



Ventura County

Needs Assessment Report

*Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Disadvantaged
Community Involvement Program (DACIP)*

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGST	Center for Geospatial Science and Technology
CSU	California State University
DACIP	Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GLAC	Greater Los Angeles County
GUI	Graphic User Interface
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
LA-V	Los Angeles - Ventura Funding Area
LACFCD	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
TMDL	total maximum daily loads (non-point source pollution)
USCR	Upper Santa Clara River
WCVC	Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County
WRPI	Water Resources and Policy Initiatives

Chapter 1 Los Angeles-Ventura Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) Background

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) allocated \$98 million to the Los Angeles-Ventura (LA-V) Funding Area as part of the \$510 million in funding authorized through the Proposition 1 IRWM grant. The LA-Ventura Funding Area “includes three independent Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning regions: Greater Los Angeles County (GLAC), Upper Santa Clara River (USCR), Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC)”¹.

A **Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) Task Force** for the LA-V Funding Area was established with representatives from each of the three IRWM regions to “facilitate a consensus-based approach to implement a Funding Area-wide DACIP that meets the objectives of the Proposition 1 DACIP IRWM Grant Program”¹. The LA-V Funding Area designated the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) as lead for the DACIP. The purpose of DWR’s DACIP funding is to ensure “the involvement of disadvantaged communities (DACs), economically distressed areas (EDA), and underrepresented communities within regions”².

LACFCD proposed a budget of \$9.8 million for the LA-V DACIP activities based on a three-part strategy to address the water management needs in the DACs identified across the LA-Ventura Funding Area. The strategies included local outreach, partnering, and local capacity building through technical assistance for project development. The Funding Area’s DACIP Task Force incorporated the strategies in the proposed Tasks below.

- Task 1: Pre-Program & Administration
- Task 2: Community Outreach
- Task 3: Needs Assessment
- Task 4: Project Development

The **DAC Consultants**, TreePeople and California State University Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) in collaboration with Non-governmental organizations(NGOs) and Community-based organizations (CBOs), created the WaterTalks Program for the Community Outreach Task (Task 2), to engage the communities selected for focus throughout the LA-Ventura Funding Area. The WaterTalks Program details can be found on the public website, watertalks.csusb.edu. WaterTalks provides the community with access to LA-V DACIP information, information on water related topics for each of the 3 IRWM regions, and access to the Needs Assessment Task materials. This Report summarizes and addresses all aspects of the needs assessment task.

1.1 Needs Assessment Task Objectives

A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted across the LA-Ventura Funding Area. The objective of the needs assessment was to “identify and prioritize water management/infrastructure deficiencies and related community needs in ways that meet IRWM Region objectives to improve water supply and water quality, enhance open space, recreation and habitat, and improve flood management”¹.

A solicitation for Task 3, Task Order 3B Solicitation, was released by the DACIP Task Force. The **Needs Assessment Task, Task 3**, was proposed to be completed through the following 4 sub-tasks shown below:

- 3.1 Design Needs Assessment
- 3.2 Community Needs Assessment
- 3.3 Institutions Needs Assessment
- 3.4 Project Implementation & Reporting

Under Task 3.1, the needs assessment tools and materials were designed to:

1. Combine “the DWR Needs Assessment Template (community characteristics, drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, water rates and financing) with social, cultural and regional information and analysis gathered in Task 2.1, from the local DAC community-member perspective”³.
2. Be customized for each region so that it could be utilized for future engagement.
3. Be used to conduct community and institutional needs assessments.
4. Be made available online via WaterTalks website

Under Task 3.2, the objective of the community needs assessment was to reach residents of local DACs using the partnerships with Non-governmental organization (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) established during the community outreach task and knowledge of the communities gathered from that task to gather specific data and feedback about their water related issues.

Under Task 3.3, The objectives of the institutional needs assessment were:

1. To facilitate “workshops and interviews with institutions that provide water and community services to DACs, including cities (officials, water departments), water agencies, agencies that manage parks or natural open spaces, water quality program managers, sanitation districts, flood management entities and mutual water companies.”¹
2. To gather data and address the institutions’ knowledge for their DACs’ needs and “also any challenges they are facing in serving those needs, participating in IRWM, and meeting water quality, water conservation and other regulatory mandates.”¹
3. To have outreach efforts include education on IRWM, Proposition 1, and the DACIP.
4. To use the data gathered to complete the DWR Needs Assessment Template³ (see Appendix A).

Under Task 3.4, the Needs Assessment Report is to provide analysis of all data collected under Tasks 3.2 and 3.3. This report will provide analysis for all community and institutional needs assessment responses collected before **June 15th, 2021**.

The need to understand respondent geography (i.e. community or institution locations), similarities (i.e. connects) and differences (i.e. disconnects), especially as they occur in high DAC stress levels across

economic, social and environmental factors (i.e. high DAC Stress Levels), was a primary objective of reporting for the Needs Assessment Task.

To understand and illustrate the spatial context of survey responses, completed survey forms (i.e. ArchGIS Survey 123) were uploaded to an online mapping database tool that will later support the public online mapping database (i.e. Graphic User Interface (GUI), TAPPED App, see Chapter 4).

Illustrating the spatial context of community and institutional responses will further assist DAC Consultants and IRWM representatives (DACIP Task Force members) with determining potential project and technical funding needs to improve and sustain water resources.

To support this effort, a project descriptor template and prioritization criteria were developed using data from the Needs Assessment Task for describing and comparing technical assistance project types, identifying where needs are located and evaluation of different project descriptions using project comparison models. Project identification efforts and the online mapping tool will support IRWM representatives who will continue to use this data to inform the prioritization of IRWM activities.

Below are the Desired Outcomes and Deliverables proposed by the LA-V Task Force for Task 3:

Desired Outcomes:

- Inform and engage DACs and their community leaders in the WCVV Region in a conversation about their water management-related needs, preliminary needs assessment results, and a plan for continued community engagement and active involvement in decision making.
- Gain a better understanding of water management-related community needs to help direct resources and funding for project development.
- Build initial capacity within DACs to develop project concepts and engage technical support for design and project development.
- Increase participation of DAC community members, NGOs, and CBOs in IRWM planning and/or project development activities.

Deliverables:

- Comprehensive Needs Assessment Tool for the Region-specific information.
- All information developed through or collected during the Needs Assessment shall be included in the database.
- Final Needs Assessment Report with Region-specific data and narrative summary of identified community characteristics and specific community water management issues, and the resources required (technical, educational, managerial, and financial) to address the needs of DACs.
- A Technical Memo describing how to prioritize development of programs/projects identified under Task 4, Project Development and engage the community with the process for the Region to receive funding, after the Needs Assessment has been completed. The Region's leadership will decide which programs and projects will compete for future funds.
- Needs Assessment Results presented to communities and other stakeholders.
- Report on dissemination of findings of the Needs Assessment shared with communities and other stakeholders.”³

1.2 Ventura County Needs Assessment Consultants

To assess community and institutional needs and opportunities across Ventura County, the California State University Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI), was selected as the lead consultant in the USCR and WVCV IRWM planning regions for the Needs Assessment Task, Task 3. **WRPI sub consultants** included PlaceWorks and the Center for Geospatial Science and Technology (CGST) at CSU Northridge. PlaceWorks also contracted with local NGO/CBOs in Ventura County who were involved in the community outreach task, Task 2, to continue communications with the community. Each partner brought unique experiences and skill sets used to complete Task 3.

California State University Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI)

In addition to the Prop. 1 DACI grant, WRPI has been previously awarded funding through the State Water Resources Control Board, California Energy Commission, and Department of Water Resources (Santa Ana Watershed) to provide technical assistance and community engagement to disadvantaged communities across the state. These other grant funded efforts have included or resulted in income surveys, preliminary engineering, CEQA, Feasibility studies, and community engagement. The CSU also works with state agencies and DACs to submit State Revolving Fund construction applications through the FFAST system.

PlaceWorks

PlaceWorks assists both public- and private-sector clients throughout the state in the fields of comprehensive planning, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), urban design, landscape architecture, community outreach, graphic design and environmental review. PlaceWorks has completed numerous community planning, park, and open space projects in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, and frequently works with community organizations to develop and implement outreach and engagement components of projects.

Center for Geospatial Science & Technology at California State University, Northridge (CSUN)

The Center for Geospatial Science & Technology at California State University, Northridge (CGST) is an interdisciplinary research center focused on applications, education, and innovative solutions to real world problems using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). As part of its mission, CGST serves as a leader and catalyst for the advancement of GIS technology for academic institutions, private industry, and the public sector.

The Center has worked on over 50 projects with partners and clients in numerous sectors. A majority of CGST's clients are state, federal, and local public agencies such as CA Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, CalTrans, US Forest Service, LA County Department of Public Health, and LA Department of Water and Power. During the past 16 years, the Center has deepened its involvement in a variety of both locally focused and large, statewide projects related to water resources including the development of a statewide surface water dataset and a water quality geospatial database, among others. The Center has also been heavily involved in the earlier phases of the DAC Involvement Activities Program. Tasks included design and development of the web-based project evaluation tool (TAPPED), development of online needs assessment surveys, centralized database management, DAC modeling and identification, web map development, and implementation of a data/information dissemination hub.

Central Coast Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

CAUSE is a base-building organization committed to social, economic, and environmental justice for working-class and immigrant communities in California’s Central Coast. “We build grassroots power through community organizing, leadership development, coalition building, civic engagement, policy research, and advocacy.” CAUSE's vision is that “together we can create a global community where we all contribute to, and benefit from, a sustainable economy that is just, prosperous and environmentally healthy.”

Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR)

The mission of Friends of the Santa Clara River is to” protect and preserve the cultural and biological resources of the Santa Clara River Watershed.”

Chapter 2 Methodology for Ventura County Needs Assessment

To assess the way and extent to which diverse communities and institutions interact with water resources, the DAC Consultants recommended to the Task Force an interdisciplinary and multi-tiered, phased approach. This included working with existing datasets, institutions, NGOs and CBOs to identify potential survey and interview participants, applying various outreach and communication strategies, creating surveys and interactive database tools (i.e. survey forms, maps) and ensuring the quality of data accurately represented participants' responses. These efforts resulted in the development of two survey tools, a community and institutional survey. The format of the surveys included closed and open ended questions that focused on community members and institutional (agency) needs, opportunities, and conditions. The two surveys were available online and as a hard copy.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, information was not gathered through workshops, door-to-door discussions and in-person one-on-one interviews as originally proposed. Different methods were used to gather information while meeting local public health safety guidelines and the needs of each DAC’s members and institutions.

2.1 Design of Needs Assessment

2.1.1 Development of Survey Questions

The DAC consultants collaborated on the development of one community survey form and one institutional survey form for all 3 IRWM planning regions, GLAC, USCR, and WCVC.

Community Survey

The community survey was developed to collect feedback from people living in DAC’s identified in each region. The questions included in the community survey were designed to address the required information in the DWR Needs Assessment Template (see Appendix A) for all three IRWM regions,

while also incorporating the specific needs of each region. The community survey language was reviewed by community groups to ensure that it was comprehensible for the targeted audience.

An additional goal of this survey was to include survey questions that would allow the issues and project ideas to be mapped using an online ArcGIS mapping interface. This allows DAC Consultants to map approximate locations of survey responses to identify locations of water related issues and needs as well as what the community sees as potential solutions.

TreePeople served as the lead on creating the first draft of the community survey questions and the format. The first draft of the community survey was shared with the Task Force in June 2020. The draft community survey was then presented to the GLAC NGOs, WCVC DAC Committee members and other stakeholders for their review and comments.

Institutional Survey

The WRPI team took the lead on developing the institutional survey. The WRPI team used the California RuralWater Association (Cal Rural) survey questions used during SAWPA DACIP Needs Assessment as a template. This template was compared to the DWR Needs Assessment requirements and the draft community survey developed by TreePeople. The draft institutional survey was presented to the Task Force, Consultants, GLAC NGOs, WCVC DAC Committee members and other stakeholders for their review and comments. The WRPI team worked with Stantec and the CSUN CGST team to finalize the institutional survey questions and format. The institutional survey was used to conduct interviews with institutions through virtual meetings, further referred to as institutional interviews, where responses were taken by notetakers. The institutional survey was also available as an excel sheet for institutions who could not meet virtually.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Requirements

Research conducted by Faculty or Staff involving human subjects at a CSU campus requires an Institutional Review Board (IRB) application to be submitted to the CSUSB's Institutional Review Board Committee for review and approval. The IRB process ensures that when CSUSB faculty and staff are collecting data from individuals that the individual is presented with enough information about the survey they are participating in as well as how responses will be stored and shared with the public. This process requires that participating individuals acknowledge that they consent to taking the survey, by agreeing to a statement that outlines how their responses will be utilized within the research design and implementation (i.e. informed consent). To decrease any form of risk to the community and institutions participating in the survey, direct identifiers were not collected from the community, and were scrubbed from institutional interview notes. The introduction and informed consent presented to the survey respondents before taking the community survey online, as a hard copy, or on the phone is shown below:

Introduction: “Participation in our WaterTalks community survey will help ensure that communities’ needs, concerns, questions, and insights can be considered to become part of the State’s future water projects. By identifying community needs and priorities, your input will help identify and prioritize projects within the LA-Ventura IRWM region for Prop 1 technical assistance funding as well as ongoing and future funding decisions. This Survey will take approximately 10 minutes.”

Informed consent: “Your identity and your responses will remain confidential and, of course, you are free to decline to answer any particular survey question. By clicking below, you acknowledge that you have been informed of, and understand, the purpose of the study, and freely consent to participate.

Further, you acknowledge that you are 18 years of age or older. Please indicate this acknowledgement by selecting “Agree and Continue.” Selecting “Disagree” will end the survey.”

Once individuals complete the survey, they are directed to contact information if they have any questions. The CSUSB IRB leadership approved the information and survey questions presented to the community, as well as the process for maintaining the responses in a secure database and the use of the responses.

2.1.2 Designing the Needs Assessment Tool

Community Survey Tool

The **Needs Assessment Task** required that the DAC Consultants implement a survey platform that was capable of housing a variety of data (both spatial and nonspatial) from various sources in an organized format. The tool needed to offer options for both open-ended (i.e., write-in) and predefined/standardized responses to user input as well as the ability to identify geographic locations. Furthermore, CGST’s LA-Ventura DAC Involvement Program Data Hub (Data Hub) already housed data and reference material on an ESRI ArcGIS Hub site (<https://dacip-hub-csungis.hub.arcgis.com>) and required a platform which allowed responses to be integrated into the same framework for analysis. The Data Hub serves as a central repository for data and data-related products supporting DACIP through the WaterTalks effort. ESRI’s Survey 123 software was selected for its survey design capabilities, database management functionality and compatibility with other project components.

PlaceWorks used the approved community survey language to create an ArcGIS Survey 123 form for online use, and a hard copy form for printing and distributing. The ArcGIS Survey 123 form was tested prior to being public facing on the WaterTalks website. The ArcGIS Survey 123 form for the community survey, was posted to the WaterTalks website on September 11th 2020 as the WaterTalks Survey. The introduction and informed consent in Chapter 2.1.1 were presented on the website before the link to the WaterTalks Survey.

PlaceWorks created a separate ArcGIS Survey 123 form for NGOs conducting phone banking and for the WRPI team to enter any surveys submitted by mail.

The community survey was translated to Spanish, Korean, Cantonese, and Farsi to meet the language needs of all three IRWM regions. WRPI led the translation of the community survey language in Spanish, with the help of GLAC NGOs. The GLAC NGOs led translations of the survey language in Korean, Cantonese, and Farsi. PlaceWorks and CSU created survey forms for each language and posted each of them with the appropriate translated introduction and informed consent.

Institutional Survey Tool

Survey Platform

The Needs Assessment Task required that the DAC Consultants implement a survey platform that was capable of housing a variety of data (both spatial and nonspatial) from various sources in an organized format. The tool needed to offer options for both open-ended (i.e. write-in) and predefined/standardized responses to user input as well as the ability to identify geographic locations. Furthermore, the Data Hub already housed data and reference material on an ESRI ArcGIS Hub site (<https://dacip-hub-csungis.hub.arcgis.com>) and required a platform which allowed responses to be integrated into the same framework for analysis. ESRI’s Survey 123 software was selected for its survey design capabilities, database management functionality and compatibility with other project components.

Creating the Database and Forms

ArcGIS Survey 123 forms were designed for the institutional needs assessment data entry and compilation process. The forms allowed participating DAC consultants to enter interview responses from candidate institutions in an accessible and intuitive interface. The participating team members met several times to develop the list of interview questions based on identifying critical needs components and other pieces of information to be collected during the institutional interview effort. Once a list of questions was finalized, a data table schema was developed. This built out the design of the backend database that would eventually hold the data to be collected. Each question was reviewed and where possible, predetermined, standardized responses were developed and associated with the appropriate questions. This was an effort to make the data more streamlined, consistent, and analysis-ready. Further, developing each question and determining access to the institutional interview data required adherence to IRB requirements for confidentiality. The data table schema underwent review by the participating team members to allow for additional comments and modification.

Once the database and table schema were finalized, draft survey forms were designed in MS Excel and translated to Survey 123. Additional review by the DAC Consultants was held. Specifically, design elements, such as color schemes, font sizes, and collapsible sections were addressed and updated. Finally, a production-ready form was developed and tied to the backend database to house the data to be entered. Static, offline versions of the survey form were generated to allow the note takers participating in institutional interviews more flexibility and to account for potential unreliable internet or absence of internet during the interviews. MS Excel and MS Word versions of the survey were generated for this purpose. When static versions of the form were used, data entry into the Survey 123 form was later carried out, ensuring all data was eventually entered into the standardized Survey 123 form and compiled in the backend database.

Data Entry Process

After the production-ready versions of the Survey 123 form and the backend database were developed, the CSUN Team developed a data entry process. The institutional needs assessment form and data was not public facing as WRPI and Stantec were facilitating interviews and note takers were summarizing notes to enter into database, making sure to remove direct identifiers, to comply with the IRB requirements in Chapter 2.1.1. The respondents were referred to by their job title. This was considered in all steps of the workflow process. First, a shared ArcGIS Online (AGOL) account was created and provided only to the participating interviewers and note takers. This account gave them access to the online form for data entry and also allowed them to retrieve partially filled out forms to resume data entry or to update data that had been previously entered.

Next, a private Google Sheet was established and shared only with approved interviewers and note takers. This sheet had two main purposes. First, it served as a tracker, listing various tracking information such as the different institutions to be interviewed, the interviewing party, date of interview, status of data entry, etc. Secondly, this sheet served as a gateway to the data entry form for each institution to be interviewed. The CSUN Team prepopulated a data form for each institution to be interviewed with basic information (i.e. name of the institution) and then generated a unique URL for each form. The URLs were stored in the Google Sheet, making those forms available only to the approved interviewers and note takers for later data entry. The Google Sheet was updated by multiple parties as the interview and data entry process was constructed and was critical for status updates and assessments.

The CSUN team developed a detailed instruction document for note takers and interviewers (Figure 2.1). This document contained all necessary steps and information needed to carry out the data entry and

tracking process. It also ensured the multiple people accessing the database and entering data would perform the work in a consistent and controlled fashion. Select note takers and interviewers participated in beta testing the data entry process for a sample institution in order to identify any issues before moving on to production/live data entry. Minor improvements were made after testing, after which, the process was fully moved into production mode and used throughout the institutional needs assessment.

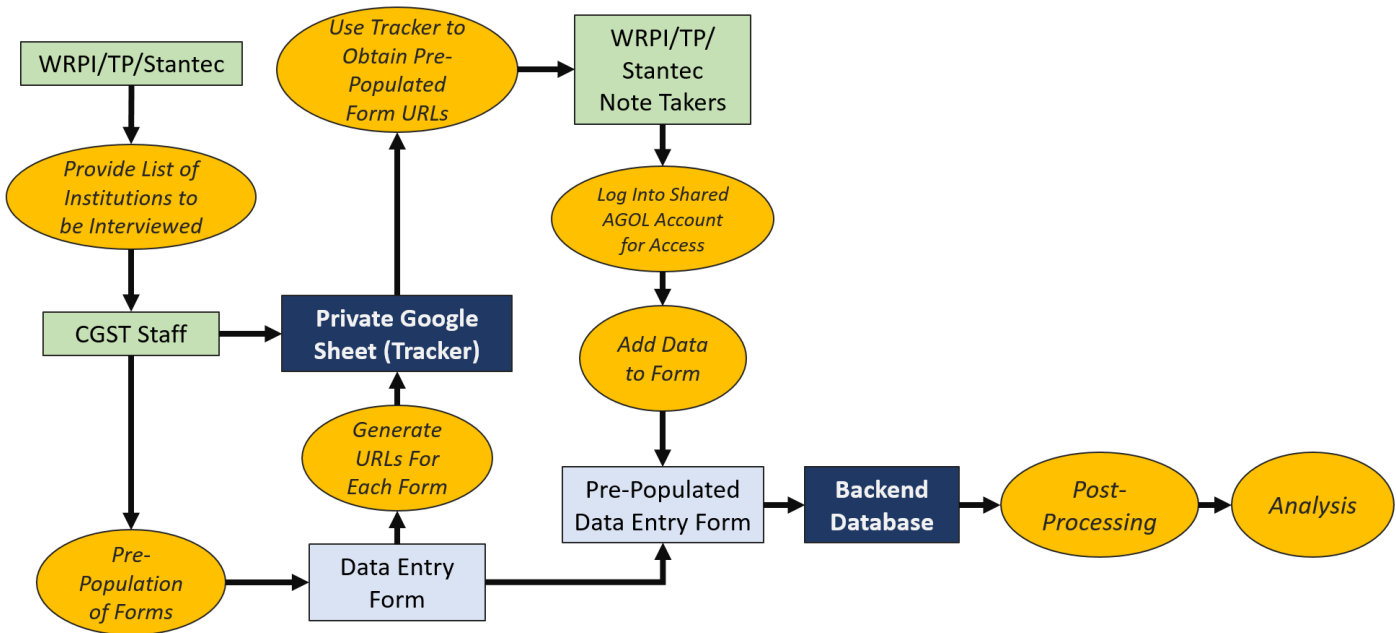


Figure 2.1: Institutional Needs Assessment Data Entry Workflow

2.2 Conducting Community Needs Assessment

2.2.1 Determine Audience

PlaceWorks took the lead on tasks directly involving community members, including community survey development, community outreach, distribution of the survey, and working with partner NGOs in the WCVV and USCR IRWM regions.

The DACs in Ventura County identified as **priority areas** chosen for targeted outreach in the LA-V DACIP Proposal¹ include the following 9 areas:

- Casitas Springs
- portions of Oxnard and Ventura,
- El Rio
- Nyeland Acres
- Saticoy
- Santa Paula
- Fillmore
- Piru

The following information was gathered to identify different forms of outreach and identify the best method of delivering the community survey to community members:

- Zip Codes within the WCVV DAC 's boundaries

- regions without access to internet
- average age of community members in DACs
- primary languages in the community

2.2.2 Outreach Methods

The WaterTalks campaign strategically sought to engage communities and people through a variety of outreach strategies. The outreach engagement plan for the Needs Assessment Task began in November 2020 and ended on April 30, 2021.

Due to the COVID 19 global pandemic, the outreach strategy was revised to follow COVID 19 safety guidelines. In March of 2020, the Community Outreach Task strategy transitioned from in-person engagement to virtual meetings and online engagement. The Water Talks Survey was key to the COVID-19 outreach strategy. All engagement materials encouraged participants to give input by taking the WaterTalks Survey. Participants had the opportunity to win a \$100 gift card to incentivize community members to take the WaterTalks Survey. The WaterTalks Survey was originally scheduled to close in March 2021 but was later extended to April 30th, 2021.

Outreach strategies to circulate the WaterTalks Survey and education information to communities included the following:

- Virtual Events
- Mailing of printed WaterTalks newspaper and WaterTalks Surveys mailed to residences in communities
- Distribution of WaterTalks bookmarks to local libraries. Social media posts
- Paid online and newsletter advertisements
- Email blasts (E-blasts) to community partners, institution, and agency outreach
- Phone banking to residents
- Institutional and school outreach

Outreach efforts were coordinated and facilitated by PlaceWorks staff with support from outreach project partners and Task Force members. Ventura County **outreach project partners** included Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC), Ventura Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), and Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR).

Virtual Events

Due to delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, several engagement events from the Community Outreach Task were delayed in Ventura County. They were conducted as virtual events and were an opportunity to announce and invite participation in the Survey. A summary of those events included below:

- 6:00 pm, August 25, 2020 - Casitas Springs WaterTalks
- 6:00 pm, October 21, 2020 - Fillmore WaterTalks
- 7:00 pm, October 22, 2020 - El Rio/Nyeland Acres WaterTalks

Ventura County Newspaper and Printed Surveys

Approximately 29,000 bilingual (English and Spanish) newspapers were printed and distributed by mail or dropped off at local businesses, libraries, and local agencies and community organizations in Ventura County between January 2020 and April 2021 (**Tables 2.1 to 2.4**). The newspaper included educational

information about local water issues and resources as well as the WaterTalks Survey and prepaid postmarked envelope.

Table 2.1. Ventura County newspapers distributed by mail

Priority Area	# of Newspaper Distributed
Oxnard	12,132
Nyeland Acres	204
Saticoy	5087
Fillmore	4,143
Casitas Springs	247
West Ventura	2,971
TOTAL	24,784 Newspapers

Table 2.2. Ventura County newspapers distributed to local institutions, agencies, and organizations

Local agency/institution/organization	# of Newspaper Distributed
Cabrillo Economic Development Center	900
Fillmore Active Adult Center, Fillmore	200
Fillmore City Hall/Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency Meetings, Fillmore	100
Fillmore Heritage Valley, Fillmore	250
Garden Acres Mutual Water Company, Nyeland Acres	12+ 30
Piru Community Center, Piru	100
Piru Neighborhood Council, Piru	250

Local agency/institution/organization	# of Newspaper Distributed
San Salvador Mission, Piru	100
Seniors and Farm Worker Apartments, Piru	250
St. Francis of Assisi, Piru	100
Ventura County Library Headquarters, Ventura Area Wide	250
Ventura County Supervisors Office, Ventura Area-Wide	125
WRI (c/o Boykin)	50
TOTAL	2,587 Newspapers

Table 2.3. Ventura County newspapers distributed to local Ventura County libraries

Library	# of Newspaper Distributed
El Rio Library	200
Saticoy Library	200
Fillmore Library	250
Piru Library	200
Avenue Library (Ventura)	75
Mobile Library (various stops throughout County)	75
TOTAL	1,000 Newspapers

Table 2.4. Ventura County newspapers distributed to local business:

Local Business	# of Newspaper Distributed
4 Way Meat Market, El Rio	25
B&J Drive In, Ventura	25
Bell Arts Factory, Ventura	25
BGs Café, Ventura	25
Bindi Food Mart, Ventura	25
Coin Laundry, Fillmore	30
El Rio Produce, El Rio	50
Ely and J's 99C, Fillmore	50
Fred's Fruit Stand, Piru	100
Garden Market Meats, Santa Paula	25
Heritage Valley Lavanderia, West Ventura	15
Imela's Beauty Salon, West Ventura	15
Lizette's Market, Piru	100
Nancy's Bakery, Nyeland Acres	25
Panaderia Lupita, Oxnard	25
Rabalais Bistro, Santa Paula	25
Ralphs Supermarket, Oxnard	25
Red Barn Liquor Market, Oxnard	25

Red Barn Market, Ventura	25
Roan Mills Bakery, Sun Valley	100
Russel's Donuts, Ventura	25
The Lab, Ventura	25
Taco Llama, Fillmore	15
Tresierras Supermarket, Santa Paula	25
Vaca Flower Shop, El Rio	50
Vallarta Supermarket, Oxnard	25
Vons Supermarket, Ventura	25
TOTAL	950 Newspapers

Library Bookmarks

Bookmarks were created to provide community members with information about the WaterTalks program and Survey opportunity. 4,500 outreach bookmarks were printed and distributed to libraries throughout Ventura County.

Newsletters/Outreach Materials

WaterTalks partners advertised the WaterTalks campaign on the Santa Clara River Watershed Committee Newsletter.

Paid Advertisements

Paid advertisements were used to target community members through printed and digital media.

1. **Paid Digital Marketing.** Digital marketing services, Signal and Spectrum Online, were used to promote the WaterTalks campaign and survey by targeting priority areas in the Upper Santa Clara River (USCR), Ventura County, and Greater Los Angeles (GLAC).
 - i. Signal posted web banners to promote the WaterTalks program and Survey. This advertisement campaign ran from November 23, 2020 to December 22, 2020. Metrics were not collected for this effort.
 - ii. Spectrum online posted digital advertisements about the WaterTalks program and Survey. Priority areas in Ventura County had 128 total clicks (83 mobile clicks, 44 desktop clicks, 1 tablet click).

Project Website

1. **Online WaterTalks Survey.** The WaterTalks Survey was a 23-question survey that asked participants questions relating to local water concerns and community water planning efforts. Participants that took the survey were informed that the Survey results would be used to help inform the use of Proposition 1 technical assistance funding and on-going and future water-related project funding decisions. The WaterTalks survey was available through the WaterTalks website (<https://watertalks.csusb.edu/>) in five languages: English, Spanish, Cantonese, Korean, and Farsi.
2. **Story Maps.** Interactive online story maps were created for selected priority areas in Ventura County, USCR and GLAC regions. These maps were an online tool for people to learn about the water in their environment, their tap water and water consumption.
3. **WaterTalks Information Factsheets and Newspaper.** WaterTalks materials were available for community members to download factsheets and the WaterTalks Ventura County and USCR newspaper. There were three WaterTalks educational factsheets: (1) WaterTalks overview factsheet (2) WaterTalks Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) funding factsheet and (3) water safety relating to COVID-19 factsheet.
4. **Meeting Materials.** The website includes WaterTalks meeting schedules and post meeting summaries.

Social Media Outreach.

The WaterTalks social media platform actively posted consistent program information and water related resources on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Social media posts were used to engage followers about the program and encouraged community members to take the WaterTalks Survey. Posts were made throughout the duration of the WaterTalks program by the DAC Consultants and subconsultants, as well as community partners and local agencies.

Facebook and Instagram

- 18 posts were posted onto the WaterTalks Facebook page and Instagram account between January 2021 to April 2021.
- 7 posts were posted on the CAUSE Facebook and Instagram page January 2021 to April 2021.
- 12 posts were posted on the FSCR Facebook page January 2021 to April 2021.

WaterTalks animations. WaterTalks animations were created as fun and interactive resources about the program. Animations were posted on all WaterTalks social media platforms.

Twitter

- 56 posts were posted onto the WaterTalks twitter account between October 2019 to March 2021.
- 5 posts were posted by the CAUSE twitter account in February 2021.

E-blasts

A series of three e-blasts were created to engage existing and potential community partners. E-blasts were sent out in November 2020, February 2021, and March 2021. E-blast #1 introduced the WaterTalks program to communities. E-blast #2 reminded communities to participate in the WaterTalks Survey. E-blast #3 served as another reminder and announced the closing date of the survey.

E-blasts to Existing Community Partners. WaterTalks e-blasts were created to inform existing WaterTalks partners about the WaterTalks program and Survey. The E-blast to existing community partners provided instructions about how community groups can get involved as well as provided graphic materials for partners to use and asked to share information with their community networks. Over 43 community partners received this e-blast.

E-blasts to Potential Community Partners. Attached to the existing community partner e-blast included an e-blast to potential community partners. This e-blast was forwarded by existing community partners to engage and inform other community partners about the program. This E-blast provided information about the WaterTalks program as well as links to the website and Survey. Over 200 recipients received this e-blast.

Phone Banking

WaterTalks engaged community members to participate in the Survey by calling residents in the Ventura County and USCR regions. Phone banking efforts were made by the CAUSE between January 2021 and April 2021.

CAUSE Phone Banking. CAUSE called a total of 1,412 residents. Below are the outcomes of results:

- Oxnard: 370 calls, 46 completed surveys (9 in English, 37 in Spanish)
- El Rio: 320 calls, 26 completed surveys (15 in English, 11 in Spanish)
- Ventura: 299 calls, 10 completed surveys (9 in English, 1 in Spanish)
- Santa Paula: 333 calls, 25 completed surveys (10 in English, 15 in Spanish)

PlaceWorks Phone Banking. PlaceWorks called a total of 128 residents in Ventura County. Below are the numbers of calls made to residents in Ventura County priority areas:

- Saticoy: 11 calls
- Casitas Springs: 5 calls
- West Ventura: 16 calls
- El Rio: 49 calls
- Santa Paula: 33 calls
- Piru: 14 calls

School Outreach

School districts across Ventura County priority areas were emailed and called in March 2021. School districts were asked to participate in the WaterTalks program by sharing the WaterTalks Survey with their staff, teachers, and parents. PlaceWorks called 9 school districts in Ventura County.

Institutional Outreach

WaterTalks reached out to water agencies and relevant institutions for program support. Institutions targeted in Ventura County included the City of Ventura Water Department, City of Oxnard Water Department, City of Fillmore Water Department, Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Company, County Watershed Protection District and the Continuum of Care Homeless Company.

2.2.3 WaterTalks Survey Outcomes

Tables 2.5 and 2.6 show the quantity of responses by type of survey response and by each of the five languages throughout all three IRWM planning regions. The WRPI team led the data entry effort for WaterTalks Surveys returned through the mail to Cal State San Bernardino.

The DAC Consultants agreed to include an opportunity drawing in all three IRWM planning regions for community members that completed the WaterTalks Survey. “A way to incorporate more incentives for people who participated in the survey was to give those who chose the opportunity to enter in a drawing to win a \$100 VISA gift card. TreePeople donated these gift cards (as they are ineligible for reimbursement through Proposition 1 and DWR), and every week, a winner from a WaterTalks community was selected. At the end of the needs assessment, 19 gift cards were distributed throughout the funding area.”⁴ (Greater Los Angeles County Community Strengths and Needs Assessment- A Water Perspective Draft - v9.7.21 11, pg.10). A link to a separate website for the Opportunity Drawing is displayed after the WaterTalks Survey is completed online. TreePeople carried out the distribution of gift cards to winners of the opportunity drawing for community members in all three IRWM planning regions, shown in **Table 2.7**.

Table 2.5 Total Summary of Surveys by Response Type

Survey Response Type	GLAC	Ventura County	USCR	Total
Phone/Mail-in/In Person	952	378	97	1427
Online	2732	240	210	3182
Total	3684	618	307	4609

Table 2.6 Total Summary of Surveys by Language

Language	GLAC	Ventura County	USCR	Total
English	3235	502	302	4039
Spanish	415	116	2	533
Korean	34	0	3	37
Cantonese	0	0	0	0
Total	3684	618	307	4609

Table 2.7 Opportunity Drawing Outcome

Number	Zip Code	DAC
1	90011	Adams/Central
2	91733	South El Monte
3	91732	Greater El Monte
4	91731	Greater El Monte
5	91042	Tujunga
6	91350	USCR
7	91606	Greater North Hollywood
8	90004	Koreatown
9	93033	Oxnard
10	91335	Central Reseda/Southern Northridge
11	90008	Leimert Park
12	91350	New Hall Bouquet
13	93015	Piru/Fillmore
14	90065	Cypress/Glassell Park
15	90023	Boyle Heights
16	91748	Rowland/Industry
17	91101	Northeast Pasadena
18	90222	Greater Compton
19	90810	West Long Beach

2.3 Conducting Institutional Needs Assessment

The WRPI team took the lead on the institutional needs assessment survey development, outreach, facilitating and general project management.

2.3.1 Determining the Audience

Determining the first batch of institutions to interview was done through an analysis of existing Median Household Income (MHI) data within Water Service Providers (WSPs) (**Table 2.8**) serving the chosen DACs in Ventura County as well as recommendations from the WCVV IRWM representatives.

WRPI first sent a list of WSPs recommended for interviews based on percentage of DAC and SDAC population within the WSP's service area to the WCVV IRWM representatives. This was determined using the existing data from the Data Hub.

Meetings with the WCVV IRWM representatives led to the recommended list of institutions to outreach to shown in the table below. Once several outreach attempts were done for 1st priority institutions, additional institutions were added. The tables below summarize the institutions chosen for the institutional needs assessment in Ventura County.

Table 2.8 Institutions Identified for DACIP Needs Assessment in Ventura County

Interview Priority List	DAC Priority Areas	Type	Institution
1st list	Santa Paula	Mutual	Sisar Mutual Water Co
1st list	Nyeland Acres	Mutual	Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Co
1st list	Fillmore	Government	Fillmore Water Dept
1st list	Nyeland Acres	Mutual	Garden Acres Mutual Water Co
1st list	South Oxnard	Mutual	Cypress Mutual Water Co Inc
1st list	El Rio	Mutual	Cloverdale Mutual Water Co.
1st list	Casitas Springs	Mutual	Casitas Mutual Water Company
1st list	Not in list of DACs but has high percentage of DAC	Mutual	South Mountain Mutual Water Co
1st list	El Rio	WSP	Vineyard Avenue Acres MWC or Vineyard Ave Estates
1st list	Piru	WSP	Warring Water Service Inc (CAL American Water Co.)
1st list	Piru	WSP	Rancho Sespe Workers Imp Assoc
1st list	Santa Paula	WSP	City of Santa Paula Public Works- Water Service Division's/ wastewater/ stormwater
2nd list	South Oxnard	Government	Oxnard Water Department
2nd list	Homeless Population	Community Partner	Ventura County Continuum of Care (working with homeless support services)

2nd list	West Ventura, Saticoy	Government	Ventura Water Department
2nd list	El Rio, Piru, South Oxnard, Unincorporated areas	Government	Ventura County Watershed Protection
2nd list	El Rio, Piru, South Oxnard, Unincorporated areas	Government	Ventura County Watershed Protection

2.3.2 Outreach Strategies

WPRI led outreach efforts to institutions through direct emails and phone correspondence to inform institutions about the WaterTalks program, the LA-V Funding Area DACIP, their local IRWM group, and requesting their participation in the institutional needs assessment (**Table 2.9**). The WCVC IRWM representative and the Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator conducted additional outreach and coordination with institutional contacts to solicit participation in the institutional needs assessment. The following table summarizes outreach efforts in Ventura County. The email language sent to the prioritized institutions is included in Appendix C.

Table 2.9 Outreach to Institutions in Ventura County

Institution	First Outreach	Second Outreach	Response
Sisar Mutual Water Co	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent a follow up email 1/5/21.	Interview 1/12/2021
Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Co	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	None needed	Interview 2/9/2021
Fillmore Water Dept	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	WRPI sent introductory email 2/5/21	Interview 2/23/2021
Garden Acres Mutual Water Co	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Garden Acres MWC submitted responses on excel sheet	Interview 3/16/2021
Cypress Mutual Water Co Inc	WRPI sent introductory email 2/5/21	phone number not in service	No response
Cloverdale Mutual Water Co.	WRPI sent introductory email 2/5/21	VM left on 3/17	No response
Casitas Mutual Water Company	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	VM left on 3/17	Response was submitted after the 6/15/21 so it was not included in this report analysis

South Mountain Mutual Water Co	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent a follow up email 1/7/21. VM left on 3/17/21 WRPI sent reminder email 3/29/21	No response
Vineyard Avenue Acres MWC or Vineyard Ave Estates	WRPI sent introductory email 2/5/21	WRPI spoke with Jeff Densmore (regulator)	No response
Warring Water Service Inc (Now operated by Cal American Water Co.)	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent a follow up email 1/7/21. WRPI sent email 4/6/21 with interview attachment	No response
Rancho Sespe Workers Imp Assoc	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent a follow up email 1/5/21. WRPI sent email 2/5/21 to rsassistant@pshhc.org and received error message in response so sent email to rsa@pshhc.org, no response	No response
City of Santa Paula Public Works	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent follow up emails 1/5/21, 2/25/21, 5/13/21, 6/29/21	No response
Oxnard Water Department	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator sent a follow up email 1/12/21.	Interview 1/19/2021
Ventura County Continuum of Care (working with homeless support services)	WRPI sent introductory email 2/5/21	WCVC sent follow up email 2/10/21	Interview 3/3/2021
Ventura Water Department	WCVC sent introductory email requesting interview	None needed	Interview 3/8/2021
Ventura County Watershed Protection (incorporated areas)	Santa Clara River Watershed Coordinator scheduling of interview	None needed	Interview 3/22/2021
Ventura County Watershed Protection (unincorporated areas)	WCVC coordinated scheduling of interview	None needed	Interview 3/22/2021

2.3.3 Interview Process and Outcomes

Due to COVID-19 regulations from the CSU, WRPI was unable to conduct in person interviews. Interviews were done through Zoom. The institutional needs assessment was available as a digital form using Excel to be filled out by institutions if a Zoom call was not possible or not preferred. Interviews lasted between 60 and 90 minutes. Each was recorded with the permission of the interviewee. The following paragraph was read to the interviewee before the interview began introducing the program and assuring informed consent as part of the IRB requirement.

“Thanks for meeting with us. We are here as a part of the Ventura County Integrated Regional Water Management planning effort to learn from you and document the strengths and needs of your community. The planning effort wants to benefit from your experience and include your perspective about your community and your local water. We anticipate that this interview will take between 60 and 75 minutes. We want to be respectful of your time, so we may steer the conversation to be able to stay within that time frame. We will be taking detailed notes because we want to make sure we capture what you say. We may occasionally pause to write things down or ask you to repeat something. Your participation with us today will be kept anonymous. Our notes will not be delivered to the Program, only our report. In the report we will refer to people generally, for instance, as “a city council member” or “a water supply agency staff member.” We have broad, open-ended questions prepared for you. There are no right or wrong answers, so please respond however you would like. We may ask some follow-up or clarifying questions. Before we begin, do you have any questions?”

Table 2.10 lists the institutions that completed the needs assessment in Ventura County, either through a virtual interview, or by submitting their responses through an Excel form of the institutional needs assessment. Their responses or interview notes were then input into an ArcGIS Survey 123 form created for the institutional needs assessment.

Table 2.10 Institutions Interviewed In Ventura County

DAC Priority Area Served	Institution Type	Institution Name
Santa Paula	Mutual	Sisar Mutual Water Co
South Oxnard	Government	Oxnard Water Department
Fillmore	Government	Fillmore Water Dept.
Nyeland Acres	Mutual	Nyeland Acres Mutual Water Co
Nyeland Acres	Mutual	Garden Acres Mutual Water Co
Homeless Population	Community Partner	Ventura County Continuum of Care (working with homeless support services)
West Ventura, Saticoy	Government	Ventura Water Department
El Rio, Piru, South Oxnard, Unincorporated areas	Government	Ventura County Watershed Protection

Ventura County	Community Partner	NAACP Ventura Chapter
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2.3.4 Institutional Needs Data Geographies

Institutional responses collected during interviews (i.e. Survey 123 tool) were exported from the ArcGIS Online (AGOL) environment and underwent several rounds of cleanup (**Figure 2.2**). Since the data was collected through ArcGIS Survey 123 and due to the number of free-response (write-in) questions, much of the data contained extra characters or was in a format that was not usable for analysis (i.e. containing extra carriage returns, extra underscores, etc.). Data cleanup processes were automated where possible to ensure consistency and completeness in the corrections.

Additionally, the data was inherently tabular, meaning it did not have a spatial component after being extracted from AGOL. Since this data will be used as project evaluation criteria, it was important to provide some kind of spatial reference. It was agreed that it would be best to spatially represent each institution that was interviewed by using their area of influence boundary. In many cases, such as with school districts, assigning a spatial reference was straightforward as it was clear which preexisting boundaries should be used. However, there were several institutions whose area of influence was not obvious. In these cases, a request for feedback was sent out to those that interviewed the target institutions. Feedback was collected and boundaries were determined.

The resulting institutional data contained cleaned up tabular data along with geographies representing each institution. This data was contained in an ESRI file geodatabase and shared with LA-V DACIP DAC Consultants, TreePeople’s team and WRPI, who were part of the institutional needs assessment interviews via a private (non-public facing) AGOL group and a set of private web maps to aid in reporting. The data will later be used to identify similarities (i.e. connects) differences (i.e. disconnects) between stakeholders as well as serving as the primary tool to identify and develop project evaluation criteria within Task 4.

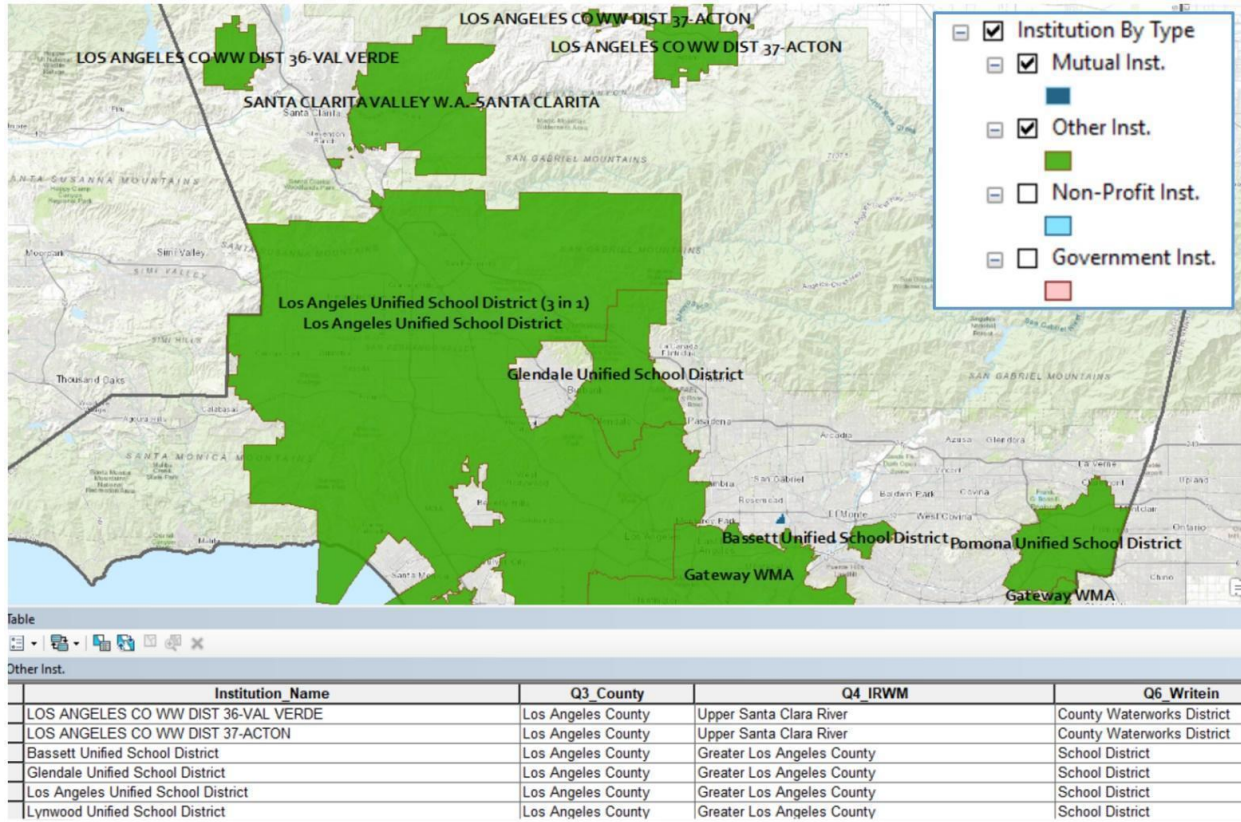


Figure 2.2: Snapshot of the institutional needs data showing “other” institution types (i.e. school districts).

Chapter 3 Community-Institutional Characteristics and Survey Response Assessment

To determine the type of stress communities may be experiencing related to social, environmental and economic factors, a disadvantaged community Stress Model (i.e. DAC Stress Model) was developed utilizing an index composed of three data sources to demonstrate what census tracts indicate a high level of stress. These data sources provide an index of scores that are compiled using multiple variables as described in **Table 3.1** below.

Table 3.1 DAC Stress Model Data Sources, Description and Application

Data Source	Variable Description	Application
<p>EnviroScreen 3.0</p> <p>Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)</p>	<p>CalEnviroScreen identifies California communities by census tract that are disproportionately burdened by, and vulnerable to, multiple sources of pollution.</p> <p>https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30</p>	<p>Higher numbers indicate higher stress</p>
<p>Median Household Income (MHI)</p> <p>United States Census</p>	<p>MHI includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.</p> <p>Applied California Poverty Level of \$31,000 as the MHI threshold for poverty.</p> <p>https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income.html</p>	<p>Lower numbers indicate higher stress.</p>
<p>Social Vulnerability Index</p> <p>Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry</p>	<p>Natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks can pose a threat to a community’s health. Socially vulnerable populations are especially at risk during public health emergencies because of factors like socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status, or housing type and transportation.</p> <p>CDC/ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download Place and Health ATSDR</p>	<p>Higher numbers indicate higher stress</p>

Additionally, **Appendix E** outlines the steps that were applied to develop the DAC Stress Model Levels. The stress model was applied to census tracts to determine where high and low levels of DAC stress communities were present across Ventura County. Applying this model, specific community

characteristics can be identified utilizing the individual indices scores (i.e. enviroscreen), as well as the composite score that reveals that DAC stress level. This will assist with identifying the types and overarching themes of participant responses and how they spatially align with levels of DAC stress across community and institutional boundaries.

Aligning survey responses with DAC stress model results required WRPI and CGST to observe survey questions that identified stakeholders needs, strengths, and potential solutions related to drinking water, agricultural production, industrial uses and to support high quality environmental resources. Developing community survey and institutional interview questionnaires resulted in variability in the types of questions and subsequently the information gathered as some questions were community centric (i.e. relationship with government and agencies), while others were institutional specific (i.e. technical capacity needs). Where similar community and institutional questions aligned, broad themes such as “availability and quality of water resources” and “engagement” were developed to determine relationships in responses across stakeholder types (i.e. Sections 3.2, 3.3).

Utilizing these overarching themes, WRPI and CGST observed trends in community stakeholder responses by determining high frequency responses for a given survey question across Ventura County with a specific focus on high stress DAC areas (Section 3.2). Trends in institutional themes were similarly identified by reviewing interview responses from institutional staff or volunteers. Common themes across institutions (e.g. infrastructure, water rates) are associated with specific examples that highlight how the various institutional types (e.g. water mutuals vs. city water departments) responded (Section 3.3). This process also assisted with understanding the extent to which community and institutional stakeholders aligned (i.e. connect) or not (i.e. disconnected) in their perceptions of water resource issues and related community needs. WRPI and CGST also noted when project needs or examples of successful programs and collaborations were shared (Chapter 4).

3.1 Characterizing the Ventura Region

The environmental (e.g. climate, terrain) and socio-economic (e.g. demographics, household income) landscapes of the **Ventura County priority areas, (i.e. Ventura region)** are very diverse (**Figure 3.1**). For example, the cities of Oxnard and Ventura are located along the coast and river-ocean interface, where the built environment includes high densities of impervious surface types (i.e. roads, sidewalks) and structural types (i.e. residential, commercial and industrial). In contrast, communities such as the cities of Santa Paula and Fillmore are located inland encompassing more dispersed development (i.e. small townships, large lot sizes) and are inclusive of or surrounded by rural and agricultural settings.

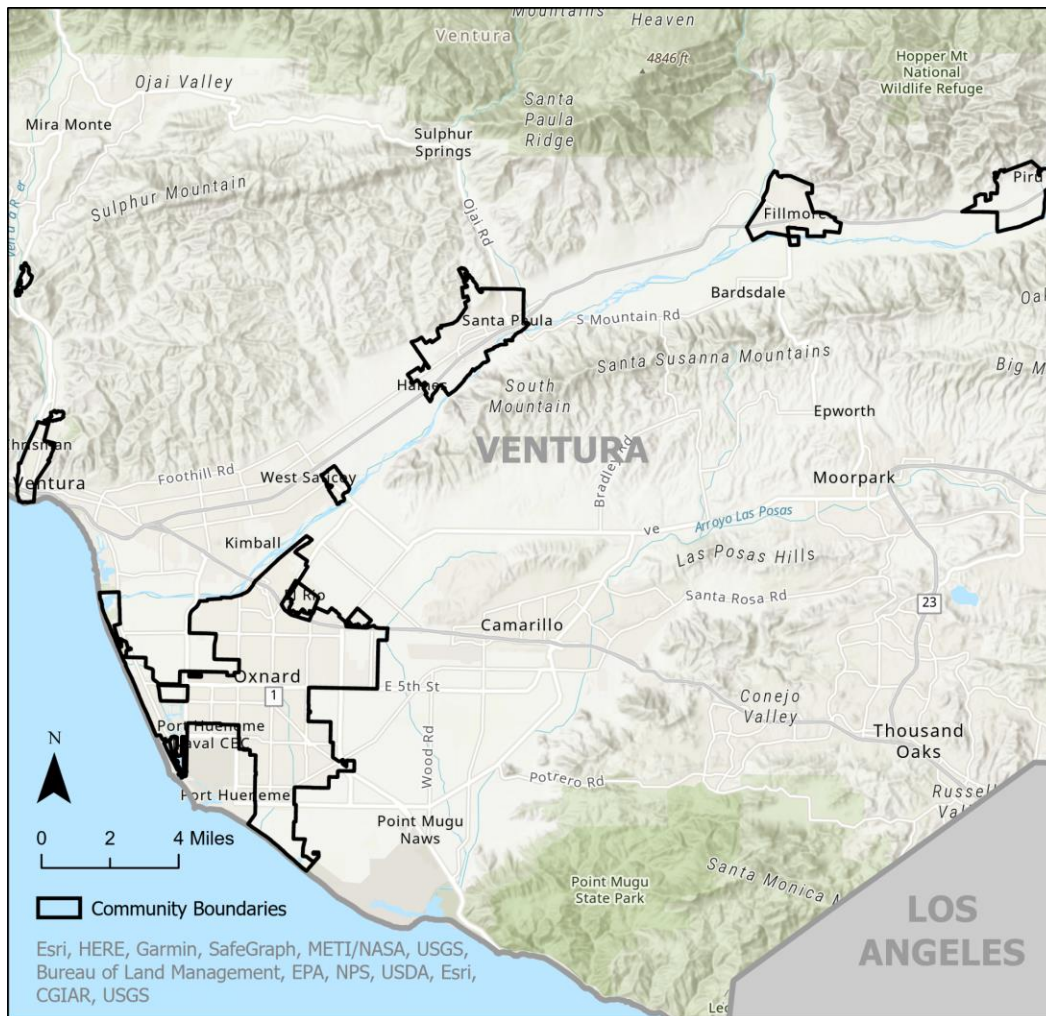


Figure 3.1. Ventura County terrain map highlighting the priority areas where communities and institutions were surveyed.

Table 3.2 describes the broad types of community and institutional survey participants. Community participants across the Ventura region were primarily represented by homeowners, while those representing institutions were primarily from government agencies representing a city or county department with slightly less representation from mutual water agencies. The majority of participating institutions have objectives directly related to providing drinking water resources, treatment of wastewater or ensuring surface and groundwater resources are protected for various human and environmental uses. This study also included institutions with more broad objectives that included water related issues such as ensuring water resources are available for homeless or unsheltered community members or organizations providing a variety of watershed protection measures including stormwater and flood control management and other related activities that adversely impact the quality or quantity of water resources.

Table 3.2 Stakeholder Respondent Types for the Ventura Region

Community Member Types	Institutional Types
<p style="text-align: center;">Homeowner</p> <p>An individual who lives in the Ventura region and owns a house, apartment or similar dwelling.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n=362 respondents</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mutual Water Providers (Volunteer staff)</p> <p>Smaller water mutual agency represented by community volunteers who typically have prior knowledge or have been trained to support and manage various water operations, maintenance and regulatory activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n=1 respondent</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Renter</p> <p>An individual or family who does not own the property they reside in (i.e. house, apartment, mobile home). Although they utilize and interact with water resources in the region, they may be limited in their ability to manage water use in their residence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n=241 respondents</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mutual Water Providers (Paid staff)</p> <p>Smaller to larger water mutual agency represented by paid full time staff with expertise in water issues including various water operations, maintenance and regulatory activities.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n= 2 respondents</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Advocate</p> <p>An individual volunteerings or a paid staff member of an organization working in the Ventura region. Organization representation may vary in issues resulting in varying interaction with water issues.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n=10 respondents</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">City Water Departments (Government)</p> <p>Respondent type represents coastal and inland water departments that work on a variety of water issues including meeting regulations, infrastructure, stormwater, quality and quantity, identification of funding sources and public education and outreach.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">n= 3 respondents</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Business Owner</p> <p>An individual who owns a business in the Ventura region. Their relationship to water use and related issues may vary based on business type.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Watershed Agency (Government; Unincorporated Areas)</p> <p>Respondent types included staff representing a government agency who assist with stormwater and flood management, protection of property and other watershed related activities in unincorporated areas of the Ventura region.</p>

n=5 respondents	n = 1 respondent
<p>Work/Employed in the Area Community participants who work for an organization in the Ventura region, but who do not reside in the area as a resident.</p> <p>n=2 respondents</p>	<p>Watershed Agency (Government; Incorporated Areas) Respondent types included staff representing a government agency who assist with stormwater and flood management, protection of property and other watershed related activities in incorporated areas of the Ventura region.</p> <p>n= 3 respondents</p>
<p>Unsheltered/Homeless</p> <p>n=1 respondent</p>	<p>Community Organizations (Representing Unsheltered and Homeless Population) Respondent types include those working for organizations dedicated to promoting a safe, desirable and thriving community by ending homelessness in Ventura County.</p> <p>n = 1 respondent</p>

3.1.1 The Geography of Disadvantaged Communities and Institutions

Central to the Needs Assessment Task is identifying the current needs and or emerging issues that impact water resources in the Ventura region with a specific focus on DACs. Applying the DAC Stress Model (**Figure 3.2, Appendix E**) to the Ventura region, it was observed that community and institutional boundaries often bridge multiple DACs stress levels across both small and large urban and rural areas. Communities with diverse DAC stress levels primarily occurred within the City of Oxnard, the largest urban landscape within the study area. For example, within the City of Oxnard, community and institutional boundaries straddle DAC stress levels 3 to 6. Spatially, communities in western Oxnard are classified as DAC stress level 3 indicating that there are low levels of stress related to household incomes, environmental health conditions and social vulnerability factors such as natural hazards and public health emergencies. Moving towards the central portions of the city, DAC stress levels include levels 4 to 6. In areas represented by DAC levels 4 and 5, communities experience higher stress associated with social vulnerability, while in areas represented by DAC stress level 6, communities are more susceptible to both social vulnerability and environmental stresses that impact human health. The eastern portions of the city are primarily DAC stress level 6 mimicking similar issues noted in DAC 6 stress levels found in the central part of Oxnard.

Inland DAC stress level trends are far less diverse, likely associated with less population densities, however, some smaller cities, townships and water provider service areas encompass diverse DAC stress levels. The City of Fillmore and the Fillmore Water District boundaries, for example, are inclusive of DAC stress levels 4 to 6. Within the City of Fillmore, the eastern portion of the city is represented by DAC stress level 6 with higher stresses associated with social vulnerability and environmental health. In

contrast, the DAC stresses observed in the northern (i.e. DAC stress level 5) and western (i.e. DAC stress level 4) portions of the city are associated with higher levels of social vulnerability with lower stress levels associated with household income and environmental health factors. When observing **Figure 3.2** it should be noted that in the more rural, inland areas of the Ventura region, less population density and lower DAC stress levels should not mask individuals living within these communities that experience similar issues as those residing within higher stress DACs.

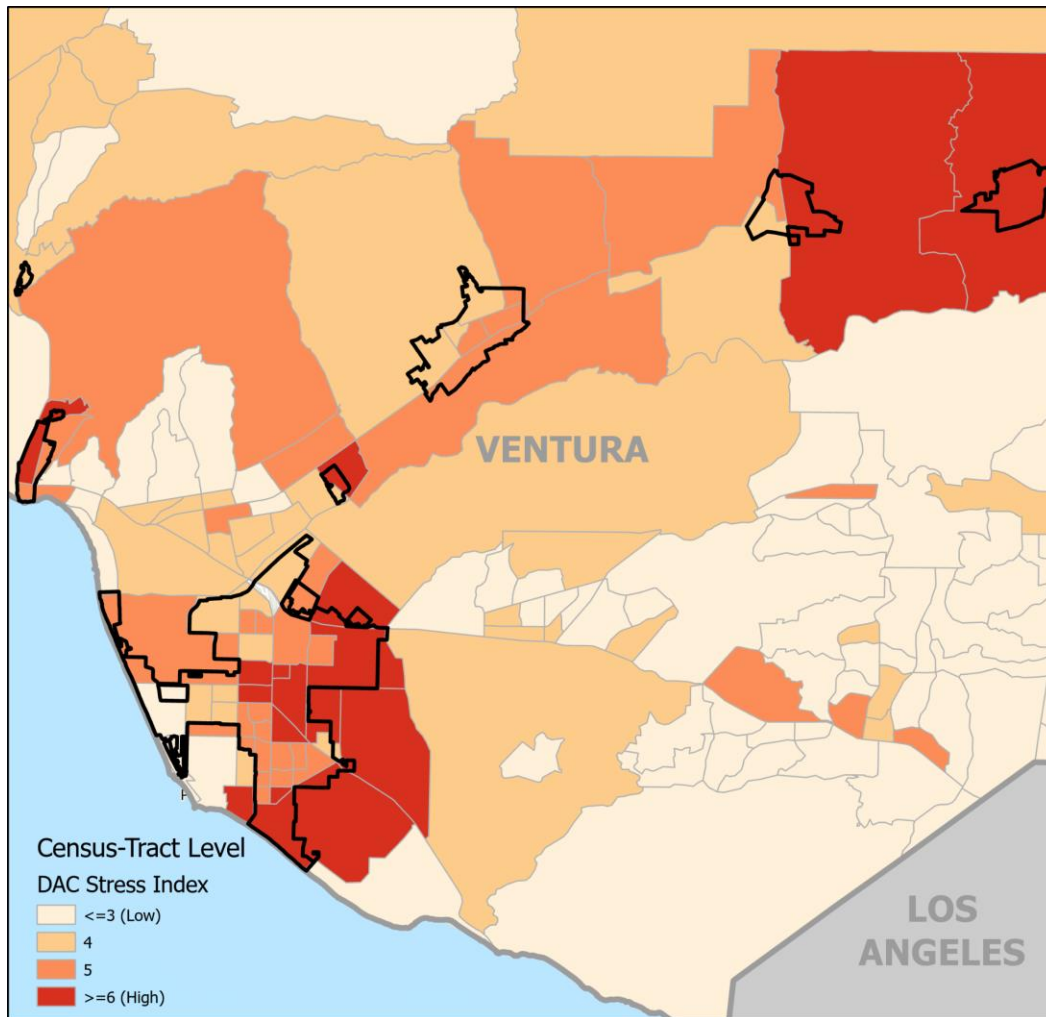


Figure 3.2 Ventura region community boundaries and DAC stress model classifications

When considering survey participation by those representing or residing in high stress DACs across IRWM boundaries, there were differences found when comparing the Ventura IRWM study region to those participating in the Greater Los Angeles and Upper Santa Clara IRWM region’s survey efforts. Community members participating in the survey residing within “High Stress” DACs across all study areas including the Greater Los Angeles Area, the Upper Santa Clara and Ventura Basins primarily represented renters (55.6%), and homeowners (32.3%) (**Figure 3.3**). In contrast, community survey respondents across the Ventura region were primarily represented by homeowners (63.1%) followed by renter participation (33.8%). These examples demonstrate the diverse DAC stress level not only across

the Ventura region but also within a given political boundary highlighting the need to identify and address localized water issues.

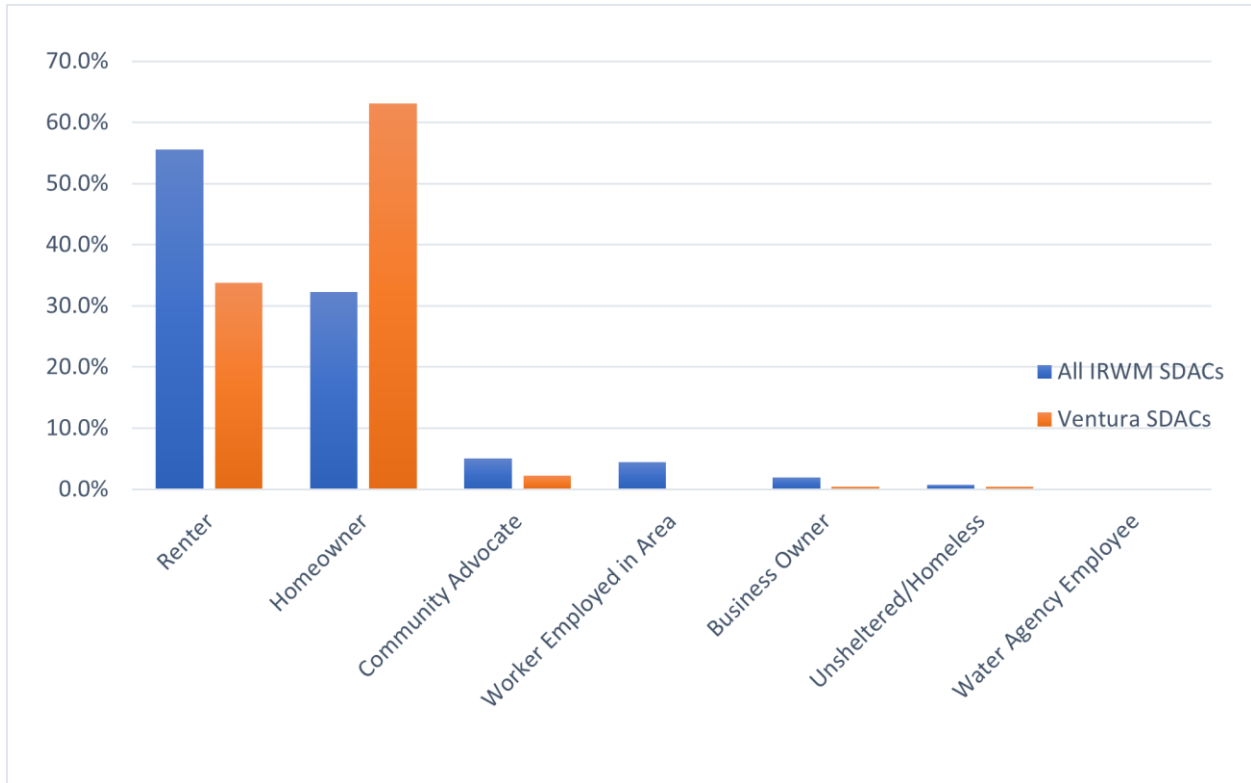


Figure 3.3: Profile of Community Survey Respondents across the entire LA-Ventura IRWM region, versus the Ventura IRWM region alone, in High Stress DACs.

3.1.2 Ventura Region Community Survey Participant Responses Graphical Representation

PlaceWorks and CSUN CGST team processed the WaterTalks Survey responses that were entered as of June 15th, 2021. The WaterTalks Survey responses collected in Ventura County are summarized in graphs and word clouds under the respective survey question. The WaterTalks Survey responses to questions that have a predefined/standardized response were summarized using Excel’s pivot table feature to tally the results and generate graphs.

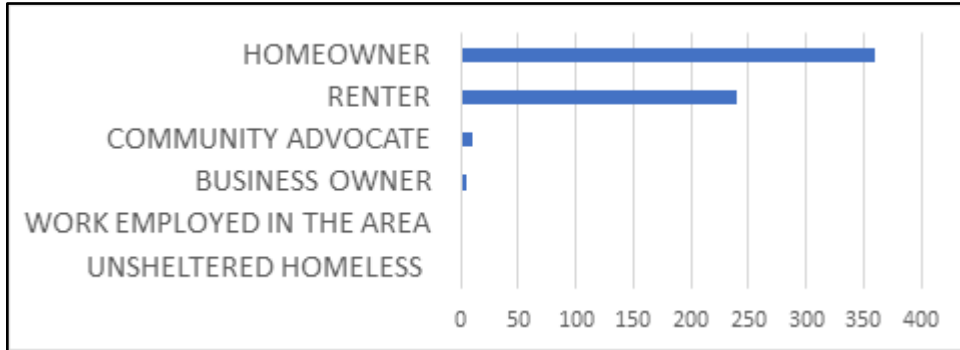
The responses to open-ended (i.e. write-in) questions were summarized using word clouds that highlight repeating words in responses. The size of the words is determined by the frequency, or how many times the word was used in the responses. The larger words had a higher frequency. PlaceWorks used the following website, <https://www.freewordcloudgenerator.com/generatewordcloud>, and limited the number of words shown to the top 30.

Lists of open-ended (i.e. write-in) responses are provided for questions that called for longer responses from participants that weren’t as useful using the word cloud presentation. These responses are listed in Appendix G along with tables summarizing responses to predefined/standardized responses

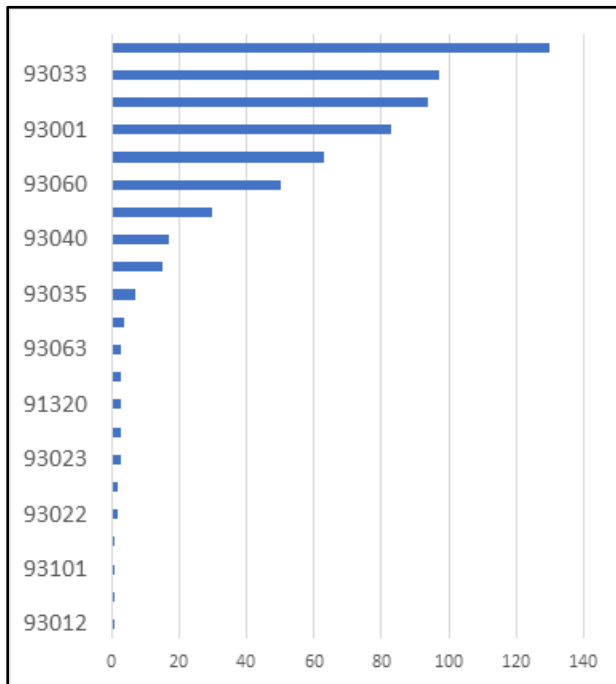
corresponding to the graphs shown in this chapter.

Community Characteristics

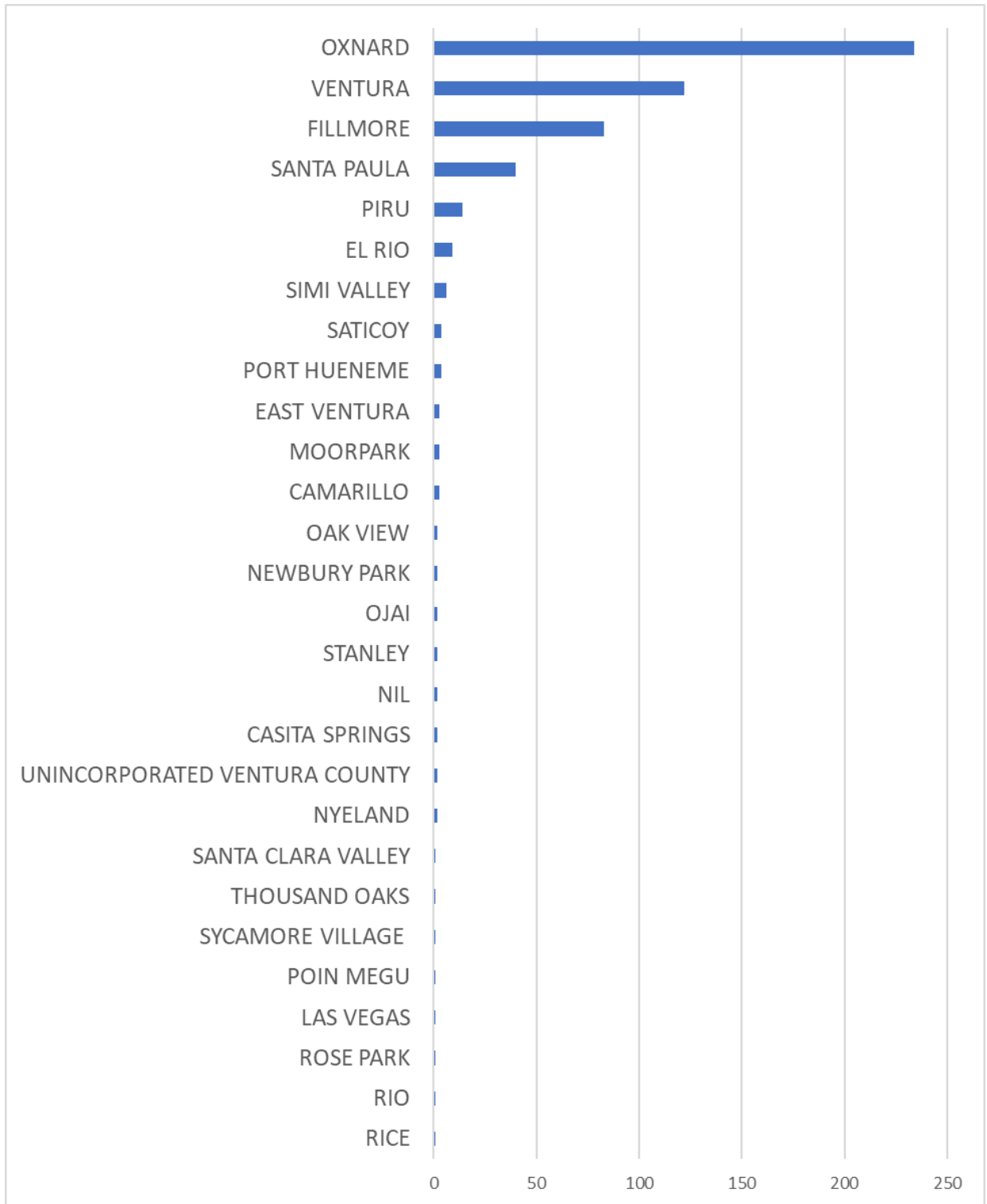
1. Are you responding to this survey as a resident or other community member?

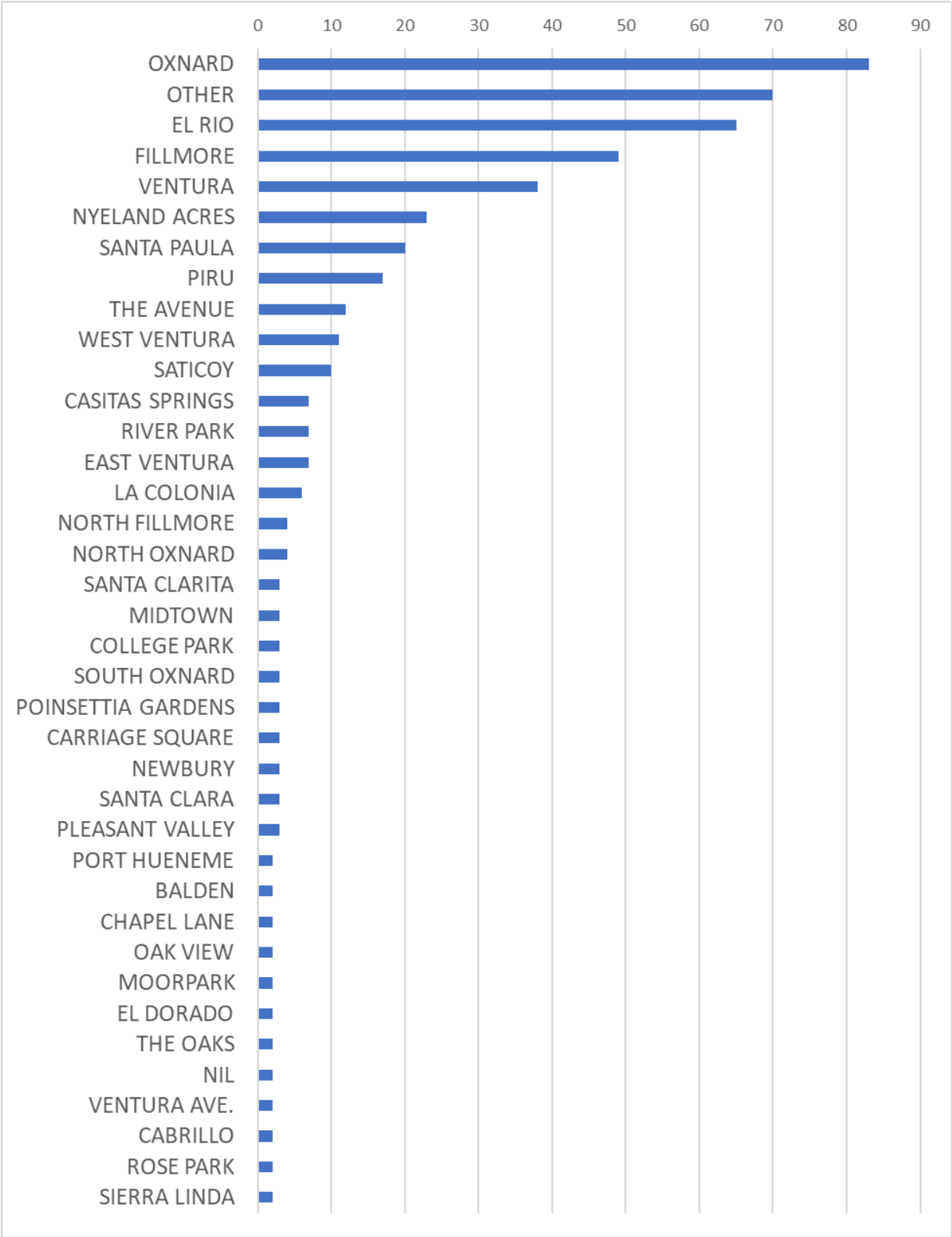


2. Please provide the zip code of the community for which you are responding.



2b. What City is this community located in?





Community Strengths and Needs

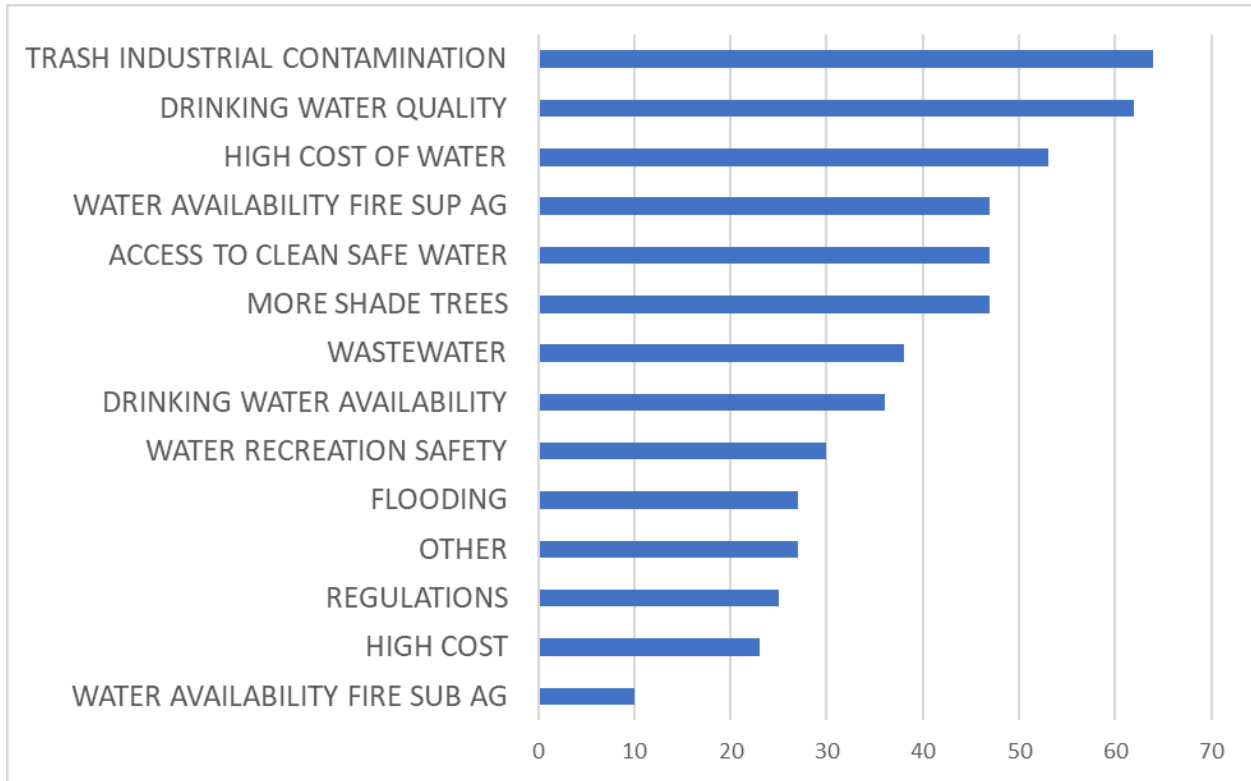
4. List three things you like about your community.



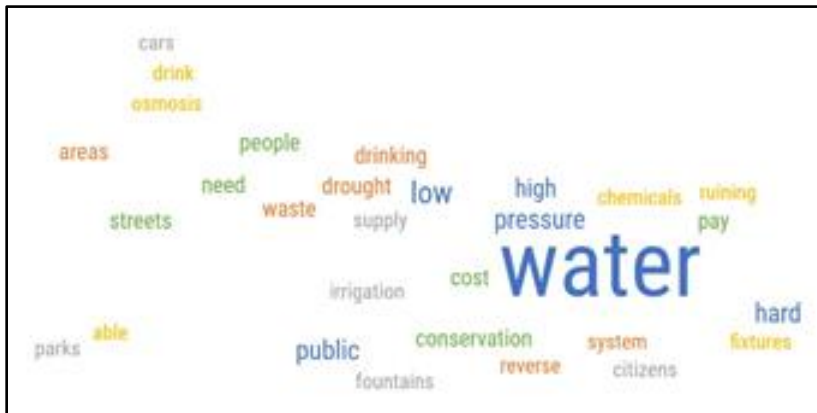
5. What are the three things your community needs the most?



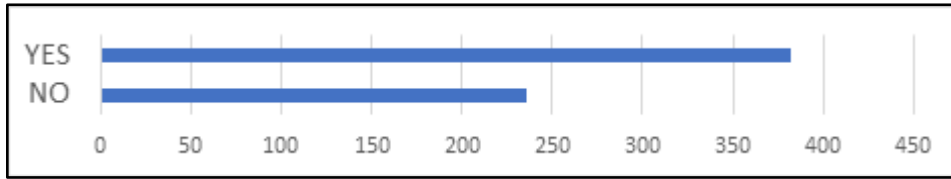
6. What water related issues are of greatest concern in your community?



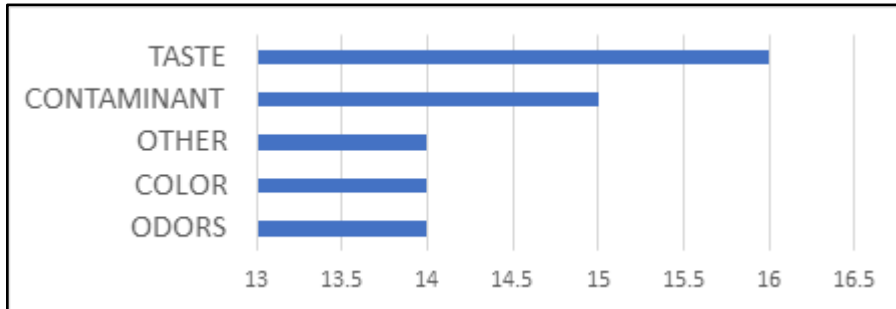
6 Other. Other water related concerns?



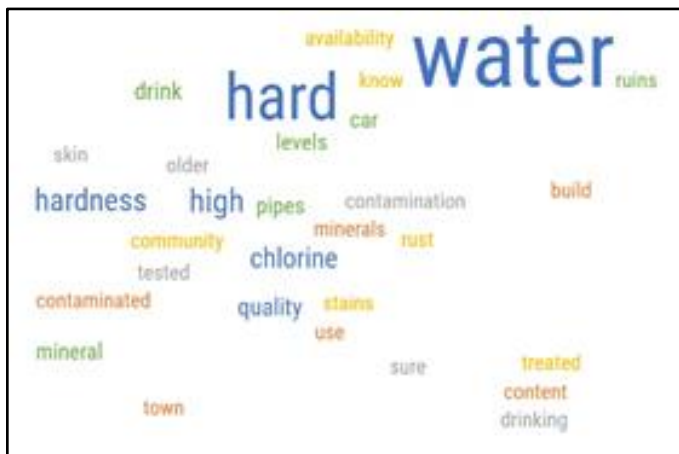
7. Are there concerns about drinking water quality in your home neighborhood or community you serve?



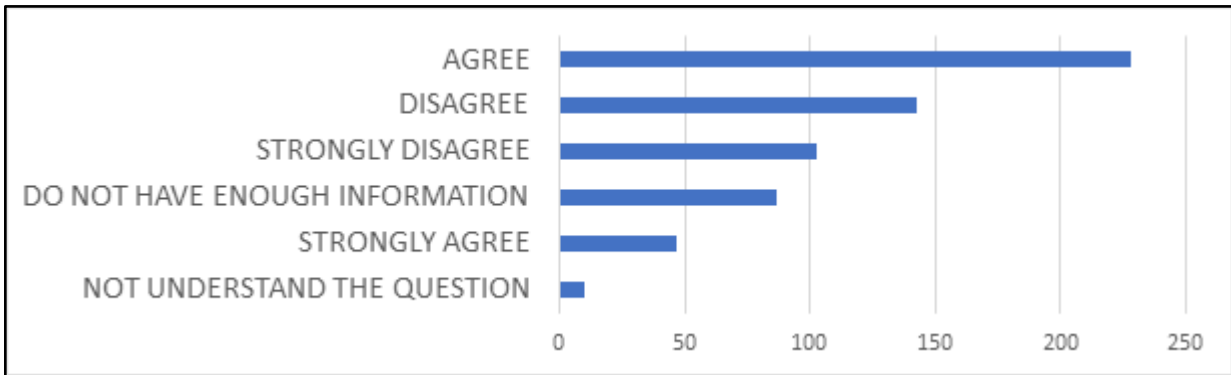
7a. If yes, select all of the concerns that apply.



7a Other. Other water related concerns?

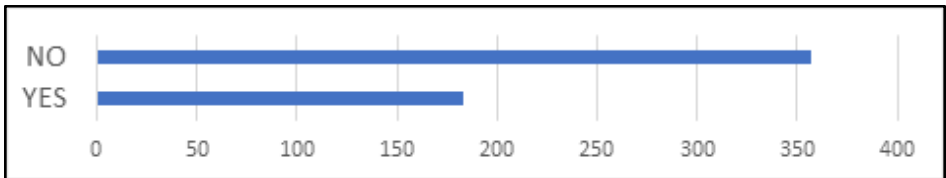


8. My local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification needs.

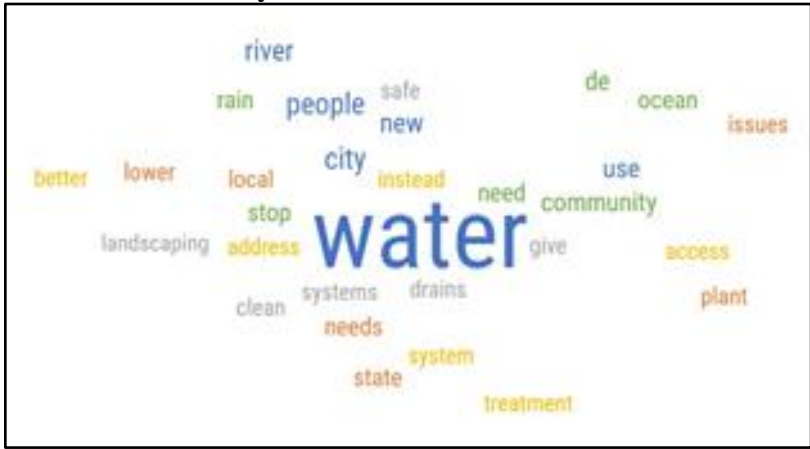


Those who responded were able to write in their reasons for their response (See Appendix G).

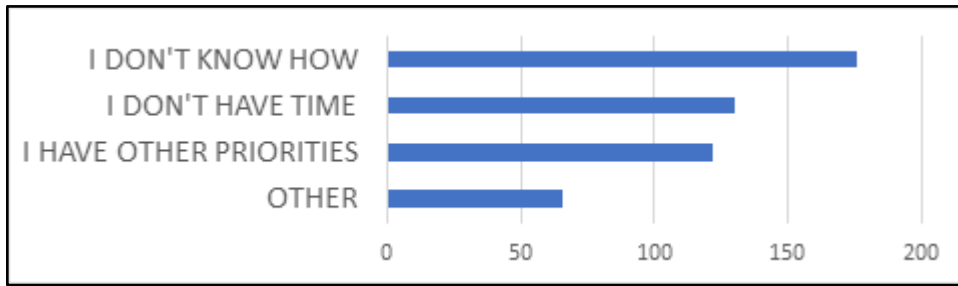
9. Do you have ideas for how water problems could be addressed?



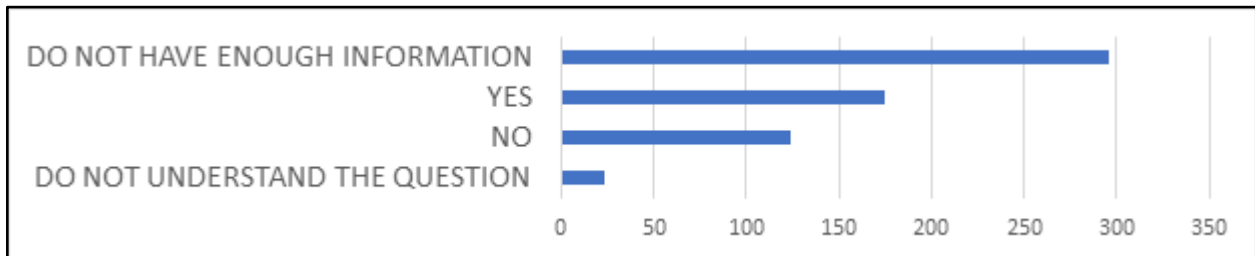
9a. Other community concerns?



11b. If not, Select all of the reasons that apply.



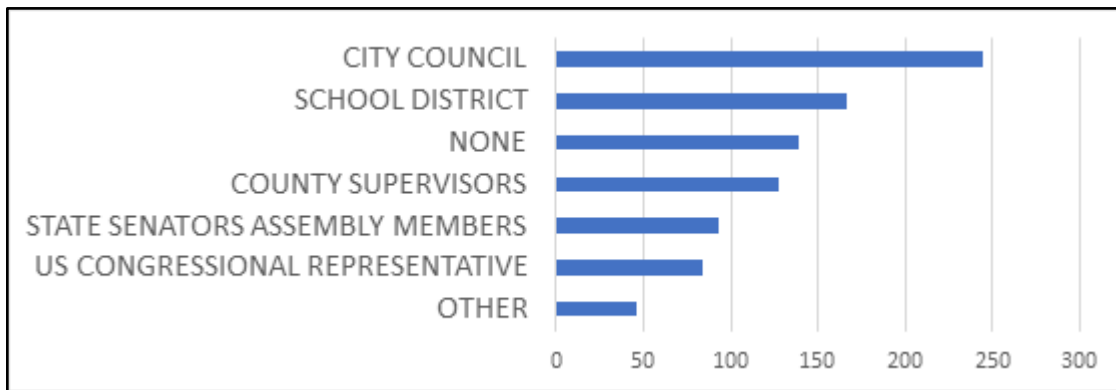
12. Does your community participate in community planning efforts?



12a. If yes, are there specific people or groups you would like to share?

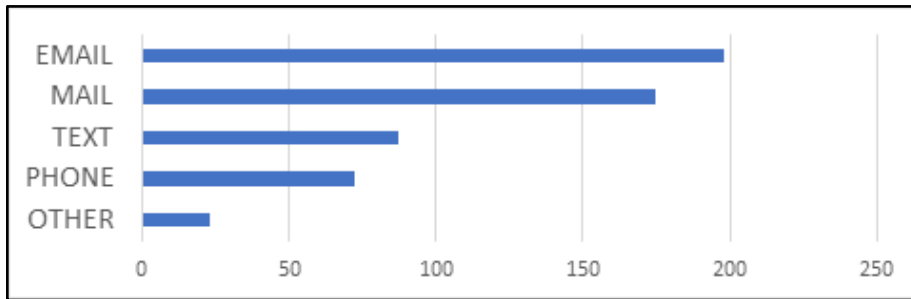
Those who responded with the option, “YES”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

13. What governing entities and/or elected officials do you seek information from or receive information from?

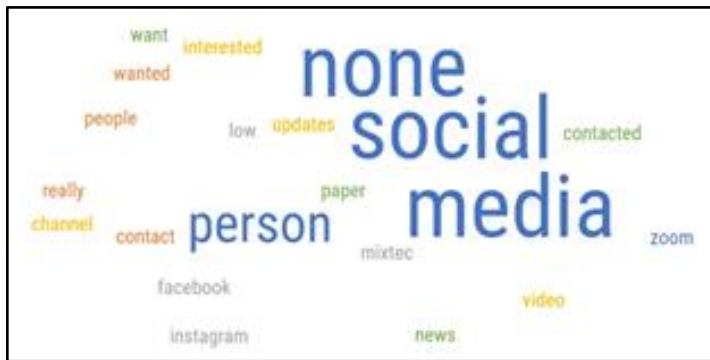


Those who responded with the option, “Other”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

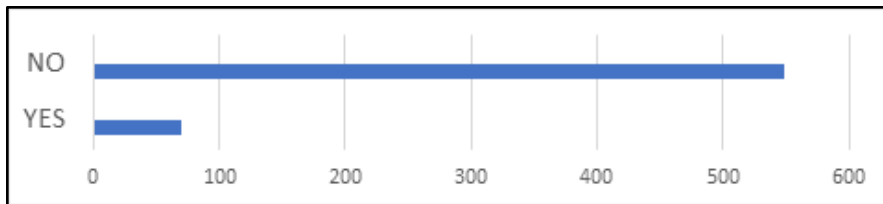
14. What is your preferred way to be contacted by community organizations and governing bodies?



14 Other.



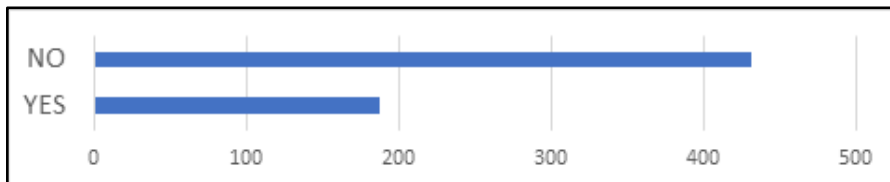
15. Have you participated in water related planning in your community?



15a. If yes, was the planning process responsive to your needs?

Those who responded with the option, “YES”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

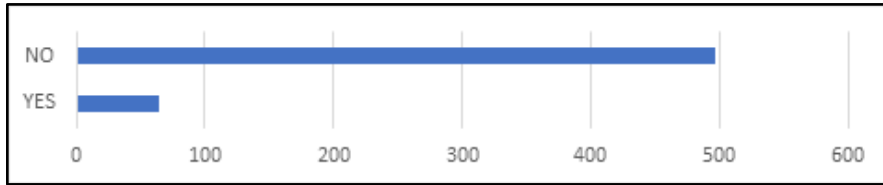
16. Do you think that community voices or groups are being heard by government or the public at large?



16a. Use the space below to identify which voices or groups are being heard and which still need to be heard.

Respondents were able to write in their response for question 16a. (See Appendix G).

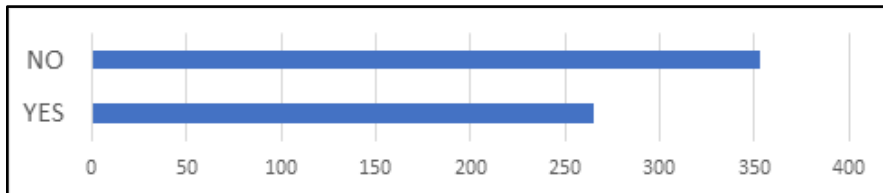
17. Have you ever heard of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program?



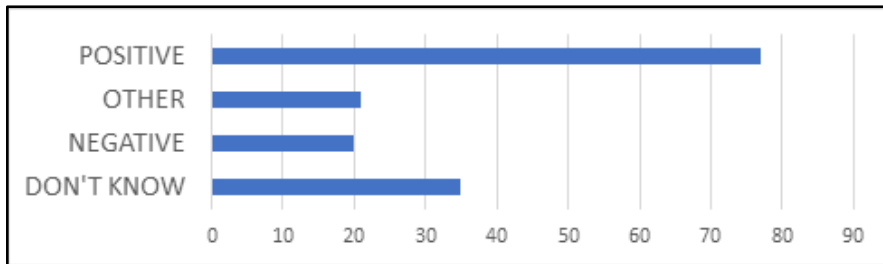
17a. If yes, in what context?

Those who responded with the option, “YES”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

18. Do you know what drinking water agency provides you water?

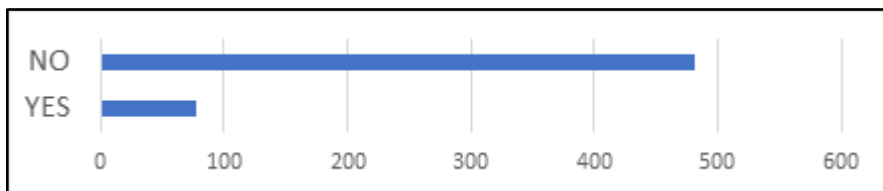


18a. If yes, have you had a positive or negative experience?



Those who responded with the option, “Other”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

19. Are you aware of educational opportunities around water issues locally?



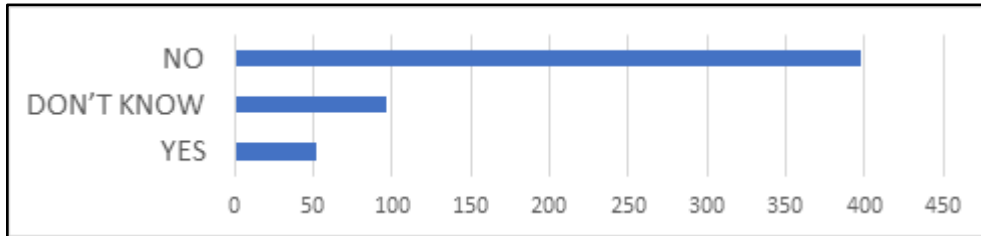
19a. If yes, can you share those opportunities?

Those who responded with the option, “Other”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

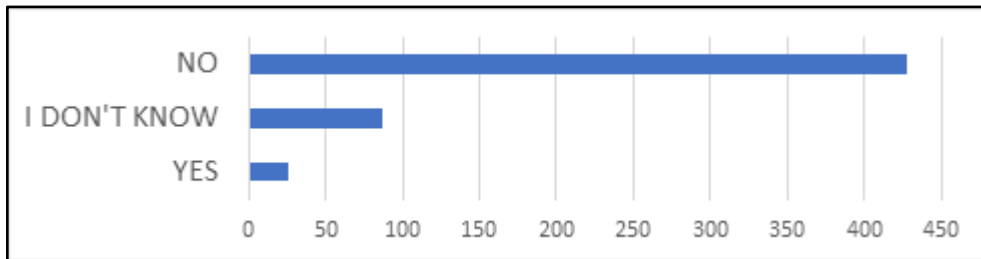
Water Usage Types

Questions #20 and #21 were meant only for respondents who answered as a Renter, Homeowner, or Business Owner in question #1.

20. Is your home or business on a septic system?

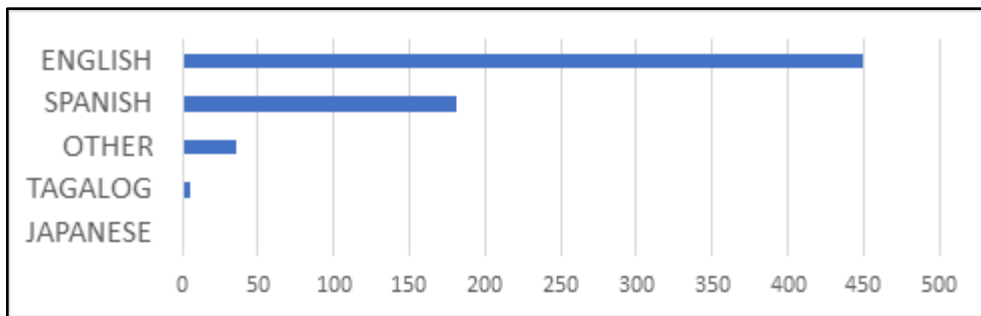


21. Is your home or business on a private well?

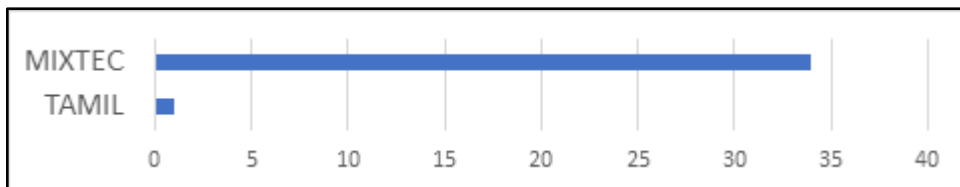


Respondent Primary Language

22. Primary language spoken at home?

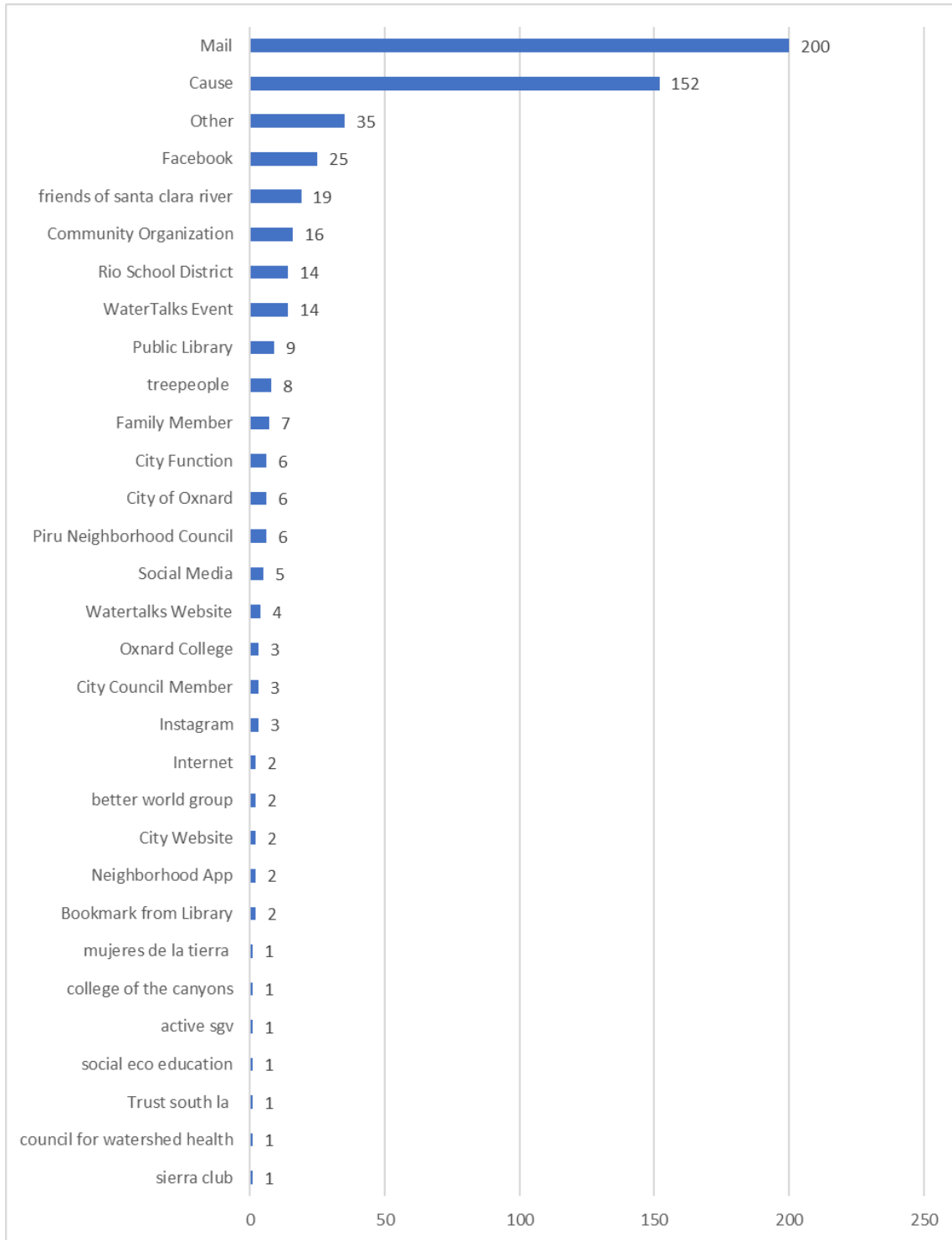


22 Other. Primary language spoken at home:



How did Respondent hear about WaterTalks Survey

23. How did you hear about this survey?



Those who responded with the option, “Other”, were able to write in their response (See Appendix G).

3.2 Community and Institutional Survey Responses: Connect, Disconnects and Opportunities

3.2.1 Needs and Strengths

Community Survey Questions

- Q4 List three things you like about your community.
Q5 What are the three things your community needs the most?
Q10. What are your community's most pressing concerns?

Institutional Survey Questions

- Q17: Will you please tell us about your community's strengths, and what it needs.
Q38: What other concerns do you have for your community now and into the future? (Circle One) under needs.

Summary:

Community respondents across the Ventura region emphasized the overall need and concern related to water resources with a small sense of community ranking as the most prominent response related to community strengths. Within (i.e. DAC stress levels 5 and 6), high frequency terms associated with community strengths included recreational areas and greenspaces, clean beaches, the weather, social service programs, and local businesses (**Figure 3.4**). These communities also shared the need to **increase greenspace and recreational opportunities**, provide adequate assistance to unsheltered and homeless community members, increase **affordable housing**, and support **higher paying jobs** (**Figures 3.5, 3.6**). Furthermore, it was noted by respondents in high stress DACs that **low wage jobs coupled with high and increasing housing, utility and water prices** often results in an increase in communities classified as DACs over time. Concerns with homeless communities related to public safety and emerging issues related to climate change (i.e. sea level rise, flooding, fires, droughts) were also shared. In inland high stress DACs, respondents suggested that roadways to more isolated communities are increasingly closed due to **increasing flooding and fire conditions**, highlighting a need to ensure adequate transportation routes during hazardous conditions.



Figure 3.4 Word Cloud Example from Chapter 3 (3.1.2) Community Survey Question 4 “List three things you like about your community.”



Figure 3.5 Word Cloud Example from Chapter 3 (3.1.2) Community Survey Question 5 “What are the three things your community needs the most?”

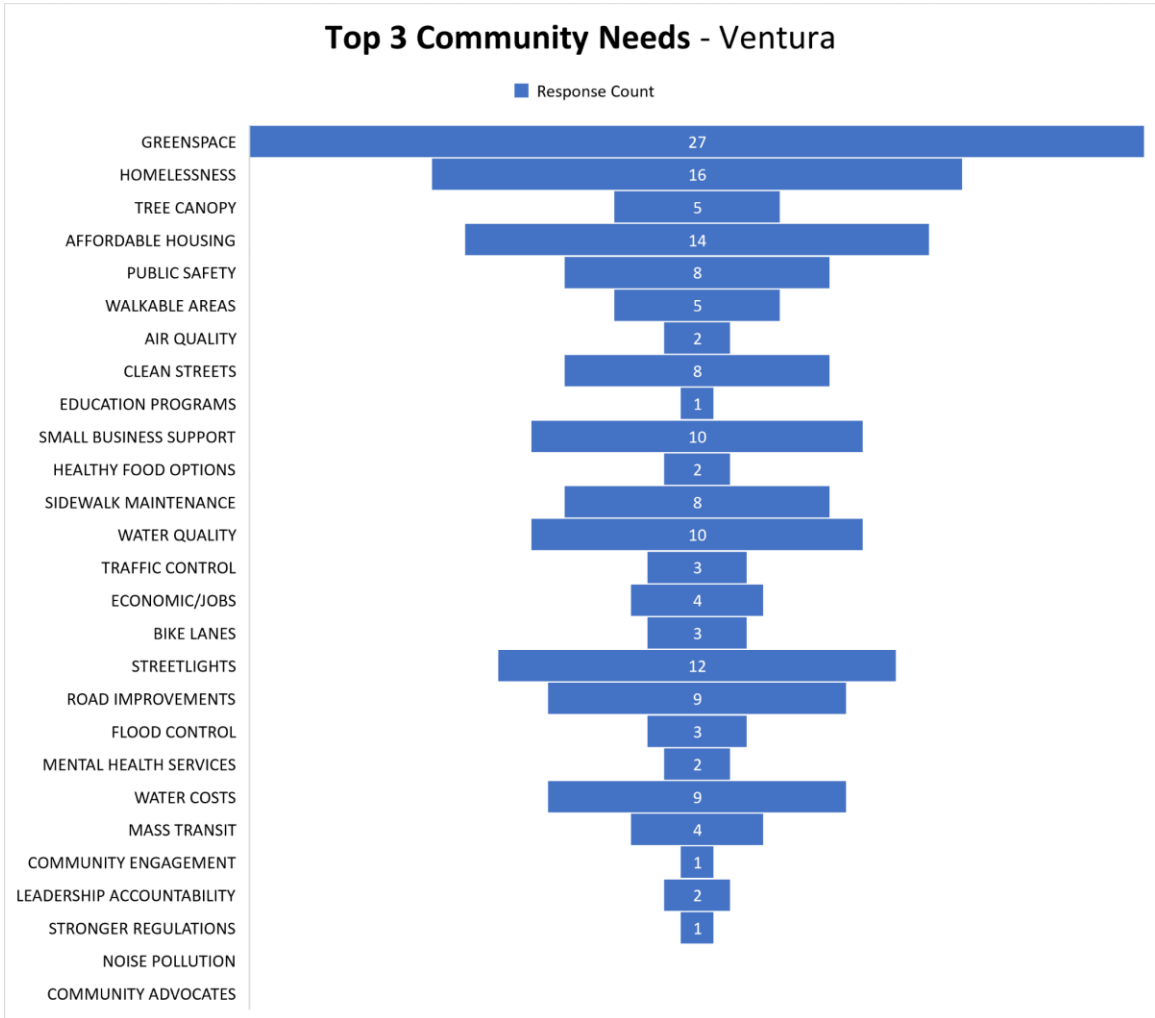


Figure 3.6 Analysis of high stress DAC community survey respondents. Community Survey Question, 5 “What are the three things your community needs the most”.

Institutions shared various needs associated with improving the physical and emergency **infrastructure** primarily related to providing customers with adequate and sustainable water resources.. **Aging infrastructure, changing regulatory requirements** and **increasing development pressures** often result in increases in utility rates. For example, smaller mutual water providers find barriers to meeting regulations associated with providing **above ground storage** because wells often have water quality impairments (i.e. magnesium, iron and boron) that exceed regulatory standards limiting providers ability to store water. This is particularly difficult for smaller communities and water providers who do not have a tax base to address **increasing costs** and residents that cannot afford to continue paying higher rates. Respondents also suggested **a survey of the physical infrastructure** and **increasing bacteria monitoring** in the winter wet season would be essential to identifying and resolving many of the issues identified by institutional survey questions 17 and 38. When **droughts** occur, both city and mutual water providers noted they often **drill new wells** which reduces surface and groundwater water resources across the aquifer. These **limiting factors** also impact a community's ability to promote development to increase the tax base. Recognizing that water is finite, institutions are working to protect current resources from overuse through multiple mitigation strategies including **stormwater BMP implementation, conservation education** and **groundwater recharge**. In relation to **homelessness** within the Ventura region, institutions working with homeless and unsheltered populations noted that the county has worked with multi-agencies to provide **“Project Room Key”** where some unsheltered and homeless community members (i.e 65+ and those with health concerns) can be relocated to hotels, however, funding is limited and not sustainable. Sustaining this program is beneficial to many water institutions because the increase in homeless **encampments in riverbeds** creates both **public safety hazards and health issues**, while also making it difficult for institutions to meet surface water quality TMDL requirements.

Engagement with the community was also an identified need for several participating water institutions. Many shared that engagement can be difficult with **working populations** that do not have time to attend education and outreach programs. Even when engagement is successful, it is often hard to sustain in this context. The lack of **affordable and stable internet** was cited as a primary need because it slows the lines of communication and subsequent participation in decision making processes related to water. In relation to Tribal and Indigenous community engagement, the Mixtec and Chumash communities were identified as a point of engagement with most engagement only occurring related to meeting the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Several city and mutual water institutions serving high stress DACs noted **language barriers** as a need to communicate water issues including flooding threats. Watershed organizations, mutual and city water institutions all shared the need to provide homeless and unsheltered populations with access to **adequate water** to reduce water theft and the use of water in rivers, which can impact both human and ecological health. These institutions also shared those areas utilized by residents residing in DACs (i.e. recreational parks and beaches) often have **water quality issues** (i.e. TMDLs) but these areas are not within DACs so funding can be limited to resolve issues.

Other barriers to engagement for city and mutual water providers include the renter owner dynamic where renters may be paying water bills directly to landlords making outreach difficult to communicating with direct users. Landlords may also be reluctant to participate in programs and or fix leaks and other water related issues within rental units. As a result, identifying who and how many people live within a dwelling in general is difficult. In relation to institutional collaborations, many **mutual water providers/systems** do not feel that **IRWM is interested** in working with them and outreach by IRWMs has been limited.

Institutions indicated that their primary strengths included **shared interconnections** and their ability to **collaborate** with multi agencies and nonprofits. Institutions shared that both of these factors have been an

asset to providing reliable, resilient water resources to residents. Furthermore, effective collaborations enable agencies to identify **resource needs** so they can be quickly addressed. These relationships are also helpful in **sharing information with the community** to inform decision making. City water departments and watershed institutions suggested that larger water providers have benefited from **IRWM participation** enabling them to obtain grants and funding for water needs. Additionally, several water institutions noted that **water infrastructure needs** are also prioritized in master planning, however, agencies **vary in their ability to pay** for and or **find funding** for projects. It was shared that when water projects are implemented in **DACs**, community members are often very appreciative of the assistance, but typically do not participate in water issues unless they directly impact their communities.

Across the Ventura region water institutions suggested that the **implementation of best management practices** have been successful in addressing flooding, stormwater and improving water quality. Points of community pride shared by water providers and watershed organizations include **greenspace between cities**, where many DAC communities tend to recreate, and the **variety of resources**, collaborations and **strategies for addressing homelessness**, especially as it relates to encampments in riverbed and near waterways. Institutions also felt an emerging community strength related to recent fires includes the community's ability to collaborate through public-private partnerships to improve utilities and internet services. Where implemented, this has enabled water and watershed based institutions to provide better public services as well as increasing opportunities for communication and engagement.

Stakeholder Connects & Disconnects

Institutions and community responses from high stress DACs connected in their responses related to **greenspaces**. Institutions see these as viable ways to link the need for recreational spaces, especially in DACs, with their goals of meeting non-point pollution **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) requirements** in waterways through the implementation of stormwater BMPs. Both stakeholder groups also expressed the need to address **homelessness**. Water providers and community organizations working with homeless or un-sheltered populations would like to increase efforts to deter encampments in waterways which would also assist with improving surface water resources in the region. One such example is the collaboration between the **Watershed Coalition of Ventura County** with a focus on improving watershed health through agency and non-profit collaborations and the **Ventura County Continuum of Care**, which works directly to assist homeless related issues. Both organizations work to identify encampments within riverbeds and assist with encampment removal by providing access to shelter, healthcare and other related resources. Expanding this type of collaborative framework would further support agencies with meeting TMDL requirements, while also providing reliable and adequate services to unsheltered and homeless community members.

Housing was also a concern for both stakeholder groups, however, there is a disconnect in responses. Water institutions expressed an imbalance with the need for **new housing and higher paying jobs** to increase the tax base to pay for existing and emerging infrastructure and regulatory compliance needs, however, they also noted the limited water resources available to meet development needs. In contrast, many community members expressed the need to reduce and control development because it increases water demand in a region increasingly struggling to provide water to support current residents and environmental needs. There is also the expressed fear from the community that **increasing development will increase the need for infrastructure, hauled water** and other supplementary sources of water leading to **increases in water rates**.

3.2.2 Availability and Quality of Water Resources

Community Survey Questions:

Q6. What water-related issues are of greatest concern in your community?

Q7. Are there concerns about drinking water quality in your home, neighborhood, or community you serve?

Q9 Do you have ideas for how water problems could be addressed?

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q19: Is safe, affordable water for drinking, washing, and cooking accessible to all members of your community? (Circle One)

Summary:

Community respondents across the Ventura region generally expressed a high degree of concern about drinking water quality. Over half (52.7%) of the respondents in high stress DACs noted issues with **drinking water quality**. Of the various water quality issues, a majority of the respondents (50.9%) noted **taste** as the area in greatest need of assistance (**Figure 3.7**). Similarly, a large number of respondents (28.4%) were concerned with possible contamination in their water, including from trash and industrial sources. The **high costs** of water services were also of great concern to nearly half (42.8%) of community members residing in high stress DACs. Other water related concerns noted, but less frequent, include adequate water for **fire and agricultural uses** and emerging issues related to **access to clean water** in the face of **prolonged drought** and fire conditions as well as pressures from **new development**. Potential solutions suggested by those residing in high stress DACs include **increasing stormwater BMPs to recharge groundwater** and **improve surface water quality, water conservation incentive program, providing in-home water infiltration systems and testing kits** as well as increasing environmental education programs.

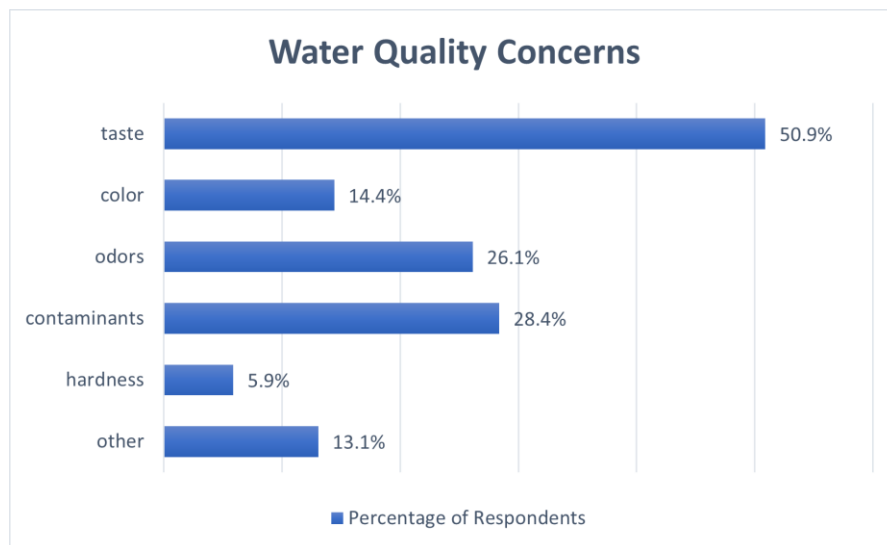


Figure 3.7. Summary of high stress DAC community survey percentage responses in Ventura region for Question 7 “What are the drinking water quality concerns in your neighborhood or community?”.

A majority of mutual and city water institutions surveyed stated they **have adequate and affordable**

water for multiple uses. Although institutions see that it is affordable in relation to their ability to maintain and improve infrastructure and meet regulatory standards, residents have expressed that **water rates are too high**, often taking legal measures to stop rate increases. **Where rates are lower**, communities and systems are small with limited treatment and staffing. The **variability in affordability of water** creates barriers and institutions have devised programs that enable bill forgiveness or assistance that are often linked with other **utility forgiveness programs** such as the **SoCal Edison CARE?FERA Discount Program**. Late fees are also a source to support these programs. Community, mutual, and watershed institutions interviewed shared that sources of water present **multiple challenges** for people facing **homelessness**. Many **encampments** are in **riverbeds and beaches** that create both human and ecological health issues. This arises because there are not **formal and sustained** and **watering sanitation stations** often leading to water theft from agricultural land, fire hydrants and direct takings from rivers. Community and watershed institutions interviewed shared that efforts to provide **showering and bathroom pods** helped to alleviate these issues but they are not sustained and they do not address ongoing water insecurities.

Stakeholder Connects & Disconnects

Water institutions and community respondents representing high stress DACs connected in their response related to **water quality concerns**. Community members expressed concern with the **quality of drinking water** citing the need to improve drinking water taste, while water providers noted water quality issues related to their **ability to treat potable and wastewater** resources to meet customer needs. One primary disconnect between stakeholder groups is related to **water rates and cost**. For example, water providers expressed they felt water was affordable, while community stakeholders cited high water rates as an existing concern.

3.2.3 Institutional-Community Engagement

Community Survey Questions:

- Q8. My local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification needs (streets, sidewalks, parks, etc.).
- Q11. Do you personally participate in community planning efforts?
- Q12. Does your community participate in community planning efforts?
- Q15. Have you participated in water-related planning in your community?
- Q16. Do you think that community voices or groups are being heard by the government or the public at large?
- Q18 Do you know what drinking water agency provides your water?

Institutional Survey Questions:

- Q28: How engaged are members of your community in decisions about water?
- Q29: What strategies do you use to engage with community members?
- Q30: What barriers do you see in engaging with members of your community?

Summary:

Perceptions about the levels of engagement between water institutions and the community vary greatly across the Ventura region. Nearly half of the Ventura region community members and those residing in high stress DACs agreed that their **local government was addressing infrastructure and beautification** issues in the area (**Figure 3.8**). Additionally, 138 (22%) of all the Ventura region respondents said they were **engaged** in some way with organizations or planning issues in their community. This rate was similar for those individuals living in the Ventura region's overall disadvantaged communities (21%),

however, slightly more community member respondents in high stress DACs stated they were engaged in the community (27%). **Water planning-related engagement** was marginally lower amongst high stress DAC respondents (9%) than for all the Ventura region respondents (11%) (**Figure 3.9**). Regardless of DAC stress level, less than a third (30%) of resident respondents in the Ventura region felt their voices were being heard in community planning.

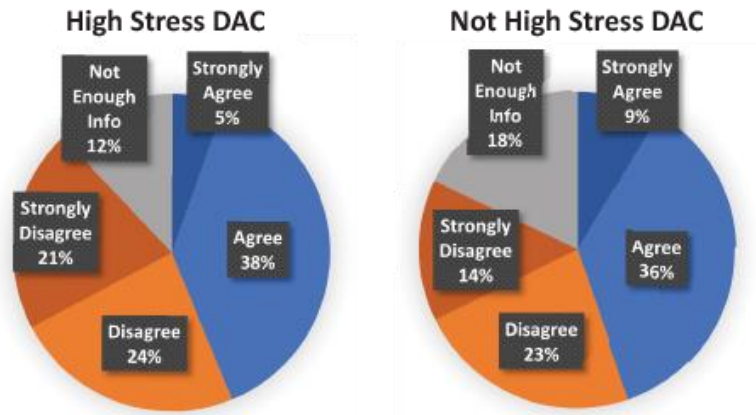


Figure 3.8. High stress DAC versus not high stress DAC community survey responses in the Ventura region for question #8 “My local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification needs.”.

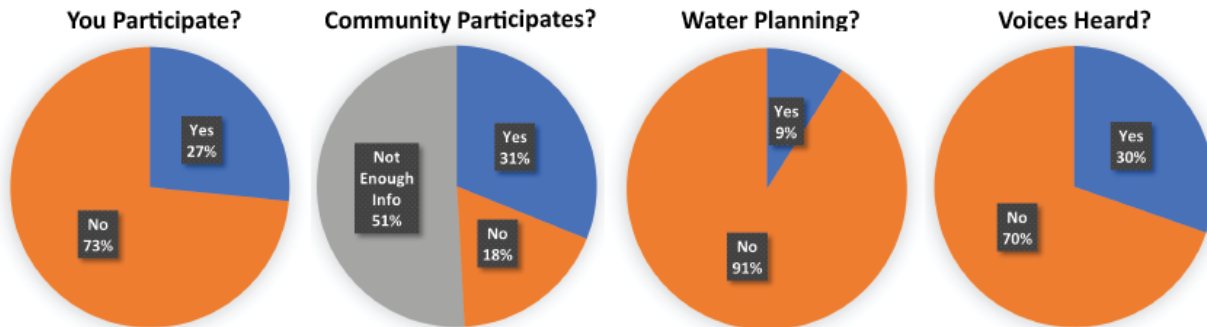


Figure 3.9 Responses to the series of engagement questions for community member participants in high stress DAC communities in the Ventura region (Questions 11-12 and 15-16).

Institutions shared that they prioritize community involvement in decision making, and responses indicate that community members **only engage** with them **when** there is an **issue** including water security during droughts, rate structure changes, new regulatory compliance needs and large scale projects that impact their communities (i.e. stormwater). **NGOs** are often present at community meetings to represent community interests in water issues. **Board members** and **staff** often play the role of **informing the community** about changes, however, they note that the lack of involvement may be related to **lack of time** to attend meetings, high rate of **renters**, distrust with water agencies (i.e. tap water quality), and **language barriers** (i.e. Spanish) especially in DACs. When projects are implemented in DACs, community members are very appreciative of institutions addressing water related issues. **Internal institutional barriers** include **lack of adequate staff** focused on engagement, **language barriers** between staff and community members, difficulty communicating with school districts (i.e. lack of teacher time or direct messaging to teachers) and restrictions on engagement due to COVID.

Strategies for engagement including **newsletters** in billing information, **office hours** to meet with the public, holding **community meetings**, attending **community events** (e.g. coastal cleanup days, public works week), **websites** and **social media**, **emergency notices**, **CEQA** engagement, and **K-12** education programs. One striking **example of a robust education and outreach program** includes adequate staff focused on outreach programs, partnering with foundations (i.e. **MERITO and Environmental Literacy Council**) and direct partnerships with school districts. Educational programs center on sustainability and green school initiatives that provide classroom presentations on a range of environmental topics including water. Many programs **target Title 1 school engagement** through student-based project learning and wastewater treatment facility tours. During COVID, videos were developed for educators in both English and Spanish and giveaways supplemented these programs such as shower timers for students to monitor water use.

Stakeholder Connects & Disconnects

Although most water providers felt they were meeting the needs of the community, community respondents representing high stress DACs were variable in their perceptions **that governmental entities are addressing infrastructure and beautification needs**. Additionally, perceptions about the **level and consistency of engagement** led to several disconnects. For example, water providers expressed that community members primarily engage when issues impact them directly and community issues are often represented at public meetings by local non-profits not individual community members. In contrast, community stakeholders felt they were very engaged in a variety of community issues including water planning. Despite their involvement, many community members representing high stress DACs did not feel that governmental agencies were listening to their concerns offering opportunities for water providers to develop avenues of transparency and more inclusion in decision making processes.

3.2.4 Institutional-Community Collaborations

Community Survey Questions:

Q17. Have you ever heard of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program?

Q18 Do you know what drinking water agency provides you with water?

Other - 18a. If yes, have you had a positive or negative experience?

Q19. Are you aware of educational opportunities around water issues locally?

Q19a. If yes, can you share those opportunities?

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q34: Please describe any collaborative efforts between multiple agencies or institutions in your community?

Q35(1): What is the system's or community's involvement in the local IRWM group?

Q36: Does your agency have any involvement through other regional programs?

Q37: Do you see any barriers to engagement in regional efforts?

Summary:

Less than half of the community respondents representing the Ventura region **were aware of their provider water agency** (42%). Additionally, very few of the respondents in the community were **aware of the IRWM program** (10%) or any **water-related educational programs** (11%). Within high stress DAC areas, these percentages increased to 79 percent of respondents expressing no knowledge about regional IRWM, 58 percent not knowing what water agency provides their drinking water and 82 percent

of respondents expressing no knowledge about water related educational opportunities occurring in their community (Figure 3.10).

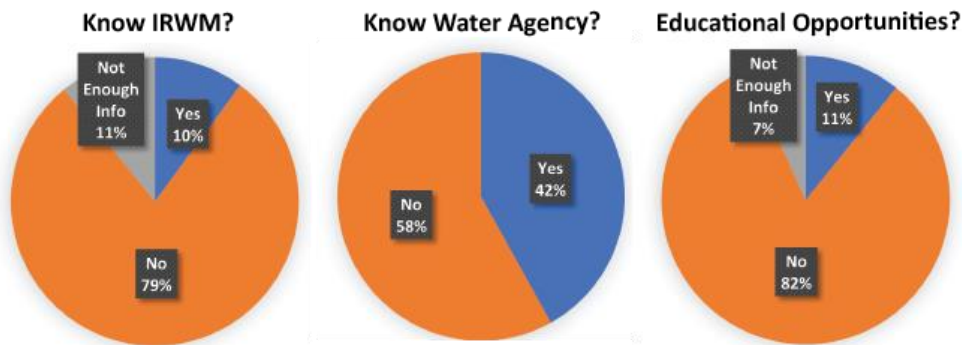


Figure 3.10 Responses to the series of community collaboration questions for community member participants in high stress DAC communities in the Ventura region (Questions 17-19).

Water institutions **vary greatly** in their involvement in **regional efforts** including IRWM and SGMA groups. Many institutions noted that they are involved in multiple SGMA and IRWM groups across the upper and lower watershed, suggesting that their involvement has assisted them with **procuring funding** to meet emerging regulations (i.e. NPDES, MS4 permits). Others note that **collaborations with local organizations** such as nearby water districts, fire department, nonprofits and county departments was more productive in procuring funding (i.e. Proposition 84) than participating in larger organizations such as IRWM groups (Table 3.3). Some of these collaborations are presented at IRWM meetings, however, individual **representation of smaller systems** is very **limited**. Smaller districts also felt that they are **not adequately represented** in regional organizations with most representation focused on urban and agricultural communities. Several smaller agencies noted that they are **not informed about IRWM meetings** and feel that they are not supported because IRWM focuses on assisting larger systems. Other barriers to participation include **limited staff** and **volunteer run organizations** that limit the time and resources to attend meetings. Competing interests, limited supplies and affordability also create barriers to effective cooperation and collaboration. There can also be **jurisdictional challenges** when different cities and counties are on different pages about water resources management and planning.

Table 3.3 Institutional Collaborations Identified from Institutional Questions 34 to 37

Existing Collaborations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency ● Santa Clara River Valley –Oxnard GSA, ● Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency, ● Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County (WCVC) ● Ventura River Watershed Council ● Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program ● Santa Clara Watershed committee ● State Water Interconnection Project

- Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
- Purveyors group from Calleguas Water District

Stakeholder Connects & Disconnects

Water providers and community members representing high stress DACs connected in their perspectives about the **barriers to community engagement**. **Lack of time and resources** from both stakeholder groups were identified as the greatest barriers to engagement. Stakeholders disconnected greatly from their **knowledge about IRWM and other water organizations or collaborations**. All water providers shared that they know about IRWM, but engagement was largely associated with their ability to obtain fundings through participation. A majority of **water provider community collaborations** happen at a **local scale** between diverse groups representing fire, water, and social services agencies and nonprofits. Community stakeholders expressed little knowledge about IRWM, local water agencies and related educational opportunities, illustrating an **opportunity for IRWMs to increase outreach** and awareness of the resources they can provide to support community water needs.

3.3 Institutional Technical Needs and Emerging Issues

As previously noted, some of the survey questions only apply to institutions such as questions about institutional capacity, infrastructure, ability to meet regulatory requirements, staffing and operation and maintenance cost. Findings related to survey questions that only apply to institutions are outlined and summarized below.

3.3.1 Barriers to Accessing Water Resources

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q18: What do you see as barriers to access the benefits of drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure in your community?

Summary:

Water institutions highlighted their ability to work with other agencies through **interconnections between systems** and providing **multiple sources of water** (i.e. surface, wells, recycled water), across the region, however, respondents noted that many community members **do not trust** their water sources. A concern for water institutions is this process creating **misinformation** in the community that results in individuals purchasing bottled water which is often more expensive. The lack of **affordable internet** creates barriers to communication to clarify misconceptions about water as well as during emergencies. Improved communication would enable more effective dissemination of information from water providers to the public.

The regional high demand for water from the agricultural sector, increasing cost to **maintain infrastructure**, projected **population** growth, **stormwater** issues, **competing interests** of both water consumers (i.e. agricultural, residential, industrial) and agencies were cited as existing or emerging barriers to providing adequate water supplies. This is particularly concerning in unincorporated areas where the **tax base** is lower due to smaller populations. Collectively, varied water results in the need for **higher rates** to cover operations and maintenance and emerging water supply needs impacting multiple communities. Of increasing concern to water providers is how emerging changes (i.e. climatic, water cost) will impact **DACs**. Water bill and utility **forgiveness programs** have been implemented to alleviate high water rates, but the need to address water supply resiliency will still result in increasing costs. Other

barriers include **federal laws** that prohibit homeless individuals from being criminalized for being outdoors and on public land if they do not have alternative shelter. Respondents representing community organizations working with un-sheltered populations as well as several water agencies noted that large and expansive homeless encampments reside in riverbeds producing waste and litter within waterways. The **activities in the riverbed** also create dangers to these communities during flooding events as well as water quality impacts to community water resources.

3.3.2 Water Resources Infrastructure and Regulations

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q12: Do any of your water sources exceed any primary or secondary drinking water standards? (YES/NO)

Q20(2): Are there any issues with drinking water and wastewater (sanitation) infrastructure/regulations that impact your community? (Circle One)

Q21: Are parts of the community impacted by storm water quality issues or flooding? (Circle One)

Q41: Are there current or upcoming regulations that might impact your community? (Circle One)

Summary:

There are numerous factors that contribute to water limitations in the region. Limitations to water often **impact development** (i.e. fire flow requirements) and existing structures cannot meet their required **above ground storage** needs. Additionally, **diverse regulations** include National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Consent Decree, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and regulations associated with **nitrates**, in well based drinking water. In cases where there is adequate well water, nitrates are often a limiting factor in meeting drinking water standards. Reclaimed water (i.e.. non-potable uses) has been noted as an issue in wells related to naturally occurring **chloride and boron**. Some new wells had problems with **high magnesium**, but that has been resolved. Cities in the region are working to meet secondary drinking water standards for **total dissolved solids and sulfate**. These standards address aesthetic water characteristics (i.e. odor, taste, etc.) rather than the protection of public health. **Changing regulations** (i.e thresholds) coupled with **aging infrastructure** are increasingly leading to higher operation and maintenance cost and the need to retrofit or upgrade existing water infrastructure. Another emerging concern of institutions are the emerging **water conservation regulations** resulting in the need to hire staff to help implement requirements and submit reporting.

When considering community impacts to stormwater quality issues and or flooding, institutions noted that several **diversion and levee systems** have been developed to manage stormwater and flooding. Many older **developments** are in the **floodplains** posing risk, however, regulations now require new development to be built away from these areas. In waterways within in or surrounding **DAC communities**, increasing **nitrogen loads** from urban areas cause widespread algal blooms which impacts both public and ecological health. Water agencies are **unable to meet** TMDLs and other **regulations** due to these **excessive loads**. There is an increasing need to **educate** the community about ways to reduce nitrogen inputs as well as working with wastewater districts to identify treatment solutions for nitrogen. Other solutions include developing **linear greenways** and **recreational areas** along waterways and through DACs to assist with improving water quality, quantity and riparian habitats with appropriate funding. **Homeless encampments** increasingly cause water quality issues both in the river and closer to the beaches. Along beaches sand being pushed into or **blocking stormwater outlets** is a concern and these areas are leveled before major storm events to allow storm runoff to reach the ocean. Wastewater plants along the coast are increasingly under pressure to **move inland** to prevent waste from entering

waterways.

Emerging regulations of concern for water institutions surveyed in the Ventura region include meeting **TMDL compliance** for dry and wet weather, SGMA, Long-Term Water Conservation (SB 606 & AB 1668), and the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan. The state Direct Potable Reuse (DRP) regulations could have an impact on operations for the **proposed Advanced Purification Facility**. **The Ventura Pure Project** which is one example of addressing wastewater not reclaimed and diverted to estuaries, which will be prevented by regulations in the future. This aims to address regulatory compliance while also providing an additional water supply. Emerging **jurisdictional issues** where areas are annexed but still pulling water from previous water districts creates barriers to understanding system capacity needs. Many cited costs associated with aging infrastructure as a limitation to meeting emerging regulations.

3.3.3 Agency Capacity and Technical Needs to Serve Community

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q25: Does your water system have enough funding to handle operations and maintenance needs? (Circle One)

Q39: Are there technical and managerial capacity needs within water agencies that need to be met so the community can be served? (Circle One)

Summary:

Institutions varied on their expressed needs for technical or managerial capacity. **Emerging regulations** increase operation and management costs that lead to **higher water rates**. Limitations to funding also result in the lack of adequate and **trained staff** to assist with implementing regulations, sustaining community outreach and meeting other operational needs. Agencies that have adequate funding cite that they have the ability to apply for **grants** to meet growing costs of providing water and replacing or repairing aging infrastructure. **Funding resources** identified include USDA or DWR grants for **capital improvement projects** and the Resources Legacy Fund who provide funding through the Hewlett Foundation and support for the Open Rivers Fund. To address **homelessness**, state funding has increased from \$2 to \$12 million dollars, however, there are strict limitations to how this funding can be applied causing barriers to sustaining programs.

A majority of institutions representing water systems across the Ventura region indicated that they had adequate funding for operations and maintenance needs. When seeking construction grants, institutions noted that they work with their governing boards to **secure long-term financial support** for operations and maintenance (O&M) before accepting grants. Others highlighted the use of rate structures as a mechanism to cover O&M as well as **hiring staff** to operate water systems. A system identifying inadequate **funding** for O&M suggested that they are spending nearly twice as much on O&M as they collect from rate fees resulting in “bare bones” operations. This creates barriers to addressing larger scale projects that are needed such as addressing aging infrastructure and expanding existing systems.

3.3.4 Tribal and Indigenous Engagement

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q31: This state program considers members of tribal or indigenous communities as underrepresented in water planning. The program requires regions to consider the strengths and needs of tribal and indigenous communities.

Are you aware that your service area is in the ancestral homeland of _____?

Q32: How does your agency engage with indigenous people or tribal communities that you serve?

Summary:

A **majority** of water institutions indicated that they **do not interact** with tribal or indigenous communities. When there are issues or concerns about **preserving cultural resources** and **ceremonial grounds**, the Chumash Tribe is often involved in assisting institutions with meeting CEQA requirements. When areas are **impacted by fires**, water institutions often reach out to the Chumash Tribe, MICOP, and Mixteco communities to ensure impacted areas do not contain cultural resources before restoration efforts begin. The Wishtoyo Foundation was identified as an organization involved in regional wastewater estuary issues.

3.3.5 Homeless Population Engagement

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q33: This program considers people experiencing homelessness as members of an underrepresented community. Does your work engage with homelessness at all?

Summary:

At the **county level**, there are **organizations and collaborations and activities** that directly assist homeless populations. Encampments are often located in or near riverbeds **complicating** efforts to **improve and protect water resources** to meet TMDL requirements. These communities are also limited in their ability to **secure reliable water resources** leading to **water theft** from agricultural land, fire hydrants and direct takings from surface water resources. Organizations working with homeless communities **apply for federal and state grants** to support municipal efforts leading to the implementation of portable shower pods, temporary housing, and other health-based services for these communities. **Collaborations** between nonprofits, county and municipal groups were highlighted as a key to successfully addressing homelessness, but stable funding is needed to sustain these programs.

3.3.6 Climate Change

Institutional Survey Questions:

Q40: Are there any impacts of climate change the community is unprepared for?

Summary:

Climate change was a point of concern for all institutions surveyed. **Prolonged droughts** have presented various barriers to ensuring adequate water resources are available to meet the growing needs of communities served. In relation to surface waters, there is **less river discharge** and **lower surface water levels** mean that **groundwater recharge is limited** as well as higher concentrations of nutrients in waterways. As a result of the reduction in surface to groundwater interface, water providers are having to **dig deeper wells** and are increasingly concerned that pumps will run dry causing **water shortages**, **higher water rates and related cost** and **damage to infrastructure**. Along the coastal areas, increased saltwater intrusion into freshwater resources was of concern as well as **impacts to projects and**

infrastructure (i.e. wastewater treatment plants). Rising sea level and storms have pushed sand inland blocking stormwater runoff from reaching the coastline, causing inland flooding during storm events. **Flooding** was also a point of concern related to both short, but intense rain events as well as run off from landscapes impacted by **fires**. **Unsheltered people** living in rivers and near waterways and inland flooding present growing **safety concerns** during rain events. The **lack of data** and **unpredictability** of short-term weather and long-term climatic trends presents a lot of uncertainty about how to best prepare and manage water resources.

Chapter 4 Applications and Project Identification

A primary task of this process was to identify project and technical assistance needs from survey responses. Activities that supported the identification of projects and technical assistance was completed in tandem with the development of the Technical Assistance Proposed Project Evaluation Dashboard (i.e. TAPPED application). WRPI and CGST reviewed individual surveys from the community and institutional responses in the Ventura region to develop a list of project and technical assistance needs (Section 4.1 below). To further determine the general location of these responses, survey respondents were asked to identify the nearest road intersection and their zip code. This process is very time consuming and as such, the TAPPED application offers a streamlined online interface that enables the public and resource agencies to quickly identify project needs, their location and how it aligns with DAC stress model levels and water provider boundaries.

4.1 Project Identification and Technical Assistance Needs

4.1.1 Community Project Identification

- Programs that enable local water communities to access state **water-saving programs**.
- Improve **resident education and policies that promote water conservation** and more ground cover as an alternative to impervious surfaces.
- Consider **alternative housing** to large apartment complexes.
- Develop and promote **in-home water filter incentive and tap water testing programs**.
- Work with state agencies to provide **financial assistance** to meet new sewer regulations.
- Develop, adopt and implement more **stormwater BMPs**
 - Require builders and developers to include stormwater BMPs in their development plans to promote groundwater recharge and higher ground and surface water quality.
 - Implement restrictions on artificial turf. and encourage BMPs that promote healthy soils and soil moisture.
 - Replace sidewalks with pervious concrete.
 - Develop seasonal management plans that include soil moisture monitoring for watering of public green spaces to reduce water usage in the wet season.
 - Utilize public areas to promote water conservation education and BMP demonstration sites.
 - Promote individual landowner and public land space rainwater harvesting systems.
 - Allow and encourage gray water systems in homes and for irrigation.
 - Cover storm drains with trash filters.
 - Programs that support conversion of landscape to more drought tolerant alternatives.
 - Develop more opportunities to recycle wastewater.

- Dedicate city staff to **clean river beds** more frequently.
- Develop and promote programs for **affordable septic to sewer conversion**.
- Utilize **diverse outreach methods** (i.e. inserts in water bills, social media, outreach to residents through K-12)..
- Support public **meeting environments that are collaborative and accessible** to the entire community.
- Provide more **frequent and detailed updates** to the public related to **water quantity and quality** issues.
 - Utilize scientific-based evaluation of water quality and quantity on a more regular basis and share information more frequently with the public.
 - Focus on how upstream water quality issues are impacting downstream water resources.
- **Adjust rates** as the community grows to make costs more equitable.
- **Reduce fracking** for natural gas - it adversely impacts water resources and public/environmental health.
- Promote **more infill development** and reduce new development.
- Require **water efficiency technology** in new developments.
- Utilize non-governmental entities to **fairly evaluate water resources:** conditions and needs.
- Provide assistance to **identify and fix leaks** within buildings and external infrastructure.
- Assess how **historic land uses are impacting current water resources**.
- Create **separate metering methods** for landscape water uses versus building water uses to identify the types and frequency of uses and to promote conservation.
- **Utilize old parking lots** for more green and habitat spaces.
- Promote **more hemp businesses to increase tax base** that can be utilized to reduce water rates and related costs.
- Increase **frequency of “Water Talks” events**.

4.1.2 Institutional Project and Technical Assistance Identification

- Assistance needed to **address language barriers**..
- Need for **engagement with renters vs landowners**.
- Need to **increase greenspace and recreational opportunities**.
- **IRWM engagement** needed for smaller systems.
- **Improve water capacity** to enable new developments ability to meet fire flow requirements, water institutions to meet current and emerging water quality regulations. Multiple water institutions noted the need to drill new wells to meet these requirements.
- Strategies needed for **treatment and prevention for nutrients** in ground and surface waters
- Ensure through monitoring and public communication that **recreational waters are safe** where DAC residents recreate.
- Addressing **homelessness and unsheltered community encampments in waterways** by providing alternative housing, sustainable water sources and social services (i.e. Project Room Key)
- Construct **linear greenways** to support water quality improvement
- Implement effective **Tribal and Indigenous engagement** strategies.

- Develop **diverse strategies for community participation**.
- Need to **address lack of adequate staff** to meet community and regulatory needs including stormwater TMDLs permits, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGWA), SB 606, AB 1668, the California state Delta Plan, and related local, regional and state water conservation requirements.
- Long term and stable **funding for operation and maintenance** needed to address aging infrastructure, especially for mutual water providers with small tax bases.
- Institutions with infrastructure along the beach shared that sand along beaches **blocking stormwater flows** creating the need to find opportunities to prevent inland flooding.
 - Several institutions expressed **concerns related to climatic changes** including inland flooding, impacts on water infrastructure along coastal areas where sea level rise is occurring and the need for more innovative ways to provide adequate water during drought and fire conditions.
- All water institutions expressed some level of need related to monitoring water quality:
 - Need to **address the impact of nutrient loads** from urban areas that prevent the ability to achieve regulatory compliance.
 - County based water institutions shared the desire to increase stormwater BMPs to meet current and emerging regulations and TMDL permits.
 - High bacterial counts in the wet season prevents meeting regulatory standards.
- Several mutual agencies noted the need for **more options to meet above groundwater storage** requirements due to groundwater human and natural based water contamination issues.
- Multiple water institutions noted the **need for studies** to better determine groundwater quality/water supply quality and where historical, present and emerging water contamination sources are located.
- Mutual water providers noted the need for **funding to survey water provider boundaries**.
- Multiple responses expressed the need for financial assistance programs because water and sewer bills are too high.
- Community and watershed based agencies working within river beds and or with homeless/ unsheltered populations noted the **need for stable water resources to prevent water theft and drinking and bathing in rivers**. Stable water and sanitation services (i.e. bathrooms, drinking water)
- Several institutions noted the need for **stable, affordable internet** in rural and DAC communities to effectively communicate with community members.

4.1.3 Institutional Solution Examples

- City of Oxnard Water Department - [SoCal Edison CARE/FERA bill assistance program](#)
- Ventura County Public Works (Water) - [Stormwater Programs](#)
- City of Oxnard Water Department - [Multiples Water Source Management](#)
- Ventura Water Department - [Education](#) and [Outreach](#) programs
- [Ventura Water Pure Project](#). This project aims to address regulatory compliance while also providing another water supply.

- Ventura County Office of Education - [Central Coast Environmental Education Partnership Resources](#) (i.e. [MERITO](#) and [California Environmental Literacy Council Initiative](#))
- California Department of Social Services [Project Room Key](#)

4.2 Development of Project Evaluation Criteria, Project Description Form, and Technical Assistance Proposed Project Evaluation Dashboard (TAPPED)

The Project Development Task, Task 4, of the LA-V DACIP will require an online mechanism to collect data about projects that are conceived and eventually, evaluated for potential funding and implementation. Before developing this data collection mechanism, it was critical to develop a project description template. This template stores and organizes the specific attributes that make up a project's description. The template also will support the development of the online data collection form.

4.2.1 Project Description Form Development

During Task 3, an initial draft project description form was developed using existing materials in **Table 4.1**. Relevant project description attributes were taken from these materials and added to the draft template. Multiple, comprehensive and exhaustive review sessions were held with all LA-V DACIP DAC Consultants to improve the draft template. This level of review allowed the template to be consolidated where needed, ensured key attributes were not missed, transformed language and terminology to be used that were eventually used in the online data collection form, and allowed for an efficient and organized structure. After these rounds of review and revision, the template was presented to the DACIP Task Force for review. Their feedback was collected, reviewed, and additional changes were made to the template.

Table 4.1: Materials used to develop the DACIP project description template.

Material Name	Source	Components Used				
		Proj Description	Proj Benefits	Project Types	Proj Budget	Proj Timeline/ Milestones
SAWPA DACIP Project Submission and Evaluation Process	SAWPA	X	X	X	X	X
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Technical Assistance Project Submission Form: Robidoux Nature Consortium	WRPI	X	X	X	X	X
Disadvantaged Community Involvement Technical Assistance Project Submission Form: Bohnert/Banyon Sewer Project (Rialto, CA)	WRPI	X	X	X	X	X
DAC Involvement Activities Table	DWR		X			
GLAC IRWM Opti Criteria	GLAC IRWM	X	X		X	X
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSR) Engineering Project Data Template	WRPI	X			X	X
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSR) Engineering Project Data Template	WRPI	X			X	X
Safe Clean Water Program: Technical Resources Project Module	LA County	X				X

The project description template, shown in Appendix D, contains three main sections:

- 1) The main list of project description attributes;
- 2) A list of agreed upon project types; and
- 3) A list of agreed upon project benefits.

The main project description template comprises over 30 description attributes and is organized into thematic categories, including project overview information, location information, and budget/cost information. The list of project types are mainly derived from the SAWPA DACIP and DWR DACIP material, reflecting the official DWR Eligible DAC Involvement Activities list,⁵ shown in Appendix A. There are 11 project types with corresponding example activities. The list of project benefits is based on previous SAWPA and DWR DACIP material in addition to the Opti Criteria from the GLAC IRWM Region. The combination of using relevant existing material and an exhaustive review and revision process resulted in a comprehensive project description template.

In addition to the project description template, two attachment templates were also developed. The first attachment template focuses on *project deliverables and budget*. It allows data about these items to be collected in a structured manner and associated with the project’s description, enabling use in analysis and reporting. Similarly, an attachment template to collect *project milestones and timeline information* was also developed. These two attachments will exist parallel to the main project description information within the DACIP project database.

In Task 4, the project description template and the two attachment templates will be used to develop an

online data collection form. The form will be developed using Survey 123 on the front end and ESRI's ArcGIS Online components on the back end to manage data and data infrastructure. The online form will ensure data about each project is captured in a consistent manner and stored in a centralized database. The data will later be put through post-processing methods and integrated into the Technical Assistance Proposed Projects Evaluation Dashboard (TAPPED) Application allowing IRWM representatives to explore the data as well as rank and evaluate projects.

4.2.2 Project Evaluation Criteria Development

In Task 4, projects will undergo a data-driven evaluation and selection process via the TAPPED Application. To successfully enable this functionality, it was necessary to identify which variables would be made available to decision makers during that process. These variables are termed *project evaluation criteria* and identifying them within Task 3 helped set up the framework and programming of the TAPPED Application as well as expectations for additional data processing within Task 4.

Similar to the project description template, the project evaluation criteria list was initially produced by pulling criteria from existing material and then having the list undergo a robust review and revision process. Initially, many different criteria were added to the draft list. However, in order to keep the project ranking and evaluation process as streamlined as possible and to avoid overwhelming decision makers, it was decided that only the most valuable and useful criteria should be included and prioritized through Task 3 and Task 4 work. This set of criteria is called *Tier 1 criteria*.

As the list of Tier 1 criteria was refined, discussions were held on how the criteria would need to be processed for each project in the database. This step will primarily involve geospatial data processing using each project's sphere of influence in conjunction with data containing the evaluation criteria information. Initial examples of data processing and components to aid in the processing were discussed. This included the use of data crosswalks, software to extract common keywords from textual data, and statistical processing and summarization techniques.

The list of project evaluation criteria, shown in Appendix D, contains over 40 criteria. These are organized into thematic groups, which include:

- Project Description Criteria;
- General Reference Criteria;
- DAC Socioeconomic Criteria;
- Task 3 DACIP Community Needs Assessment Criteria; and
- Task 3 DACIP Institutional Needs Assessment Criteria.

Much of the community and institutional needs assessment data will be made available to decision makers during the project evaluation process. As described above, the needs data will be processed and summarized for each project so that key information from the needs assessment can be taken into consideration when evaluating projects. Criteria from the needs assessment cover topics such as water resource issues, participation in community planning, and water accessibility.

4.2.3 TAPPED Application Development

The Technical Assistance Proposed Projects Evaluation Dashboard (TAPPED) Application is an interactive online application that will facilitate TA project evaluation. TAPPED allows for project data exploration, project ranking, and project evaluation. It brings together project description data, including evaluation criteria, and reference data. The application contains hosted data on the back end, a multi-

criteria decision analysis (MCDA) core to facilitate project evaluation and ranking, and a user-friendly front-end interface (Figure 4.1). During Task 3, the requirements and design of the TAPPED Application were discussed, developed, and finalized via extensive discussion and planning.

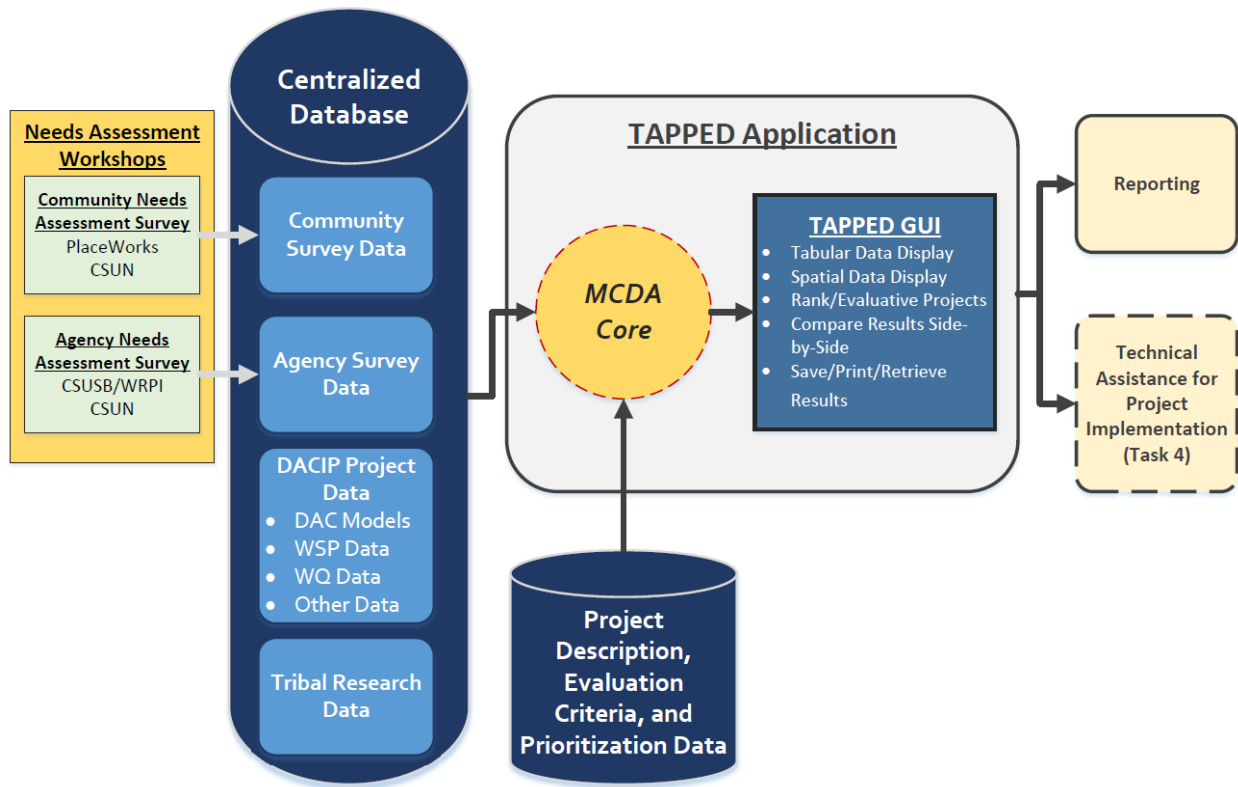


Figure 4.1: Components, structure, and flow of project ranking and evaluation process via the TAPPED Application.

Initially, WRPI’s SAWPA DACIP Criteria Workflow (**Figure 4.2**) was used as a rough concept of how a project sorting and selection workflow could be constructed. DACIP project evaluation concepts and processes were then discussed and developed, including how to best encourage decision makers to explore project data, build an evaluation, and interact with the results of an evaluation. Several meetings were held to discuss the TAPPED Application and its many different components.

SAWPA DACIP Criteria Workflow

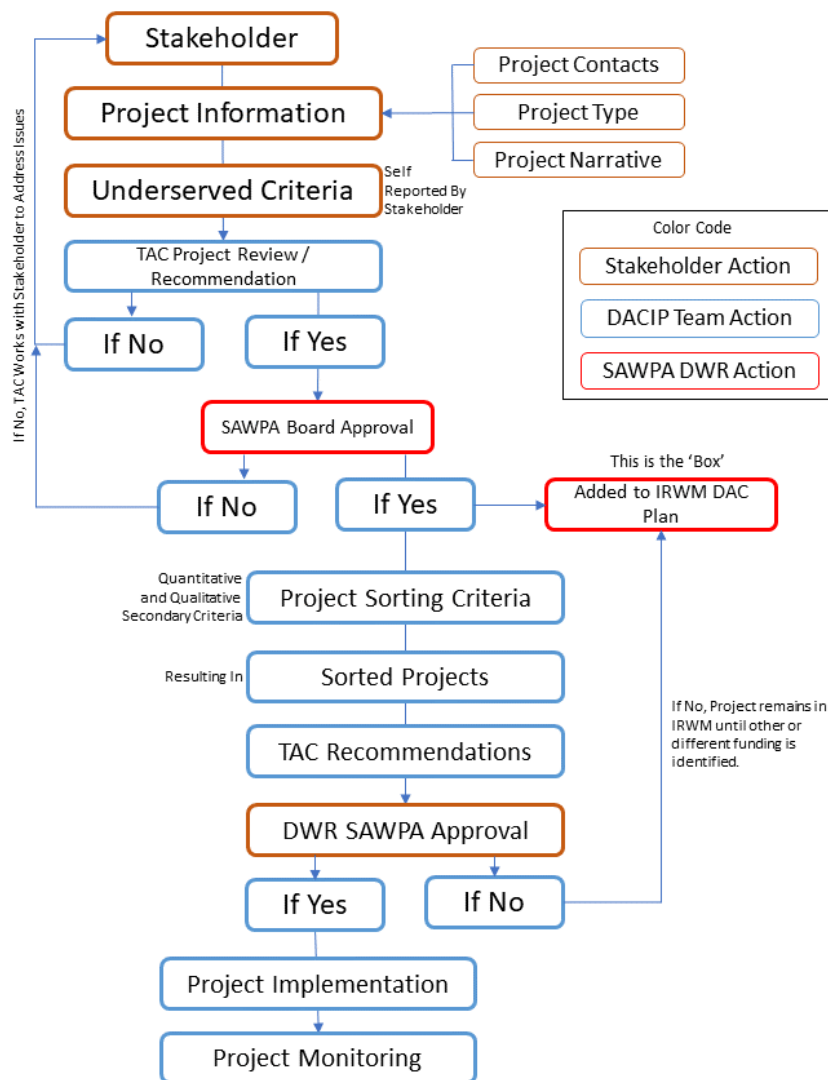


Figure 4.2: WRPI’s SAWPA DACIP Criteria Workflow.

An interactive sample wireframe (blueprint), **Figures 4.3 through 4.6**, was developed to showcase the main components and functionality of the application. This allowed for DAC Consultants to better understand and visualize how the application would eventually be developed.

TAPPED will offer the following tools and features:

1. Users will be required to have an account and log in to access the application.
2. Users can view all projects that are classified as a certain Project Type (e.g., needs assessment projects, community outreach projects) (see **Figure 4.3**).
3. Users can evaluate and rank projects by selected Project Type (see **Figure 4.4**). Optional parameters for evaluation include:

- a. Manually selecting criteria to use in the evaluation (e.g., project cost, DAC %, affected population)
 - b. Weighting the selected criteria to indicate relative importance/influence of that criteria in the evaluation.
4. After the evaluation is run, the user will be presented with a ranked list of projects and an interactive map showing the location of those projects (see **Figure 4.4**).
 5. Users can click on a project of interest to view all project details (see **Figure 4.5**).
 6. Users can manually select and view projects of interest and compare details (see **Figure 4.6**).
 7. Users will be able to save, retrieve, print, and export a project evaluation (to retain selected criteria and weighting for future viewing).
 8. Users also can adjust an existing evaluation as needed.

Other additional minor functionality will be available and will be further developed and documented in Task 4.

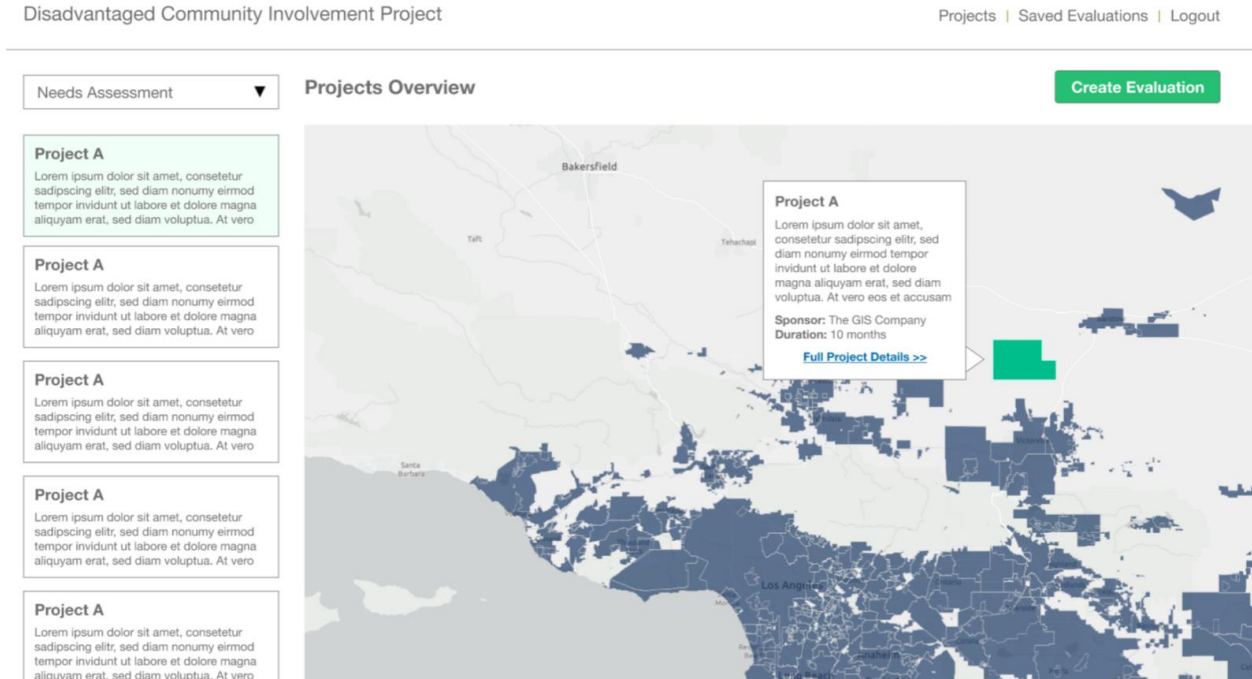


Figure 4.3: Concept project overview page and interactive map within the TAPPED Application.

▼ Selection Criteria

Select the criteria that will be used in this evaluation.
(Must select at least 2 criteria)

Median Income
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

Limited English
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

Access Vehicle
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

▼ Standardization & Weights

Select minimization criteria and assign respective weights for for each evaluation field.

Median Income

Standardization
Lorem ipsum dolor sit met, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

Weights

Data-Driven Weight 0.326
User Weight

Limited English

Standardization
Lorem ipsum dolor sit met, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod.

Weights

Data-Driven Weight 0.125
User Weight

Project Evaluation :: Needs Assessments Show Comparison

Project Rankings

1. Project D
2. Project A
3. Project C
4. Project E
5. Project B
6. Project G
7. Project F

Map Overview of Summarized Projects

Figure 4.4: Concept page within the TAPPED Application that allows users to conduct their project evaluation by selecting evaluation criteria and assigning weights of importance.

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Project

Projects | Saved Evaluations | Logout

Needs Assessment ▼ [Projects Overview](#) > Project A Print

Project A

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Project Deliverables

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Project Details

Total Project Cost	\$10,000	Project Match Funds	Yes
Project Sponsor	The GIS Company	Project Co-Sponsor	The Other GIS Company
Project Duration			

Project Location

Figure 4.5: Concept page showing project details within the TAPPED Application.

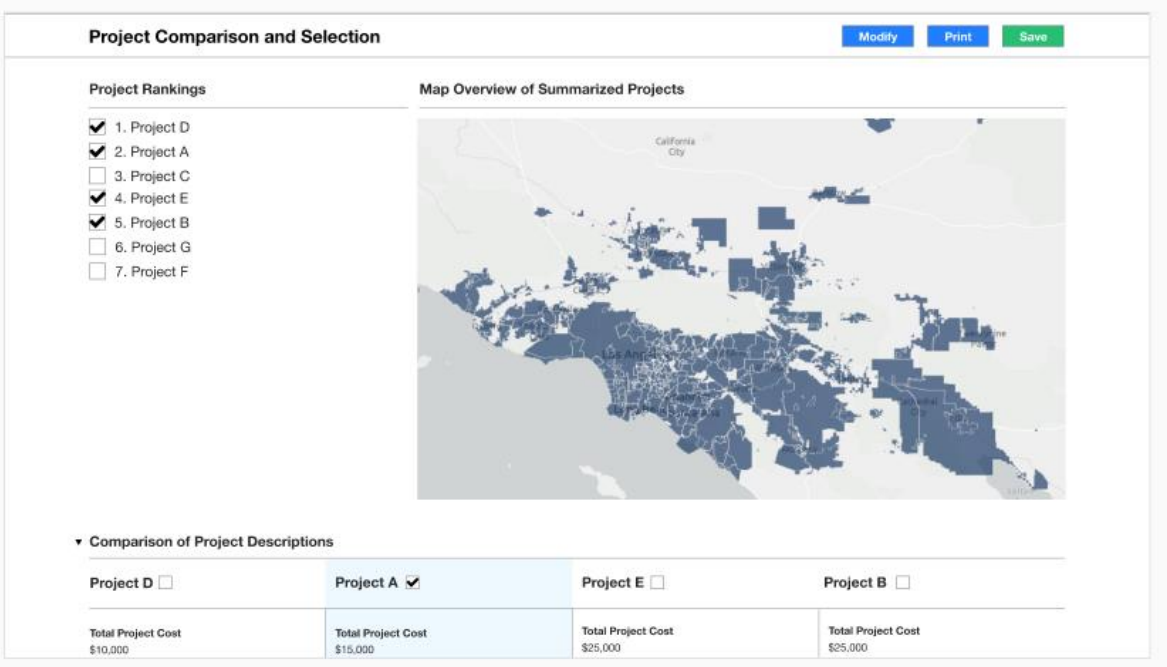


Figure 4.6: Concept project comparison and selection page and interactive map within the TAPPED Application.

The objective of this GUI, TAPPED, is to allow users to interact with multiple database variables to compare and prioritize potential technical assistance projects. Multivariable modeling/comparisons allow the user to identify important variables to consider when evaluating individual projects, such as number of connections, percent of the population meeting the MHI, type and cost of proposed project, multiple benefits, etc. The objective for developing a project descriptor template and prioritization criteria is to allow the LA-Ventura Funding Area DACIP IRWM representatives to make data-driven choices about what proposed projects to select for funding, under the Project Development task, Task 4, with a clearly documentable and transparent process.

References

1. *Proposal -LA/ Ventura Funding Area-*
http://wcvc.ventura.org/dcip/docs/LA_Ventura_DACIP_Application_Final_Proposal.pdf
2. *2019 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines*, <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grants/Files/PI-Guidelines/2019-IRWM-Grant-Program-Guidelines122319ay19.pdf>)
3. *Task Order 3B Solicitation, Exhibit A*
4. Greater Los Angeles County Community Strengths and Needs Assessment- A Water Perspective Draft - v9.7.21 11
5. 2016 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Request for Proposals,
http://wcvc.ventura.org/dcip/docs/Prop1_DACI_GrantProgram-Final_RFP_2016.pdf
6. Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), on behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) **Enviroscreen 3.0**,
<https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>
7. United States Census **Median Household Income (MHI)**,
<https://www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/income.html>
8. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry **Social Vulnerability Index**,
[CDC/ATSDR SVI Data and Documentation Download | Place and Health | ATSDR](#)

Appendix A | Needs Assessment Materials

DWR Needs Assessment Template

See page 8 of the 2016 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Request for Proposals using the following link:

https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/irwmp/Docs/Prop1/2016Prop1IRWM_DACIRFP_Final.pdf.

Table 3 – Eligible DAC Involvement Activities

Table 3 – Eligible DAC Involvement Activities		
General Activity	Examples of Activity	Desired Outcome
Needs Assessments (required)	Surveys or meetings with community members to identify water management needs	Needs Assessments provide better understanding of water management needs to help direct resources and funding
Education	Translation or interpretive services for information sharing, water campaigns for community, RWMGs education on DAC needs	Education and interpretive services provide better understanding by community members or RWMGs of water management needs
Community Outreach	Public meetings open to DAC community members, door-to-door outreach	Outreach increases participation in IRWM planning or project development activities
Engagement in IRWM Efforts	DAC regional engagement coordinator role, DAC Advisory Committee to RWMG, DAC representatives in governance	Engagement activities increases activity and roles of DACs in RWMG decision making and increased participation in IRWM efforts
Facilitation	Facilitated RWMG meetings, facilitated project development meetings	Facilitation services encourage participation and stakeholders resolving or overcoming obstacles in communicating needs
Technical Assistance	Service provider trainings, local circuit rider programs to train water and wastewater staff	Technical, financial, or managerial assistance results in community staff able to support local decision making, knowledge, and skills
Governance Structure	Evaluation of governance structures and related plan financing, assessment of DAC involvement in decision making processes	Evaluation of RWMG governance to ensure DAC participation in IRWM regardless of ability to contribute financially
Site Assessment	Water quality assessments, median household income surveys, data and mapping activities	Site assessment results in knowledge gained by community staff on water management needs and data for project development
Enhancement of DAC aspects in IRWM plans	Development of Funding Area-wide DAC plan to be utilized as a unified approach for all IRWM plans	IRWM plan DAC-related changes result in IRWM plan updates that support the RWMG's understanding of DAC needs
Project Development Activities or Construction	Planning activities, environmental compliance, pre-construction engineering/design activities, or construction activities	Project development activities for future implementation/construction funding or construction activities

Appendix B | Images of Outreach Materials

Library Bookmarks



**WATER
talks**

**TAKE THE
WATERTALKS
SURVEY!**

**YOU COULD
WIN
\$100!**

SHARE YOUR NEEDS AND IDEAS!

**¡RESPONDA A LA
ENCUESTA DE
WATERTALKS!**

**¡TU PODRÍAS
GANAR
\$100!**

¡COMPARTA SUS NECESIDADES Y IDEAS!



watertalks.csusb.edu

Surveys must be completed by
March 31, 2021

Las encuestas deben ser completadas
antes del 31 de marzo de 2021



Logos for PROP 1 (Water Bond 2018), CSUSB, PLACEWORKS, and WRPI (Water Resources & Policy Institute).

Paid Printed Marketing

Country Journal Advertising



ACTON COMMUNITY VIRTUAL INPUT EVENT

**HOW DO WE KEEP OUR WATER SAFE?
WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH?**



WRPI **PLACEWORKS**

SHARE YOUR IDEAS. SHARE YOUR NEEDS.

Date: Thursday, December 3rd, 2020
Time: 6pm - 8pm
Location: Join on Zoom using the link below:
<https://zoom.us/j/94483965817>
To receive meeting reminders, RSVP at:
<https://tinyurl.com/ActonWaterTalks>

Hosted by: Water Resources Institute (WRI) of
CSU San Bernardino & PlaceWorks

California will spend billions to make sure that everyone has enough clean, safe water.

Come to our meeting.
Be informed. Participate.
Our voices count - let's use them!

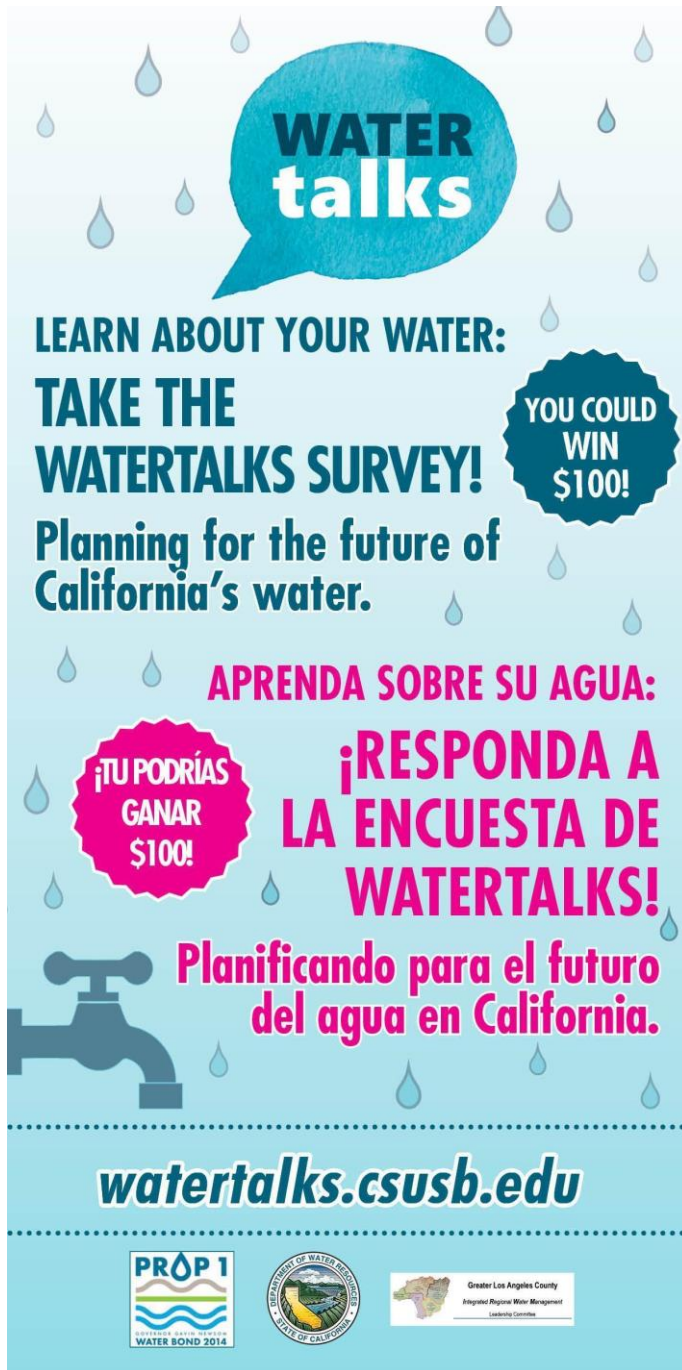
Take the WaterTalks Survey!
You could win \$100!

Visit the WaterTalks Website
to Take the Survey!
<https://watertalks.csusb.edu>



It's our water.

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WATER talks

**LEARN ABOUT YOUR WATER:
TAKE THE WATERTALKS SURVEY!**

YOU COULD WIN \$100!




Planning for the future of California's water.

**APRENDA SOBRE SU AGUA:
¡TU PODRÍAS GANAR \$100!**

¡RESPONDA A LA ENCUESTA DE WATERTALKS!

Planificando para el futuro del agua en California.

watertalks.csusb.edu

WaterTalks Website Home Page



Take the WaterTalks Survey! (Tome La Encuestar! 請使用粵語或國語行調查 설문조사를 한국어로 참여해 보세요 در نظر منتهی وافر دنگون هرکت کید)

Participation in our WaterTalks community survey will help ensure that communities' needs, concerns, questions, and insights can be considered to become part of the State's future water projects.

By identifying community needs and priorities, your input will help identify and prioritize projects within the LA-Ventura IRWM region for Prop 1 technical assistance funding as well as ongoing and future funding decisions.

This Survey will take approximately 10 minutes.

[Take the survey in English](#)

[Upcoming Virtual Events](#) [Past WaterTalks Events](#) [View a Fact Sheet related to Covid-19 and water safety and water supply](#) [English](#) [Spanish](#)

WATERTALKS IS ABOUT COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR WATER
Navigate the tabs below to find out more information

[FIND YOUR COMMUNITY](#)

WHAT IS WATERTALKS?

HOW DO WE PLAN FOR WATER IN CALIFORNIA?

JOB'S RELATED TO WATER

ABOUT WATER IN OUR ENVIRONMENT

ABOUT YOUR TAP WATER

GET INVOLVED

CONTACT US

INTERACTIVE MAPS & DATA

WHAT IS WATERTALKS?

WaterTalks is a public program designed to generate and increase community involvement in planning a sustainable water future for California. Its goal is to explore the strengths and opportunities of 128 communities in Los Angeles and Ventura counties facing ongoing economic and environmental distress, and to gather input to prioritize and recommend water-related projects based on issues of greatest concern.

WaterTalks will be implemented in three phases. The first phase of WaterTalks outreach events are designed to educate and engage communities in the Los Angeles and Ventura counties facing ongoing economic and environmental distress, empowering them to engage in water planning including subsequent phases of WaterTalks.

[Click here for more information.](#)

FIND YOUR COMMUNITIES WATERTALKS RESOURCES!

Click on your region below to access the available Toolkits, Story Maps, and more information pertaining to your community.

[Greater Los Angeles County](#) [Upper Santa Clara River Watershed](#) [Ventura County](#)

Social Media Outreach

Facebook Page

WaterTalks
Community

Home Reviews About Videos More

Liked

About See All

WaterTalks is a public program designed to generate and increase community involvement in planning a sustainable water future for California.

15 people like this

23 people follow this

<https://watertalks.csusb.edu/>

Send Message

watertalks@csusb.edu

Community

Suggest Edits

Is this the right phone number for this page?

+1 909-537-4516

Yes Unsure No

Photos See All

Videos See All

Create Post

Photo/Video Check in Tag Friends

WaterTalks April 30 · 🌐

Today is the last day to take the WaterTalks Survey!!! We have received over 3,000 surveys! Thank you to all those who have participated! You are helping inform California's water future!... See More

TAKE THE WATERTALKS SURVEY TODAY! WIN \$100! New winners every month!

¡COMPLETE LA ENCUESTA WATERTALKS! ¡GANA \$100! (Nuevos ganadores cada mes)

SURVEY CLOSES TODAY! ¡LA ENCUESTA CIERRA HOY! watertalks.csusb.edu

2 1 Share

Like Comment Share

Write a comment...

WaterTalks April 29 · 🌐

Take the WaterTalks Survey!

1 day left before the WaterTalks survey closes! Survey closes on April 30th! We look forward to hearing from you! ... See More


TAKE THE WATERTALKS SURVEY! SHARE YOUR NEEDS. SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF CALIFORNIA'S WATER. YOU COULD WIN \$100!

LA-Ventura WaterTalks
Published by Lav WaterTalks · Just now

Participate in our WaterTalks community survey!

By identifying community needs and priorities, your input will inform how public funds will be distributed to communities across our region.


Take the survey today: <https://watertalks.csusb.edu>



Participate in our WaterTalks community survey!

By identifying community needs and priorities, your input will inform how public funds will be distributed to communities across our region.

Take the survey today: <https://watertalks.csusb.edu>



Instagram

lav_watertalks



lav_watertalks Participate in our WaterTalks community survey!

By identifying community needs and priorities, your input will inform how public funds will be distributed to communities across our region.

Visit our website to take the survey today: watertalks.csusb.edu

LA-Ventura WaterTalks
Published by Lav WaterTalks · Just now

Participa en nuestra encuesta comunitaria WaterTalks!

Al identificar las necesidades y prioridades de la comunidad, sus comentarios informarán cómo se distribuirán los fondos públicos a las comunidades de nuestra región.

Tome la encuesta hoy: <https://watertalks.csusb.edu>



Participa en nuestra encuesta comunitaria WaterTalks!

Al identificar las necesidades y prioridades de la comunidad, sus comentarios informarán cómo se distribuirán los fondos públicos a las comunidades de nuestra región.

Tome la encuesta hoy: <https://watertalks.csusb.edu>



Instagram

lav_watertalks



lav_watertalks Participa en nuestra encuesta comunitaria WaterTalks!

Al identificar las necesidades y prioridades de la comunidad, sus comentarios informarán cómo se distribuirán los fondos públicos a las comunidades de nuestra región.

Visite nuestro sitio web para tomar la encuesta hoy: watertalks.csusb.edu

E-Blasts



The graphic features a light blue background with water droplets. On the left, a blue speech bubble contains the text 'WATER talks'. Below it are icons of a water meter, a house with a water drop on its roof, and a person watering a plant. At the bottom left are logos for PRP1, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Water Resources. The main text reads: 'Time is running out... TAKE THE WATERTALKS SURVEY! We need your help to plan for the future of California's water.' Below this, in Spanish: 'El tiempo se acaba ... ¡RESPONDA A LA ENCUESTA DE WATERTALKS! Necesitamos su ayuda para planificar el futuro del agua de California.'

[WaterTalks](#) is a public program designed to generate and increase community involvement in planning a sustainable water future for California. Our goal is to hear from as many community members from Los Angeles and Ventura Counties as possible!

[WaterTalks](#) es un programa público diseñado para generar y aumentar la participación de la comunidad en la planificación de un futuro sostenible del agua para California. ¡Nuestro objetivo es escuchar a tantos miembros de la comunidad de los condados de Los Ángeles y Ventura como sea posible!



This graphic is similar to the one above but includes two circular callouts. The left one says '¡TU PODRÍAS GANAR \$100!' and the right one says 'YOU COULD WIN \$100!'. The central text reads: 'TAKE THE WATERTALKS SURVEY! ¡REALICE LA ENCUESTA DE WATERTALKS!'

The [WaterTalks Survey](#) is offered in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Cantonese](#), [Korean](#) and [Farsi](#). This survey is an opportunity for individuals to help plan for their community's water future. **So far, over 2,000 participants have taken the survey. Survey participants are eligible to win a \$100 gift card! The survey is open until April 30, 2021.**

Appendix C | Community and Institutional Needs Assessment Materials

Institutional Interview Survey 123 Form

DACIP Institutions Interview Form

Q1: Date of Needs Assessment*

Q2: Note Taker's Email Address*

Q3: County*

Q4: IRWM Region*

Q5: Institution Name*

Q6: Nature of the institution

Q7: Management role of the institution

Q9: This survey is collecting responses from ____?

-Please Select- ▼

Number of people interviewed:

12³

SYSTEMS ▼

Q10: What are the water sources for your system? Check all that apply:

Groundwater from well

Groundwater from a spring

Surface water

Purchased water requiring treatment

Purchased water already treated

Do not know

Not qualified to know

Does not apply

Other (please specify)

Q11: What are the objectives of the system? Check all that apply:

Drinking water

Irrigation

Wastewater

Do not know

Not qualified to know

Does not apply

Other (please specify)

Q12: Do any of your water sources exceed any primary or secondary drinking water standards?

Yes

No

Please explain.

8000

Q13 (1): How many residential service connections?

Q13 (2): What percent of them are rental units?

Q14: How many non-residential service connection are provided in the community?

Q15: Population variability (seasonal or stable)

Seasonal

Stable

Q16: Before we begin, do you have any questions?

8000

COMMUNITY - General ▼

[PROMPT] Today, we'd like to focus on the community you serve through your role at [agency]. We'd like to start out by asking you to describe some aspects of your community in general. Will you please tell us about your community's strengths, and what it needs?

Q17 (1): Strengths:

8000

Q17 (2): Needs:

8000

COMMUNITY - Issues and Challenges


[PROMPT] Q18: What do you see as barriers to access the benefits of drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater infrastructure in your community?

8000 


(PROBE) Q19: Is safe, affordable water for drinking, washing, and cooking accessible to all members of your community?

Please explain.

8000 


Q20 (1): What types of drinking water and wastewater (sanitation) infrastructure/regulations impact your community?

8000 

Q20 (2): Are there any issues with drinking water and wastewater (sanitation) infrastructure/regulations that impact your community?

Please explain.

8000 

(PROBE) Q21: Are parts of the community impacted by storm water quality issues or flooding?

Please explain.

8000

(PROBE) Q22: Are other water access needs in your community met, such as water for ceremonial purposes or for recreation?

Please explain.

8000

(PROBE) Q23: Are there any regulatory/compliance issues that impact your community?

Please Explain.

8000

Institutional Email Blast

Hello,

[WaterTalks](#), a public program designed to generate and increase community involvement in planning a sustainable water future for California is a component of the Department of Water Resources Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DACI) Program funded by a Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant. WaterTalks was specifically developed for the Los Angeles-Ventura Funding Area, which covers the [Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County \(WCVC\) IRWM Region](#). In Ventura County, community engagement is led by the California State University's Water Resources and Policies Initiative (WRPI).

Late last year, WaterTalks launched the [WaterTalks Community Survey \(Survey\)](#) for the LA-Ventura region to gather community input about their water-related needs and priorities. **WaterTalks is also conducting interviews with selected institutions within these communities. Both the community surveys and institutional interviews will be used to inform the distribution of Prop 1 grant funding and to involve disadvantaged communities and economically distressed areas in the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning process.** WaterTalks representatives will be gathering input from selected institutions and community members until **April 30th, 2021**.

We anticipate that the virtual interview will take about 60 minutes. I have also provided you with a copy of the interview form to fill out as an alternative to the virtual interview.

Please reply to this email if you are interested in scheduling an interview as soon as possible or please send us back the filled-out spreadsheet and any questions you may have.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the WaterTalks program. We look forward to your participation.

Thank you,

Melissa Moreno

Program Manager

Water Resources Institute (WRI)

Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI)

5500 University Parkway, PL-401

San Bernardino, CA 92407

909-537-4516

Melissa.Moreno2@csusb.edu

Appendix D | Project Description Template and Evaluation Criteria

Project Attributes

Section	Field/Attribute	Categories/Domains (if applicable)	Definition
Project Overview Information	Project Title		
	Project Website		
	Project Concept Abstract (briefly describe -750 words)		
	Project Type	See Project Types worksheet	Select ONE Project Type that best describes the project. (e.g. Needs Assessments, K-12 Activities, Tech Assistance, etc.)
	Project Description (8000 Words)		
	Upload additional attachments as needed		Upload additional relevant project documents (resumes, photos, and other materials).
	Project Benefits	See Project Benefits worksheet	Identify <i>one or more</i> benefits that apply to the project. List proposed project deliverables (e.g. Property Acquisition, Plan Development, Study, Non-Construction Implementation, Permits, Project Design, Trainings, Permits.)
Applying/Implementing Entity	Project Deliverables		
	Entity Name		Name of organization/agency, etc.
	Address		
	Contact Name		Identify an individual point-of-contact.
	Contact Title		
	Contact Email		
Other Partners/Collaborators (may replicate this section)	Contact Phone Number		
	Entity Name		Name of other organizations/agencies
	Address		
	Contact Name		Identify an individual point-of-contact
	Contact Title		
	Contact Email		
Location	Contact Phone Number		
	Other Stakeholders		Names of project stakeholders <i>not</i> identified above as official partners.
Location	Project Geographic Location/Address		
	Sphere of Influence		Identify the sphere of influence of the project. If assistance is needed to determine sphere of influence, please contact DACIP Team. [Enable hyperlink that takes the user to contact info.]
Budget/Cost	Total Project Cost: Known/Unknown	Amount known, Amount unknown, Need help in determining	
	Total Project Cost		Enter <i>total</i> project cost. Can be \$0. If budget development assistance is needed, please contact DACIP Team. [Enable hyperlink that takes the user to contact info.]
	Matching Resources: Entity Name		Agency or resource providing matching
	Matching Resources: Amount		Amount of matching resources
	Matching Resources: Level of Commitment	Received, Pledged, Planned, Need Help/Assistance	
	Post Grant Funding: Entity Name		Agency or resource providing post grant
	Post Grant Funding: Amount		Amount of post grant funding
	Post Grant Funding: Level of Commitment	Received, Pledged, Planned, Need Help/Assistance	
Schedule/Deliverables	Estimated O&M Expenses		
	Cost Breakdown by Deliverable		Identify the cost per deliverable for each task or outcome in this project.
	Project Duration (# of Months)		Enter the estimated project duration in number of months.
Schedule/Deliverables	Schedule of deliverable milestones		Provide an estimated schedule of deliverable milestones.

Project Types

4. Project Type

[REQUIRED] Select the project type that best describes the project based on the below examples.

(1) **Needs Assessments:** Survey community members or water providers, facilitate meetings or workshops

(2) **Education:** Translation or interpretive services for information sharing, water campaigns for community, regional water management groups education on disadvantaged communities needs

(3) **Community Outreach:** Public meetings open to disadvantaged communities community members, door-to-door outreach

(4) **Engagement with Integrated Regional Water Management Efforts:** Disadvantaged Communities regional engagement coordinator role, disadvantaged communities advisory committee to regional water management group, disadvantaged communities representatives in governance

(5) **Facilitation:** Facilitated regional water management group meetings, facilitated project development meetings

(6) **Technical Assistance:** Public agency/elected official capacity building, agency staff training, assess water charges/rate plans, and assess consolidation of water providers

(7) **Governance Structure:** Increase disadvantaged communities involvement in decision making

(8) **Site Assessment:** Water quality assessments, median household income surveys, data and mapping activities

(9) **Enhancement of Disadvantaged Communities Aspects in Integrated Regional Water Management Plans:** Development of funding area-wide disadvantaged communities plan to be utilized as a unified approach for all integrated regional water management plans

(10) **Project Development Activities or Construction:** Environmental compliance, pre-construction activities, grant writing, project development

(11) **Financial Strategy:** Provides aid with financial aspects of grant applications or similar

Project Benefits

8. Project Benefits

[REQUIRED] Select one or more benefits that apply to the project.

Examples:

(1) **Improved Climate Adaptation or Carbon Sequestration:** Uses green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, natural materials/processes

(2) **Adherence to Water Plan(s):** May include adherence to Urban Water Management Plan, Integrated Regional Water Management, Enhanced Watershed Management Program, Groundwater Quality Management Area, Stormwater Resources plan, Measure W Stormwater Investment Plan

(3) **Water Quality:** Improves water quality of drinking water and surface runoff, addresses primary pollutants of concern

(4) **Water Supply Resilience:** Improves drought response

(5) **Habitat Improvement:** Supports specific endangered or at-risk species, increases biodiversity, increases habitat corridors that connect larger open spaces, practices resources stewardship

(6) **Water Conservation:** Reduces water demand, captures runoff/rain

(7) **Recycled Water:** Integrates purple pipe, gray/black water systems

(8) **Improves Groundwater Quality and/or Quantity:** Stormwater filtration, ground water injection, revives dry wells, enhances dry weather runoff treatment

(9) **Reduces Flood Hazards:** Reduces localized street and sidewalk flooding, enhances floodplain protection

(10) **Provides Recreational/Ceremonial Access/Use:** Increases public open space, access to public open space

(11) **Improves Community/Agency Capacity:** Increases community awareness and education, increases community/tribal involvement in project development, improves operational efficiency

Project Evaluation Criteria

TARGET TIER 1 VARIABLES			TAPPED APPLICATION USAGE		
Ref ID	Variable Description	Source Dataset Name	TAPPED Dataset Grouping	Tier 1 Project Evaluation/ Ranking Use	Tier 1 Proj Attribute Display Use
1	Project Title	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
2	Project Type	Project Description Data	Project Description	Yes	Yes
3	Project Abstract	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
4	Project Deliverables	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
5	Total Project Cost	Project Description Data	Project Description	Yes	Yes
6	Project Match Funds	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
7	Project Sponsor	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
8	Project Co-Sponsor	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
9	Project Duration (months)	Project Description Data	Project Description	Yes	Yes
10	Project Geography	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
11	Project Benefits	Project Description Data	Project Description	No	Yes
12	IRWM Region	IRWM Regions	General Reference	No	Yes
13	County	CA Counties	General Reference	No	Yes
14	WSPs	WSP Boundaries	General Reference	No	Yes
15	MHI	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	Yes	Yes
16	Average Est. DAC % HH	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	Yes	Yes
17	Average Est. SDAC % HH	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	Yes	Yes
18	Total Number of Households	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	Yes	Yes
19	Population	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	No	Yes
20	Population Density	Street Weighted DAC Model	DAC/Socioeconomic	Yes	Yes
21	Top Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
22	Percentage of Responses that Include Top Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
23	Second Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
24	Percentage of Responses that Include Second Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
25	Third Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
26	Percentage of Responses that Include Third Community Water Related Issue	Comm Survey (Q6)	Community Needs	No	Yes
27	Community Water Related Issues Resolved by Project (%)	Benefits	Community Needs	No	Yes
28	Community Water Related Issues Resolved by Project (Margin of Error)	Benefits	Community Needs	No	Yes
29	Are There Concerns About Drinking Water Quality?	Comm Survey (Q7)	Community Needs	No	Yes
30	Top Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes
31	Percentage of Responses that Include Top Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes

32	Second Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes
33	Percentage of Responses that Include Second Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes
34	Third Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes
35	Percentage of Responses that Include Third Community Concern	Comm Survey (Q10)	Community Needs	No	Yes
36	Community Concerns Resolved by Project (%)	Benefits	Community Needs	No	Yes
37	Community Concerns Resolved by Project (Margin of Error)	Benefits	Community Needs	No	Yes
38	Do You Participate in Community Planning Efforts?	Comm Survey (Q11)	Community Needs	No	Yes
39	Community Needs Survey Sample Size	Comm Survey	Community Needs	No	Yes
40	Barriers to Access of Clean Water	Inst Survey (Q18)	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
41	Is Safe, Affordable Water Accessible in Community?	Inst Survey (Q19)	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
42	Any Drinking Water or Wastewater Infrastructure/Regulatory Issues That Impact Community?	Inst Survey (Q20 (2))	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
43	Do Stormwater Quality/Flooding Issues Impact Community?	Inst Survey (Q21 (1))	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
44	Are Other Water Access Needs in Community Met?	Inst Survey (Q22 (1))	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
45	Any Regulatory/Compliance Issues Impact Community?	Inst Survey (Q23 (1))	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
46	Does Community Have Enough Funding for Operations and Maintenance Needs?	Inst Survey (Q25)	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
47	Awareness of Service Area on Ancestral Homeland of A Tribe?	Inst Survey (Q31)	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
48	Any Stalled Projects?	Inst Survey (Q45 (1))	Institutional Needs	No	Yes
49	Institutional Needs Survey Sample Size	Inst Survey	Institutional Needs	No	Yes

Appendix E | DAC-Stress Model Methodology

LA-VEN DAC Involvement Project Interim DAC-Stress Model Methodology Outline Last Update: 12/10/20

1. Goal: Develop a DAC index composed of three data sources to demonstrate what census tracks indicate a high level of stress.

2. Data Sources/Collection:

a) Enviroscreen 3.0: <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-30>

b) Median Household Income (MHI): US Census

c) Social Vulnerability Index (Susan Cutter):

<https://svi.cdc.gov/SVIDataToolsDownload.html>

3. Date of Production: September, 2018

4. Model Extent: Covered the following counties:

a) LA County

b) Ventura County

c) Orange County

d) San Bernardino County

e) Riverside County

5. Final Model Resolution/Scale: Census Tract

6. Methodology Summary:

a) Created a single functional census tract layer with key attribution via attribute joins:

i. Enviroscreen: Utilized the continuous numeric composite index attribute: higher number indicates higher stress.

Attribute name: Clscore

ii. MHI: Utilized the continuous numeric MHI attribute: lower number indicates higher stress.

Attribute name: MHI

iii. SVI: Utilize the continuous numeric composite index attribute: higher number indicates higher stress.

Attribute name: RPL_Themes

b) Developed a Scoring Index per Dataset and Reclassified Key Attribution: DAC Stress Model Methodology Outline 2

i. EnviroScreen Data: Broke the continuous numeric composite index attribute (CIScore) into three categories and assign scores:

1. High 1/3: Score of 3
2. Middle 1/3: Score of 2
3. Low 1/3: Score of 1

ii. MHI: Broke the MHI attribute (MHI) into three categories:

1. Tracts with MHI in the bottom 50% (using median value) of the portion below the MHI threshold for poverty: Score of 3
2. Tracts with MHI in the top 50% (using median value) of the portion below the MHI threshold for poverty: Score of 2
3. Scores over the MHI threshold for poverty: Score of 1
4. Used CA Poverty Level of \$31,000 as the MHI threshold for poverty.

a) Good baseline approach considering CA cost of living, wage rate, etc. is proportionally higher than less urbanized areas, like the Midwest and areas of the East Coast.

b) California Poverty Measure – PPIC/SCPI: <http://www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/> iii. SVI: Broke the continuous numeric composite index attribute (RPL_Themes) into three categories and assigned scores:

1. High 1/3: Score of 3
2. Middle 1/3: Score of 2
3. Low 1/3: Score of 1

c) Aggregated Scores to Produce Stress Index:

i. Add the scores for each of the three key attributes and produced a field with their sum per tract. Relevant fields/attributes:

1. EnvScrn_Class: EnviroScreen Score
2. MHI_Class: MHI Score
3. SVI Class: SVI Score
4. DAC_Index: Aggregated DAC Stress Index

a) Used this as the stress index and used in mapping/visualization (see below for more info).

b) Null values indicate lack of census data. DAC Stress Model Methodology Outline 3

7. Deliverables:

a) GDB Containing:

i. Final model layer (census tract level)

ii. Clipped versions of final model for the following areas:

1. LA County
2. Ventura County
3. Orange County
4. San Bernardino County
5. Riverside County
6. Santa Ana Watershed

iii. Ingredient data layers

iv. Reference data layers

b) PDF Maps:

i. One map per county

ii. Use the stress index for symbolization:

1. Use a light, medium, and dark red symbolization scheme to indicate stress per tract.

8. Contact Information:

a) Center for Geospatial Science and Technology California State University, Northridge Website: <https://csun.edu/cgst> Email: cgst@csun.edu California State University Northridge 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA

b) Water Resources Policy Initiatives California State University San Bernardino Websites: <https://www.csusb.edu/water-resources-institute/wrpi> Email: WRPI.Comm@csusb.edu 5500 University Parkway San Bernardino CA 92407 Note: The data produced from this methodology is served up through the DACIP Hub site and is available to the public, but we ask that users cite WaterTalks LA-VEN DACIP as developers of this dataset.

Appendix F | Example Needs Assessment Analysis- Fillmore

One example of a smaller water provider and community within the Ventura County priority areas is the Town of Fillmore, which is serviced by the Fillmore Water District. This community is located inland and upstream east of the cities of Ventura and Oxnard. As noted in Figure F.1 below, the water provider boundaries (i.e. service area), multiple DACs that represent High Stress model levels 6, 5, and 4 occur within the Fillmore Water Districts, with a majority of this area represented by DAC Stress Model level 6 in the eastern portion of the community. This is one of many examples within the study area where a single agency serves a community that has diverse levels of DAC Stress leading to numerous needs and strengths even within a relatively small geographical scope. Specific question responses are illustrated below as an example of how the survey data and mapping tool can be effective in identifying and resolving community and institutional needs. Respondents to the community survey were represented by a majority of respondents who were homeowners, with fewer respondents representing renters and business owners.

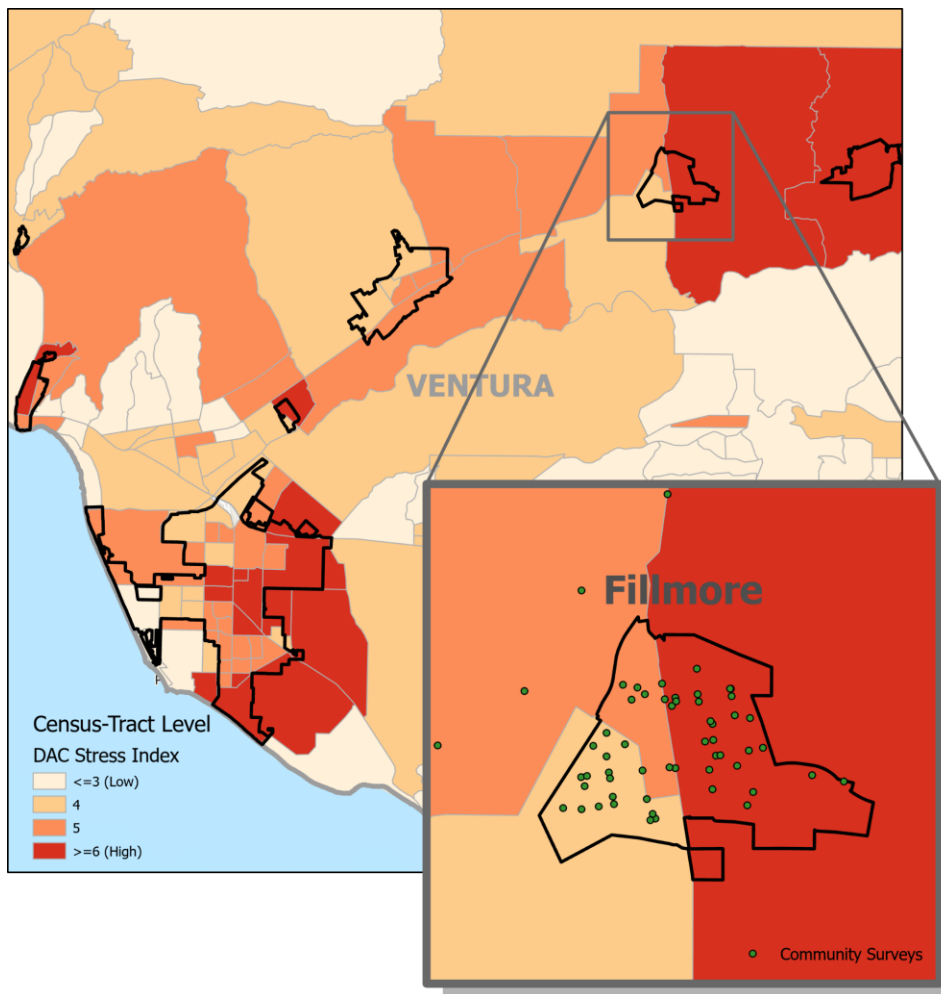


Figure F.1 Fillmore, California: Fillmore Water District Boundary with Community Survey Responses. Community members and the district boundaries encompass three different DAC Stress Model types (6, 5, 4).

Community Needs

Fillmore District

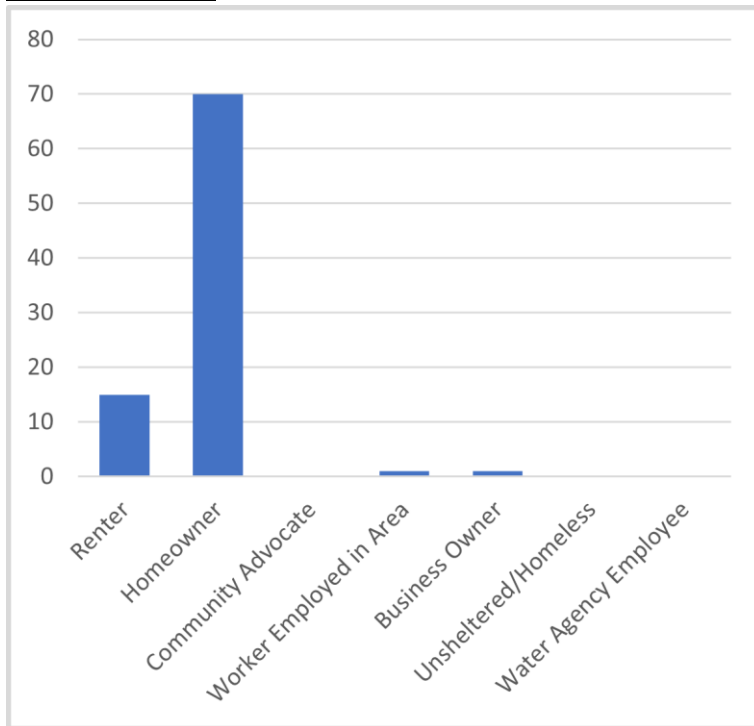


Figure F.2 Stakeholder community survey respondent types within Fillmore in Ventura County.

Q5 What are the three things your community needs the most?

- Water Rates and Quality were a primary theme - also included: better restaurants, lower water bills, more stores, more arts based activities, water and sewer cost too high, better education (K-12), better water quality, more recreation, more jobs, lower sewer bills, more social services, softer water, infrastructure repairs (roads), affordable housing, solar power, need to filter tap water - too hard, reusable water without using softeners, water too hard and damages infrastructure (house and city), environmental education, more diverse water resources housing, public safety, - majority notes water, climate change, green spaces

Q10. What are your community's most pressing concerns?

- The most pressing concerns include climate changes, water, open spaces, parks, greenspaces, homelessness,

Q16. Do you think that community voices or groups are being heard by the government or the public at large?

- Responses note that a majority of community members do not feel their voices are being heard by government entities. Community voices are not being heard.

Community Water Needs and Solutions

Fillmore District

All of the community survey respondents indicated that they are on both septic and wells to meet their water needs and nearly all homeowners indicated some issues and concerns with water quality. Across 73 responses, 10 (13%) comprising 9 homeowners and one renter said they had no issues with water in their homes. Of the 86% respondents indicating there is a water issue, primary water issue themes included hardness, taste and odors, high mineral content, high nitrates, and observed skin irritation when using water in their homes (Figure F.3a). Other highlights include that 50% of respondents disagree that the local government is meeting water, infrastructure and beautification needs (Figure F.3b).

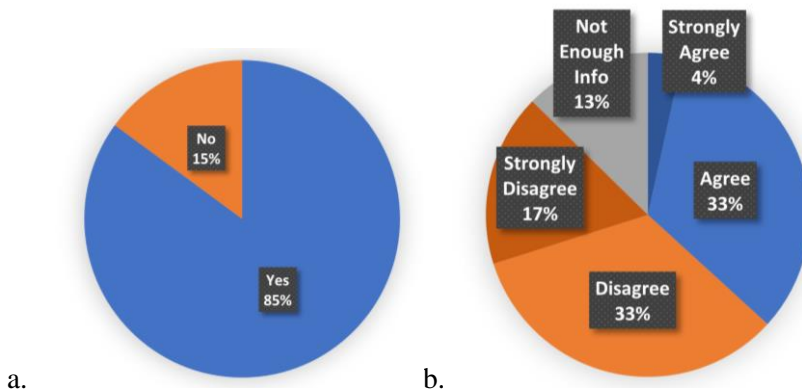


Figure F.3 Fillmore community survey responses regarding whether there are drinking water quality concerns in the community (a), and whether local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification issues (b).

Additional survey questions related to the community water needs and possible solutions through the perspective of community members participating in the survey include the following:

Q6. What water-related issues are of greatest concern in your community?

- Drinking water, **high cost of water and wastewater**, flooding, trash in water including industrial contamination, access to clean and safe water, more shade trees to improve water resources, water available for fire and agriculture.

Q9 Do you have ideas for how water problems could be addressed?

- Ideas about how water can be improved generated responses including the following:
 - stop responding to state regulations unless they pay for infrastructure/improvements, **monitoring more frequently and reporting data to community**,
 - stop over watering public spaces, fix broken water infrastructure,
 - more efforts to determine ways to **replenish aquifers**,
 - soften water to improve taste/odor,
 - **catch rainwater (BMPs-mentioned multiple times)**,

- adjust water rates as community grows,
- **develop incentives/rebates for water softening** systems,
- **remove fracking activities** - too close to groundwater,
- stop putting chlorine in water,
- earmark sales taxes to improve water, break down calcium,
- conserve water,
- implement irrigation regulation during dry conditions,
- **hire staff** for creek regulations,
- **filter wastewater to drinking** water,
- **water related recreation and learning opportunities for youth,**
- lower rate costs.

Community Strengths

Fillmore District

Q4 List three things you like about your community.

Q5 What are the three things your community needs the most?

- High frequency themes of responses including:
 - small town
 - friendly
 - rural life
 - walking and bike paths
 - weather
 - care about green belt
 - low crime
 - quiet
 - close to nature
 - local businesses
 - historic downtown
 - civic pride
 - playgrounds and parks
 - agricultural community
 - little traffic

Community Engagement

Fillmore District

Q11. Do you personally participate in community planning efforts?

- Only 19% of respondents said that they participate in community planning efforts - many participate by writing local officials about concerns, social justice issues and queer community.
 - There is a **Civic Pride** group that promotes beautification, HOA, and city council meetings.
 - The lack of time and other priorities were the primary reasons that they did not participate. Additionally, many did feel that as a community they participate in planning efforts,

Q13. What governing entities and/or elected officials do you seek information from or received information from?

- School districts, county supervisors, city council primary responses, and a few noted state officials/representatives.

Q15. Have you participated in water related planning in your community?

- water related participation/planning - only 9 said yes

Q17. Have you ever heard of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program?

- 5% of community respondents said they were aware of IRWM

Q18. DO you know what drinking water agency provides your water?

- 41% said yes, they know the agency that provides their water.

Appendix G | Community Needs Assessment Tables

1. Are you responding to this survey as a resident or other community member?

	Count	Percentage
Homeowner	360	58%
Renter	240	39%
Community Advocate	10	2%
Business Owner	5	1%
Work Employed in the Area	2	0%
Unsheltered Homeless	1	0%
Grand Total	618	100%

2. Please provide the zip code of the community for which you are responding.

Zip Codes	Count	Percentage
93036	130	21%
93033	97	16%
93015	94	15%
93001	83	14%

93030	63	10%
93060	50	8%
93004	30	5%
93040	17	3%
93003	15	2%
93035	7	1%
93041	4	1%
93065	3	0%
93063	3	0%
93023	3	0%
93021	3	0%
91320	3	0%
93022	2	0%
93010	2	0%
93630	1	0%
93101	1	0%

93012	1	0%
89101	1	0%
Grand Total	613	1

2b. What City is this community located in?

	Count	Percentage
Oxnard	234	43%
Ventura	122	22%
Fillmore	83	15%
Santa Paula	40	7%
Piru	14	3%
El Rio	9	2%
Simi Valley	6	1%
Saticoy	4	1%
Port Hueneme	4	1%
East Ventura	3	1%
Moorpark	3	1%

Camarillo	3	1%
Oak View	2	0%
Newbury Park	2	0%
Ojai	2	0%
Stanley	2	0%
NIL	2	0%
Casita Springs	2	0%
Unincorporated Ventura County	2	0%
Nyeland	2	0%
Santa Clara Valley	1	0%
Thousand Oaks	1	0%
sycamore village	1	0%
Poin megu	1	0%
Las Vegas	1	0%
Rose Park	1	0%
Rio	1	0%

Rice	1	0%
Grand Total	549	100%

2c. What is the name of this community?

	Count	Percentage
Oxnard	83	17%
Other	70	14%
El Rio	65	13%
Fillmore	49	10%
Ventura	38	8%
Nyeland Acres	23	5%
Santa Paula	20	4%
Piru	17	4%
The Avenue	12	2%
West Ventura	11	2%
Saticoy	10	2%
Casitas Springs	7	1%

River Park	7	1%
East Ventura	7	1%
La Colonia	6	1%
North Fillmore	4	1%
North Oxnard	4	1%
Santa Clarita	3	1%
Midtown	3	1%
College Park	3	1%
South Oxnard	3	1%
Poinsettia Gardens	3	1%
Carriage Square	3	1%
Newbury	3	1%
Santa Clara	3	1%
Pleasant Valley	3	1%
Port Hueneme	2	0%
Balden	2	0%

Chapel Lane	2	0%
oak view	2	0%
Moorpark	2	0%
El Dorado	2	0%
The Oaks	2	0%
NIL	2	0%
Ventura Ave.	2	0%
Cabrillo	2	0%
Rose Park	2	0%
Sierra Linda	2	0%
Grand Total	484	100%

6. What water related issues are of greatest concern in your community?

	Count	Percentage
Trash Industrial contamination	64	12%
Drinking water quality	62	12%
High cost of water	53	10%

Access to clean safe water	47	9%
More shade trees	47	9%
Water availability fire sup ag	47	9%
Wastewater	38	7%
Drinking water availability	36	7%
Flooding	27	5%
Other	27	5%
Regulations	25	5%
High cost	23	4%
Water recreation safety	21	4%
Water availability fire sub ag	10	2%
Water recreation safety	9	2%
Grand total	536	100%

7. Are there concerns about drinking water quality in your home neighborhood or community you serve?

	Count	Percentage
Yes	382	62%
No	236	38%
Grand Total	618	100%

7a. If yes, select all of the concerns that apply.

	Count	Percentage
Odors	14	19%
Color	14	19%
Other	14	19%
Contaminant	15	21%
Taste	16	22%
Grand Total	73	100%

8. My local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification needs.

	Count	Percentage
Agree	228	37%
Disagree	143	23%
Strongly disagree	103	17%
Do not have enough information	87	14%
Strongly agree	47	8%
Not understand the question	10	2%
Grand total	618	100%

Use this space to describe the reason for your response:

· The water is a little dirty
· There are no government-provided sidewalks in this area. Also, I usually have to take it upon myself to get the trash hauled away when people dump in our area. The government does not pay for the street lights here either. The private mutual water company pays for the street lights. We have to fend for ourselves or it is a mess. There are overgrown weeds on Ventura Blvd that are a fire hazard and no one does anything about that mess.
· Parks are extremely under staffed and not maintained
· Ventura has been good at promoting and building Ocean Friendly Gardens, but there's still a long way to go.

· They are attempting to address our streets but not much is getting done. The busiest streets, such as Harvard Blvd, Pleasant Street, etc. have not been addressed. There hasn't been upkeep of the streets for many years. Nothing is being done with homeless.

· My local government is regularly maintaining existing infrastructure.

· A lot of the parks are run down and have no shade, streets have tons of potholes

· Things are getting run down.

Could use a running + exercise trail with stations to workout.

· Our neighborhood council is very good about keeping after local government to repave the streets, take care of the park, inspect the sidewalks, monitor the sewer system and keep the trash picked up.

· When there are earthquakes the ground gets a lot of pot hole but when we report it they fix it.

· Sidewalks are maintained. Parks are kept clean. Most roads are smooth and driveable.

· There is so much trash along streets, bike paths and on campuses that volunteer groups and individuals work at picking up, but perhaps giving out fines or work details for those dumping trash or a more positive approach might be to give homeless and young people incentives to pick up trash. Sidewalks near some stores are filthy and you need gloves to touch the doors. Downtown planters have been allowed to die even with reclaimed water available. Homeless encampments could be cleared out of river bottoms and a fenced large yard provided for tents with portable toilets and trash bins. Some rental homes are allowed to have trash/junk and weeds remaining in yards.

· My local government is addressing infrastructure and beautification needs like adding murals and trying to keep streets clean but there is LOTS more that can be done.

· Most streets are in good repair, but there are some potholes that need to be filled. The streets in our city are in much better condition than the nearby city of Santa Paula, CA 93060.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Parks are kept pretty clean and well maintained. Sidewalks near the beach need some repair due to ocean level rise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lots of overgrown landscapes and trash, graffiti
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · City does very little in the way of upgrading non revenue generating infrastructure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Although my local government has begun the process of fixing streets, I'm not satisfied with the disregard to other needed problems. This includes the reconstruction of sidewalks, trees, and landscaping.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The streets in the neighborhoods need to be redone
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I not revive notice of work being done.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · My wife and I have lived here for 16 years and the water has been always DIRTY! <p>During our first few months we were told that the water would improve once the housing development surrounding El Dorado was started. As it turns out that was false. I later just learned that the owners of the Park were supposed to be "flushing" the system when the Park was developed back in 1974. The owners claimed they did not know they were supposed to implement this program of 1/4 flushing this closed system. They claim they are but after one year of SUPPOSEDLY FLUSHING THEIR SYSTEM the water is no better than it was when we moved into the Park on 11/4/2004. HELP PLEASE!</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · "Brown is the New Green" the city has taken as a slogan. It looks it , city and trash is collecting in city spaces. Property owners/residents appear to be keeping a bit of living plant material around.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · THE MAIN STREET WHICH IS HARVARD BLVD IS REALY BAD BUT IN REALITY ALL STREET SHOULD BE FIX COMPLETELY NOT JUST ADDING A COAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Overgrown trees, needs weed abatement assistance for residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · More then half the town does not have sidewalks. We have requested it many times and it has been denied. There is need to have safe sidewalks for children/elderly/disabled to use. There is areas where you have to walk on the streets.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Street and park maintenance is great.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I feel like there is not an effective communication channel to inform the residents of plans to address any improvements that are needed so regarding the needed sidewalks... I have no idea where things are at other than that it was brought up at a neighborhood council meeting and heard nothing since. The neighborhood council is a volunteer council so there is only so much that they can do to inform the towns people. Having funding from the county for a representative of the town to inform the town, or newsletter or something would go a long way. I feel like for the most part the residents feel that Piru is being forgotten in a lot of ways.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Some streets are in need to get fixed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I do feel that there are areas, for instance the East side of Park street, where significant amounts of dead and dry underbrush and trees border the road and are a fire hazard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Not all the streets in Piru got sidewalks ,our main st did but up to certain point which stopped at Main & orchard & did not continue on main to the end where Piru Canyon Rd starts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Not enough sidewalks it would make the community look so much better. and maybe bring the home values up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we have good green spaces
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The maintenance of bike paths is poor. More side walks are needed. Streets in some areas are horrible and need to be updated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the county does the basics only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ventura County District 3 is responsible for Piru - funds are not available for side walks or lights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · They want to reuse treated sewage but how are they going to remove the pharmaceuticals? They're doing something but not the right thing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Since we are a nonincorporated community often times we are overseen. It very challenging to get any beautification in Nyeland Acres.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · But they pass the burden to us in fees that our taxes should already cover.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Only certain areas are getting attended to. Landscaping is the most neglected aspect. Many area parks and neighborhood street are not getting enough maintenance, including cleaning.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Make ventura even more pleasant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · You need to move the homeless shelter on Second & K street somewhere away from family oriented neighborhoods. This one has been in ours for 10 + years. We find things missing, poop in our yards and water thieves. We are sick of it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hill was just repaved recently
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · sidewalks are not clear, parks are not clean, feel like South Oxnard is neglected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · been fixing streets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The streets need repair
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · need to do better maintenance of streets in highly trafficked areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · lives near Ventura Road and it looks good.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · need more clean up <p>park preservation</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · many unhoused folks <p>lots of empty lots</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · parks not well maintained <p>trash all over</p>

· City of Oxnard is trying to develop a plan to improve landscaping
· rural area, streets are small, no sidewalks
· there are no parks in the area, have to go to Oxnard for a park for children to play hardly any sidewalks
· roads need fixing
· lighting and sidewalks floods when it rains
· more focus on green spaces/parks clean and maintained throughout the entire community
· never any follow through after promises at city council meetings
· lacking in roads/ streets congestion potholes,
· parks have gotten cleaner
· parks not clean/taken care of
· I think that my local city staff and council really try hard to keep up with the needs of the community within the city's budget. If there were more funds in the budget I think there would be more addressed but the budget is always tight.
· right in the middle
· I feel good about my neighborhood in response to the above statement.
· have not seen much evidence to support the question

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · community is older and has been neglected by the city
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · poner los químicos correctos
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · still wants more attention but feels there has been an effort to build parks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · water bill is sky high and government just started addressing the community last month <p>if you get behind on your bill at all they are just broken records and don't help</p> <p>water folks upcharge you when you're having trouble covering the bill</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · areas that need to be addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · government is saying one thing and doing another
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · improvement of streets and sidewalks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · haven't seen any improvements, had to pay themselves when the septic tanks were taken out
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · hasn't been work done on the streets where they live, many potholes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't work enough on the streets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There are no recreation opportunities. More parks and accessible open space are needed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · they do fix small portions of the streets but rarely the entire street or those with the most traffic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · roads are very potholed- thought the city had received funding to repair them but they never did <p>feels like it has taken a long time to build property/development in the area- seems disorganized</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · in general they have been working to fix the streets in the downtown area

· somewhere in between.
· streets have potholes and are uneven parks are dirty public safety issue
· roads are not well maintained
· Ventura the city regulates the waste water going to their ocean and from my knowledge Oxnard does not and that is not ok!!! So much trash going down their from sewers not being properly regulated
· I don't know enough about City of Oxnard's efforts and haven't lived here long enough to form an opinion about the City's progress
· don't pay much attention to Saticoy
· A lot street need repair and Fillmore having a lot low income families we can not afford the high cost to repair our vehicles due to the damage the suffer cause of our streets
· Many residential roads that need resurfacing
· I am concerned that the new homes will displace our historic downtown by creating a new shopping center, and I hope my city will preserve downtown.
· There is litter in some places in the neighborhood especially in the apartment complex between the two thrift stores.
· Local government needs more budget flexibility
· the one & only dog park was not built to code and is now being closed, rather than modified to correction. there have been NO discussions to lower the horrendous sewer/water bills
· HIGH COST OF BASIC WATER TO HOMES

· The County of Ventura does some maintenance on roads, tree trimming, cleaning of irrigation channels, but we don't have sidewalks, streetlights or parks really, so infrastructure is limited due to rural nature of area.

· I do not see any new areas except housing tracts

· Could be better

· I don't know if they are. All I know is the price is high and the quality of water is poor.

· Fillmore is a small town with a large population of immigrants, field/agricultural workers, and working families that commute out of town for work. I don't know how much attention has been brought to some of the parks in the area but, many of them lack shade and water fountains.

· City streets and sidewalks need massive repairs

· Lack of constant landscaping and up keep of side walks.

In spite of Civic pride effort to address issues that the City was to take over the beautification of the City has not been well maintained or improved.

· My neighbors have had a clogged meter and been on hydrant water for one and a half years and ours since Thanksgiving 2020

· Want to see more improvements

· I see trees taken down, but do not see trees planted to replace.

· I am aware that the City has committees and departments addressing these needs, yet it is not enough to fix appearance and safety of sidewalks and streets.

· In one place they are installing water friendly plants.

· A lot of the sidewalks are uneven and it makes it hard to sometimes walk and sometimes jog because if you jog or run you don't want to trip and go rolling. Some of the streets aren't smooth.

· Huge lack of shade at Two Rivers playground area. It seems like the parks are constructed as an after thought of the builders who are building the new communities. I'd like to see parks actually be fun spaces for little ones to enjoy.

· They are finally repairing the streets and sidewalks.

· There are no sidewalks, unless homeowners paid to have an area covered in cement along the parkways. It took the local community petitioning the County of Ventura to get a park designated, and we had to have an assessment tax added to pay for upkeep. Still no public restrooms, and only limited access to the green areas.

· our parks are poorly maintained and located on the far side of town sidewalks in older areas are in poor condition

· Oxnard has allow business such as the golf course to not pair fair taxes along with other developers to increase growth but does not have the infrastrutue to support the increase traffic, people, schools to provide adiquite service.

· There have been many improvements to parks and streets over the past two years.

· I think more needs to be done to improve Lewis Road. The road is wide enough in most places to be 2 lanes on both sides. It's high traffic, and dangerous to make left turns. It's also tough getting around the railroad.

· A city parks fund does not exist and budget never is available for added maintenance or new facilities. A much smarter way to fund trees, green spaces, parks, and active transportation is needed especially as these are absolutely crucial for reducing CO2 and climate change.

· Our side walks could use work and beautification

· The City has had little budget. With the passage of a new sales tax I think this will change. In my neighborhood landscaping is often done with non-natives that require more water. I'd love to see water-wise natives used more in things like medians, verges, parking lot planters, etc.

· The city of Oxnard Netflix the things that the city is supposed to provide for our taxes I think they're more worried about pensions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintenance of streets and parks and trees= very poor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Our City was NOT taking care of these things well due to deficit however, we have new City officials and voted in more funds so the City is now trying to catch up on these things.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · They are looking at getting the city looking good and prioritizing infrastructure and beautiful landscaping.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Our streets are not in good shape. We could use more bike paths.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The City is always improving the streets, sidewalks and cleaning up the landscape.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Trash in the parks. Not enough trash receptacles are not emptied often enough. Old trees lose too many branches in high winds. Old bushes not trimmed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I have complained about the non native trees that have destroyed our landscaping. Refuse to trim. Have lifted sidewalks acidic and eats car paint. Poor repairs of sidewalk hazards and damaged vehicle in the process with no care. No option for a separate landscape water meter so we pay sewage for trying to provide grass for our children.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · They need more funding.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I pay a huge amount of tax via MelloRoos and the trees and areas regulated by the city are not cared for the same way the HOA cares for the landscaping in the complex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Some efforts are being made but it seems like it takes a long time for issues to be addressed. FYI: a large street sign blew over in the wind storm in January on Kimball between Colton and Hwy 126. It is still laying on the side two months later. Also, much landscaping is overgrowing onto the sidewalk and has not been trimmed in months and months.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The City of Oxnard is NOT doing enough. Trash and weeds along main roadways is bad. Citizen groups have been doing cleanup. Trees on our street need trimming badly. Big branches come down on to sidewalks when it's windy and it's dangerous.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Renting, not involved. But hear about horribly high cost from owner friends.

· The city of Oxnard does not have funds to provide parks & other related items to enhance outdoor activities.

Plans exist but funding lacks in a city which is highly concentrated with citizens.

This is simple lack of leadership.

· Budget cut backs have shifted these items to the public as volunteers. But even though the public takes over these responsibilities, there is not a reciprocal decrease in taxes nor compensation to the residents.

· The issues and their solutions are discussed, if that's what you mean by "addressed." There is a basic lack of revenue and revenue sources to carry out the many infrastructure and beautification needs of this city. Public safety takes 60% of the general fund plus it gets additional funding from something called the "Carman Override" and several taxpayer-approved sales tax hikes. Like most municipalities and counties in California, there is a crushing debt of unfunded pension liabilities.

· The county continually uses our town for movie shoots, and when the town asks the county to address their concerns, the County is slow to react/does not respond to requests, due to the fact that our community is made up of a largely under represented group.

· Heirloom trees are not being protected, invasive trees are being allowed to proliferate in unattended spaces (between fences, mailbox and bus areas).

· We need a major chain grocery store desperately on the far East side of Ventura. This area is developed enough with too many new builds housing and apts. not to have a large grocery store; we have to drive more than 4 miles to the a Vons & over 5 miles for Ralphs

· Local community supports open space and limited development.

· Oxnard government is ineffective and doesn't do much.

· Have not seen any improvements

· Parks, streets & landscaping are not maintained and volunteers are doing the brunt of the landscaping out of frustration. The city claims no money, yet the city manager hired a highly paid and unnecessary Communications Manager just after laying off a good portion of parks employees who we can clearly see were needed much more than his Communications Manager.

· the CRPD and Thousand Oaks City...when they have funds which are returned to them do a good job in my area

· Effects from the latest measurement haven't gone into effect yet. But I am seeing a lot of community members contribute to beautification.

· I can hear gunshots and fireworks from Oxnard frequently. I won't go out after dark. I can now distinguish the sounds of the two. Everything I see is rundown, filthy, not green or healthy and littered with dead unwatered landscaping. Water is too expensive. I feel "ghetto adjacent" and concerned about flooding of climate change.

· access to green space is desperately needed!

· The city seems to be doing a lot of upgrades to existing roadways and sidewalks. I wish I saw more playground upgrades and as mentioned above access from local neighborhood across the freeway.

· The entry area to the neighborhood is maintained and landscaped beautifully

· They maintain trails and parks.

· Dangerous or lacking sidewalks. Need sidewalk behind 24 Hr Fitness. No connection to street there, city blocked pathway.

Constant flooding from broken irrigation. Need signs to tell how to report spraying and flooding.

Graffiti much worse since pandemic. Check out the used to be beautiful green metal bike path along 101 that connects Ventura in Oxnard to Johnson in Ventura - recently took it, its horrible, spray-painted all along its entirety

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The City is not addressing these needs; they're just using them as an excuse to raise rates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The managers of the city of Oxnard squandered city funds then dangled the further degradation of poorly maintained parks and public spaces in voters' mailboxes. during a pandemic when green spaces are so vital to community health, in order to raise our sales tax. Our parks are still in disrepair and if it weren't for some of my Cabrillo neighbors volunteering their time to prune, weed, rake our public spaces it wouldn't get done. I want to see sustainable, water-wise horticulture in these spaces. It's much cheaper, low-maintenance, would save water, attract pollinators, reduce runoff, and add natural beauty for all community members to enjoy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Budget shortfalls preclude City and County from doing what is necessary.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Some improvements are taking place, long overdue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The City of Oxnard lacks the staff numbers required to maintain the existing parks, medians and any City R.O.W. owned landscape. I'm unsure of their resources to devote to infrastructure improvements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park strive to maintain the reputation of this area as a very safe, very attractive place to live and work
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · There should be more arts, flowers, park clean ups, park access and activities, access to river, clean up homeless camps around river
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Oxnard has partnered with a Consulting Co. called Civic Mic to address the need to improve the Land Maintenance Districts. This effort is looking to find ways to improve streets, sidewalks', & parks. It appears the the city of Oxnard does not have parks personnel on staff to maintain the miles and miles of streets, sidewalks', and parks. thus the city is looking to residents to pic up the slack. Lack of resident participation is concerning and appears that it is not a viable solution. the Measure E funding should help but will they spend the funds appropriately? Time will tell. So I agree they are trying to address the issues, I remain hopeful. I'd like to see the city increase staff to handle the workload.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lots a graffiti, not much landscaping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I never see city staff cleaning parks or medians

· Vineyard Rd, which is the one of the longest main roads is used by commercial drivers all day everyday. The traffic it causes for local residents into and out of El Rio is a concern of safety for pedestrians and a concern of accessibility to panhandlers that make use of the unincorporated areas their home leaving trash, drugs and feces behind.

· There fixing streets that don't need repair over and over again.

· As I mentioned before, our bike lanes are inconsistent at best and a joke at worst. As someone who can't drive, I rely on my bike to get around, and being forced to dodge power poles, pedestrians, and inattentive drivers is hard and unnecessary. There are also quite a few places where the base of my skull hurts because I forgot to brace myself for sudden bumps in the sidewalk - some are about an inch high!

The groundwater (both from wells on the eastern (especially southeastern) side of town and from Golden State Water) as well as simply living within 3 miles of the Santa Susana Field Lab has been shown to cause rare forms of cancer over 10x more than normal.

Our parks are well-kept, but not many people visit them unless there's some sort of event going on.

· Some cares and most don't. There is a lot of pressure and blame put on residents getting involved instead of working on access

· Our streets and landscaping are very well taken care of, lots of beautiful flowers and trees and sidewalks that lead to almost anywhere nearby

· Local neighbors are cleaning up streets and beautifying our neighborhood instead of the city.
Park water is not drinkable

· I've seen multiple walkways /sidewalks and roads with deep cracks that are almost not walkable or undriveable. They are definitely not wheelchair accessible

· I've live here since I'm 3 and there has been slightly changes, water is really bad

· I have heard some plans for infrastructure work but haven't seen it

· Wey ser a diference

· no. yo llevo diez anos viviendo ahi y las calles estan igual,asi sin pavimentar, no hay mucho alumbrado publico, no hay parque , el que hay esta todo el tiempo cerrado, no hay un lugar adecuado donde los ninos puedan jugar, antes del covid ya estaba cerrado.
· Is ok
· have not see any improvement whatsoever
· No veo complan nada de lo malo que hay en mi comunidad, todo sigue igual.
· the color
· I want to answer next time I communicate with you

9. Do you have ideas for how water problems could be addressed?

	Count	Percentage
No	357	66%
Yes	183	34%
Grand Total	540	100%

10. What are your community's most pressing concerns?

	Count	Percentage
Homelessness	302	20%
Housing	261	18%
Public safety	245	16%
Water	195	13%
Climate change	158	11%
Parks open space	137	9%
Transportation challenges	106	7%
Other	87	6%
Grand total	1491	100%

11. Do you personally participate in community planning efforts?

	Count	Percentage
No	480	77.67%
Yes	138	22.33%
Grand Total	618	100.00%

11a. If yes, what efforts do you participate in?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· If possible, (due to my work time constraints) I participate in community meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Part of neighborhood committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Kellogg park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Attend city hall public hearings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I attend all neighborhood council meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Civic Pride volunteer group, city beautification efforts, community flower show involving youth workshops, various meetings on issues or community events
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Voice my opinion at meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Former neighborhood council member
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Attend town meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I have been asked to serve on the Piru Neighborhood Council and I plan to accept this two year volunteer term. I donated to the toy drive for Piru school so every child gets a gift and took place in the gift wrapping event. I volunteer to help any residents who need help negotiating filming location deals with film companies so they do not get taken advantage of. I try to keep up with local happenings and reported to the Piru Neighborhood Council so they could share the info with the town. One of such things was that Warring Water that supplies the towns drinking water was in the processing of selling to a larger California American Water. I also called California American Water to find out the process of the sale as I hadn't had the greatest experience with Warring Water and was happy to report back that the representative was quite receptive. I attended almost all Piru Neighborhood Council town meetings in the 1.5 years that I have lived here.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· PNC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attend local Council and other community related meetings. Donate to local community and youth sports programs, donate to other local benefit drives. Am running for a Community Council position.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · With the cemetery board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · attend piru neighborhood council meetings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I attend council meetings. I am also part of the Nyeland Promise, a non-profit organization in Nyeland Acres. We build community capacity and advocacy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · community meetings at school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Came to water talks and go to city council meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · gone to district meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · watch but not attend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Attend neighborhood council meetings, attend County Board of Supervisor meetings and submit comments, participate in Groundwater Sustainability Plan development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Chicano town hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I am part of a local non-profit community based development corporation and member of the local community council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · participate in surveys and council meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I try to go to city meeting but they seem to be time while the average person works do it on line.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · surveys from legislators <p>voting</p> <p>staying aware</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · C-Frog- monthly meetings to clean up Ventura river/watershed (Once Upon A Watershed) <p>Santa Barbara Channel Keepers</p> <p>planting fruit trees at people's homes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · meetings to expand West Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Submit comments to City Council; do personal research on city/county budgets, school budgets, and housing issues; work with a local tenants union; volunteer locally; might sit on a Citizen Advisory Group (mobile home park rent review board)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Member of City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · city council meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Transportation <p>Nothing came out of it</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · City council planning commission meetings, read info.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · El Rio/Nyeland Acres Municipal Advisory Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Watch local hearing for new project, read local newspaper, attend public hearing before stay at home orders were put into place.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I participate in city planning, county planning and local committees on homelessness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bike Path grants, writing comments and speaking on proposed commercial/housing projects

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I attend neighborhood council meetings and view city council meetings. Occasionally I attend or participate in community outreach sessions organized by the City.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · This may be a selfish reason but I spent many nights down at the city hall trying to get single story homes built behind my home when they were building two story houses so that may be selfish but I got involved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Planning commission and downtown project discussions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Surveys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meetings discussions related to harbor development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Community gatherings <p>Attend meetings to provide input</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I am a member of the Piru Neighborhood Council, a volunteer organization made up of its citizens to advocate for its townsfolk.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Community meetings, support of transition to organic effort, maintaining a drought tolerant, organic and bio diverse property.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · respond to surveys and voice my opinion to elected officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · strategic planning sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Not really planning per se but various clean-ups: PACC and river bottom. <p>Oxnard Multicultural Festival, Insect Fest VC Fair, pre-pandemic, giving out info on home gardening, invasive species</p> <p>ESL students: dispense info on above</p> <p>Attend meetings on invasive species.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I watch our city council and neighborhood council meetings, send in letters, and communicate with my council members.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I plant native wildflowers in barren hellstrips in the Cabrillo neighborhood.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Land Conservancy and Groundwater Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Public comment and review of boards, which are not managed well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Recently involved with the Civic Mic & the ReNew Oxnard initiative, if that counts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · When I have time, I sign petitions and campaign for city council candidates who share my values instead of keeping up the status quo. I only don't attend city council meetings because I have a hard time staying up that late (they often last until past midnight).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Fillmore has a great community activist page! They provide opportunities there.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · planning for social justice and support for the Queer community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I actively write to the city council and city manager I have applied to the arts commission

11b. If not, Select all of the reasons that apply.

	Count	Percentage
I don't know how	176	36%
I don't have time	130	26%
I have other priorities	122	25%
Other	66	13%
Grand Total	494	100%

12. Does your community participate in community planning efforts?

	Count	Percentage
Do not have enough information	296	48%
Yes	175	28%
No	124	20%
Do not understand the question	23	4%
Grand Total	618	100%

12a. If yes, are there specific people or groups you would like to share?

· Westside Ventura Community Council
· City council, small business organization
· The Westside Community Council.
· I've been told that this water issue is a problem the State of CA is supposed to handle.
· We have a good attendance at our Towns meeting
· PNC
· Piru Neighborhood Council
· Food sharing programs
· Del Norte Municipal Council Meetings
· The local library does exercising events and such.
· Oxnard Street Corps is involved in Oxnard
· churches set a strong foundation for community engagement
· chicano town hall + churches brings people together- providing transportation, school board meetings, meetings in Spanish and English
· Westside Community Council
CAUSE
· EPIC- very involved with children

· food drives for unhoused folks
· Nextdoor
· kids specifically get involved in charities such as runs/walks kids are aware of their rights and what is going on in the neighborhood
· the people that do scare the other people away
· I wish they wouldn't
· good turnout and support
· Viva Oxnard (IG page) Southwinds Neighborhood Council (also has active IG) Ventura Tenants Union (also on IG)
· Civic Pride
· I read reports on NextDoor from numerous people who participate.
· The usual citizen activists who serve on CAGs, belong to Neighborhood Councils and appear before public bodies to offer their opinions or complain or explain about the myriad problems within community planning efforts which beset our city and their (sometimes) solutions for said problems.
· The Piru Neighborhood Council. Piru Youth Sports. Piru Park Commission.
· Lori Hamor director of Food for Thought Ojai.
· NextDoor neighbor
· Friends of Campus Park

· Ojai City General Plan update
· VREG watchdog
· Homelessness
· Rio school district.
· One Step a La Vez
· yes
· before there was housing related groups
· NO
· CAUSE
· When there is construction, the water remains stagnant and it does not look clean enough
· not until now

13. What governing entities and/or elected officials do you seek information from or receive information from?

	Count	Percentage
City council	245	27%
School district	167	19%
None	139	15%
County supervisors	128	14%
State senators assembly members	93	10%
Us congressional representative	84	9%
Other	46	5%
Grand total	902	100%

13 Other.

· MAC Meeting - Tracy sends the agenda every month.
· Online news, word of mouth, my own eyes
· I just look at my mail and see what's happening with the community.
· community newsletter.
· Neighborhood meetings

· The Piru Neighborhood Council
· Piru Neighborhood Council, Inc.
· neighborhood council
· County Gov't
· Neighborhood council
· Radio/TV news and newspaper
· City administration
· Write letters to President.
· Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
· they do not mail information to those of us who do not have internet
· police dept.
· I go online to get whatever I can. As a community we petitioned to not have water rates raised, and yet they were raised anyway. And our city office got a raise too.
· ninguno
· dependent upon what the question is
· internet
· City of Fillmore

· you just get lies
· city staff
· city hall: development department
· newspaper, google
· internet
· news paper
· police officer
· David Smallwood about our water meter clogging
· city,staff
· City,Council,and,the,Supervisors,will,not,answer,emails!,They,ignore,everyone.
· HOA
· Social,Media
· city,staff
· Fellow,political,and/or,environmental,activists,who,have,more,time,to,be,well-informed,by,the,sources,list,above.
· Governor,
· I don't know

· community,development

14. What is your preferred way to be contacted by community organizations and governing bodies?

	Count	Percentage
Email	198	36%
Mail	175	32%
Text	87	16%
Phone	72	13%
Other	23	4%
Grand total	555	100%

15. Have you participated in water related planning in your community?

	Count	Percentage
No	548	89%
Yes	70	11%
Grand Total	618	100%

15a. If yes, was the planning process responsive to your needs?

· Still participating and waiting to see if my water company will benefit from my participation.
· not completely
· Water/ sewer line installation
· They listened but never got motivated to act
· I attended the first meeting for Water Talks
· Water Talks first meeting was the only meeting I heard about. The Water Talks meeting brought to my attention the Piru Fillmore Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and I started also looking at the United Water Conservation District website to get familiar with where Piru's water was coming from. It was disappointing at how few people attending that first water talks meeting and Is one reason why I agreed to serve on the new term for The Piru Neighborhood Council, I want to try and inform the town so that everyone can have a voice, and to also share information to inform of any concerns. I have been watching The Filmore Piru Basin Groundwater Sustainability recorded meetings and it really is a lot to take in. Also talking to United Water Conservation District representative at that first water talks meeting in Piru brought to my attention how much the Piru water situation needed to be rectified in their opinion.
· Yes - I thought the meeting I attended to be well organized and informative
· Work for water dept.
· Some what - but female geologist was an alarmist and caused owners unnecessary concern.
· Yes
· It was a presentation
· Partially. I attended a city council meeting and some of my concerns were addressed. However, I've yet to see implementation of the said changes.

· No
· neighborhood council for sewer line several years ago
· Somewhat
· when the septic was switching over
· when the community switched over to the sewer system, attended community meetings
· when the system switched from septic years ago
· petitions signing in front of Vons
· no
· one previous meeting
· NO
· es personal colecto agua de la lluvia en barriles
· water ceremonies with a Chumash elder
· No
· N/A
· No.
· meeting for water conservation, not planning meeting more to voice concerns

· No
· reduce waste water
· I don't know.
· No- voted against water cost hikes
· NO
· No
· No, not really. We're supposed to have the water turned off today from 9-12 and are hooked up to a hydrant and have a big hole with a metal plate over it in front of our house; we don't know what damage the sand and silt is doing to our home or health.
· Somewhat. Asked my opinion on planned projects, not sure if that had any effect.
· reuse of waste water for watering purposes. large tanks were placed where a community park was promised where Oxnard high school previously was located.
· I'm a water resources planner
· not really
· It was a local government meeting dominated by old agriculture participants who do not want to change their water use.
· We get "Presentations" not opinion seeking sessions.
· Somewhat.
· Yes

· Yes
· The consensus directive of the Groundwater Agency compromises my positions on occasion.
· Attended all water briefings. Water pure idea is too expensive and not reliable.
· No
· No
· Yes, because they inform us about water problems
· If it's close to me I will be able to attend
· Yes
· she went to a local church to talk about high water costs
· went to a meeting
· Yes, but when there is construction the water remains stagnant and does not believe that it is clean enough

16. Do you think that community voices or groups are being heard by the government or the public at large?

	Count	Percentage
No	431	70%
Yes	187	30%
Grand Total	618	100%

16a. Use the space below to identify which voices or groups are being heard and which still need to be heard.

· Groups of rural areas still need to be heard with a faster pace.
· It is not a question of being heard. It's a question of how do we motivate the government officials to address the concerns instead of just giving lip service to the people.
· I feel like we are being heard.
· Non Profit groups and clubs, business groups, seniors groups and school representatives and parents that make the effort to be involved in what matters to their family are being heard, I believe. All have the opportunity to come to council meetings, etc. and speak up. All can study the issues and vote their choices. Perhaps young people and the homeless should be given more opportunity to speak up...
· Ventura's water department - city and county levels are active participants in interests/decision making.
· Other parts of the city are more vocal (higher income areas)
· Piru Neighborhood Council

· na
· heard but not listened to.
· county is receptive to opinions and concerns
· does not know.
· somewhat
· Don't know
· Agriculture, city governments, environmental organizations
· sometimes
· don't know
· depends on what its about
· Don't know
· local associations group- community or vice versa
· being heard but not being addressed as needed
· don't know
· they're supposed to, it's what is expected
· The digital divide remains a problem. Most surveys and outreach in the community is all online, especially due to Covid -19. There are many people in my community who don't navigate computers or

<p>other digital devices with ease and therefore loose patience with long surveys like this one or don't even bother to attempt to take one when offered.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · neighborhood council groups
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know, a lot of people are concerned about all the development happening in Ventura right now and it seems development plans are being approved more quickly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · voices being heard, but will they do anything about what people saying?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · they have a voice, don't know necessarily how much its listened to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · don't know
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · water got better when the septic tanks were taken out. during the pandemic, people were helping each other out with food distributions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · C-frog has been really successful

· don't know
· don't know
· public at large yes but not the government
· don't know
· don't know
· Not sure...about planning for population growth and results downstream.
· when statue was taken down in downtown Ventura
· don't know
· historical building committee, WCC
· Individual citizens can be heard, but spanish speaking Community, youth, advocates for resources and examining the budget still don't have good avenues of being heard
· I understand the our adjacent community, the City of Fillmore, has displeased its citizens with regard to water rates, and the citizens have been very vocal about the situation, so I'm guessing the City Council has heard those voices, as it's too small of a town for them to remain unaware.
· White middle aged and millennials are heard/visible at a government level. BIPOC are less visible, efforts to involve seem less effective at city/gov. level.
· I don't know specifics Our water filtration plant needs major repair The city is aware and working on it

· The Piru Neighborhood Council is holding meetings, of which a representative from Supervisor has only appeared once. We hope that they will be more readily available in the future.

Piru has been underserved by the county in many ways. We ask for help, but we get minimal responses from the County. The county has no problems allowing Hollywood productions to use the town, but the county does not re-invest into the town.

· Voices in the local Latino community often go unheard for a variety of reasons.

· I worry the environmental stakeholders shout the loudest but don't always represent the wider needs of community members

· Those that advocate and speak up.

· I think the city hears the voices of the most influential members of the community - fairly conservative governance here.

· Surfrider Foundation

· Hispanics

· Because it solves the problem

· Latinos need to be heard more

· They have been involved with the police and the city to work with the churches to be able to connect with the community

· The local government only listens to community groups that have a lot of support and influence and not necessarily to the voices of the community itself.

· They do not listen to the voices of the Mexican community and the towns/streets where they live are the least maintained in the city

· the local government is listening to the voices of the community in the way that many projects to improve the community have started in recent years

· The local government does listen to everyone in the community

· Last year they sent a letter to ask the whole community, in every neighborhood about the needs of the community so they do listen

· they listen to all the voices of the community

· they listen to some groups more than others but they do help the whole community

· They do not listen to community groups that do not participate within the community

· Although they have asked the community for their opinions for many years, they have not listened to the local government or made enough changes

· They no longer listen to some groups, it is convenient for them to say and listen because they hide a lot from the community

· those who have time to participate are listened to. people who work or are not encouraged to participate have not yet heard their voices. but it is understood that this is more difficult. but at least they should be told what decisions were made.

· I don't know who they are

17. Have you ever heard of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program?

	Count	Percentage
No	496	89%
Yes	64	11%
Grand Total	560	100%

17a. If yes, in what context?

· Disadvantaged Community Committee Meeting.
· Water Talks newspaper
· A group called out or referenced in text material I have read.
· I recall that it was the strategy plan that was being shared at the local Water meeting that I attended.
· Plans updated every few years.
· Rolletos y correos
· Mail
· Water-supply planning and environmental restoration
· when the new 500/600 homes were built over the last 5 years in SP
· streets are really in bad need of repair

· La ciudad manda informes
· sounds familiar
· lawsuit between LA and Ventura
· Is it a grant program?
· at Von's about a year ago
· Master's degree
· Planing
· News letter
· read about it in WaterTalks
· News
· worked s=with staff as county planner
· mail content
· My mom has mentioned it before.
· Online, Emails, Groups
· Through a class - Trip to Santa Clarita Water District
· I work on IRWM grants/grant management

· went to many County IRWM meetings for Santa Clara River
· I have a PhD in Environmental Science from UCSB we studied IRWPs and I worked for the LA Sanitation District for two years.
· Water Talks
· Reading in the ventura water newsletter. Connecting the pipeline to Ventura
· general water related discussions
· From the water districts and enviro-related websites.
· Just as a local regulatory agency
· college
· Bringing grant monies to local projects
· Regulation
· Rio school District surveys.
· Through the California project WET program
· Went to a Water Talk
· In your meetings
· The water flow is not very good

18. Do you know what drinking water agency provides you water?

	Count	Percentage
No	353	57%
Yes	265	43%
Grand Total	618	100%

18a. If yes, have you had a positive or negative experience?

	Count	Percentage
Positive	77	50%
Don't know	35	23%
Other	21	14%
Negative	20	13%
Grand Total	153	100%

18a Other.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I am the president. Maybe water users would not agree with my experience. But I can stay it is a lot of work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· To high a cost and too poor quality of product
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· City of Oxnard, I am confident the analysis of the water is accurate, the rest is all rhetoric
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· No experience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I was met with a defensive stance when I asked Warring Water my water questions about where the wells were located, and how testing was done, and if there was enough water to fight a fire. It has made me skeptical of Warring Water.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Same, no change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· want to make payments online, and be more consistently up to date with payments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· not the best water
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Well

· Neutral
· neutral
· In,order,to,be,sure,I,don't,catch,giardia,again,I,only,drink,RO,or,distilled,water.
· Neutral.,I,have,taken,my,Water,Science,class,to,tour,their,facility,and,spoken,with,the,operators,there.,I t,is,in,need,of,upgrades.
· Neither
· N/A

19. Are you aware of educational opportunities around water issues locally?

	Count	Percentage
No	481	86%
Yes	77	14%
Grand Total	558	100%

19a. If yes, can you share those opportunities?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Information mailed to me
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I read the pamphlet that it is often send out on the mail and I also look at the city website for more information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Just need to look up on the internet and that will provide the information.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Public meeting that I attended that was informative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· City sends info about our water.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· City provides water outreach workshops.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Progama para ahorrar agua. Reemplazo de lavadoras, regaderas talleres para jardines tolerantes a la seguia
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Mail brochures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Water District Website
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Museums
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· All our neighbors give each other advice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· I am a retire science teacher. There is a slew of H2O Ed materials available to teachers. A lot from water districts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Groundwater Sustainability Agency meetings and workshops
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· from CAUSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· reading newsletters

· a cudir alas juntas del concilio
· city notices
· Ventura Beach
· Ventura Water does great outreach and tours of their facility, as well as promotes things on Facebook City of Ventura's Environmental Sustainability Division also does outreach and offers promotions to the public
· from CAUSE and seen resources around the community
· city has info available and classes as well.
· get occasional emails from city-related things
· websites
· through local non profits
· water district brochure and meetings
· through the school
· workshops and meetings
· ?
· yes, but low attendance on annual shareholder meetings
· VLT presented a seminar, WCC hosted a briefing on the lawsuit

· city holds educational events on drought tolerant landscape
· watershed coalition, water talks, Csusb.edu
· Local news covers the issues when they report on city council meetings and board of supervisors meetings.
· School kids would go on a tour of a local wastewater treatment plant.
· Newsletter from the City
· City
· I personally am an outdoor leader doing class trips to water environments under a state Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast grant, I take volunteers to do restoration at HRNA and other sites
· Ventura Public Works Water Rate public meetings SB Channelkeeper Surfrider Ventura County
· Some efforts are being made to educate elementary school children on how to conserve water. But that is not enough. It needs to start in the home with an attitude of conservation on multiple levels. But people care more about convenience than they do about conservation.
· Water testing in homes Seminars and workshops by the City on conservation and home improvements Rebates Public Meetings concerning rate changes
· Outreach from local water district boards and from the Ojai Valley Green Coalition.

· There are tools shared on social media and through the newsletter. As well as info. I'm fairly new, 5 years, so I have been mostly just reading and listening for now. I came from LA.

· MWD and DWP or Hyperion

· Workshops conducted by the Groundwater Agency.

Matilija Coalition meetings dam removal.

Ojai's Chautauqua panel on water issues.

Ventura River Adjudication news.

Ventura River Watershed Coalition meetings.

Keep the Sespe Wild newsletter.

Friends of the Ventura River newsletter

· Workshops and comments only. Not a true relationship. Water board is run improperly and has little accountability.

· On how to take care of the water

· Yes, I'd love to

20. Is your home or business on a septic system?

	Count	Percentage
No	398	73%
Don't Know	96	18%
Yes	52	10%
Grand Total	546	100%

21. Is your home or business on a private well?

	Count	Percentage
No	428	79%
I don't know	87	16%
Yes	26	5%
Grand Total	541	100%

22. Primary language spoken at home?

	Count	Percentage
English	450	67%
Spanish	181	27%
Other	36	5%
Tagalog	5	1%
Japanese	1	0%
Grand total	673	100%

22 Other Primary language spoken at home:

	Count	Percentage
Mixtec	34	97%
Tamil	1	3%
Grand Total	35	100%

23. How did you hear about this survey?

	Count	Percentage
Mail	200	36%
Cause	152	28%
Other	35	6%
Facebook	25	5%
Friends Of Santa Clara River	19	3%
Community Organization	16	3%
Watertalks Event	14	3%
Rio School District	14	3%
Public Library	9	2%
Treepeople	8	1%
Family Member	7	1%
Piru Neighborhood Council	6	1%
City Of Oxnard	6	1%

City Function	6	1%
Social Media	5	1%
Watertalks Website	4	1%
Instagram	3	1%
City Council Member	3	1%
Oxnard College	3	1%
Bookmark From Library	2	0%
Neighborhood App	2	0%
City Website	2	0%
Better World Group	2	0%
Internet	2	0%
Sierra Club	1	0%
Council For Watershed Health	1	0%
Trust South La	1	0%
Social Eco Education	1	0%

Active Sgv	1	0%
College Of The Canyons	1	0%
Mujeres De La Tierra	1	0%
Grand Total	552	1

24. How was this survey completed?

	Count	Percentage
Hard copy	177	56%
Phone	140	44%
Grand Total	317	100%