



Disadvantaged Community (DAC), Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs), Underrepresented Communities (URCs), and Environmental Justice (EJ) Definitions for San Diego Funding Area

DRAFT

November 15, 2017

Purpose: Disadvantaged Community, Economically Distressed Area, Underrepresented Community, and Environmental Justice definitions for the San Diego IRWM Region, for use in the San Diego IRWM Plan and the San Diego IRWM Region's components of the San Diego Funding Area DAC Needs Assessment.

Disadvantaged Community (DAC): As defined by DWR, DACs are Census geographies with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the Statewide annual MHI. Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) are Census geographies having less than 60% of the Statewide annual MHI.

2017 Statewide MHI: \$61,818¹

2017 DAC (80% of Statewide): \$49,454

2017 SDAC (60% of Statewide): \$37,091

Areas mapped on DWR's DAC Mapping Tool (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/dacs/>) are considered DAC by the San Diego IRWM Program.

Economically Distressed Area (EDA): As defined by DWR, an EDA is a municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, a rural county, or a reasonably isolated and divisible segment of a larger municipality with a population of 20,000 persons or less, with a median household income (MHI) that is less than 85% of the Statewide MHI, and with one or more of the following conditions:

- 1) Financial hardship
- 2) Unemployment rate at least 2% of higher than statewide average
- 3) Low population density

The San Diego IRWM Program defines the above terms and conditions as follows.

¹ US Census Bureau - Median Household Income (in 2015 dollars), 2011-2015.

Reasonably isolated and divisible segment:

- A community, Census block, tract, or other area within a larger municipality that is separated by major transportation corridors, waterbodies, or other physical barriers.
- OR --
- A segment with separate (disconnected from municipal services) water or wastewater services or other jurisdictional boundaries, such as senior living, fixed income, or other communities, where more than a quarter of the population does not have access to an automobile, or where more than a quarter of the population are non-English speakers.

Financial hardship: If the MHI for the community is less than 80% of the statewide annual MHI, or if the MHI for the community is less than 85% of the regional or local MHI. Income data may be calculated using U.S. Census data, American Community Survey (ACS) data, income surveys, or other justifiable local knowledge (e.g., neighborhood has been designated low-income by its municipality, or community is a state- or federally-designated *colonia*).

Unemployment rate at least 2% higher than statewide average: The statewide average unemployment rate² is 5.4% as of August 2017, and thus communities having 7.4% and higher unemployment rates would meet this criterion. Local unemployment rates may use U.S. Census data, ACS data, or local economic agencies, so long as the data use a reasonable scale.

Low population density: Defined as less than 100 persons per square mile, consistent with DWR's EDA mapping tool's methodology. Population density may be determined using ACS data, or local data.

Areas mapped on DWR's EDA Mapping Tool (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/edas/>) are considered EDAs by the San Diego IRWM Program.

Underrepresented Community (URC): DWR does not define URCs, but recognizes Native American Tribes as traditionally underrepresented. The San Diego IRWM Program defines URCs as communities that currently have little or no representation in water policy and/or water resource management projects, or who historically have disproportionately less representation in public policy or decision-making forums. All Native American Tribes are considered URCs.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities: EJ seeks to ensure that land use plans, policies, and actions do not disproportionately affect low income and minority communities. Environmental justice is achieved when everyone, regardless of race, culture, or income, enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work. An EJ community is one that is mapped with an EJ Index of 80-100 percentile for any EJ Index compared to the State on the EPA's EJScreen tool (<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>). EJ Indices include PM2.5, Ozone, NATA* Diesel PM, NATA* Air Toxics Cancer Risk, NATA* Respiratory Hazard Index, Traffic Proximity and Volume, Lead Paint Indicator, Superfund

² California Employment Development Department. 2017. Report 400C: Monthly Labor Force Data for Counties. August 2017 – Preliminary. September 15. Available:

<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/countyr-400c.pdf>

Proximity, RMP Proximity, Hazardous Waste Proximity, and Wastewater Discharge Indicator.

Figure 1: DACs, EDAs, and URCs in the San Diego Funding Area

