



ENSURING EQUITABLE INVOLVEMENT IN REGIONAL
WATER PLANNING
STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES & TRIBES

**MOVING FROM NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO
IMPLEMENTATION**

NORTH COAST REGION

- 19,000 square miles/12% of California
- Source region: water, carbon, biodiversity
- < 2% population
- 34 federally recognized tribes
- Economically disadvantaged communities
- Degraded built & natural capital
- Extreme events: fires & floods





- Convened in 2005
- Coalition of Tribes, seven counties & diverse stakeholders
- Humboldt County established as contract administrator
- Over \$85 million awarded as planning & implementation block grants
- 108 NCRP IRWM Implementation Projects
- Total project cost: \$126 M (\$73 M grant + matching funds)
- 93% of funding benefit DACs; 12% of projects sponsored by Tribes
- 63 projects improve failing infrastructure in DACs

GOVERNANCE, TECHNICAL REVIEW, PRINCIPLES

- **Policy Review Panel (PRP)**
 - locally elected leadership & decision making (14 county Supervisors/3 Tribal representatives)
- **Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC)**
 - diverse experts (14 county/3 Tribal)
- **NCRP Guiding Principles**
 - Transparent decision-making, regional equity, collaboration, stakeholder engagement
 - Focus on areas of common priorities
 - Respect for local autonomy



NCRP PRP Executive Committee

DAC (NON-TRIBAL) WATER & WASTEWATER PROVIDERS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Tribal survey conducted separately
- Conducted in 2013/14 & 2018/19
- 263 North Coast community systems
- 90% serve DACs & 40% severely DAC
- Many governed by volunteer boards & part-time staff or volunteers
- Survey response rate = 55%
- Summary Report online

KEY FINDINGS

- 5% - systems in poor condition
- 5% - systems at high risk to drought
- 10% uncertain water supply
- 5% - storage capacity is insufficient
- 6 systems contaminated w/ arsenic
- < 50% water systems are metered

TOPICS OF CONCERN

1. Aging treatment system
2. Financial instability
3. Drinking water supply reliability
4. Fire suppression supply dependability
5. Need for new and improved technology

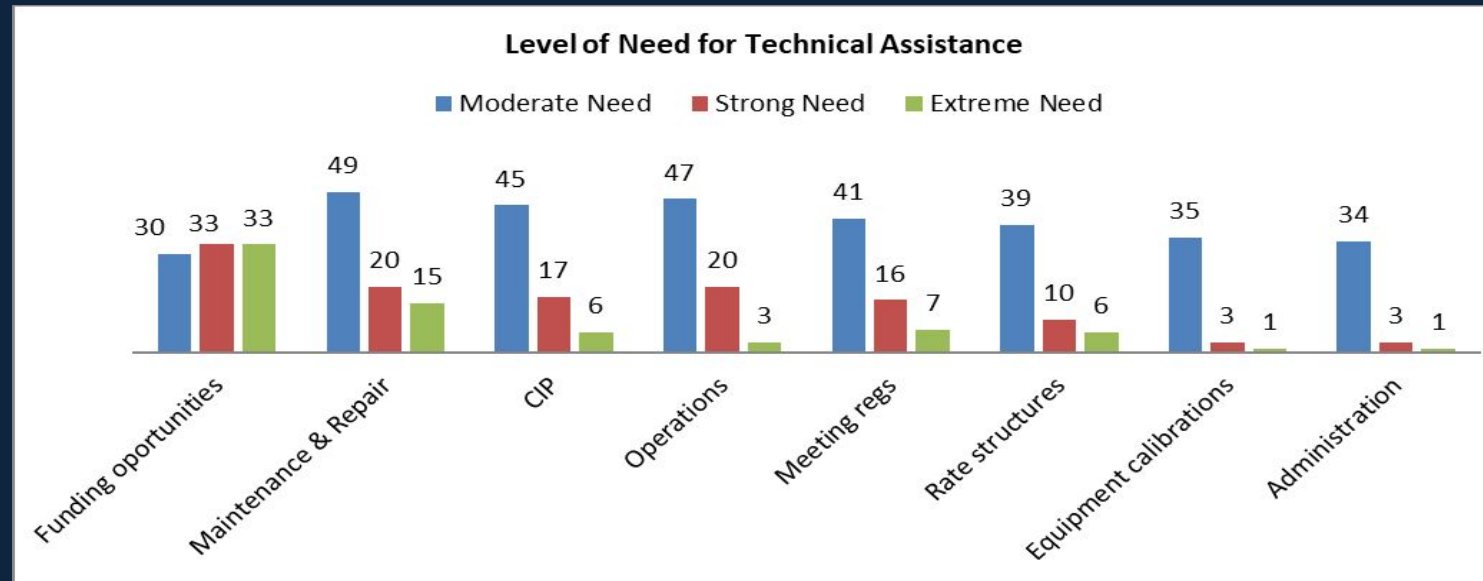


PRIORITY TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

Training: Grant writing & accessing funding

Technical Assistance

1. Funding opportunities: > 50% strong need; 25% moderate need
2. Maintenance/repair & operations: 17% strong need; 40% moderate
3. Capital improvement planning
4. Meeting regulations
5. Rate setting
6. System upgrades
7. Administration

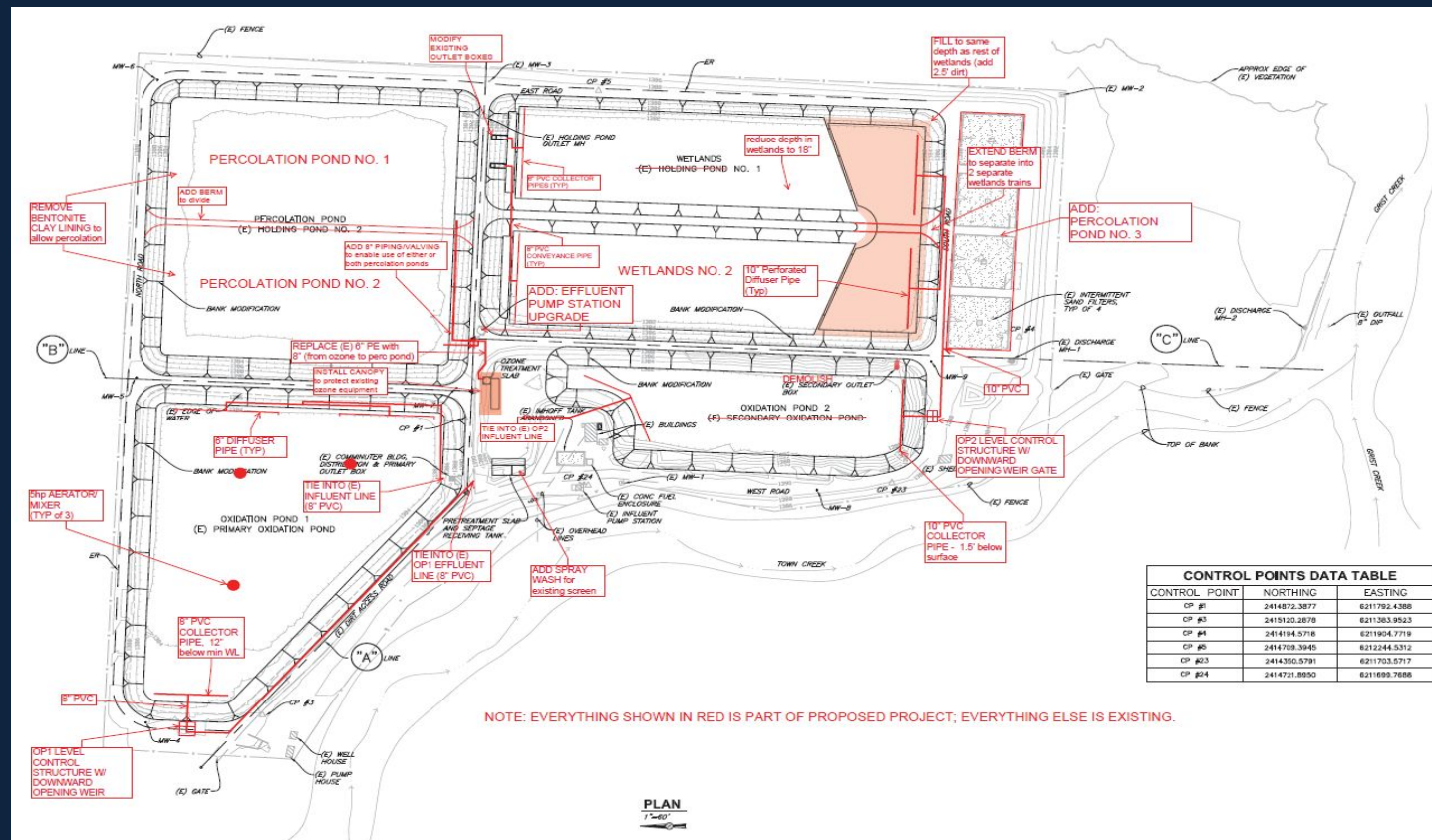


REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT RANKING

- Needs Assessment spatialized and entered into database
- System data & list reviewed by Division of Drinking Water Districts and North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Data analyzed, ranked and presented to NCRP leadership
- Evaluation criteria approved by the NCRP Policy Review Panel
 - Economic status & need
 - CA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund criteria for public health need
 - EPA Clean Water State Revolving Fund criteria: public health & water quality
 - System sustainability criteria
 - DWR IRWM Program Statewide Goals: drought readiness, ecosystem protection and restoration, water storage capacity, improvement of groundwater management and increased flood protection

SURVEY-DERIVED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- 21 priority systems selected region-wide (14 water & 7 wastewater)
- A number of systems were out of regulatory compliance
- Team of local engineers paired with priority systems
- Site visits & system analysis
- Appropriate projects & alternatives identified
- Preliminary Design
- Costs estimated
- Technical memorandums



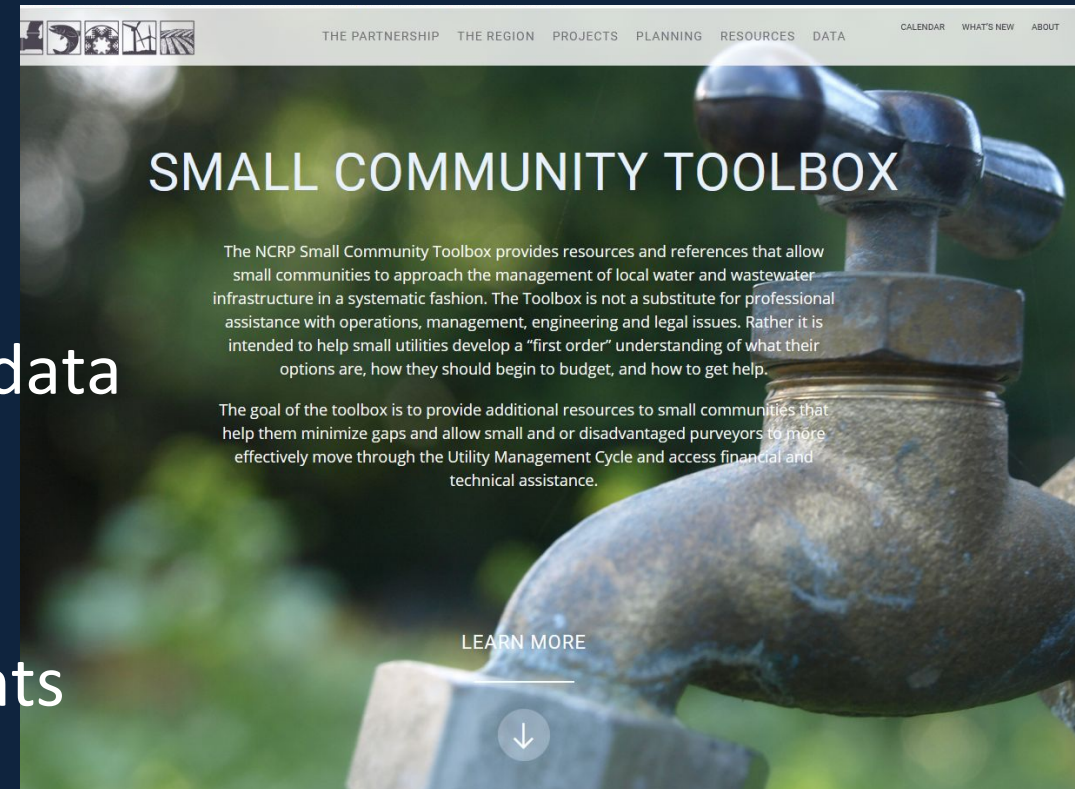
CONTROL POINTS DATA TABLE		
CONTROL POINT	NORTHING	EASTING
CP #1	2414872.3877	6211792.4388
CP #3	2418120.2878	6211363.9523
CP #4	2414194.5718	6211904.7719
CP #5	2414703.3945	6212244.5312
CP #6.3	2414350.5791	6217023.5717
CP #14	2414721.8850	6211693.7686

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

- Diversity of project types: distribution system improvements, leak detection, water storage tank upgrades, water conservation, well renovations, water treatment, pollution remediation, system mapping, system consolidation analysis & meeting facilitation
- Technical assistance included application material development for Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM funding
- 9 project applications submitted; **7 projects selected for funding**
- Many systems will need ongoing engineering and administrative technical assistance throughout life of the project
- **Invaluable capacity building opportunity**

NEXT STEPS

- Small Community Toolbox
- Workshops and Trainings
- Engineer technical assistance for Phase 2 priority systems
- Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 application support
- Continue providing resources:
 - calendar events & funding opportunities
 - catalogs of regional planning documents
 - ArcGIS Online site for down-loadable GIS data
 - best management practices guidelines
 - policy templates
 - regional assessments & strategy documents



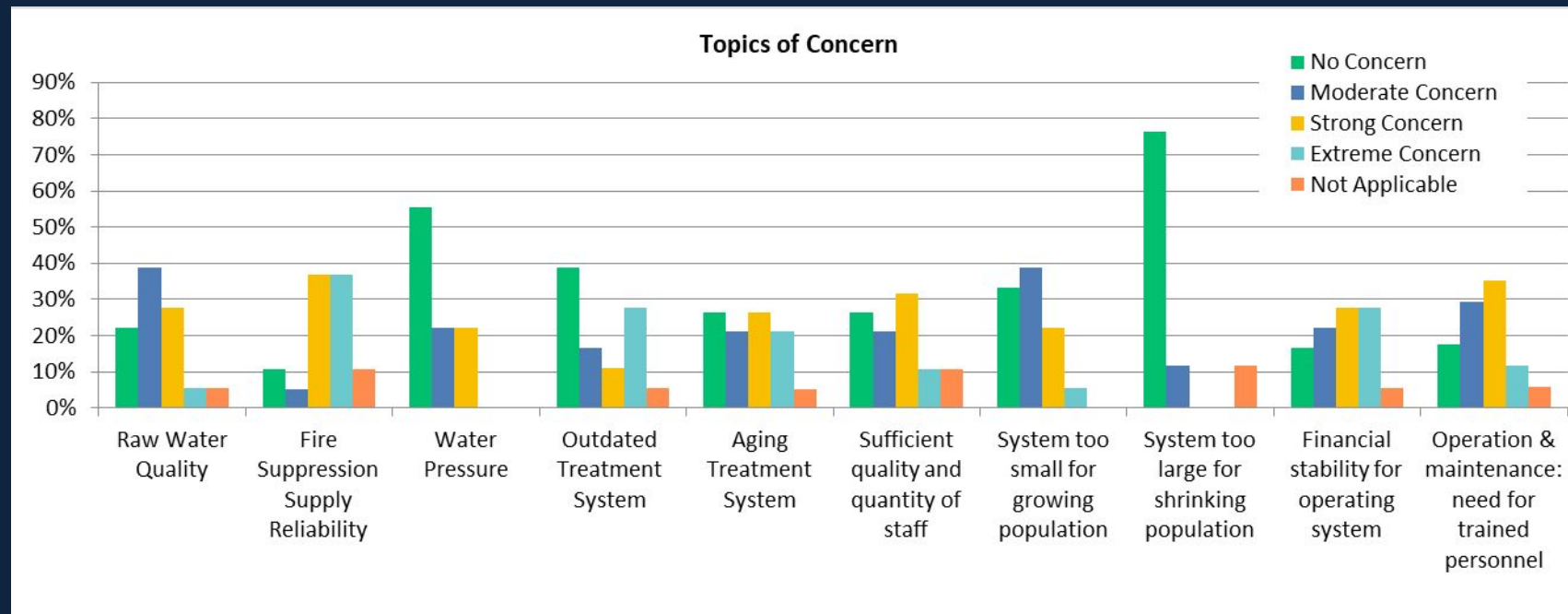
TRIBAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Tribal Representatives – Policy Review Panel and Tribal Peer Review Committee worked collaboratively with Tribal Engagement Staff to:

- Develop the DACTI program Workplan
- Develop Tribal Needs Assessment Questions
- Confirm the Tribal Technical Assistance team
- Choose Tribal Projects spatially North, Central and Southern Districts
- Outreach to Tribes in their Districts to encourage Tribes Complete the Needs Assessment Survey



TRIBAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Top five topics of concern:

- Aging treatment systems (extreme) new water mains, transmission lines, and back-flow valves and tanks
- Financial stability/Obtaining funding
- Fire suppression supply reliability (extreme)
- Drinking water supply/quality reliability
- Watershed restoration

Secondary topics of concern:

Trained operation and maintenance personnel & retention, Raw water quality, System too small for growing population, Water pressure

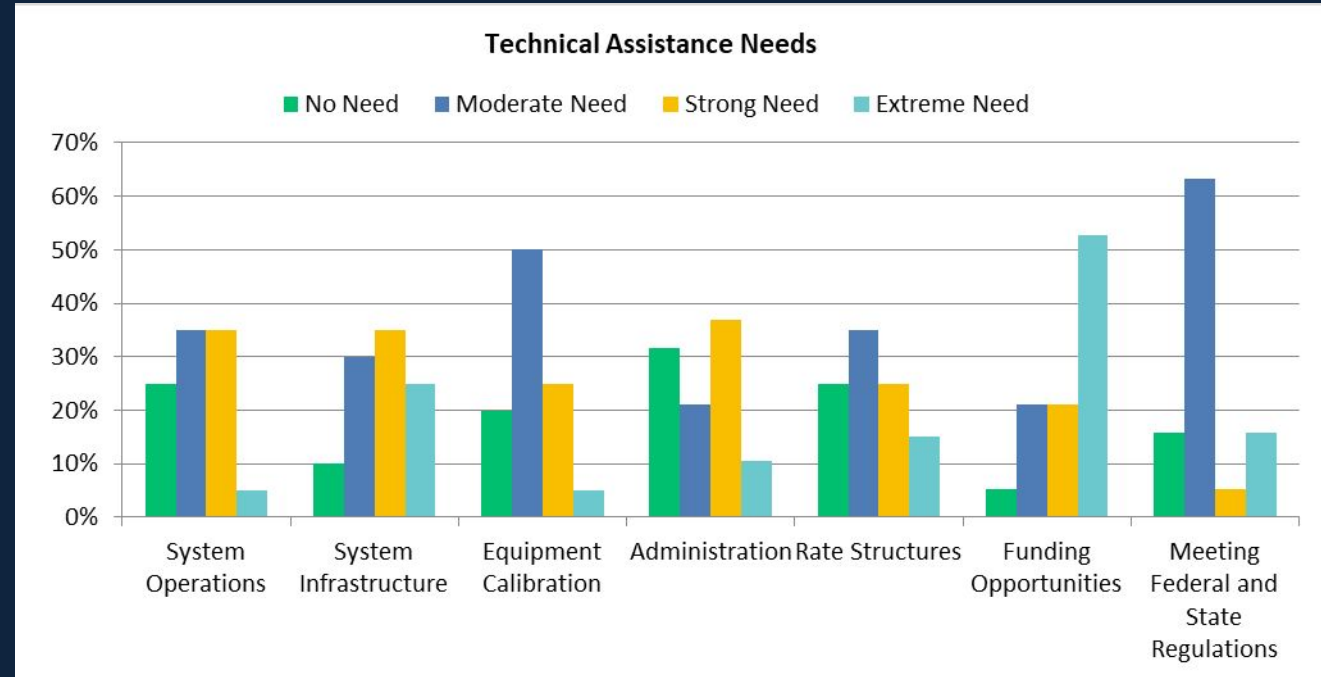
Varied Fire Concerns:

Water quality, fire suppression and loss of power, insufficient water pressure and/or the size of fittings

TRIBAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Manchester-Point Arena Rancheria



The greatest need for technical assistance: obtaining funding and conducting maintenance & repair.

Other needs expressed by Tribes include assistance with design, system upgrades, and water rate setting.

TRIBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - NEXT STEPS

- Compare Identified Needs with the assistance that can be provided by the DACTI program - i.e. services to meet technical assistance needs or to leverage other support.
- Site Visits & Technical Assistance Workplan Development informed outreach and survey process, NCRP Tribal Technical Assistance Consultants and/or Tribal staff
- NCRP Tribal Representatives review & confirm Tribal staff recommendations
- Each Tribe who completed a Needs Assessment opportunity to discuss their assessment and recommendations / Confirm their receipt of technical assistance or capacity-building support through the DACTI Program
- Assistance to prepare Tribes to submit a Proposition 1 Round 2 Implementation project proposal or through another funding mechanism
- Assistance bundled where possible to reduce the cost of the service & multiple Tribes invited to training and workshops to reduce the cost of instruction.



Yurok Tribe site visit



THE NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP

The North Coast Resource Partnership enhances the watersheds and communities of the North Coast region and the quality of life for all.

Website:

<https://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/>

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