



Conservation in Disadvantaged Communities

Conservation and Local Resources Committee

Item #4b

June 12, 2018

Overview

- Board Request to Increase Water-Use Efficiency in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
- Member Agency DAC Workgroup Process
- Initial Data Evaluation
- Next Steps

DAC Workgroup

- First DAC Workgroup Meeting on May 22, 2018
- High Member Agency Participation
 - 16 member agencies represented
 - 28 member agency managers and staff
- Discuss and Develop Recommendations to Improve Water Conservation in DACs

DAC Workgroup Discussion Items

- DAC Setting and Background
 - Legislative
 - Definitions and Water Code Provisions
- Data Needs and Availability Discussion
- Legal Issues
- Member Agency Local Programs & Approaches

Target Disadvantaged Community or the Individual?



Community



Income-
Qualified
Individual

Community and Individual Identifiers



Disadvantaged Community

Median Household
Income (MHI)
<80% statewide MHI

Community
definition varies



Income-Qualified Individual

Household with
Income <200%
federal poverty line

Aligns with
public utility programs

Both equate to ~\$50,000 for
family of four

Legal Framework

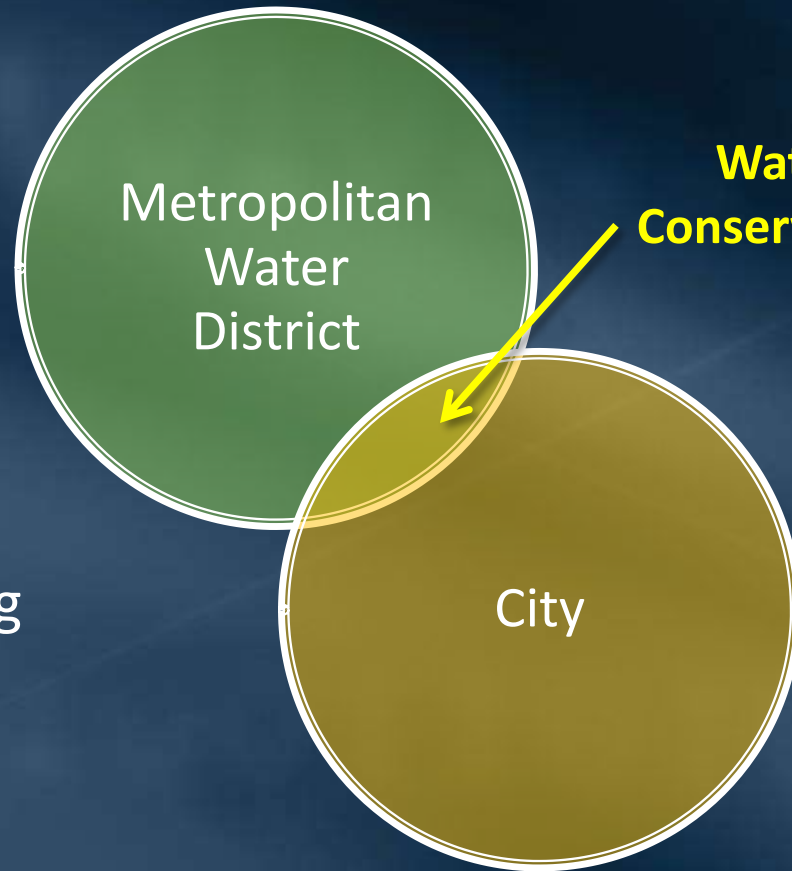
- Public funds may only be disbursed if:
 - Metropolitan's public purpose is served
 - Non-state entities benefited only as an incident to the public purpose
- MWD Public Purpose Includes Conservation
 - MWD Act Sec. 130.5 - It is the intent of the Legislature that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California expand water conservation, water recycling, and groundwater recovery efforts.

Legal Framework (cont.)

Limited-purpose government

Focused services

- Water supply
- Conservation
- Water recycling
- Groundwater recovery



Water Conservation

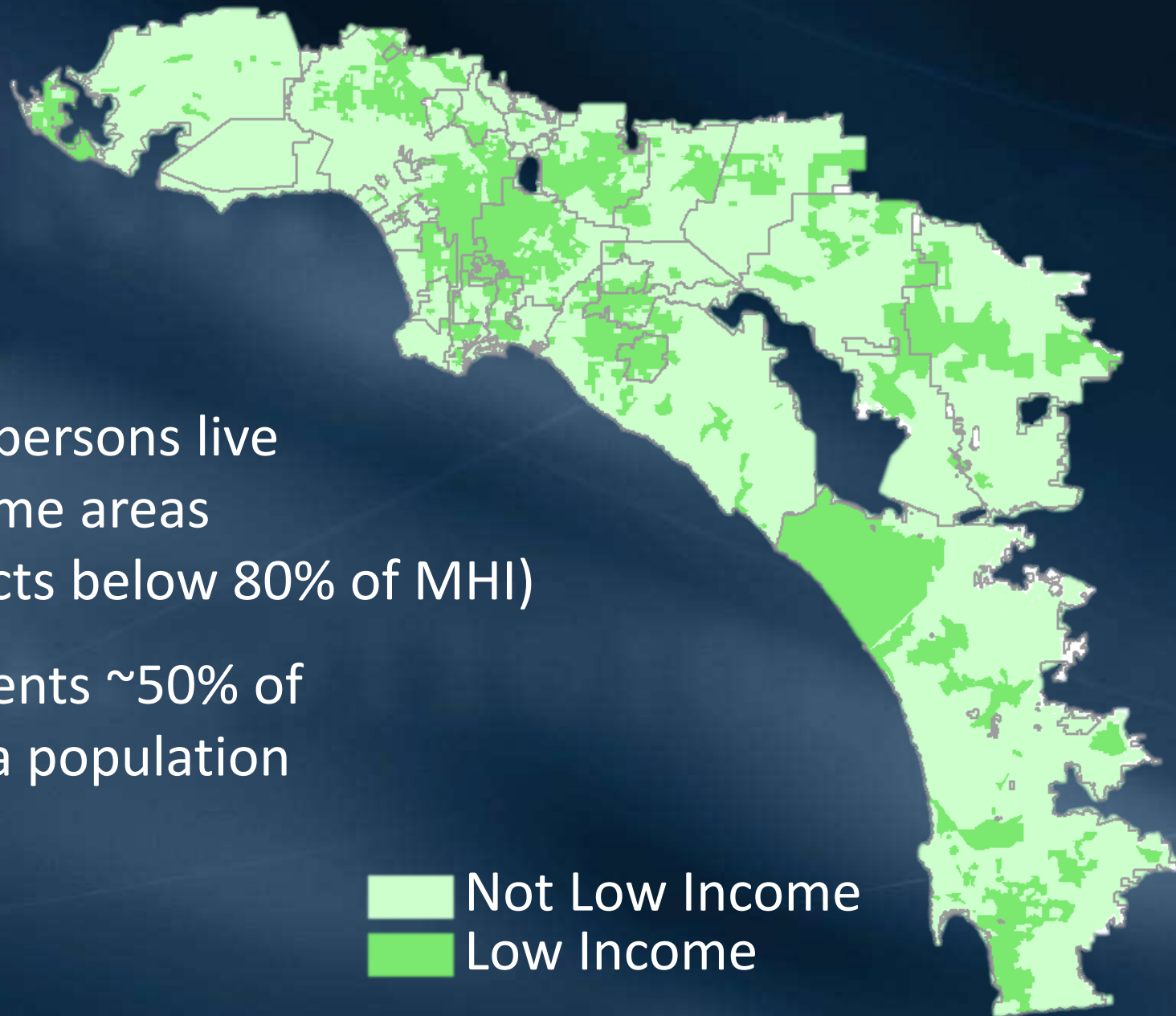
General-purpose government

Broad services

- Health & safety
- General welfare

Preliminary Evaluation of Metropolitan Rebate Activity

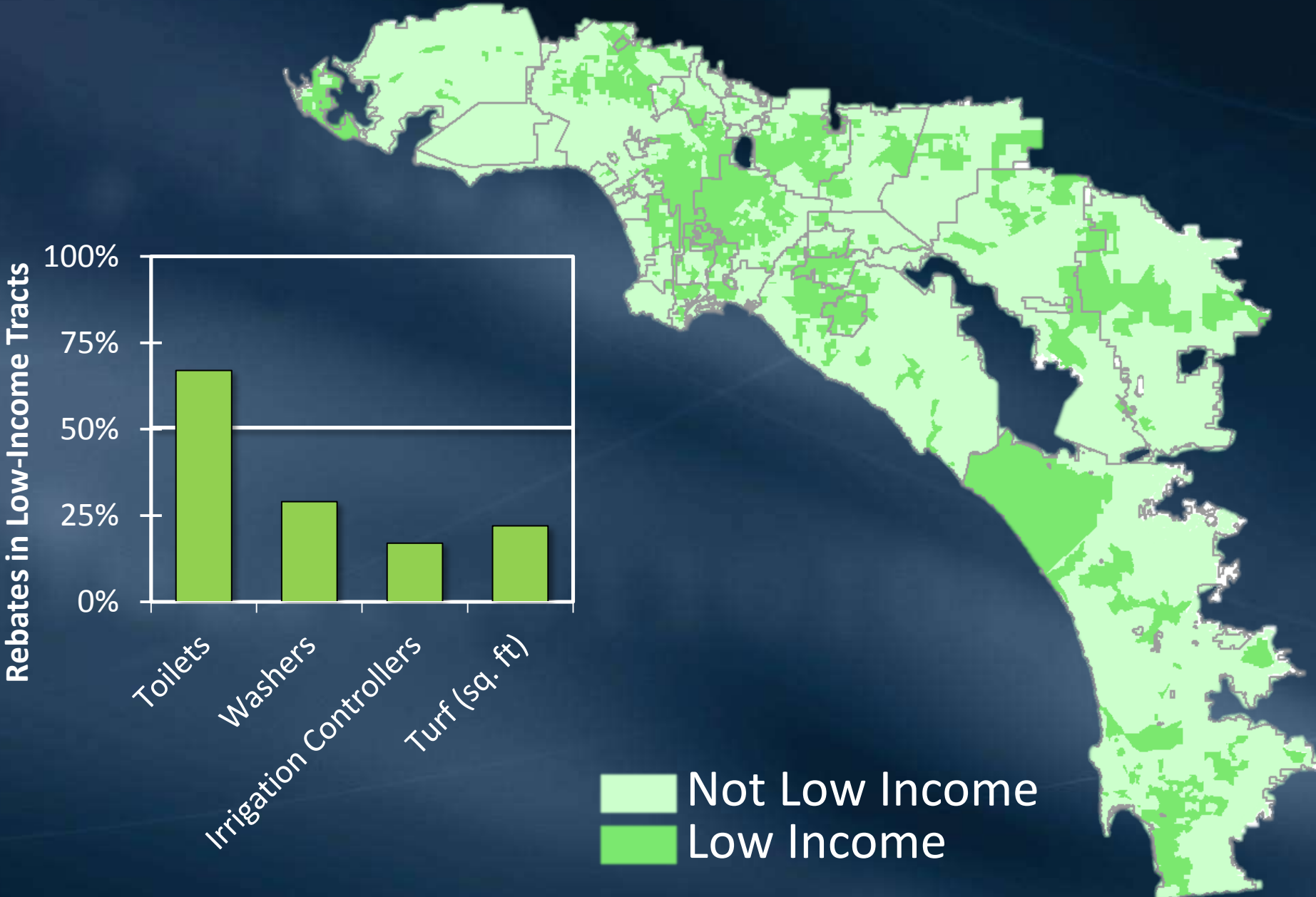
Low-Income Census Tracts in Region



- 9.5 million persons live in low-income areas (census tracts below 80% of MHI)
- This represents ~50% of service area population

■ Not Low Income
■ Low Income

Rebates in Low-Income Census Tracts



Future Data Analysis

- Examine Data at Member Agency Level
 - Assess impact of member agency co-funding
 - Assess direct-install activity
- Assess Conservation Potential in DACs
 - Devices
 - Turf
- Identify Factors Which May Limit Access

Key Feedback from First Workshop

- First Focus on Policy Alternatives
- Existing Conservation Program Working Well
- Seek out Conservation Potential in DACs
 - Device saturation
 - Outreach
 - Non-device incentives (water audits, rate structures)
 - Multi-family residential may provide greatest potential
- Direct-Install Programs Reach Broad Demographic
- Consider Grant Funding to Supplement Program

Why Direct Install Programs Work

- Implemented at Local Level
 - May include community-based organizations
 - Tailored to housing stock in community
- Reaches Multi-Family Residential Housing
 - Renters may not pay water bill directly
 - Building owners achieve water savings
- Provides Full-Service to Customer/Resident
 - Ensures installation and proper operation
 - Positive public relations
 - Immediate benefit to resident

Summary and Next Steps

- DAC Workgroup Process is Underway
- Initially, Focus on Policy Alternatives with Member Agency Managers
- Seek Input from C&LR Committee
- Continue reporting to C&LR on progress

