**Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement Program**

In 2017, the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment was selected by representatives from each Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) regions in the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA) to be the applicant for the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Involvement Program. For more information, please see:

<https://www.water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/IRWM-Grant-Programs/Proposition-1/DAC-Involvement-Program> and

<http://www.sierrawaterworkgroup.org/disadvantaged-communities-dac-and-tribal-involvement-program.html>

The Sierra Institute, with consultants Sierra Water Workgroup and California Indian Environmental Alliance, is hosting workshops in each IRWM region across the MCFA to address the following objectives:

1. Work collaboratively to involve DACs, community-based organizations, Tribes and stakeholders in IRWM planning efforts to ensure balanced access and opportunity for participation in the IRWM planning process.
2. Increase the understanding, and where necessary, identify the water management needs of DACs and Tribes on a Funding Area basis.
3. Develop strategies and long-term solutions that appropriately address the identified DAC and Tribal water management needs to the grantee.

**We are requesting your involvement and active participation**. There are three components to the workshops:

1. Community capacity assessment,
2. Water/wastewater system needs assessment, and
3. Tribal orientation, program planning and needs assessment.

The Southern Sierra IRWM (Mountain Counties) workshop for **Part 1** and **Part 2** are scheduled for **Wednesday, September26, 2018** **from** **9am-4pm.** The workshop will be held at the **[TBD].** The location and time for Part 3 is [**TBD].**

**Part 1: Community Capacity Assessment Workshop (9:00am-12:30pm)**

Sierra Institute will lead this portion to gather information about capacity in each community in the Southern Sierra IRWM. We are looking for those who can speak to the capacity of several different communities, or “local experts.” No water expertise is required- residents working with community organizations, school districts, the county, health or social services are welcome. Each person should be able to assess multiple communities, and be able to rate the capacity of each community relative to others in the region (through a whole group discussion). The workshop will begin by finalizing the community names and boundaries.

**Part 2: System Water/Wastewater Needs Assessment Workshop (1:00pm-4:00pm)**

Sierra Water Workgroup will be taking the lead on this workshop to fulfill Objective 2: *Identify the water management needs of DACs in each IRWM in the Funding Area*. During the workshop, staff will summarize the preliminary water and wastewater needs assessment gathered from the survey’s, then review all challenges and concerns by topic area. We will attempt to capture all the technical needs of all water and wastewater purveyors and stakeholders in the IRWM. An overview of the Proposition 1 Implementation Grant application will be discussed, along with next steps and final reporting. All water managers and concerned stakeholders in the region are encouraged to participate.

**Part 3: Tribal DACTI Program Orientation and Planning Meeting \***

The California Indian Environmental Alliance (CIEA) is the lead on Tribal engagement and coordination for this program with the goal of increasing Tribal presence, leadership & advocacy in the regional water management decision making process alongside local and state agencies, and to prepare Mountain Counties Tribes to submit competitive projects for IRWM state funding. At this meeting, we will be providing an overview of the IRWM and the Tribal DACTI program and participants will be able to guide this collaborative program. Participants will learn from the experiences of other California Tribes who have been successful working in partnership with their local IRWMs, discuss local Tribal water needs, identify potential solutions, and develop the DACTI program to begin to meet those needs. In continuation from the first day, tribes will have an opportunity to complete the ‘Tribal Small Community Water & Wastewater Preliminary Survey’ which will lead to DACTI program workshops and technical assistance.

**\* Note**: This meeting is for California Tribal Council members, Tribal and cultural preservation staff, and Tribal community members working for the protection of water. *This includes members, leaders or staff who belong to "unrecognized" and "recognized" Tribes of the Sacramento River Funding Area.* Please no local, state or federal agency staff – this is a Tribal only meeting.