



**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
GROUND WATER QUALITY BUREAU**



**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN
(PIP)**

Facility Name: Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility

Facility Location: 500 LaVelle Road
Alamogordo, NM 88352
Section 36, Township 13S, Range 09E

County: Otero County

Responsible Party: Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office
Jennifer Faler
555 Broadway Blvd, NE, Suite 100
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Agency: Ground Water Quality Bureau
Pollution Prevention Section

GWQB Action: Permitting - Renewal
DP-1472

Bureau Contact: Avery Young, Geoscientist
(505) 827-2909
Avery.Young@state.nm.us

Main bureau telephone number:
(505) 827-2900

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 22, 2019

REVISION DATE: N/A

/s/ Pamela E. Homer for Michelle Hunter

Michelle Hunter
Chief, Ground Water Quality Bureau

Element 1 – Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Overview

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED or Department), Ground Water Quality Bureau (Bureau) has developed this PIP for the application for renewal of the Ground Water Discharge Permit for Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility. The permit for this facility is referred to as DP-1472.

The purpose of this PIP is to plan for providing public participation opportunities and information that may be needed for the community to participate in the permitting process for this facility. This PIP identifies information about the community and resources needed by the Bureau to incorporate community participation activities into the decision-making process. This PIP is developed in accordance with the Department’s *Public Participation Policy* (Policy 07-13 or Policy), and incorporates the requirements of the Policy, as well as applicable regulatory and statutory public participation requirements.

This PIP implements the “elements” set forth in the Policy. Those elements include:

1. An overview of the Public Involvement Plan for the community affected by the activity
2. Bureau contact names and contact information, specifically for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) language assistance services (e.g., translation, interpreters) or for disability accommodations
3. A summary of the regulatory public participation framework associated with discharge permits
4. A description of community/stakeholder groups based on results of a preliminary environmental justice (EJ) screening
5. Details about planned public outreach activities

In developing this PIP, community participation needs were assessed to ensure appropriate public outreach. This was accomplished by identifying whether there is a combination of environmental and demographic factors that may impact public participation (e.g., low income community, minority community, LEP individuals, linguistically isolated households). Because the community located near this facility includes a significant percentage of Spanish speakers, the Bureau will provide appropriate information in both English and Spanish.

Public involvement associated with discharge permits occurs at different stages and in different forms. Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation are mandatory and subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines. Mandatory public involvement activities and associated time requirements relevant to this PIP are noted in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP.

The Bureau plans to conduct the public involvement activities related to the permitting process outlined in the *Table of Public Involvement Activities* below. The activity timeline and dates are tentative and subject to change.

Table of Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Date
<p>Application Notice (PN-1) <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities at the end of this PIP for details.</i></p>	<p align="center">February 2019</p>
<p>Placement of a hardcopy of the PIP in the local field office: NMED Alamogordo Office 811 E. First St, Suite D Alamogordo, NM 88310 Phone (575) 437-7115 Fax (575) 434-1813</p>	<p align="center">March 2019</p>
<p>Notice of availability of draft permit (PN-2) <i>See Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities.</i></p>	<p align="center">Within 60 days of determining the application is technically complete. Date to be determined.</p>

All notices for upcoming meetings or hearings will include a statement that any person who requires assistance, an interpreter, or an auxiliary aid to participate in the process may contact a specifically identified Department person to request those services. Requested interpretation services during the meeting and accommodations or services for persons with disabilities will be arranged to the extent possible.

This PIP is a “living” document that may be amended for numerous reasons, including the consideration of public comments and feedback.

Element 2 – Bureau Contact Information

PIP Specific Contacts

The Bureau contact for this discharge permit is:
 Avery Young, Geoscientist
 NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau
 P.O. Box 5469
 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-5469
 (505) 827-2909
 Avery.Young@state.nm.us

Non-English Language Speaker Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that non-English speakers may call the Bureau contact listed above and request language assistance in order to learn more about this permit or the permitting process. Arrangements may be made for document translation or interpretation related to the permitting process as necessary and as resources allow.

Individuals with Disabilities Assistance

All public notices will contain a statement that disabled individuals may call the Bureau contact listed above and request assistance needed to participate in activities associated with the permitting process.

The following information will be provided in public notices so that hearing-impaired callers can contact the Bureau and ask questions about the activity or proceeding: Toll-free numbers are available for TDD or TTY users to access the New Mexico Relay network (for deaf or hearing-impaired callers), 1-800-659-1779; TTY users: 1-800-659-8331.

Websites

Outreach materials and notices will include links to the following website, where the Bureau's public notices and PIP information are posted:

Ground Water Quality Bureau – <https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/>

Element 3 – Regulatory Framework for Public Participation Related to the Permitting Process

The public participation regulatory framework associated with the permitting process is identified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this PIP. The Table identifies activities subject to statutory or regulatory deadlines, the associated regulatory requirements, and the associated dates or time periods.

Element 4 – Description of Community/Stakeholder Groups Based on the EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN Summary

To provide for adequate public participation opportunities and meaningful involvement of persons in the permitting process, the affected communities must first be identified, informed about proposed environmental actions affecting the community, and invited to share their comments and concerns. The EJSCREEN tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps identify communities that are low income, have minority populations, and have limited English proficiency that may benefit from a variety of approaches for notification and outreach communication. This information is used to help plan for the community's involvement in the public process for environmental activities or actions. In addition to the EJSCREEN results, the

Bureau may consider additional information such as the U.S. Census Bureau website or NMED’s EJ Mapping Tool.

The Bureau considers the affected community to be those persons living within a 4-mile radius of the discharge site. The results of the EJSCREEN American Community Survey (ACS) Summary Report (attached to this PIP) are summarized in the table below.

EJSCREEN Results for the Affected Community

Total population	33,363
Total number of households	12,729
Percentage minority population	43%
Percentage Hispanic population	33%
Percentage of the population by race	Population reporting one race: White: 79% Black: 5% American Indian: 2% Asian: 2% Pacific Islander: 0% Some Other Race: 8%
Total number of persons greater than the age of five who speak English “less than very well”	2,047
Percentage of persons greater than the age of five who speak English “less than very well”	7%
Total number of linguistically isolated households	546
Percentage of linguistically isolated households (Total number of linguistically isolated households ÷ total number of households X 100)	4.3%
Languages by percentage in linguistically isolated households	Spanish:62% Other Indo-European languages:30% Asian-Pacific Island languages:9%
Percent linguistically isolated population, New Mexico*:	5.4%
Per capita income	\$21,942
Per capita income, USA**	\$29,979

* U.S. Census Bureau. 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1602. Limited English Speaking Households. https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_5YR/S1602/0400000US35 (date of access: 7/26/2018).

** U.S. Census Bureau. 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0201. Selected Population Profile in the United States. https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/15_1YR/S0201/0100000US (date of access: 7/26/2018).

The EJSCREEN results indicate that for the affected community the proportion of the population with limited English proficiency (LEP) is significant. The Bureau has therefore performed a LEP assessment for the community and attaches that assessment to this PIP.

Because the affected community has a significant percentage of persons with difficulties communicating in English, the Bureau will consider the language and communication needs of this community when conducting public outreach and participation activities. To accomplish this the Bureau will provide the same information in Spanish as in English in public comment notices, public meeting notices, and other announcements (e.g., radio broadcasts, brochures, signs, postcards) and will strive to make public participation efforts as inclusive as possible within the Bureau's budget and time limitations. See Element 5 for more specifics on the public outreach and participation activities.

Element 5 – Detailed Actions and Outreach Activities with the Affected Public

Public involvement activities required by statute or regulation for this permitting action are listed in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities* at the end of this document.

Public Participation – Outreach Activities

The Bureau will conduct the following outreach activities during this permitting process:

- Placement of this PIP on the Bureau website and in nearby NMED field office
- Postal mailing and email notices
- Newspaper notices
- Notice posted on NMED website

Newspapers utilized in the notification process include:

- Statewide circulation (English): Albuquerque Journal
- Local circulation (English and Spanish): Alamogordo Daily News – Otero County

Local, state, and federal government agencies, tribal entities, and land grant officials will be notified about the permitting process. A list of the agencies and officials notified can be provided upon request.

Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations will be notified about the permitting action through the contacts maintained by the Indian Affairs Department at the following URLs:

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/apaches.html>

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/navajo.html>

<http://www.iad.state.nm.us/pueblos.html>

Timelines and methods for submitting public comments are specified in the *Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities*. Final discharge permit documents will be available from the Bureau's contact identified in Element 2 of this PIP.

Postal Mailing or E-Mailing of Notices to Persons on the Facility-Specific Mailing List

The Bureau solicits the names and contact information of interested parties with all public notices. The Bureau maintains those names on a Facility-Specific Mailing List and provides the individuals with information about regulatory activities for the facility. Individuals, organizations, and other interested parties are added to the mailing list as requested. All public notices will contain a statement directing interested individuals to contact the Bureau contact for this permit if they want to be added to the facility specific mailing list.

Other means of outreach such as fliers announcing public comment periods and/or public meetings or hearings may be posted in locations throughout the community (e.g., local businesses, schools, libraries) and on the Department's website, at the Bureau's discretion after consideration of public interest and input.

Attachments

The following documents are attached to this PIP:

- LEP Assessment
- A copy of the EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report and a map showing the area evaluated

Table of Mandated Public Involvement Activities

Activity	Dates
<p>Application Notice (PN-1): The first notice of the Bureau's receipt of the permit application – applicant's obligations at 20.6.2.3108.B – Bureau's obligations at 20.6.2.3108.E NMAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper ads (PN-1 synopsis¹ in English and Spanish)- Applicant obligation • NMED website https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/ • Notice to government agencies • Notice to interested parties 	<p>Within 30 days of the department deeming the application administratively complete</p>
<p>Permit Notice (PN-2): Notice to the public of the availability of a draft permit for a 30-day review and comment period – the notice will outline the process for requesting a public hearing – obligation at 20.6.2.3108.H NMAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMED website https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/ • Newspaper ads • Notification of interested parties • Notice to government agencies • Notice to Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations 	<p>Within 60 days of the department determining the application is technically complete and drafting a permit.</p>
<p>Public Hearing Notice (if required): Upon the Department's determination that there is substantial public interest in the permit – obligation at 20.6.2.3108.L NMAC. Notice includes information on how to participate in the hearing, and how to request an interpreter or auxiliary aid if needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMED website https://www.env.nm.gov/gwqb/public-notice/ • Newspapers • Notice to interested parties • Notice to government agencies • Notice to Indian Tribes, Pueblos and Nations 	<p>Notice of the hearing shall occur at least 30 days prior to the hearing.</p>

¹ Suitable for display, the abbreviated format of the PN-1 synopsis does not contain all the information provided by a full public notice, e.g., language assistance or non-discrimination information.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assessment

Facility: Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility, DP-1472

Factor 1: The Number and Proportion of LEP Individuals Eligible to be Served or Likely to be Encountered in Community of Concern

See Public Involvement Plan (PIP), Table of EJSCREEN Results for the Affected Community.

Conclusions:

1. The number of LEP individuals (persons over the age of 5 who speak English “less than very well” in the affected community) is 2,047.
2. The percentage of LEP individuals in the affected community is 7%.
3. The percentage of linguistically isolated households is 4.4%, which is less than the statewide average.
4. Spanish is the predominant non-English language spoken by LEP persons. Of linguistically isolated households, 62% speak Spanish but the report does not identify what other specific languages are spoken. The breakdown of languages spoken at home by persons over the age of 5 identifies 79% speaking English, 14% Spanish, 4% German, and the rest speaking a variety of different languages.
5. Historical participation: The Bureau maintains a facility-specific mailing list. The current mailing list for the facility includes two persons or entities. A review of the administrative record for this facility indicates limited public interest/participation overall during the past 10 years. The review found no record of participation by the LEP community.

Factor 2: Frequency with which LEP Individuals Might Come in Contact with the Program

Contact with the discharge permitting process primarily occurs when a permit application is under review. The GWQB provides notice to the public and encourages participation. Individuals may participate by requesting information, submitting comments on draft permits, requesting hearings, and taking part in hearings. Some permits generate considerable public interest, but participation is low for most permits. Historical participation in permitting activities for this facility is summarized under Factor 1.

Conclusion:

LEP participation and overall public interest in this facility have been limited historically. Based on this record, the Bureau considers the potential for LEP contact with the permitting process to be “infrequent.”

Factor 3: Nature and Importance of the Activity or Service Provided by the Program

The permitting activity is deemed by the GWQB to be "important" to NMED, the impacted community, and the State of New Mexico. The permitting activity is important to NMED because the permit establishes site-specific requirements that must be met to ensure protection of public health and groundwater quality and provides a means to enforce those requirements. The permitting activity is important to the impacted community because poorly-operated waste treatment facilities

have the potential to pose a public nuisance and adversely affect the quality of life of people living in the vicinity of the facility. The permitting activity is important to the State of New Mexico because establishment of effective permits ensures that discharges will not impact the State's limited groundwater resources and that waste disposal is conducted in a consistent manner throughout the State.

Conclusion:

The GWQB considers the permitting activity “important” to NMED, to the state as a whole, and to the impacted community.

Factor 4: Resources Available to NMED for LEP Services and Associated Costs

For outreach to LEP communities associated with this permit action, NMED employs an in-house Spanish translator/interpreter and utilizes a phone interpretation service to assist during direct communication between LEP individuals and NMED staff. The costs of newspaper publication of public notice in Spanish and of interpretive services for a public meeting or hearing are being incorporated into the Bureau’s budget, to the extent possible. Fees collected from the permittee in accordance with the schedule at 20.6.2.3114 NMAC are not sufficient to cover these costs.

Conclusion:

The Bureau can accommodate the costs of the LEP services identified in this plan. If additional services are requested, the budgetary implications will be reviewed.

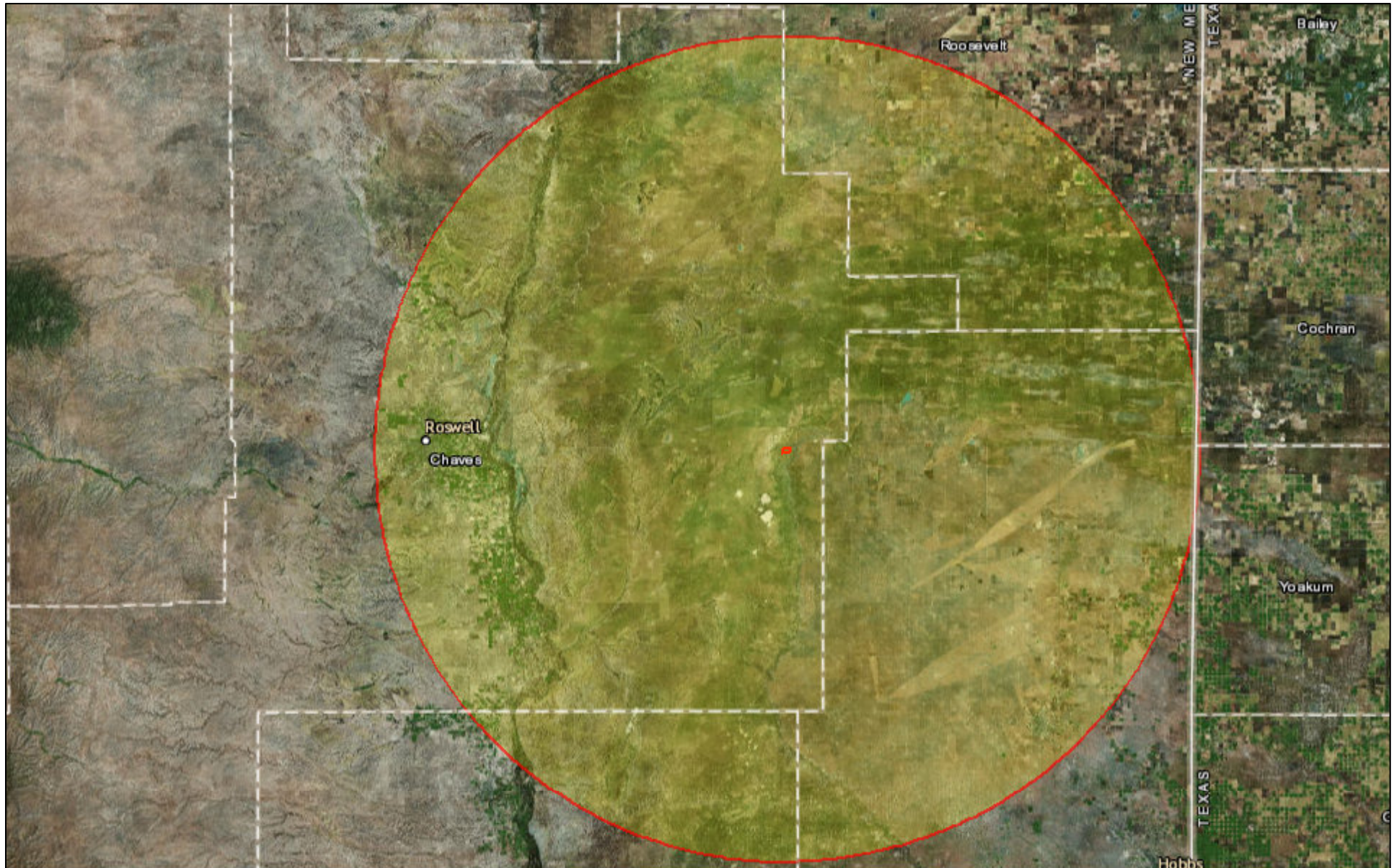
LEP Services Plan:

The Bureau plans to:



1. Translate the Public Notice Two (PN-2) and any subsequent public notices into Spanish.
2. Provide interpretive services at any public meeting or public hearing, if requested.
3. Interact with members of the LEP community using certified interpreters, when needed.

The Bureau will consider requests from members of the affected community for additional LEP services.

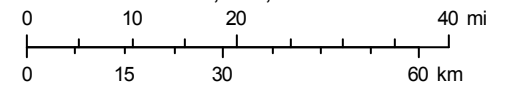
Gandy-Marley Inc.



February 8, 2019

-  Buffer Area
-  Digitized Line

1:1,155,581



Esri, HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

Location: User-specified linear location
 Ring (buffer): 45-mile radius
 Description: Gandy-Marley Inc.

Summary of ACS Estimates		2012 - 2016
Population		78,753
Population Density (per sq. mile)		14
Minority Population		46,958
% Minority		60%
Households		26,847
Housing Units		31,090
Housing Units Built Before 1950		4,455
Per Capita Income		22,571
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		5,494.42
% Land Area		100%
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		6.77
% Water Area		0%

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race			
Total	78,753	100%	0
Population Reporting One Race	76,711	97%	3,006
White	64,455	82%	1,165
Black	1,666	2%	285
American Indian	1,006	1%	219
Asian	519	1%	155
Pacific Islander	45	0%	36
Some Other Race	9,019	11%	1,146
Population Reporting Two or More Races	2,042	3%	490
Total Hispanic Population	43,422	55%	0
Total Non-Hispanic Population	35,331		
White Alone	31,794	40%	121
Black Alone	1,585	2%	261
American Indian Alone	543	1%	129
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	468	1%	131
Pacific Islander Alone	43	0%	34
Other Race Alone	84	0%	110
Two or More Races Alone	814	1%	307
Population by Sex			
Male	39,358	50%	132
Female	39,395	50%	132
Population by Age			
Age 0-4	5,797	7%	156
Age 0-17	21,870	28%	556
Age 18+	56,883	72%	958
Age 65+	10,875	14%	496

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.
 N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016.

Location: User-specified linear location
 Ring (buffer): 45-mile radius
 Description: Gandy-Marley Inc.

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population 25+ by Educational Attainment			
Total	48,862	100%	184
Less than 9th Grade	5,564	11%	431
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	5,770	12%	531
High School Graduate	13,422	27%	663
Some College, No Degree	15,317	31%	710
Associate Degree	3,958	8%	365
Bachelor's Degree or more	8,790	18%	609
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	72,956	100%	137
Speak only English	45,598	63%	966
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	27,358	37%	908
¹ Speak English "very well"	18,495	25%	826
² Speak English "well"	4,007	5%	425
³ Speak English "not well"	3,391	5%	424
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	1,465	2%	284
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	4,856	7%	485
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	8,863	12%	634
Linguistically Isolated Households*			
Total	1,777	100%	272
Speak Spanish	1,747	98%	270
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	15	1%	17
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	11	1%	24
Speak Other Languages	3	0%	27
Households by Household Income			
Household Income Base	26,847	100%	448
< \$15,000	4,542	17%	429
\$15,000 - \$25,000	3,293	12%	382
\$25,000 - \$50,000	6,933	26%	554
\$50,000 - \$75,000	4,382	16%	415
\$75,000 +	7,697	29%	545
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure			
Total	26,847	100%	448
Owner Occupied	17,964	67%	496
Renter Occupied	8,884	33%	551
Employed Population Age 16+ Years			
Total	59,499	100%	217
In Labor Force	34,679	58%	790
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	2,410	4%	365
Not In Labor Force	24,820	42%	824

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.

Location: User-specified linear location

Ring (buffer): 45-mile radius

Description: Gandy-Marley Inc.

	2012 - 2016 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	72,956	100%	137
English	45,598	63%	1,145
Spanish	26,200	36%	1,102
French	78	0%	138
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	170	0%	99
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	177	0%	138
Chinese	98	0%	98
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	39	0%	58
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	7	0%	27
Other Asian	211	0%	169
Tagalog	151	0%	131
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	17	0%	44
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	191	0%	71
Total Non-English	27,358	37%	1,153

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2012 - 2016.

*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.