

**INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GRANT
FOR THE CENTRAL COAST FUNDING AREA – STATUS UPDATE**

Updated January 7, 2021

PROGRAM CONTACT:

Tim Carson, Program Director
Regional Water Management Foundation
Community Foundation Santa Cruz County
tcarson@cfsc.org

SUMMARY

The purpose of Attachment 3 is to provide an update on the status of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Grant for the Central Coast. In 2018, the Regional Water Management Foundation received a Proposition 1 IRWM DACI Grant in the amount of \$4,300,000, which funds projects in the jurisdictional areas of the six IRWM programs in the Central Coast Region: Greater Monterey County, Monterey Peninsula, Pajaro River Watershed, San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County and Santa Cruz County.

The IRWM DACI grant includes projects that benefit multiple IRWM regions including community needs assessments, outreach and education, technical assistance, and construction projects to meet DAC water and wastewater needs. These activities will provide a range of benefits including: 1) providing a better understanding of the water and wastewater needs and challenges faced by these communities; 2) an opportunity to identify and assess new needs; 3) providing opportunities for local and regional capacity building; 4) increasing disadvantaged and underrepresented communities involvement in IRWM; 5) and ensuring these communities of aware of opportunities through IRWM.

A draft Community Needs Assessment report for the Central Coast will be submitted to the Department of Water Resources in 2021. The needs assessments in four of the six regions are nearly completed, with work ongoing in the other regions. In the Santa Cruz region, in response to the 2020 CZU August Lightning Complex wildfire, the assessment is being updated to include water related needs of DACs impacted by wildfire. Rural Communities Assistance Corp (RCAC) is supporting efforts in multiple regions. RCAC has conducted meetings with local small water systems to encourage consolidations where possible and determine major infrastructure needs. In 2020, outreach and educational activities were mostly put on hold or shifted to virtual events. RCAC hosted online workshops for small systems focused on budgeting, rate setting and water quality. Technical assistance concluded in the summer of 2020 resulting in 13 technical assessments of local small water systems. Median household income (MHI) surveys, a metric used to define DACs, were conducted in the multiple regions to

determine if specific communities qualify as DACs. In 2020, in Cuyama Valley, grant funds supported development of education and outreach materials such as newsletters, an interactive website, and videos about water issues facing the community.

Project development activities continue in all six IRWM regions. This includes project implementation and planning necessary for future implementation of important water projects for the public water systems that serve DACs. Examples of work underway include: San Lorenzo Valley Water District is nearing completion of a Hydraulic Master Plan, which will inform future fire flow infrastructure improvements; Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services District is nearing completion of a new 600,000-gallon water supply storage tank; Construction is underway in the City of Monterey to improve storm drain infrastructure along Franklin Street to reduce flooding potential and benefit stormwater runoff.

In the Greater Monterey IRWM region, project designs (30% designs) and environmental documents will be completed on four projects to advance their readiness for future funding and implementation. In the San Luis Obispo region, three of the five planning and engineering projects funded by the grant are complete. In the Santa Barbara region, the Cuyama and New Cuyama Facilities Optimization Master Plan is near completion and the Cuyama hydrogeologic study is complete. The City of Guadalupe completed final plans and specifications for both water distribution improvements and for sewer collection system improvements. The final plans and specifications for wastewater treatment system improvements will be completed in the spring of 2021. All the grant funded work in the Central Coast is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2021. The results are anticipated to enable additional projects to be implemented through the forthcoming IRWM Proposition 1 Implementation grants.