

# SELF-HELP ENTERPRISES

## Visalia, California



Self-Help Enterprises' mission is to work together with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities.

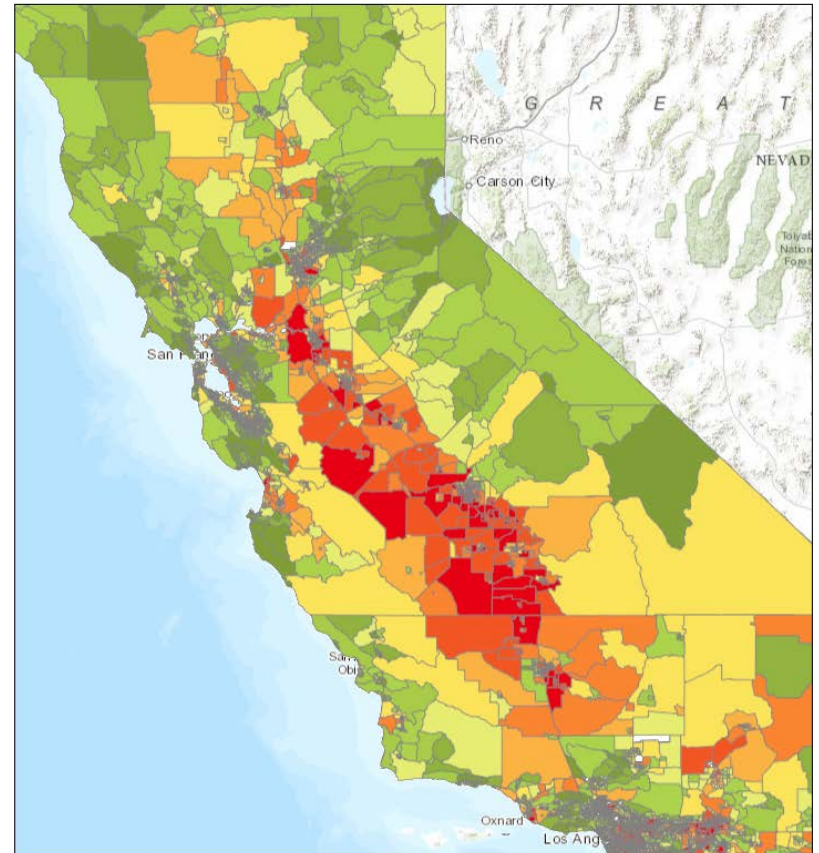


# SHE'S SERVICE AREA



- ★ Sacramento
- San Francisco
- Los Angeles

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 results

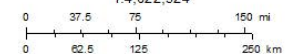


May 20, 2015

1:4,622,324

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 all results

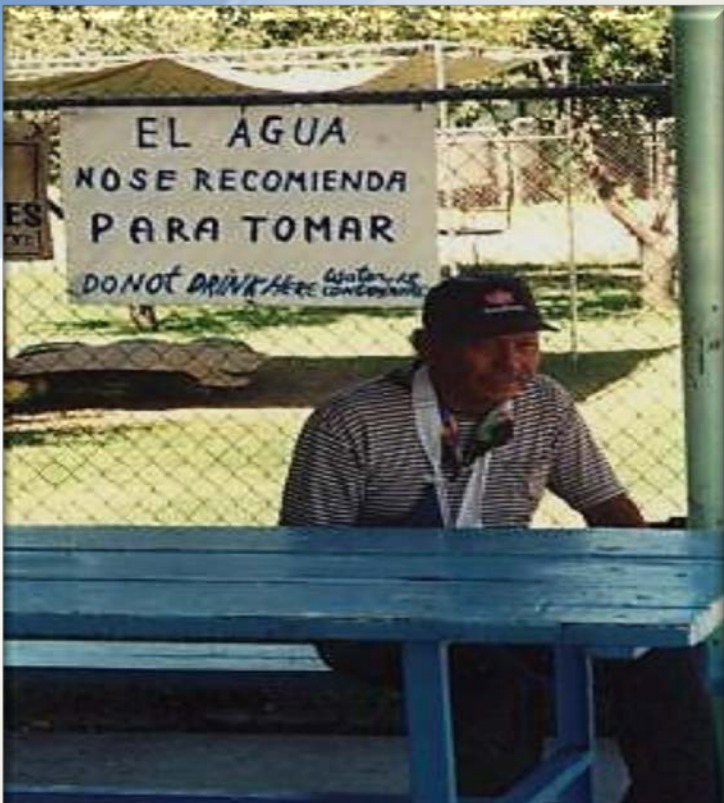
- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ■ Lowest Scores (Bottom 10%) | ■ 51 - 60%                       |
| ■ 11 - 20%                   | ■ 61 - 70%                       |
| ■ 21 - 30%                   | ■ 71 - 80%                       |
| ■ 31 - 40%                   | ■ 81 - 90%                       |
| ■ 41 - 50%                   | ■ Highest Scores (91 - 100%)     |
|                              | ■ High pollution, low population |



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, Mapbox, and OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# Water & Wastewater

- Technical Assistance
  - to rural providers of drinking water & sewer
  - to link needs & resources
  - to improve water quality and reliability
  - to facilitate the change that residents want to see
- Community Development
  - to involve residents in solving their own problems
  - to sustain the rural way of life
  - to improve living & health conditions



## DRINKING WATER PROBLEMS

- Nitrate
- Arsenic
- Uranium
- Bacteria
- Outages, Failures
- Leaky/Old Infrastructure
- Unmetered Connections
- Drought-related Loss of Supply



## WASTEWATER PROBLEMS:

- Contamination of Drinking Water by Bacteria & Nitrates
- Surfacing Effluent
- Expensive Pumping
- Greywater Disposal
- Old Septics/Cesspools

# Rural DACs: Uniquely challenged

- Extreme poverty
- Small populations
  - Smaller leadership pools
    - Even smaller pool of educated experts
- Pollution (of air, water, environment)
- Geographic isolation, long travel distances
- Poor access to internet



# Meet Rosa\*



President of the local Community Services District Board of Directors (1-3 meetings a month, plus pseudo-manager duties)

Memorial District Board Member (1 meeting per month, in charge of facility rentals)

Retired school administrator

Passionate about her town, where she has lived for 40 years

Secretary of Lions Club (fundraisers all year round)

School Board Member (1-2 meetings per month)

Takes mother to dialysis treatments 45 miles away (weekly)

Grandmother of 5 (babysits every afternoon)

Mother of 3

Human Suggestion Box

*\*Rosa is an archetype based on many very real people*

# Rosa goes to the IRWMP meeting

- 60 miles of travel (3 gallons of fuel)
- Four hours of her time
- Room full of water managers who speak in acronyms
- Upcoming grant round sounds compelling, but...
  - *What?*
  - *How?*
  - *Who?*
  - *How much?*
- Rosa goes home. She tries to give a report at the next CSD board meeting, but ...



# How can IRWM make meaningful investment in communities like Rosa's?

## IRWM Identified Outcome No. 1:

### RECOGNIZED VALUE

**Successful IRWM happens when stakeholders work together because they understand the opportunities and benefits of collaboration.**

We need:

- A statewide outreach approach that targets DAC residents.
- Technical assistance that increases the capacity of DACs to meet challenge
- Collaboration between agencies, community-based organizations, and educational institutions to bring it to the local level and improve engagement.



# How can IRWM make meaningful investment in communities like Rosa's?

## IRWM Identified Outcome No. 2:

### IMPROVED ALIGNMENT

What if...?

- IRWM were a single point of entry to water management, including SGMA, climate change, funding, etc?
- IRWM were a way for DACs to know & understand neighboring water agencies?
- IRWM were a way for DACs to get connected to resources (technical assistance, engineering, funding)?

# How can IRWM make meaningful investment in communities like Rosa's?

## IRWM Identified Outcome No. 3:

### IMPROVED SERVICES

For Example:

- A state-level ombudsman position could oversee the engagement of DACs with IRWM.
- Regional or funding-region level coordinators could hold workshops, do personalized outreach, and make referrals to services available (such as engineering and technical assistance.)
- Revolving funds could pay for engineering support to develop projects and make proposals more competitive.

# How can IRWM make meaningful investment in communities like Rosa's?

## IRWM Identified Outcome No. 4:

### DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENTS

DACs need:

- Help identifying good projects that will bring results
- Advance development of future plans
- Funding for professional feasibility analysis, including cost projections, preliminary design, and CEQA review
- Simplified application requirements *and* technical assistance to prepare proposals

*Only by helping DACs plan ahead and develop ideas in advance will we diversify investments.*

Otherwise, IRWMs will keep getting the same proposals for yet another study.

# How can IRWM make meaningful investment in communities like Rosa's?

IRWM Identified Outcome No. 5:

**STRENGTHENED IRWM**

**DIVERSITY = STRENGTH**

- Get DACs to the table by overcoming cost barriers such as pay-to-play and cost sharing
  - Provide DACs with the tools they need to go after what they want
- Sustain DAC involvement with an emphasis on retention

# Acknowledgements & Resources

## (or: READ THIS)

- Recommendations Report from the Disadvantaged Communities Visioning Workshop, December 3-5, 2014  
[www.inyo-monowater.org](http://www.inyo-monowater.org)
- Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantaged Community Pilot Study, especially Recommendations (Appendix I)  
<http://www.tularecounty.ca.gov/cao/index.cfm/tulare-lake-basin-disadvantaged-community-water-study/final-report/>
- Kings Basin Water Authority DAC Outreach Pilot Project Study  
<http://www.kingsbasinauthority.org/projects-funding/completed-projects/dac-pilot-study/>

# THANK YOU



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