

## Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Disadvantaged Communities Grant

Sierra Water Workgroup Summit

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## Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Grants

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



## Inyo-Mono DAC Grant

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



## Inyo-Mono IRWM region

- Land area: 17,259 mi<sup>2</sup>
  - 11% of California
  - >50% of Lahontan funding region
- Population: ~68,000
  - Major population centers: Ridgecrest, Mammoth Lakes, Bishop
  - 4 people/mi<sup>2</sup>
- Mountains, desert, saline lakes, water exports
  - Source water for >1 million people in L.A.



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



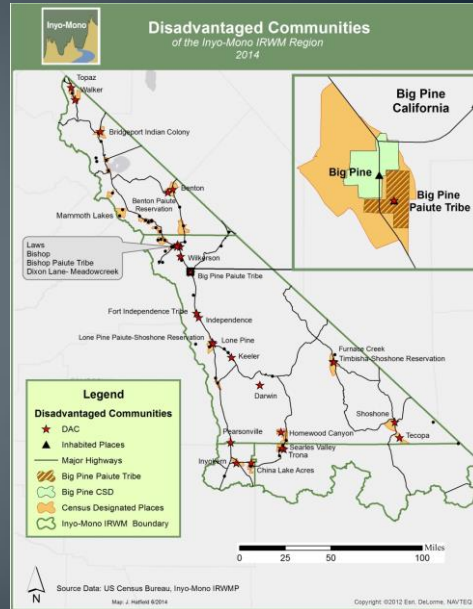
## DACs in Inyo-Mono



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

## BUT...

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



## So...

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

## Which one is the DAC?



## Community Surveys (n=10)

**Disadvantaged Community Indicators Survey - 2013**

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

Date of Survey: 11/17/13

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

Notes: Shoshone FMS

**Homes**

Total number of homes surveyed: 11 (54)

Chain link fence? 11 (100%)

Mobile homes? 11 (100%)

One-story homes? 11 (100%)

Junk cars around home? 11 (100%)

Landscaping? 11 (100%)

Junk or trash in yard? 11 (100%)

House in need of repairs outside? 11 (100%)

Notes (Continue on back if needed): One house with large garden, lots of street planning, multi-family/unit homes

Photo evidence? For purposes of comparing

hard to determine if house is occupied

if apps. in addition to homes?

Also comes within access to services

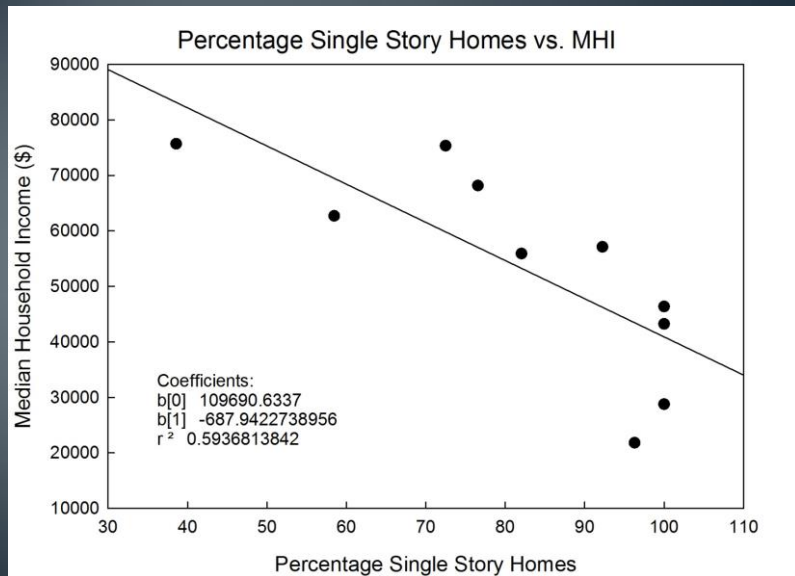
into town

into city, stuff come out & telecom

gardens / food

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

## Preliminary Results



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

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





## Take-homes from metrics exercise

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

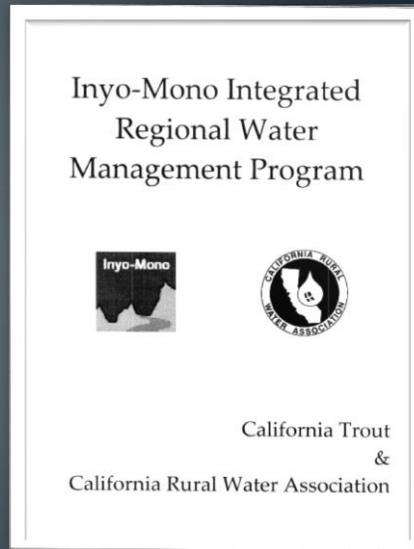
## Outreach

- Formal meetings in region
  - With individual entities
  - Generic public meetings
- Formal meetings outside of region
  - Other IRWM groups with high % DACs
- Unexpected outreach opportunities
  - Trainings
  - World Water Day



## Assessing Needs & Building Capacity

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



## Assessing Needs & Building Capacity



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



## What's Next?

- Draft recommendations to DWR: June 15
- Film premieres
- Presenting results & recommendations
- Final report to DWR: September 30, 2014
- Continued Inyo-Mono DAC outreach & engagement



## Recommendations

## Recommendations (1)

1. DAC outreach requires time, persistence, creativity, community-specific knowledge
2. Utilize unlikely outreach venues
3. Further research alternative definitions of DAC



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## Recommendations (2)

1. Promote DAC water system training, technical assistance, capacity building – from State and local entities
2. Create different grant proposal and grant administration requirements for DACs
3. Investigate possibilities for water system consolidation
4. Develop realistic and adequate rate structures



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## We want to hear from you!

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

We welcome continued input...

## THANK YOU and Contact Info

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