

Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study

New Sources Pilot

Community Review Process Factsheet

Background on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Water Study, (TLB DAC Study)

Disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Tulare Lake Basin region face widespread drinking water and wastewater challenges. The California Department of Water Resources awarded \$2 million to the County of Tulare to develop a plan for regional water and wastewater solutions for DACs in the Tulare Lake Basin, including areas in Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. The project goals are to provide solutions that DACs can implement to provide safe, clean and affordable potable water supplies, and effective and affordable wastewater treatment and disposal options. The solutions also address long-term sustainability for operation, management, and financing these services.

Through the Stakeholder Oversight Advisory Committee (SOAC), a committee formed to direct the development of the Tulare Lake Basin DAC Water Study, the following four pilot projects were selected:

1. Management/ Non-Infrastructure Solutions to Reduce Costs and Improve Efficiency
2. Technical Solutions to Improve Efficiency/Reduce Operation & Maintenance Cost
3. New Source Development to address water quality and water supply challenges
4. Individual Household Treatment / Interim Solutions for private well owners and households on individual septic systems

New Source Pilot

The New Sources Pilot Report aims to identify the various challenges faced by disadvantaged communities in the study area with respect to water supply and to a limited degree, wastewater system challenges and solutions to address them. Water supply challenges are identified as including, but not limited to, lack of potable water quantity, lack of sufficient sources of potable water, and lack of adequate treatment of contaminants. The challenges also include geographic isolation and small communities with insufficient financial resources to address solutions. The report will include a Decision Tree to help DACs identify and implement a suitable and cost effective solution.

The report has identified the following potential solutions that may be applied regionally to DACs with similar characteristics and challenges:

- Physical consolidations
- Exchanges or contracting for surface water or another source
- Regional treatment facility
- New well(s)
- Treatment of existing sources
- Recharge of a local water basin
- Water conservation (e.g. metering)
- Restrict potable water deliveries from agriculture or large scale irrigation
- Mitigate a sources of on-site contamination

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Purpose of the Community Review Process

Each Pilot will go through a Community Review Process. The purpose of the Community Review Process is to;

- 1) Ground truth what is in the report to make sure it fits with community experiences and understandings, and to highlight success and challenges for each solution and to;
- 2) Inform the development of a Decision Tree that could be used for follow-up implementation after this study is done and serve as a guide for other DACs with similar characteristics and challenges.

Who/Why Participate?

DACs seeking to participate must meet the following criteria:

- Have a water quality or water supply problem;
- Have not secured funding to address the problem;
- Are not being covered by another TLB DAC Study pilot;
- Are willing to share information, participate in meetings and;
- Can get participation from the following stakeholders:
 - 1-2 Water Board Members
 - District Staff and/or Consultants, e.g. Engineer or Water Operator
 - Users *Project Team can help outreach to the user perspective.*

The Community Review Process aims to leave your community with something tangible. It will provide the opportunity to:

- Document your water supply/water quality needs;
- Identify potential solutions to your challenges, e.g. conduct a preliminary evaluation/analysis;
- Develop a Decision Tree specific to your community;
- Develop preliminary documents that can assist your community secure funding. *Dependent on funding available and scope of work.*

Additionally, your participation will help inform the development of Decision Tree for similar communities.

What will the Community Review Process be Like?

- One-on-one meeting(s) with the project team and/or lead engineer to discuss current water supply status and needs;
- Focus group meetings to develop a Decision Tree for your community and;
- A final board presentation to discuss findings, outcome and next steps of the process.

How to Sign Up?

In order to participate in this process, your board must do the following:

- Take action as a board and agree to participate in the review process;
- Assign 1-2 board members to represent your district/community at the meetings;
- Consent to sharing information, identify which staff member will be part of the process and;
- Allow the Pilot study to evaluate the needs of your community and name you in the report(s). *You will be provided status updates and report drafts to review.*

How to Get More Information?

For more information about this project, visit our project website

<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/cao/index.cfm/tulare-lake-basin-disadvantaged-community-water-study/>

Or contact Community Water Center at 559.733.0219.