



## SAWPA's Watershed Watch | January 2024

Welcome to SAWPA's Watershed Watch, the official quarterly newsletter of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA).

SAWPA is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of five member agencies including the Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Orange County Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Western Municipal Water District. SAWPA owns and operates the Inland Empire Brine Line, which protects the watershed's water resources through the responsible management of brine and salty wastewater discharges. In addition, SAWPA and its member agencies work to address the challenges facing the Santa Ana River Watershed. From water supply reliability to water quality improvement and ecosystem restoration, our collective mission is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Santa Ana River Watershed for both present and future generations.

In this first edition of SAWPA's Watershed Watch, we are excited to share updates, success stories, and important information about ongoing projects and agency initiatives. By staying informed and engaged, we can all contribute to the preservation and stewardship of the Santa Ana River Watershed!

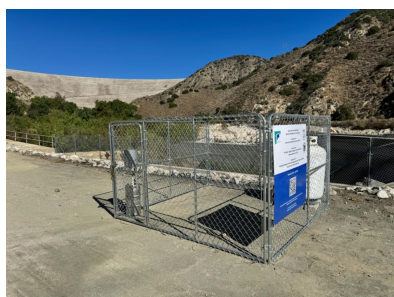
### SAWPA's Weather Modification Pilot Program Commences



SAWPA recently conducted the first cloud seeding events for the Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot Program in late December and early January. Launched in November 2023, this program aims to assess the efficiency of cloud seeding in enhancing local water supplies. Over the next four years, the Pilot Program will verify the snow and rainfall benefits, which could be increased by 5-15 percent in local targeted areas based on the [feasibility study](#).

We encourage your community to stay engaged and informed about the Pilot Program. Regular updates and outreach efforts will be provided through various channels, including the SAWPA website and social media platforms.

For more information about the Pilot Program and SAWPA's ongoing initiatives, please visit our Pilot Program [webpage](#) or contact us at [weathermodification@sawpa.gov](mailto:weathermodification@sawpa.gov).



### SAWPA Secures Grant to Support Climate Adaptation and Resilience in the Santa Ana River Watershed



SAWPA has been awarded a grant of \$644,190 from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to collaborate with key partners in building climate adaptation and resilience in the



watershed! The funds will be used to develop the Santa Ana River Watershed Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, which aims to address climate risks such as drought, wildfire, and flooding in the Santa Ana River watershed by identifying vulnerabilities and planning adaptation projects. The project brings together SAWPA, the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians, and the Inland Southern California Climate Collaborative (ISC3), water agencies, and community-based organizations combining their expertise and resources to create a comprehensive plan for mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the watershed.

Read the full press release about the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program [here](#).

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### SAWPA's Inland Empire Brine Line: Paving the Way for Sustainable Salty Wastewater Disposal



The Inland Empire Brine Line is a valuable resource that plays a big role in the region. Each day, an impressive 13 million gallons of brine and salty water flows through the Brine Line. The pumping and treatment of brackish groundwater significantly contributes to our water supply and the restoration of local groundwater quality. By reducing salt levels and bolstering the watershed's ability to withstand droughts, the Brine Line allows us to rely more on local water supplies.

The dedicated and skilled staff of SAWPA's Brine Line Operations are the backbone of this ongoing project. Their efforts ensure that the 93-mile Brine Line functions seamlessly, supporting the entire watershed. Through their work in cleaning, monitoring, inspecting, repairing, and permitting dischargers, they make it all possible. So, the next time you come across a maintenance access structure cover in the IE, take a moment to check the name – if it says SAWPA, you might be standing above 93 miles of flowing saltwater, also known as the Brine Line, without even realizing it.

For more information on the IE Brine Line and the removal of salt in the Santa Ana River Watershed, visit our Brine Line [webpage](#).

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### OWOW Project Highlights



Made possible by SAWPA's funding of \$1 million through the Department of Water Resources' Prop 84, Round 1, the City of Ontario's Mill Creek Wetlands project is a regional natural treatment facility located near Cucamonga Channel in the upper Santa Ana River Watershed. The project is designed to divert and treat stormwater capture from Cucamonga Creek, averaging about 6,900 acre-feet per year. But that's not all! This project goes beyond water treatment. It also includes the development of 2.25 miles of hiking and equestrian trails, providing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Additionally, the project supports key habitat types across 32 acres of land, further enhancing the ecological value of the area.

Learn more about One Water One Watershed (OWOW) [here](#).

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### Transforming Eastside Riverside with WE CAN's Free Lawn Replacement Program

# FREE LAWN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



Funding is limited! Apply today!

SAWPA invites residents who live in the **City of Riverside's Eastside neighborhood** to participate in the **Free Lawn Replacement Program!** Use up to 70% less water outdoors by replacing thirsty turf grass with a beautiful, climate-friendly landscape. Join us in our mission to create a greener, more sustainable Eastside Riverside! To learn more about the WE CAN Program and how to apply, please visit our [website](#).

## We're Hiring!

New year, new career? SAWPA is accepting applications for an **Administrative Services Manager** and an **Engineering Student Intern!** If you're ready to take your career to the next level and be part of a dynamic team, we want to hear from you.

[Apply Here](#)

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

### SAWPA Commission

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m.

### OWOW Committee

Meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month, 11 a.m.

### PA 22 Committee

Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of March, June, September and December, 8:30 a.m.

### PA 23 Committee

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December, 8:30 a.m.

### PA 24 Committee

Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month, 10:00 a.m.

All meetings are held in the SAWPA Board Room located at 11615 Sterling Avenue in Riverside.

## STAY CONNECTED!

SAWPA | (951) 354-4220 | [sawpa.gov](http://sawpa.gov)



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