

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Prepared on January 2, 2019

ITEM NUMBER: 9

SUBJECT: Environmental Justice and Human Right to Water Implementation
Annual Update for the Central Coast Region

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ACTION: Discussion/Informational

SUMMARY

At the Central Coast Water Board, environmental justice (EJ) aids in our prioritization, permeates many of our programs, and informs our actions. EJ affirms the mandate that every individual and community, regardless of its size and economic standing, deserves access to clean water and the opportunity to provide meaningful input to decisions that affect their water quality. While the Central Coast Water Board has proactively implemented activities that prioritize drinking water protection, serious challenges to access to safe and affordable drinking water remain. These challenges often disproportionately impact marginalized groups and individuals, such as people living with low-income and poverty, communities of color, homeless people, indigenous peoples, and residents of unincorporated areas. Since 2013, Central Coast Water Board staff have presented annual EJ updates to the Board. Over the last five years, staff has worked with the Board to support EJ issues by continuously outreaching to disadvantaged communities (DACs), assessing needs, prioritizing activities, implementing projects and increasing regional EJ service capacity to ensure water quality protection efforts for all of the residents of the Central Coast, regardless of economic standing.

This agenda item provides updated information regarding the Central Coast Water Board's continuing efforts on a number of specific EJ issues, including implementation of the human right to water law and engagement of EJ stakeholders consistent with legislative mandates and state policy. To further this discussion, staff also invited several EJ partners to provide presentations to the Board discussing the status of specific EJ projects and funding efforts planned efforts for 2019.

BACKGROUND

Legislative Mandates and State Policy

California was one of the first states in the nation to codify EJ in statute and adopt policies to address the unfair burden of pollution from those most vulnerable to its effects. In 2012,

California also became the first state in the nation to legislatively recognize the human right to water. Attachment 1 identifies the various legislative mandates and policy to address EJ issues.

Consistent with State legislation, on February 16, 2016, the State Water Board adopted Resolution No. 2016-0010¹, which identifies the human right to water as a core value and directs its implementation in State Water Board programs and activities. On January 26, 2017, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Resolution No. R3-2017-0004², which affirms the realization of the human right to water and the protection of human health as the Central Coast Water Board's top priorities. The resolution directs staff to prioritize regulatory programs to prevent and address discharges that threaten human health by causing or contributing to pollution or contamination of drinking water sources; and to promote achievement of the human right to water through effective prioritization, implementation, outreach and participation, performance monitoring and reporting, and through building strategic partnership.

On December 4, 2018, Monterey County affirmed the human right to water and became the first county to establish local policy to prioritize safe and clean water for human use³. The Monterey County proclamation memorializes state, regional, and local level commitment within the Central Coast region to support EJ issues and the human right to water.

DISCUSSION

Environmental Justice Issues in the Central Coast Region

The Central Coast Water Board's EJ efforts works to ensure the fair treatment for people of all ethnicities, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of Water Board laws, regulations, and policies. While there is no funding source dedicated to support EJ activities, the Executive Officer assigned Section Manager Angela Schroeter to act as EJ coordinator to help support EJ initiatives and facilitate EJ projects, and the Central Coast Water Board has identified Vice Chair Dr. Monica Hunter to act as EJ liaison on the Board.

Among our highest EJ priorities is to implement the human right to water law as it pertains to the severe and widespread nitrate pollution impacts to drinking water in the Central Coast region. Groundwater data continue to document increasing nitrate contamination, total nitrogen reporting from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) continue to confirm ongoing nitrate loading, and DACs continue to require assistance to obtain safe drinking water.

Attachment 2 provides a list of DACs identified in the Central Coast region. To address the significant threat to public health associated with nitrate pollution, Central Coast Water Board staff have dedicated significant resources over the past several years toward advancing interim safe drinking water projects (e.g. bottled water and treatment systems) for DACs with impacted groundwater resources. While safe drinking water needs demand significant resources and attention, DACs are also severely affected by inadequate wastewater infrastructure, impacts due to climate change and drought, subsistence fishing and potential exposure to fish

¹State Water Board Resolution No. 2016-0010,

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/resolutions/2016/rs2016_0010.pdf

² Central Coast Water Board Resolution No. R3-2017-0004,

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2017/2017-0004_hrtw_fnl.pdf

³<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/Home/Components/News/News/4586/1336?backlist=%2Fgovernment%2Fdepartments-a-h%2Fhealth>

contamination, and water quality impacts related to homelessness. Additionally, DACs are often less able to deal with these risks as a result of limited access to data and information, limited knowledge of exposures and lack of resources to address problems, and lack of access to the political process and inability to effectively engage in water-supply and -protection decision-making.

Despite limited resources to support EJ activities, Central Coast Water Board staff successfully implemented many EJ projects using effective internal coordination and our ability to leverage additional capacity through our collaboration with external partners. For example, staff has made substantial progress on many projects identified in the 2018 Human Right to Water Workplan (Attachment 3) and completed several projects by augmenting our limited resources using settlement funding and capacity building. Central Coast Water Board staff also supported meaningful public participation and stakeholder involvement by conducting outreach to DACs and California Native American Tribes, and addressing translation needs for non-English speakers.

Coordination with California Native American Tribes

In 2011, the Governor signed Executive Order B-10-11 that instructed all state agencies to communicate and consult with California Native American tribes and provide an opportunity for meaningful input into the development of legislation, regulations, rules, and policies on matters that may impact tribal communities. The State Water Board Office of Public Participation (OPP) is currently implementing a public process to adopt a Tribal Consultation Policy⁴ to improve overall communication, transparency, and government-to-government engagement through Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultations, Tribal Beneficial Uses and overall relationship building. The intent of the policy is to guide staff to engage effectively with California Native American tribes through timely and meaningful consultation and collaboration on actions that may have an impact to tribal lands and/or cultural resources consistent with the mission of the Water Boards. The policy also establishes statewide general guidelines for tribal consultations across the Water Boards.

A California Native American Tribe refers to either a federally-recognized California tribal government listed on the most recent notice of the Federal Register or a non-federally recognized California tribal government listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). A list of California Native American Tribes who have indicated association with the Central Coast region is included in Attachment 4. Central Coast Water Board staff engage with representatives of California Native American Tribes in several programs and projects. For example, staff routinely provide AB 52 consultations associated with TMDL projects and the development of general orders (e.g. Ag Orders). Additionally, construction and larger soil cleanup projects in the region (e.g., wastewater treatment plants) must have a tribal representative at the site or on call if the development is in an area with the potential to uncover California Native American artifacts.

⁴Draft Tribal Consultation Policy, State Water Board, October 13, 2018,
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/draft_calif_water_board_draft_tribal\(10152018\).asd.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/docs/draft_calif_water_board_draft_tribal(10152018).asd.pdf)

As part of the 2017 Basin Plan Triennial Review, the Central Coast Water Board adopted Resolution R3-2017-0119⁵ which prioritized the consideration of beneficial use designations for tribal traditional and cultural fishing, tribal subsistence fishing, and subsistence fishing. Additionally, in 2018, the Central Coast Water Board also conducted a preliminary needs assessment to evaluate tribal beneficial uses in the southern part of the Central Coast region. Assessment results acknowledge the cultural and traditional significance of fishing in California Native American communities but did not encounter tribal subsistence fishing⁶.

Grants for Environmental Justice Projects

Since 2013, the Central Coast Water Board has provided funding for multiple grant projects to implement the human right to water and support DACs, utilizing CCAMP-GAP and PG&E settlement funds. Table 1 identifies Central Coast Water Board-funded grants designated for EJ projects.

In addition, the Central Coast Water Board's Grants program staff actively engage to help local entities secure State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) grant program⁷ funding to support our priorities and funding for DAC water quality projects in the Central Coast region; these projects include Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM), Drinking Water for Schools, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and Proposition 1 (Small Community Wastewater, Drinking Water, Water Recycling, Stormwater, and Groundwater Sustainability).

Central Coast Water Board staff also support individuals and communities to aid their efforts to obtain needed technical assistance, to apply for and receive grant funds, and to coordinate with permitting programs to prioritize and implement projects. While local assistance is very effective, the Central Coast Water Board does not have sufficient staff resources to meet the demand for assistance. To help address this need and increase regional long-term EJ stability and capacity, the Executive Officer allocated Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection Program (CCAMP-GAP) funds to establish an EJ organizational presence to assist Central Coast DACs in securing safe drinking water and wastewater solutions. In August 2018, the Central Coast Water Board's review panel selected a proposal submitted by the Community Water Center. Attachment 5 includes a Community Water Center press release announcing their new Central Coast Office. A Community Water Center representative will make a presentation to the Board to discuss their plans to build EJ capacity on the Central Coast as part of this agenda item.

Table 1. Central Coast Water Board Grants for Environmental Justice Projects

GRANT PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STATUS
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⁵ Resolution No. R3-2017-0119, Approving the 2017 Triennial Review of the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/publications_forms/publications/basin_plan/triennial_review/docs/resolution_r3-2017-0119.pdf

⁶ A Needs Assessment for Santa Barbara County and Southern San Luis Obispo County, Report to the Central Coast Water Board, Kennedy Communications, May 2018.

⁷ State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) Grant Program information https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/

Community Water Center – Central Coast Office (Angela Schroeter)	<p>Status: <i>IN PROGRESS</i></p> <p>In September 2018, the Central Coast Water Board allocated approximately \$385,809 in CCAMP-GAP funds to the Community Water Center to establish a local office, to increase EJ capacity and community engagement in the Central Coast region. Funding is provided for the first year, with an additional \$359,000 allocated for a second year conditioned upon the successful implementation of year one and availability of funds.</p> <p>https://www.communitywatercenter.org/</p>
Central Coast Domestic Well Outreach and Sampling Project/CCAMP-GAP (Julia Dyer)	<p>Status: <i>IN PROGRESS</i></p> <p>Starting in September 2018, the Central Coast Water Board allocated approximately \$219,000 in CCAMP-GAP funds to implement a region-wide domestic well sampling project within the Central Coast region with an emphasis on high-risk nitrate areas and DACs. Groundwater quality data is managed in GeoTracker GAMA.</p> <p>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/press_room/press_releases/docs/pr_central_coast_well_testing.pdf</p>
San Luis Obispo Domestic Well Testing Project (Jacqueline Tkac)	<p>Status: COMPLETED, September 2018</p> <p>In September 2017, the Central Coast Water Board allocated approximately \$61,000 in CCAMP-GAP funds to conduct a domestic well testing pilot project in coordination with San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health. The project tested 190 domestic wells in San Luis Obispo county for twenty-six water quality parameters. Water quality data is managed in GeoTracker GAMA. The purpose of the project was to provide free drinking water sampling and analytical services to domestic well users, support a pilot study to aid research and development of the Deltares Nitrate app, as well as to provide domestic well users with the tools to make informed decisions about their drinking water, while creating the opportunity to share groundwater quality data associated with domestic wells between government agencies and the public. The project ended in September 2018.</p>
Southern Central Coast Region Environmental Justice Assessment (Angela Schroeter)	<p>Status: COMPLETED, May 2018</p> <p>The Central Coast Water Board provided approximately \$25,000 of CCAMP-GAP funds to Kennedy Communications to conduct a drinking water and EJ needs assessment for specific areas of the southern Central Coast region. The assessment focused on small community water systems, domestic wells, and tribal and subsistence fishing beneficial uses. The project ended in May 2018.</p>
CivicSpark Fellowship Program (Angela Schroeter)	<p>Status: COMPLETED, March 2018</p> <p>The Central Coast Water Board allocated approximately \$37,000 in CCAMP-GAP funds to participate in the CivicSpark Program. CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local governments to address climate change and water management needs. The Central Coast Water Board obtained two CivicSpark fellows to implement Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and safe drinking water projects supporting DACs in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The CivicSpark fellows completed their CivicSpark service in September 2017 and continued work at the</p>

	Regional Board as CCAMP-GAP Data Technicians until March 2018. Both fellows made significant contributions to the Central Coast Water Board and local agencies.
Safe Drinking Water Grant Project (Katie McNeill)	Status: COMPLETED, April 2017 The Safe Drinking Water Grant Project provided approximately \$118,000 in PG&E settlement funds to EJCW and CURES to assist individuals and small communities affected by nitrate contamination in the Salinas Valley to obtain interim replacement drinking water. EJCW aided approximately 40 economically disadvantaged households in the Royal Oaks/Las Lomas area to receive approximately 2,000 gallons of replacement water each month for more than two years. The Safe Drinking Water Grant Project ended in April 2017. Central Coast Water Board staff worked with EJCW to obtain a State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Account grant of \$101,582 to ensure the continuation of bottled water for the community through June 30, 2019. EJCW also continues to work with the community to evaluate long-term solutions.
Irrigated Lands Groundwater Monitoring Compliance Assistance Project (Angela Schroeter)	Status: COMPLETED, December 2014 The Irrigated Lands Groundwater Monitoring Project provided approximately \$10,000 of CCAMP-GAP funds to limited resource farmers for compliance assistance with Ag Order 2.0 groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements. The project ended in December 2014.

Priority Projects to Support the Human Right to Water and Disadvantaged Communities

In addition to the grant projects described above, the Central Coast Water Board staff also engage on high priority EJ projects that implement the human right to water. These projects often attempt to pilot innovative, larger-scale strategies and technologies, or advance efforts to improve implementation of regulatory programs. Three specific examples of staff's efforts are described below:

Nitrate Water Treatment Project, Salinas Valley – UCLA Pilot Project (Harvey Packard and Angela Schroeter)

The University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) received approximately \$2,508,000 in funding from the State Water Board's Cleanup and Abatement Account to implement nitrate drinking water treatment based on centrally managed water purification systems (combination reverse osmosis) at small community water systems impacted by nitrate pollution. The goal of the pilot project is to demonstrate effective and economical treatment methods and remote telemetry management such that multiple, limited resource communities can be managed collectively, thus reducing individual system technical operation and management costs. The project targets treatment for three well systems that serve DACs in the Salinas Valley: Blue Rock Apartments, Pryor Farms and Santa Teresa Park (San Vicente Water System). To address potential impacts from the discharge of treatment system residual waste, Central Coast Water Board staff issued monitoring and reporting requirements/programs (MRP) to UCLA in August 2017 and will evaluate the monitoring results to inform future monitoring requirements for residual discharges from future similar treatment systems as anticipated proliferation of this virtual consolidation

strategy occurs. This virtual consolidation of small drinking water systems is one of several strategies for ensuring safe drinking water in nitrate-challenged groundwater basins.

Status - UCLA is currently in the process of submitting final design plans and specifications to the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and Monterey County Environmental Health. Once the County and DDW complete their review, the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) will provide a notice to proceed with construction of the first system. Once construction is complete, Monterey County will authorize deployment of the first system at Blue Rock Apartments and the start of the commissioning period (early 2019). The commissioning period will last approximately 4 months and will identify any required retrofits. After the commissioning period and retrofits are in place, the County will then finalize the drinking water permit for the Blue Rock Apartments system and then authorize deployment of the remaining two systems at Santa Teresa and Pryor Farms. The two remaining systems would be subject to the same commissioning period as Blue Rock. Once the project is constructed and the drinking water treatment systems are permitted and running, UCLA will implement the MRP, as required by the Central Coast Water Board. Based on monitoring results, Central Coast Water Board staff will consider alternatives for addressing any waste discharge (e.g. permitting). DFA and UCLA will make a presentation to the Board to discuss the UCLA Pilot Project as part of this agenda item.

Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group – Interim Replacement Water Agreement
(Angela Schroeter and Diane Kukol)

In March 2017, the Central Coast Water Board and State Water Board entered into the interim replacement water settlement agreement with the Salinas Basin Agricultural Stewardship Group (SBASG). The agreement enables growers and landowners to avoid replacement water-related enforcement in exchange for provision of free replacement drinking water to individuals and communities reliant on small water systems and domestic wells that have unsafe drinking water due to groundwater nitrate pollution in the Salinas groundwater basin. To maximize the effectiveness of the replacement water program, Central Coast Water Board staff coordinate closely with State Water Board staff and SBASG, as well as the Monterey County Environmental Health Bureau and the Community Water Center.

Status - Based upon the successful implementation of the Year 1 Agreement, the Executive Officer, the Chief Deputy Director of the State Water Board, and SBASG agreed to extend the agreement for a second year of implementation, with the primary focus shifting towards providing replacement water to those dependent on nitrate-impacted domestic wells. The agreement will automatically renew for additional one-year periods unless any party to the agreement provides notice to the other parties. This project is discussed in greater detail as Item No. 10.

Individual Replacement Drinking Water Cases
(Matt Keeling, Angela Schroeter, Thea Tryon)

Using Water Code (Porter-Cologne) enforcement authority, Central Coast Water Board staff continue to work on several individual cases where residents or communities do not have safe and reliable drinking water associated with widespread nitrate pollution. The primary objective for these individual cases is to ensure that the individuals impacted by the pollution have safe drinking water, some of which are DACs. The Water Code also authorizes that those responsible for the pollution can be required to provide replacement water, which may come in the form of effective wellhead treatment or other replacement drinking water supplies. Staff is coordinating with the State Water Board's Office of Enforcement, DDW and local environmental

health agencies from Monterey County, Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County regarding priority areas, specific cases and appropriate actions.

FUTURE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES

As discussed above, the last five years of EJ activities have primarily focused on implementing the human right to water and the urgent need to provide safe drinking water (e.g. well testing and replacement water projects) for DACs. During this time, new initiatives to ensure safe drinking water for communities continue to be implemented at the regional and statewide scale by agricultural industry representatives and other stakeholders. This enables the Central Coast Water Board to expand their focus on other issues affecting DACs, including wastewater infrastructure, IRWM and sustainable groundwater management act (SGMA) projects, impacts due to climate change and drought, homelessness, and subsistence fishing and potential exposure to fish contamination. Several of these issues are included in the 2019 Draft Human Right to Water Workplan (Attachment 6) and discussed in greater detail below.

Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Communities Involvement Grant for the Central Coast Funding Area

California Proposition 1 requires Department of Water Resources to expend not less than 10 percent of the funds authorized for the IRWM Grant Program for the purpose of ensuring DAC involvement and inclusion in IRWM planning efforts. In 2018, the Regional Water Management Foundation received an IRWM DAC Involvement Grant for the Central Coast funding area in the amount of \$4,300,000. The grant includes ten projects that benefit multiple IRWM regions in the following project areas:

- Conducting DAC needs assessments for Santa Cruz, Pajaro River Watershed, Greater Monterey, Monterey Peninsula, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara areas. The assessments will focus on the drinking water and wastewater needs of rural and unincorporated areas that meet the DAC definition, including community water systems, wastewater systems, farmworker housing, schools that provide their own drinking water, and rural communities with a high density of contaminated domestic wells. For the Cuyama Valley, which is entirely dependent on groundwater in a critically overdrafted basin, researchers from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) are using surveys and ethnographic fieldwork to assess the needs of the population, diagnose problems in water use and management faced by the community, and suggest possible solutions. A UCSB representative will provide a presentation discussing the Cuyama Valley water needs assessment as part of this agenda item.
- Conducting educational activities and community outreach to help community members understand and respond to water management needs in the respective IRWM regions and engage in IRWM activities, including related to long-term solutions and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- Providing technical assistance and site assessments including technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) assistance to DACs so that the communities are better able to support local decision making, participation in IRWM planning and implementation, and project development and implementation; as well as median household income (MHI)

surveys, drinking water and septic system assessments, and mapping areas of concern or DAC project boundaries.

- Conducting project development and construction activities such as planning, environmental compliance, pre-construction engineering/design activities to support and prepare for future implementation and construction projects to meet DAC water and wastewater needs.

As part of the Central Coast Water Board's Draft 2019 Human Right to Water Workplan, staff plans to expand community outreach to increase involvement in the Central Coast IRWM DAC involvement projects, in coordination with the Regional Water Management Foundation and Community Water Center. A representative of the Regional Water Management Foundation will provide a presentation discussing the Central Coast IRWM DAC Involvement projects as part of this agenda item.

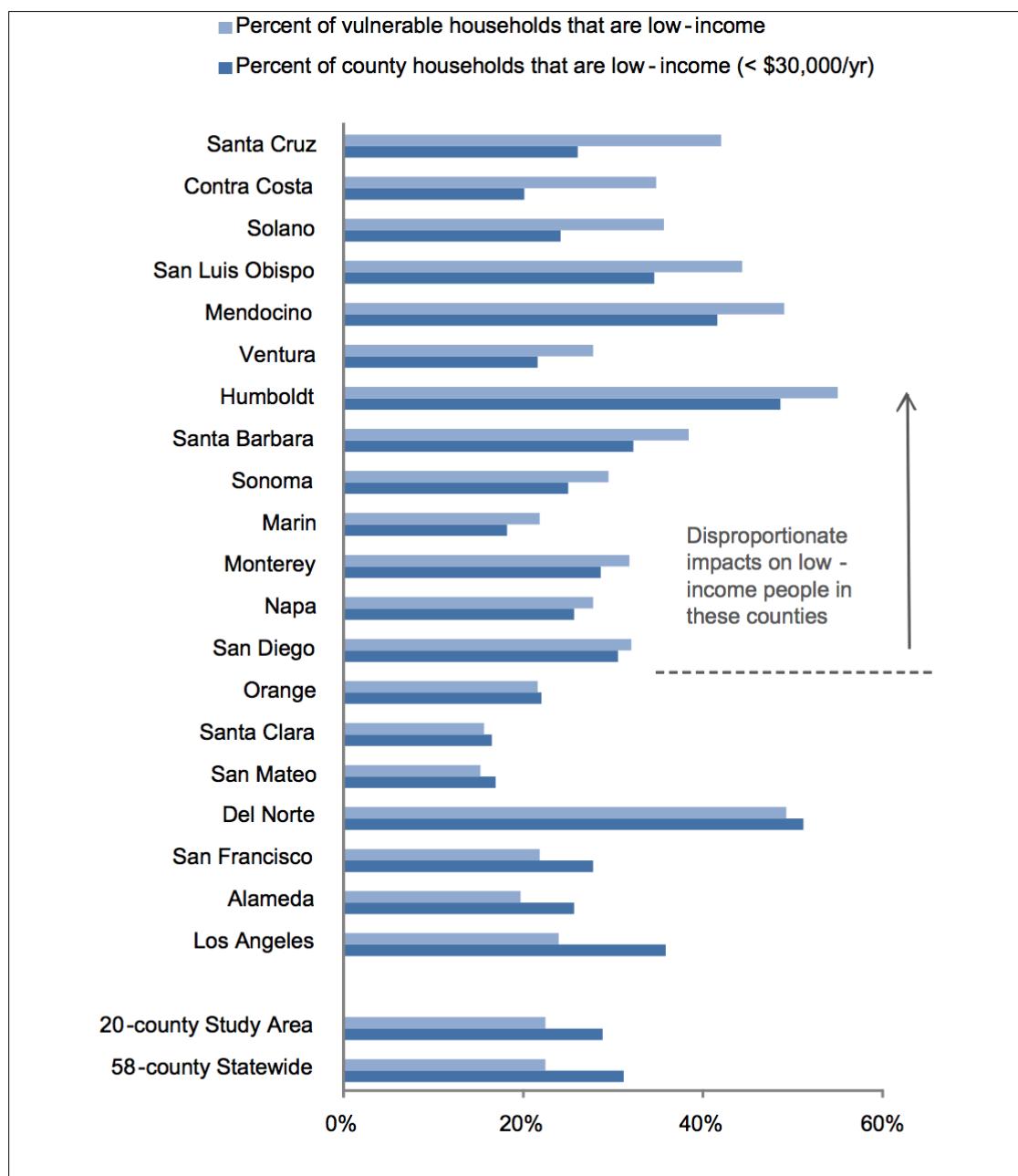
Climate Change Impacts to Disadvantaged Communities

As discussed at the December 2018 Board Meeting⁸, the adverse impacts of climate change will likely disproportionately affect those who are socially and economically disadvantaged, including the urban and rural poor, the elderly, children, traditional societies, agricultural workers and rural populations. DACs in the Central Coast region are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Low-income households in the region are disproportionately exposed to rising sea level. Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties have higher percentages of disadvantaged populations that are vulnerable to flood-related, sea level rise risk, relative to other California coastal counties. Low-income households in the region are disproportionately exposed to rising sea level (see Figure 1: the top bar shows the percentage within the population at risk of a 100-yr flood with a 1.4-meter sea-level rise. A county for which the top bar is longer indicates that there is a disproportionate vulnerability on low-income households).

As part of the Central Coast Water Board's Draft 2019 Human Right to Water Workplan, staff plans to prioritize the assessment of potential climate change impacts to DACs and coordinate with relevant programs to address climate change adaptation. A representative of the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) will provide a presentation discussing issues related to climate justice and impacts to DACs as part of this item.

⁸ December 2018 Central Coast Water Board Meeting, Item 6, Central Coast Region Response to Climate Change
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2018/december/index.html

Figure 1: Percentage of low-income households among the population vulnerable to a 100-year flood with a 1.4-meter sea-level rise compared with the county total⁹



⁹ Heberger, et al. (Pacific Institute) 2018, The Impacts of Sea-Level Rise on the California Coast

Subsistence Fishing and Potential Exposure to Fish Contamination

Fish contamination is an important EJ issue in California because of disproportionate impacts to the ethnically diverse fish consumers and the lack of involvement of these impacted consumers in decision-making. To address this issue, State Water Board Resolution No. 2017-0027 established three new beneficial use definitions for use by the State and Regional Water Boards in designating Tribal Traditional Culture (CUL), Tribal Subsistence Fishing (T-SUB), and Subsistence Fishing (SUB) beneficial uses to inland surface waters, enclosed bays, or estuaries in the state. Based on these recent beneficial use definitions, Regional Water Boards may now include activities to designate specific waters as part of the Triennial Review Basin Planning process.

CCAMP has participated in fish tissue monitoring for specific waterbodies, however region-wide monitoring is not routine and comprehensive fish contamination studies do not exist for the Central Coast region. Fish tissue data is especially lacking for coastal areas. In 2013, staff coordinated with Office of Environmental Health Hazard and Assessment (OEHHA) to review data and post a fish advisory for eating fish from Oso Flaco Lake due to DDTs, which includes information on the health risks from consuming fish from the lake¹⁰. Based on preliminary information provided by Kennedy Communication consultants regarding subsistence fishing uses in the southern part of the Central Coast region, staff plans to further identify areas where DACs may have subsistence fishing beneficial uses. In addition, CCAMP staff are coordinating with the State Water Board Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) to conduct fish tissue monitoring in the Central Coast region planned for 2020. Pending results of monitoring, staff will consider next steps, including coordination with OEEHA and local public health agencies, as appropriate.

Homelessness

Homeless populations often do not have access to safe drinking water or basic and necessary wastewater options. The potential water quality and health impacts from homeless populations are significant throughout the region and state. Some Regional Water Boards are implementing projects to collaborate with local agencies and investigate the nature and scope of water quality impacts associated with homelessness and develop measures to mitigate water quality impacts that are protective of water quality and consider the needs of the homeless population¹¹. Central Coast Water Board staff have not previously addressed this issue as part of regional EJ and human right to water efforts. However, in 2019, we will grow our understanding and evaluate impacts from homelessness and consider potential solutions. More information on efforts towards homelessness will be forthcoming later in the year as we continue to develop our strategy.

CONCLUSION

Central Coast Water Board staff address EJ and implement the human right to water through a number of existing strategies and actions. Consistent with legislative mandates and state policy, this agenda item provides a collective accounting of these efforts to outreach to DACs, assess needs, prioritize activities, implement projects and increase regional EJ service capacity.

¹⁰ OEHHA Fish Advisory for Oso Flaco Lake, 2013, <https://oehha.ca.gov/fish/advisories/osoflaco-lake>

¹¹ State Water Board Staff Presentation: Homelessness, Water Quality, and Implementation of the Human Right to Water, 2013, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_reference/2018fall/docs/homelessness_gita_kapahi.pdf

Staff will continue to implement EJ projects identified in the Draft 2019 Human Right to Water Workplan using effective internal coordination and leveraging additional capacity through our collaboration with external partners, including projects related to IRWM DAC involvement, SGMA and climate change. Staff will also continue to support meaningful public participation and stakeholder involvement by conducting outreach to DACs and California Native American Tribes, and addressing translation needs for non-English speakers. In addition, staff will continue to coordinate with permitting programs to prioritize and implement EJ projects, and also collaborate with the Community Water Center to actively support DACs to facilitate and increase their ability to obtain needed technical assistance and resources.

Staff will also continue to provide updates to the Board on our collective progress at implementing the human right to water and various EJ projects. As part of these updates, staff will evaluate our performance, address necessary changes in strategy and direction, and report on the effectiveness of our efforts

As part of this agenda item, staff has arranged for the following guest speakers to provide presentations regarding local EJ projects in the Central Coast region:

- Meghan Tosney, Supervising Water Resources Control Engineer, Division of Financial Assistance - State Water Board
- Dr. Yoram Cohen, Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department and UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
- John Ramirez, Director, Environmental Health Bureau - Monterey County Health Department
- Susan De Anda, Co-Executive Director, and Dr. Heather Lukacs, Director of Community Solutions, Community Water Center
- Tim Carson, Program Director, Regional Water Management Foundation
- Dr. Casey Walsh, Department Chair, Department of Anthropology - UC Santa Barbara
- Maricela Morales, Executive Director, Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

ATTACHMENTS

1. California Environmental Justice Legislation and Policy
2. List of Disadvantaged Communities in the Central Coast Region
3. 2018 Human Right to Water Workplan
4. California Native American Tribes associated with the Central Coast Region, provided by the California Native American Heritage Commission.
5. Community Water Center Press Release, Dated November 13, 2018
6. Draft 2019 Human Right to Water Workplan