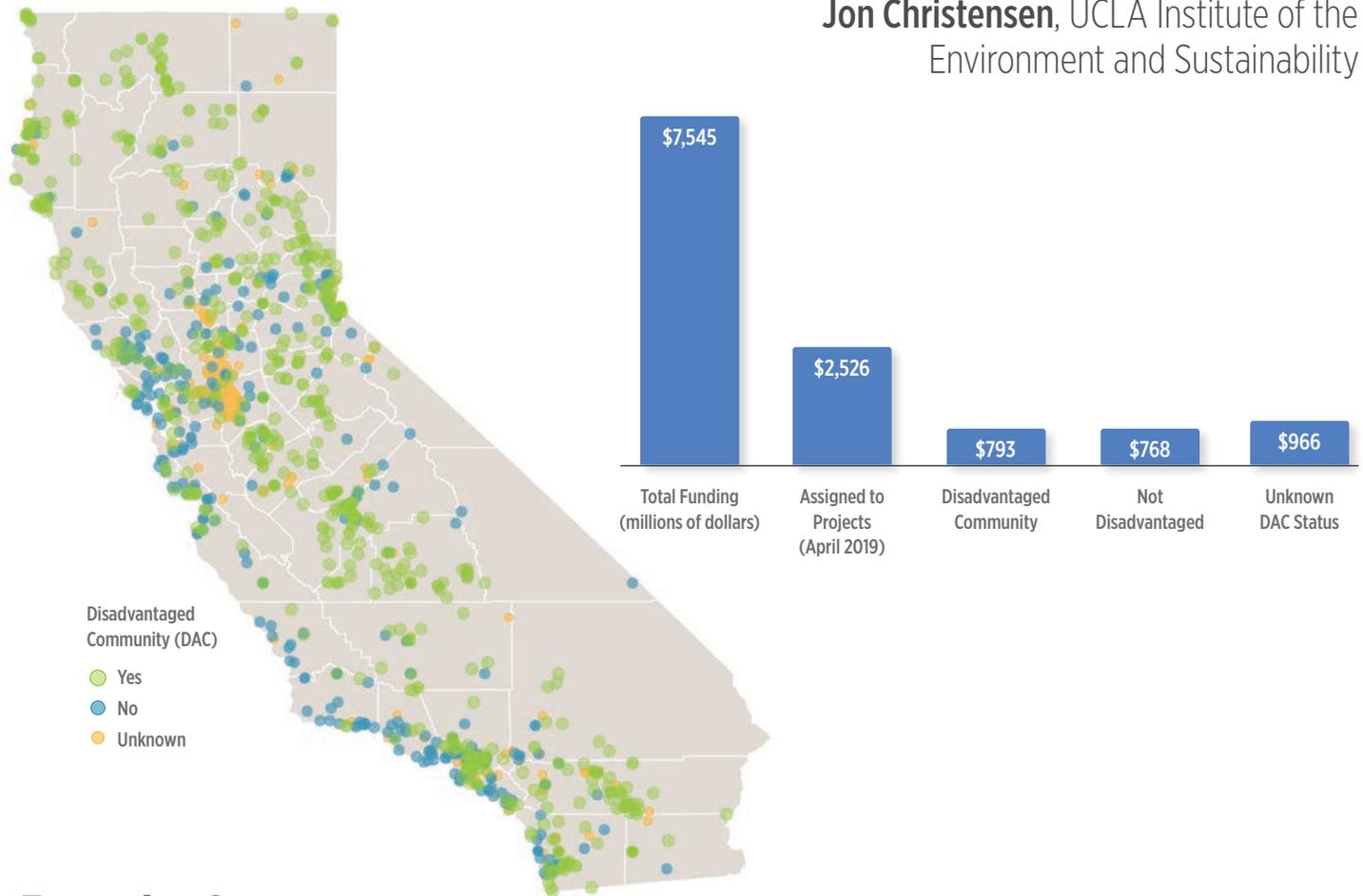


Striving for Equity in Public Investments in Water in California: An Analysis of Prop 1 Implementation

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Executive Summary

In 2014, California voters approved a \$7.5 billion bond measure to fund water quality, supply, and infrastructure improvements. Prop 1 included significant provisions to prioritize investments in disadvantaged communities.

For this report, looking at Prop 1 spending midstream, we analyzed the \$2.5 billion that had been assigned to projects as of April 2019 out of \$7 billion of the bond funding that has been committed so far through budget appropriations. We analyzed how much of that funding is going to projects benefiting disadvantaged communities and technical assistance efforts to increase the capacity of those communities to secure funds and manage projects. The executive summary of this report with our topline findings and recommendations below also serves as an index to the rest of the detailed report that follows.

Our topline findings and recommendations are:

- **Finding:** Prop 1 is proving to be a promising, deliberate, thoughtful approach for improving investments in water projects in communities that historically have not benefited from them. So far, implementation of Prop 1 is meeting or exceeding its stated goals for assigning funds to projects in disadvantaged communities—or DACs—where the median household income is 80% or less of the statewide median household income. These communities are home to 33% of the state’s population. [See pages 7–8.](#)
- **Finding:** The equity goals in Prop 1 build upon provisions in Prop 84, a previous environmental bond measure. As proved true in the implementation of Prop 84, sections of Prop 1 that establish explicit goals for serving disadvantaged communities are doing better at serving those communities than sections that did not establish clear goals. [See pages 9–11.](#)
- **Recommendation:** Future environmental funding measures should continue to learn from these successes and refine implementation guidelines and processes to meet these goals. [See page 3.](#)