Self-Help Enterprises' mission is to work together with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities.
SHE’S SERVICE AREA
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)

Secretary of Lions Club (fundraisers all year round)

School Board Member (1-2 meetings per month)

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

Retired school administrator

Grandmother of 5 (babysits every afternoon)

Takes mother to dialysis treatments 45 miles away (weekly)

Mother of 3

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

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)
• Kings Basin Water Authority DAC Outreach Pilot Project Study
THANK YOU

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