multiple “campaigns” because of the likely need to address different regions, geographic areas, education topics and/or audiences. Examples of education delivery could include web-based and social media platforms, outreach to local media sources, or other grassroots elements such as printed materials distributed or posted at events, community centers, churches, schools, agencies and other places where community gathers.

Materials and social media would be initially generated from a single source (lead consultant), customized as needed, and then spread further within a network of community-based sub-consultants to their targeted constituencies. Depending on timing, these campaigns could support marketing of workshops in one or more DACs, to encourage participation in the workshops.

1.4 Enhancement of DAC Aspects in IRWM Plans

This Sub-task supports a range of engagements to include community members in the IRWM process through each Regional governance structure. As the early “waves” of engagement unfold, and the process with stakeholders reveal additional needs and opportunities within given DACs, the Funding Area Program Managers and DAC consultants will implement the use, approach and design of other activities, including:

- Additional Education programs for the community and their water managers;
- Facilitation to strengthen ties between DACs, water related service providers and the IRWM regions; and
- Engagement in IRWM Efforts, Governance Structure and Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans, to increase DAC roles and representation in the IRWM process.

The expected result is a description of these efforts, and lessons learned through DAC engagement that can be used in updating LA-Ventura IRWM plans with enhanced DAC engagement activities.

1.5 Project Management & Reporting

Implementation of education and outreach components will be carried out by a contractor. The contractor will subcontract with and manage multiple local partners, track and monitor workshops/community outreach, distribute information, coordinate all education and outreach subtasks support and communicate with stakeholders on progress and resolution of issues, serve as a quality control point for data and prepare program and financial reporting.

Task 1 Desired Outcomes:

- Develop a DAC community supported methodology for determining the level of engagement in technical assistance and project development in each DAC.
- Involve a comprehensive and inclusive base of DAC Community members in the DACIP.
- Increase understanding by community members of water management needs and issues in their neighborhood and watershed.

- Identify and remove barriers to community participation that prevent residents from fully responding and giving valuable feedback on the water issues in their area.
- Incorporate/Integrate DAC community members, NGO, and CBO representatives in IRWM planning, decision-making and implementation efforts.
- Build capacity within DAC communities to develop project concepts and engage technical support for design and proposal development in the future.
- Build capacity within CBOs, Native American tribal and community representatives to facilitate DAC workshops and engagement activities.

Task 1 Deliverables:

- Methodology for determining the level of engagement in technical assistance and project development in each DAC.
- Community Outreach Directory of CBOs, Native American tribal members and other community representatives involved in the DACI Program.
- Community event schedule, approaches, designs and materials.
- Community event meeting minutes, report, event photos and/or video.
- Broad-based and targeted education campaign approaches, designs and materials.
- Updated IRWM Plans and/or Plan Amendments reflecting lessons learned in engaging disadvantaged communities.
- Community Outreach-related interim and final reporting.

Task 2- Needs Assessment

DWR Activity Categories:

Needs Assessment

Task 2 Description:

A comprehensive **Needs Assessment** will be conducted across the Funding Area that identifies and prioritizes water management and infrastructure deficiencies and related community needs in ways that meet IRWM objectives to improve water supply and water quality, enhance open space, recreation and habitat, and improve flood management. The process will reach out to both community residents and water related service providers who serve DACs. Gathering information for the Assessment will take the form of public workshops, agency workshops, door-to-door discussions and one-on-one interviews, depending on the characteristics and logistical needs of any given DAC.

Prior to launch of the Needs Assessment, the approaches and materials that are appropriate to the Funding Area will be developed, including a unified approach to data collection that ultimately serves the DWR DACIP Needs Assessment Template.

Needs Assessment Design considerations may include:

- ability to discuss the specific water management needs of a given DAC study area, including discussion of current and pending projects within or impacting the DAC;
- creating approaches and materials that address the unique cultural, physical and language characteristics of DACs in the Funding Area;
- translating technical water issues so they become more personal to community members;
- creating approaches to the Needs Assessment that address the different characteristics and logistics of the three IRWM regions; and
- prior or current studies and assessment projects in the DAC areas.

To reach residents of local DACs, the Needs Assessment will draw on the collection of NGOs, CBOs, Native American tribal members and other qualified community representatives who are involved in **Task 1 Community Outreach**. As these representatives will have strong ties to the DACs in the Funding Area, they will be invaluable to maintain connections with DACs. Needs Assessment activities also serve as one of the major “waves” of engagement with the community, further building understanding of and engagement in water management needs among residents, CBOs, Native American tribal representatives, water managers and the IRWM process. Needs Assessment activities are different from Task 1 Outreach and Education, in that this is the means to gather specific data and feedback.

CBOs and other representatives will be subcontractors, and paid to provide services such as grassroots engagement, translation, guidance on local issues, and workshop venues and logistics that involve direct discussion with DAC members and avoid barriers to their participation. The DAC Consultants will support these CBOs and other representatives with training, materials and resources they need to be effective, including facilitation of public workshops. The DAC Consultants will also complete all required reporting of CBO workshops and activities.

The Needs Assessment will include workshops and interviews with institutions that provide water and community services to DACs, including cities (officials, water departments), water agencies, agencies that manage parks or natural open spaces, water quality program managers, sanitation districts, flood management entities and mutual water companies. This addresses not only their knowledge of their DAC community needs, but also any challenges they are facing in serving those needs, participating in IRWM, and meeting water quality, water conservation and other regulatory mandates.

The Funding Area designated program managers for the GLACR, USCR, and WCVC IRWM Regions will, through its DAC consultants, provide oversight during the Needs Assessment process, and ensure that DACs in all three IRWM regions are represented and served appropriately. They will review and approve the design of the Needs Assessment, and the Needs Assessment Report. The information gathered from the Needs Assessment will be added to the **Task 1 Community Outreach** database.

Task 2 Activities

2.1 Design Needs Assessment

Design of the Needs Assessment includes three major components:

- **Database** - Data collected in the Needs Assessment will be supported through a database. For GLAC and USCR Regions, the 2016 LA County Parks Assessment database hosted by Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will provide basic infrastructure to store this information. The DPR database is populated with demographic data for all DAC Communities collected in 2016 and will be modified to reflect what is learned from design of the Outreach Program (Task 1.1), capture water data from the Needs Assessment and build or revise any needed portals or webpages. The WCVV Region data, being part of a different county, will be captured in a separate database, with coordination made between the two during the DACIP.
- **Needs Assessment Tool and Materials** – This activity creates a tool combining the DWR Needs Assessment Template (community characteristics, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, water rates and financing) with social, cultural and regional information and analysis gathered in Task 1.1; it will allow data collection to be seen from the local DAC community-member perspective, and be customized per IRWM Region as needed. The Tool helps guide production of materials, workshops and other elements related to Community Needs Assessment (Task 2.2) and Institutions Needs Assessment (Task 2.3).
- **Final Needs Assessment Report:** Provides analysis of all Needs Assessment data, compiled into a Funding Area-wide final Needs Assessment Report. This activity occurs after Needs Assessment data is collected from the community and institutions (Tasks 2.2 and 2.3). The completed Needs Assessment, combined with the input from the DACs through Education and Community Outreach, will inform and support the Funding Area RWMGs as they determine which programs and projects should be considered for technical assistance, development, and further community engagement under Project Development (Task 3).

2.2 Community Needs Assessment

Collection of Needs Assessment data from the community is envisioned through a series of workshops with community members. As with Task 1 Community Outreach, it is anticipated the workshops will be hosted by local NGO's and CBOs familiar with the community. They will be given all materials necessary, and provide staff to prepare logistics, marketing, and hosting. Workshops will be run by trained facilitators.

The Funding Area will mirror Community Outreach and Education (Sub-task 1.2) in taking a consolidated approach to conducting needs assessment workshops with multiple DACs served in single workshops as appropriate. Additional workshops or alternative data collection methods will be conducted should the need arise, given the volume of identified DACs in the

Funding Area. Alternative forms of data collection, including surveys or door-to-door outreach, may supplement or even substitute for workshops if it is deemed most appropriate for a given DAC, and will be supported by what is learned in Design Outreach Program (Sub-task 1.1) and Community Outreach and Education (Sub-Task 1.2). Additional workshops may also be needed bring together community representatives and local water management agencies to discuss water needs collectively. Each IRWM Region will have final approval for the best data collection methods for their DACs.

2.3 Institutions Needs Assessment

Workshops and other data collection methods will also focus on institutional stakeholders within traditional water agencies and public institutions that provide services and programs in water-related issues. Workshops will include education on IRWM, Prop 1 and the DACIP as well as gathering Needs-related data drawn from the experience of these institutions in serving DACs.

For the GLAC IRWM Region, resources provide for at least 30 workshops or other data collection methods for school districts, cities, mutual water companies and water agencies, and appropriate staff or other representatives of elected officials. Los Angeles County includes 88 municipalities and 84 school districts, so working with conveners such as the League of CA Cities will be sought to provide group training for multiple institutions, for more efficient impact wherever possible.

For the USCR and WVCV IRWM Regions, resources provide for at least eleven workshops, focus groups or other data collection methods for school districts, cities, mutual water companies, water-related agencies, appropriate staff or other representatives of elected officials, or other institutional outreach for special needs within these regions.

2.4 Project Management & Reporting

Implementation of the Needs Assessment components will be carried out by one or more contractors, who will subcontract with and manage multiple local partners, track and monitor workshops, distribute information, coordinate all sub-task efforts, support and communicate with stakeholders on progress and resolution of issues, serve as a quality control point for data and prepare program and financial reporting.

Task 2 Desired Outcomes:

- Inform and engage DACs in each IRWM Region in a conversation about their water management-related needs, preliminary needs assessment results, and a plan for continued community engagement and active involvement in decision making.
- Gain a better understanding of water management-related community needs to help direct resources and funding in **Task 3, Project Development**.
- Build initial capacity within DACs to develop project concepts and engage technical support for design and project development.

- Increase DAC community members, NGO, and CBO participation in IRWM planning and/or project development activities.

Task 2 Deliverables:

- A comprehensive Needs Assessment Tool for the Funding Area with Region-specific information.
- Final Funding Area-wide Needs Assessment Report: data and narrative summary of identified community characteristics and specific community water management issues, and the resources required (technical, educational, managerial, and financial) to address the needs of DACs.
- Determination of level of engagement in technical assistance and project development in each DAC under Task 3 Project Development, with funding allocation based on DACs input and Needs Assessment results.
- List of DACIP proposed programs and projects for the Funding Area to receive funding for further development and engagement with the community under Task 3. Each Region's leadership will decide which programs and projects will compete for future funds
- Databases to serve the Funding Area.
- Needs Assessment Results presented to communities and other stakeholders.
- Additional document to update DAC-related sections of IRWMPs, as needed.

Task 3 - Project Development

DWR Activity Categories:

Technical Assistance, Site Assessment, and Project Development

Task 3 Description:

Based on results from the Task 2 Needs Assessment, the DAC consultants, with input from the Funding Area DAC stakeholders will develop **Technical Assistance** training and support programs for multiple entities that serve DACs, such as cities, community-based organization, mutual water companies, water quality managers, parks and open space managers and other water and land resource managers.

The Needs Assessment results will add to or build on prior knowledge of DAC areas in the Funding Area in order to provide support for further DAC-specific **Site Assessments**, such as mapping, ground-truthing, and other data activities to better understand local DAC water management needs, and inform projects and programs to address them.

Projects in the Funding Area that are identified during the Task 2 Needs Assessment will be evaluated based on a DAC-supported methodology so that subsequent **Developed Projects** will provide the greatest possible benefit to the largest number of DACs. Using guidance from the Needs Assessment and the DAC supported methodology, the Funding Area program managers will recommend to their Regional Water Management Groups how to assign resources to develop projects across the three regions for their approval.

As a result of the Needs Assessment and knowledge gained from working with DACs, the Funding Area will make recommendations to DWR regarding effective project selection criteria for future implementation grant funding for DAC projects.

The Funding Area program managers and DAC Consultants will work with other Project Development and Technical Assistance providers to carry out Task 3 as needed. This effort may also link to the State Water Board Technical Assistance Program where appropriate, through the Council for Watershed Health, CSU Disadvantaged Community Center, California Rural Water Association and other statewide Technical Assistance providers. In addition, the DAC consultants may engage engineering, design and other technical consultants for project development as needed with the approval of the Funding Area's RWMGs.

Task 3 Activities:

3.1 Technical Assistance

Technical assistance will include capacity building in selected communities based on prioritization of the Region, results of needs assessment, or prior engagement efforts. Assistance may be customized per DAC or groupings of DACs, and provide a comprehensive range of support options as needed. In addition to technical guidance on how to identify, conceptualize, develop, design and cost a project, support may also be needed in other areas such as stakeholder facilitation, permitting and grant writing. Within this sub-task are related issues such as referrals to State Technical Assistance programs, assessing water projects for multi-benefit potential, facilitating multi-agency collaboration funding opportunities, updating existing IRWM Plan projects and adding new projects to IRWM Plans.

3.2 Project Development

Project Development includes Site Assessments; projects are determined through and DAC input established in prior sub-tasks 1.1 and 2.1. While managed by DAC Consultants, these activities would include subcontracting with engineering and design firms to support more technical aspects of project development. It is assumed that projects will be taken to different levels of development based on priority, timing and other considerations ranging from site assessments and/or basic concept designs.

3.3 Project Management, Reporting, and Final Report

Implementation of Technical Assistance and Project Development components will be carried out by the DAC Consultant, who will subcontract with and manage engineering and design firms as needed, track and monitor workshops, distribute information, coordinate all sub-task

efforts, support and communicate with stakeholders on progress and resolution of issues, and prepare program and financial reporting.

The DAC Consultant will also prepare the **Funding Area Final DACIP Grant Report**, compiling reports from all previous tasks and providing analysis and assessment of all required areas including Stakeholder Summary, Involvement Activity Summary, Findings, Future steps and References.

Task 3 Desired Outcomes:

- Projects identified for development through a grassroots DAC-supported process
- Increased project development, technical, and related skills among DAC water system managers and staff.
- Increased capacity within DAC communities to develop project concepts, engage technical support for design, access funding opportunities, and enhance their engagement in the IRWM process,
- Developed project plans, permits, studies, and other requirements to get high priority projects “shovel ready” per DWR requirements for subsequent implementation grant funding cycles.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- List of Project Concepts developed for the Funding Area
- LA-Ventura Funding Area Final DACIP Grant Report
- List of DAC representatives who received technical assistance to increase capacity in project development
- Information on Projects developed for future funding

KEY MILESTONES

Task 1 Community Outreach:

- Completion of Outreach Design
- Launch of Community Outreach and Education
- Launch of Broad-based Public Education
- Engagement of stakeholders
- Launch of Enhancement of DAC Aspects in IRWM Plans
- Completion and reporting of all Task 1 Activities

Task 2 Needs Assessment

- Completion of Needs Assessment Design
- Launch & Completion of data collection
- Completion of Needs Assessment Report and recommendations for future DAC Engagement
- Completion and reporting of all Task 2 Activities

Task 3 Project Development:

- Launch of Technical Assistance
- Launch of Site Assessment and Project Development activities
- Completion of all Task 3 Activities and Final DACIP Grant Report

D. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

LOS ANGELES-VENTURA FUNDING AREA

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) is the chair of the Greater Los Angeles County Regional Water Management Group and was designated by the Los Angeles –Ventura Funding Area as lead and applicant for the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program. LACFCD will administer the grant and coordinate the program work with Watersheds Coalitions of Ventura County (WVCV) and Upper Santa Clara River (USCR). LACFCD will have direct oversight of work performed by the DAC Consultants for Greater Los Angeles County. County of Ventura and City of Santa Clarita will have direct oversight of DAC Consultants work in their respective region.

Key Staff:

[Grace Kast - President of GK Consulting and Chair of the GLAC IRWM DAC Committee](#)

Ms. Kast's experience in water issues spans 27 years starting with the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority representing the Upper San Gabriel IRWM sub-region and has served as the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Gateway Region Integrated Regional Water Management Authority representing the Lower Los Angeles and Lower San Gabriel IRWM region since 2011. Ms. Kast is also the GLAC DAC Committee Chair. Ms. Kast will participate in decisions related to the DACIP through continued representation in the Task Force and in workshops and meetings with DAC community representatives, city and public agency officials as needed to answer IRWM-related questions, listen to comments, assist/support the consultants and NGOs with communications and introductions.

[Virginia Maloles-Fowler – GLAC Region Program Manager and Grant Administrator](#)

Ms. Maloles-Fowler is a State-certified Registered Environmental Health Specialist with over 20 years of regulatory and enforcement oversight experience in the field of environmental health and specifically in solid waste management, as well as over 12 years of experience in county-wide program planning and implementation in residential franchise solid waste and recycling collection services and water conservation, community engagement, and public relations, and grant administration. Ms. Maloles-Fowler will have direct program oversight for all DACIP related activities within the Greater Los Angeles County Region including, but not limited to active involvement in the development and design of educational outreach materials and needs assessment forms, and participation at workshops to assist DAC consultants to increase understanding and awareness of and participation of DACs in IRWM planning efforts to identify and address their water management needs through a collaborative approach.

[Lynn Rodriguez – Partner, Rodriguez Consulting, Inc., WVCV Program Manager](#)

Ms. Rodriguez experience includes more than 36 years of water resource management and integrated regional water management, with additional experience in group facilitation, and project

management. Ms. Rodriguez is also the Project Manager for the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program since 2005 and Co-Chair of the IRWM Statewide Roundtable of Regions. She will participate in decisions related to the DACIP through continued representation in the Task Force. In her role as Program Manager for the WCVC, she will monitor and verify the work performed by the DAC consultants in her region, participate at events to describe IRWM efforts in their IRWM region, and to respond to specific IRWM related questions. She will also work with the Grantee to prepare progress reports to share with stakeholders.

[Rick Viergutz - Principal Water Resources Planner at Castaic Lake Water Agency.](#)

Mr. Viergutz has over 20 years' experience in water quality and quantity, a Bachelors and Master's Degree in Geology, and is a Certified Engineering Geologist. He chairs the Upper Santa Clara River Regional Water Management Group. Mr. Viergutz will participate in decisions related to the DACIP through continued representation in the Task Force and participate at events to describe IRWM efforts in their IRWM region, and to respond to specific IRWM related questions.

[Heather Lea Merenda – City of Santa Clarita Environmental Services Division, USCR Program Manager](#)

Ms. Merenda has 24 years of experience in the environmental field. She is a LEED Professional, Qualified SWPPP Developer and a Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality, and a member of the CASQA Water Policy Task Force. Her experience includes grant acquisition and support, NPDES Permit compliance, watershed protection and restoration, air quality improvement, energy management and green building. She has also participated in the development of Upper Santa Clara River Enhanced Watershed Management Plan and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program. She will participate in decisions related to the DACIP through continued representation in the Task Force. In her role as Program Manager for the USCR IRWM, she will participate at events to describe IRWM efforts in their IRWM region, and to respond to specific IRWM related questions. She will also work with the Grantee to prepare progress reports to share with stakeholders.

[Leighanne Kirk – Principal Water Resources Planner at West Basin Municipal Water District, Fiscal Manager](#)

Ms. Kirk will support management of the DACIP funding with 13 years of experience in the development and management of over 80 grant proposals totaling over \$23 million in grant funds awarded. She is the Alternate to the Chair of the South Bay Steering Committee of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management and has been involved in the GLAC IRWMP since 2005. Her experience also includes the management of the implementation of several water conservation programs, grant reporting to several local, state and federal agencies, management of multi-million dollar budgets and grant funds, coordination of activities with consultants/contractors including the procurement process, and working with various stakeholders throughout the District's 17 city jurisdiction, of which over 30% is considered disadvantaged. For this project, Ms. Kirk will manage the consultant agreements, procurement process and act as the fiscal administrator over the consultant agreements/activities.

DAC CONSULTANTS:

1. TREEPEOPLE / COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH

TreePeople, Inc. is a California not-for-profit organization founded 40 years ago with expertise in the areas of water supply, stormwater capture, and green infrastructure including urban forestry. They possess extensive experience in public-private stakeholder facilitation, planning and project development, regional and state water policy strategy and development, community outreach and hands-on education. They are recognized nationally for their unique Citizen Forester model, and how to inspire low-income residents to plant and care for trees, and capture and manage rainwater.

TreePeople's partner is the Council for Watershed Health (CWH), a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization founded 20 years ago to advance the health and sustainability of the Los Angeles region's watersheds. CWH employs professionals with expertise and experience in watershed resource planning using GIS, green infrastructure, environmental assessment, and community engagement. CWH understands the complexities of engaging multiple agencies, residents, and stakeholders on projects in diverse communities and have established strong working partnerships with community organizations and agencies throughout the GLAC IRWM Region.

Following is a sampling of the project and program experience in the LA area for this consultant team, related to the proposed Activity Projects:

- **Community Outreach:** engaging thousands of volunteers annually in water conservation practices, tree planting and tree care in DAC areas of the NE San Fernando Valley, South LA and Southeast LA cities; Community Based Social Marketing Study (2017); Ground Water Augmentation Model (GWAM); Loading Simulation Program C++ / Watershed Management Modeling System (LSPC / WMMS).
- **Education:** LA County Generation Earth Program (meeting MS4 permit requirements) impacting 225,000 students annually; CREEC Network (LA County) linking thousands of teachers and environmental education providers; TreePeople Center onsite stormwater education to 15,000 students annually; Environmental Funders Forum Symposia Series (Biodiversity, Green Infrastructure); sustainable landscape workshops and 3500 rain barrels distributed; Our Water program (steering, outreach and policy committees); social media following of 70,000 with reach to 250,000 monthly; CA Water Board's DROPS program for LAUSD; led study tours and transferred stormwater capture practices to California from Australia's Millennium Drought.
- **Engagement in IRWM efforts:** Lower San Gabriel & LA River Watershed IRWM Steering Committee and Greater Los Angeles County Disadvantaged Community Committee: developed project options in Coyote Creek; Compton Creek: developed Watershed Management Plan and implemented the Plan in DACs.
- **Governance Structure:** DAC Outreach Evaluation Study: reviewed State DAC policy and related financing efforts that led to revised funding that allowed DACs to cover up front costs. Policy development including LA City Low Impact Development Ordinance and Urban Cooling Motion.
- **Facilitation:** Greater LA Water Collaborative (Obama White House recognized) facilitating co-beneficial management of water infrastructure projects; LA Urban Cooling Partnership of government, universities and NGOs; Water Augmentation Study: Convened

and facilitated monthly Technical Advisory Committee meetings comprised of representatives from federal, state, local water agencies.

- **Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM Plans:** Coordination of Greater LA Water Collaborative with EWMP, IRWM, One Water and other water planning efforts; Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan and Green Plan for Inglewood/Lennox, coordination with other jurisdictions and plans; DAC Outreach and Evaluation Study funding formula change for nonprofit participation.
- **Needs Assessments:** DAC Outreach Evaluation Study: identified viable projects and lessons learned; LA County settlement to retrofit unincorporated neighborhood homes for water conservation.
- **Technical Assistance:** DROPS, DWR and other funder Technical Assistance provider; LADWP Stormwater Capture Master Plan; CAL FIRE Tree Canopy Study of 509 LAUSD Elementary Schools.
- **Site Assessment:** Enhancing Integrated Water Management with Community Engagement; evaluation of 45+ schools for LID BMP opportunities; Albion Riverside Park: Monitored pre- construction water quality; School Greening Initiative, assessing use of green infrastructure BMPs on LAUSD campuses; Cattle Canyon: Monitoring water quality; LA Storm Catcher retrofit of 6 pilot homes for networked stormwater capture.
- **Project development:** TreePeople Center (LEED Platinum) stormwater capture system and Urban Watershed Garden; Elmer Ave Neighborhood Retrofit; Sun Valley Park infiltration system; Enhancing Integrated Water Management with Community Engagement; State DROPS TA; LAUSD DROPS School LID Partnership; School demonstration projects (Broadous ES, Pacoima; Open Charter, Westchester; Main St ES, South LA).

Key Staff - TreePeople:

[Andy Lipkis – President and Founder of TreePeople](#)

Mr. Lipkis is a pioneer in community and government engagement in urban forestry, environmental education, and integrated urban watershed management. His expertise includes training, educating and partnering with communities, leading technical demonstrations, and facilitating and influencing top policymakers and agency leaders. Mr. Lipkis currently facilitates the Greater Los Angeles Water Collaborative, consisting of leaders from LA Department of Water and Power, LA Bureau of Sanitation and LA County Flood Control District.

[Cindy Montanez – Chief Executive Officer](#)

Ms. Montanez was a California State Assembly Member and chaired the Select Committee on Environmental Justice, with a special emphasis on groundwater contamination and stormwater capture. Her experience includes chief liaison to the Governor's office, the State Legislature, and other key federal and state water, energy and environmental regulatory agencies and serves on the Board of Directors for the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and a Legislator-in-Residence at the USC Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics.

[Christyne Imhoff – Senior Director of Programs](#)

Ms. Imhoff's experience includes 30 years of experience in the field of environmental

education. Currently, she manages and leads the development of TreePeople’s innovative education, outreach and forestry programs. She also designed and had oversight of the development of quality standards related to public engagement, meetings, and education events.

[Edith de Guzman, Director of Research](#)

Ms. Guzman manages research into best practices for the sustainable transformation of the Greater Los Angeles Area. She has led or co-authored multiple published reports on stormwater capture and green infrastructure, and is currently TreePeople project lead and a co-author of the Greening Plan for Inglewood and Lennox. She also oversees a DAC marketing study using community-based social marketing principals focused on barriers and motivators to long-term community environmental stewardship in the City of Huntington Park.

Key Staff – Council for Watershed Health:

[Wendy Ramallo, Executive Director](#)

Ms. Ramallo’s experience includes 15 years of organizational leadership, currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Upper Los Angeles River Sub-region and member of the Greater Los Angeles IRWM Leadership Committee. She has extensive experience in project design and implementation in DACs including community-based design in park development and public safety, and community-based participatory research and planning in health, welfare and prevention.

[Jason Casanova, Director of Planning and Information Design](#)

Mr. Casanova’s experience includes GIS and Data Visualization at CWH, and has over seventeen years of research and project management experience to solve watershed-based management issues. Mr. Casanova provides technical support to project teams including analysis, monitoring, data collection, and visualization across all aspects of watershed management. He currently manages a portfolio of projects that includes developing customized web-based map applications local groups will use to help evaluate “greening” opportunities in their community and coordination of CWH’s DAC community-based capacity building and technical assistance in multi-benefit infrastructure.

[Eileen Alduenda, Interim Programs Director/Sr. Manager – Urban Ecological Design](#)

Ms. Alduenda’s experience includes over 10 years of green infrastructure management related to urban design and stormwater management in Disadvantaged Communities. She provides technical support to project teams that integrate green infrastructure and Low Impact Development principles and practices into urban site design. She recently managed a technical assistance team that provided LID technical expertise to more than 40 schools throughout California in support of the California State Water Resource Control Board’s Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) Technical Assistance Project.

[John Tangenberg, Sr. Geospatial Data Scientist](#)

Mr. Tangenberg’s experience builds on the development of methods and data that inform decision-making for multi-benefit urban greening projects. John is the Council’s authority on

the Department of Water Resources Groundwater Augmentation Model (GWAM) and LSPC stormwater pollutant-loading model for Los Angeles County. Combined with his development of GIS techniques for modeling pedestrian access and analyzing urban canopy cover, John brings a unique perspective to the design process of advancing urban greening projects that integrate benefits for both water and the community. His recent project work focuses on creating spatial decision support tools for community-based organizations interested in stormwater capture and planning for active transportation.

[Ariane Jong, Project Scientist](#)

Ms. Jong's experience and background focuses on water quality and stormwater capture monitoring through field work, data analysis, and project management. Currently, she serves as the water monitoring lead for Avalon Alley North, a green alley project focusing on stormwater strategies for an underrepresented community in South Los Angeles. She also provides experience in education and engagement surrounding water quality monitoring and citizen science efforts for the Council's LAUSD DROPS and Prop 84 projects.

[Other subcontractors](#)

Additional professional and community-based subcontractor categories may also be included within the recommended Activity Projects. All subcontractors will be obtained through an open RFP or similar process.

2. CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, WATER RESEARCH AND POLICY INITIATIVES, DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY CENTER

The California State University (CSU) team consists of multiple universities in the Los Angeles DWR DACIP funding zone. The team also includes Amigos De Los Rios, a highly regarded community based organization, and industry professionals from Cordoba Engineering. The CSU team has direct project experience in all three of the activity sections of the Los Angeles DWR DACIP proposal.

The CSU team has a strong track record of project work in community user needs assessment. Amigos De Los Rios, with its vast network of stakeholders, was instrumental in helping the GLAC IRWM region in developing community descriptive information for this proposal through a commissioned survey that generated hundreds of community responses. The CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives team is currently working with the California Energy Commission and the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator on developing a series of models that will refine current user needs assessment tools, such as EnviroScreen and others, to be more predicative and precise in the identification of DACs. These models will also look at ways to prioritize projects in these communities based on sound business and sustainability goals. These efforts will be augmented by concurrent activities in this proposal and in the Santa Ana Watershed funding zone, in which the CSU team is also participating.

The CSU team has one of the most active and the largest programs for community engagement and capacity building in the funding zone. The six CSU campuses in the funding zone each have a dedicated Community Engagement Center. Many of these centers have been engaging their respective communities for 20 or more years. These activities include organizing and facilitating subject-focused community meetings and outreach campaigns utilizing traditional and social media, as well as helping to organize local community based organizations and other stakeholders. Each center has a dedicated staff and access to facilities for groups as small as a few community members to groups of 400-600. As mentioned, the CSU team is also performing similar community engagement and capacity building activities with the California Energy Commission and the Santa Ana Watershed DACIP funding zone.

A critical component of this proposal is to involve local community based organizations (CBOs) in the engagement and capacity building activities in the proposal. One of the specific tasks is to develop a database of CBOs as a way to identify possible participants and track their participation. The CSU team, through the campus engagement centers and our partners, currently have one of the most extensive networks of stakeholder partners in the region and has the structure through our campus 401 c organizations to subcontract and work with these groups already in place.

The final set of activities in this proposal are for technical assistance and project development. The CSU team has been providing technical assistance to DACs since 2012, beginning with grants from the USDA Rural Utilities Services program. The CSU has a current grant with the State Water Resources Control Board to provide technical assistance under the Proposition 1 DAC TA program. For example, one of our current projects is a septic to sewer conversion near Thermal, California. We are working with the Coachella Valley Water District to develop the preliminary engineering report for approximately two miles of new pipeline and a lift station. This will include the tribal, cultural, and biological assessment for CEQA and will result in the submission of a grant application for construction funds through the CWSRF.

The CSU team utilizes the expertise of our engineering, science, and archeology departments, as well as paid students interns. The CSU team has access to hundreds of professional and professionally licensed faculties, as well as industry partners, such as Cordoba Engineering. Cordoba has developed multiple water utility projects throughout the state and has direct experience in working with DACs and submitting DWSRF and CWSRF grants. Cordoba also brings a unique insight and experience with other potential funding sources in these communities, such as the USDA, EPA, and organizations like the I-Bank.

Together, the CSU team brings project-based experience in all three activity phases of this proposal at a scale and depth that is unparalleled in this region. In addition, the CSU team brings an approach to the DACIP that has the potential to coordinate multiple state DAC programs from different state agencies. We believe this coordination capacity of the CSU

team demonstrates a tremendous opportunity to help these communities in ways that any single program cannot.

Key Staff:

[Boykin Witherspoon III – Executive Director of the CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiatives](#)

Mr. Witherspoon's experience includes all aspects of management for the Water Research and Policy Initiative (WRPI), including budgeting, staffing, and scheduling. He manages multiple consortiums of California State University campuses, consisting of multidisciplinary teams of economist, policy experts, engineers, scientists, and social science professionals.

[Julianna Delgado, M. Arch, PhD, AICP – Project Manager, WRPI West Basin Contract](#)

Dr. Delgado, a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at Cal Poly Pomona, has served as Interim Associate Dean for the College of Environmental Design. A certified urban planner with extensive municipal planning and water resources experience, she is the Founder and Co-Director of the California Center for Land and Water Stewardship and President of the Southern California Planning Congress.

[Karl Longley, SCD, CE - Special Advisor to The CSU DACC](#)

Dr. Longley is Emeritus Professor and Dean of the College of Engineering at California State University, Fresno. He is Founding Director of CSU Fresno's California Water Institute and Chair of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

[Roger Shintaku, CE - DACC Director of Engineering](#)

Mr. Shintaku is a licensed engineer with over 40 years of experience working on water issues in California. He has previously served as Assistant General Manager of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and the Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority.

[Ali Sharbat, PhD, CE - Lead Engineer, WRPI](#)

Dr. Sharbat is an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona and is Principal Investigator for a US Department of Interior research contract. He holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

[Weimin Li, MLA, PhD – Research/GIS Data Scientist, WRPI](#)

Dr. Li is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona as well as the Department's Graduate Coordinator. An expert in GIS and remote sensing, she holds a PhD in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning from UC Berkeley.

[Michael Millar, DMA - Director of Community Engagement, Cal Poly Pomona](#)

Dr. Millar is the Director of the Center for Community Engagement at Cal Poly Pomona where he oversees the University student internships, volunteerism, and community partnership

programs. He teaches in the Department of Music and serves as an Arts Commissioner for the City of Santa Clarita.

[Claire Robinson, MESA, MBA - Founder and Managing Director, Amigos De Los Rios](#)

Ms. Robinson has extensive experience developing all aspects of green infrastructure projects through outreach to disadvantaged communities. She is Co-Chair of the National Greenspace Alliance, serves on the USDA's National Urban Forestry Advisory Council, and holds an MBA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management.

[Maria Mehranian – Managing Partner and Chief Financial Officer, Cordoba Corporation](#)

Ms. Mehranian oversees water and energy projects, including development of renewable energy infrastructure and creation of renewable water resources strategies. She is responsible for strategic financial planning, including capital financing, cash flow operations, profit/loss responsibilities, and project delivery.

[Narbeh Issagholian, JD – Legal Counsel and Research, Cordoba Corporation](#)

Mr. Issagholian, with a background in law and transportation planning, focuses on land use, real estate, and environmental planning. He has provided effective research and delivery of numerous water and transportation-related studies and projects, including enhanced watershed management plans.

E. SCHEDULE

Milestone	2017				2018				2019				2020		
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
TASK 0 Administration															
0.1 LA-Ventura Application submitted															
0.1 LA-Ventura Application approved															
0.1 DWR - LACFC Contract															
0.2 Administration (Regions)															
TASK 1 Community Outreach															
1.1 Design Outreach Program															
1.2 Community Outreach & Education															
1.3 Broad-based Public Education															
1.4 DAC Aspects in IRWM Plans Project															
1.5 Implementing & Reporting Project															
TASK 2 Needs Assessment															
2.1 Design Needs Assessment															
2.2 Community - Needs Assessment															
2.3 Institutions - Needs Assessment															
2.4 Implementing & Reporting Project															
TASK 3 Project Development															
3.1 Technical Assistance															
3.2 Project Development															
3.3 Implementing Project															
3.3 Final Report															

F. BUDGET

<i>Task 0 Administration</i>	<i>0.1 Proposal Development</i>	\$216,000	\$216,000
	<i>0.2 Administration (Regions)</i>	\$735,000	\$735,000
<i>Task 1 Community Outreach</i>	<i>1.1 Design Outreach Program</i>	\$420,700	
	<i>1.2 Community Outreach & Education</i>	\$999,600	
	<i>1.3 Broad-based Public Education</i>	\$700,000	
	<i>1.4 Facilitation, IRWM Efforts, plus</i>	\$100,000	
	<i>1.5 Project Mgmt & Reporting</i>	\$250,000	\$2,470,300
<i>Task 2 Needs Assessment</i>	<i>2.1 Design Needs Assessment</i>	\$335,700	
	<i>2.2 Community - Needs Assessment</i>	\$992,000	
	<i>2.3 Institutions - Needs Assessment</i>	\$336,000	
	<i>2.4 Project Mgmt & Reporting</i>	\$190,000	\$1,853,700
<i>Task 3 Project Development</i>	<i>3.1 Technical Assistance</i>	\$946,000	
	<i>3.2 Project Development</i>	\$3,347,000	
	<i>3.3 Project Mgmt, Reporting, Final Report</i>	\$232,000	\$4,525,000
Total DACIP Funding Area		\$9,800,000	\$9,800,000

ATTACHMENTS

- Letter of support – Upper Santa Clara River IRWM
- Letter of support – Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County IRWM
- Letter of support – Greater Los Angeles County IRWM
- Letter of support – Gateway IRWM
- LA / Ventura Funding Area Map