

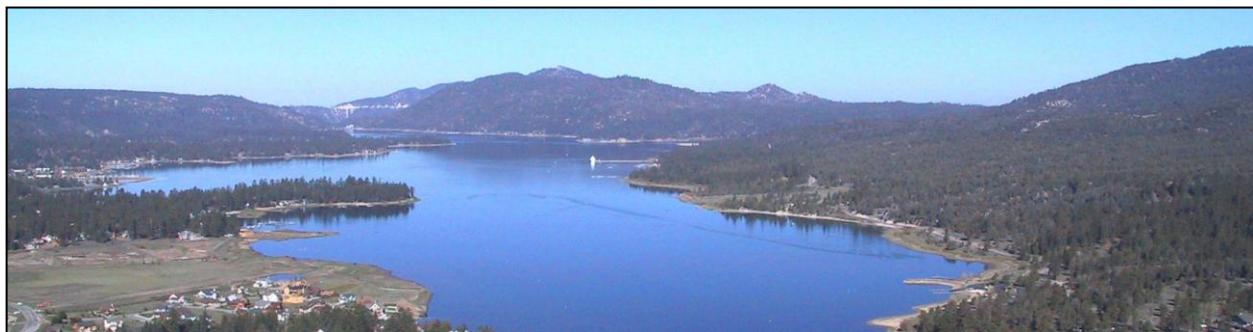
## 2.3 Collaboration, Coordination and Integration



OWOW Call For Projects Workshop

As is likely to occur within any watershed, sometimes conflicting goals or priorities of various watershed agencies can hinder progress towards collaboration and coordination. Within the Santa Ana River Watershed there are over 100 large and small water districts (**Figure 2.3-1** on page 2), local, regional, State and Federal agencies, and public/private stakeholder groups. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) recognizes that all of these stakeholders have their own valid interests in ensuring that there is sufficient clean, reliable water in the watershed, and SAWPA takes the initiative to keep all of these groups working together to solve the watershed's issues under One Water One Watershed (OWOW) 2.0 planning and various other "Roundtable" forums.

SAWPA strives for a collaborative approach to bring together the planning community, including both public and private sector planners, to advance the benefits of planning on a watershed scale and integrating watershed thinking into the everyday planning process. Working with varied interests and agendas, this watershed planning process has opened the doors to great partnerships, funding



**Figure 2.3-1 Santa Ana River Watershed Water Agencies Service Areas**

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In developing regional plans and prioritizing multi-benefit projects, it is important to not only coordinate efforts with other planning agencies within the region, but it is equally important to coordinate across regional boundaries. During the preparation of the OWOW 2.0 Plan, SAWPA staff exchanged information and discussed priorities with planners from regions adjoining the Watershed. For example, SAWPA staff coordinated closely with planners and project proponents in south Orange County, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel River Valleys, Upper Santa Margarita, Mojave and Coachella Valley regions.

### Collaborative Efforts within the Santa Ana River Watershed



SAWPA, as the leading regional water resource agency for the Santa Ana River Watershed and region, plays a major role in administering, participating, coordinating, and facilitating efforts to address regional water management issues. In fact, since its formation, this has been one of the major purposes of SAWPA in supporting the resolution of water issues and conflicts, and is one of the primary reasons why it was formed in the first place. From the early 1930s to the late 1960s, litigation occurred between upstream and downstream water agencies in the watershed over water rights issues affecting the Santa Ana River, and an adjudicated settlement occurred. As part of the recommendations for the adjudicated settlement, the need for a way to resolve regional differences and conflicts in a cooperative approach was suggested and realized by the creation of SAWPA. The cooperative approach exists today by the regular meetings among the SAWPA member districts but also among the many multi-agency and multi-organizations that SAWPA supports through what is described as the “SAWPA Roundtable”.

The results of the Nitrogen and TDS Task Force, the Emerging Constituents Program Task Force and many others serves as an outstanding template for collaboration and was sighted by resolution of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resource Control Board Strategic Plan as an outstanding example of collaborative efforts to resolve water quality issues.

Utilizing the capable skills of SAWPA staff, multi-agency agreements are developed, consultant contracts are managed, and discussion meetings are administered. The end products of these efforts are successful programs and projects that represent the best in collaboration and facilitation support services. In addition, by the positive and cooperative relationship that SAWPA has with the Santa Ana

Regional Water Quality Control Board, SAWPA has served as an effective liaison between the regulators and regulated community in producing effective partnerships and working relationships.

The following task forces and workgroups are examples of watershed partnerships that SAWPA has administered and formed often with the Santa Ana Regional Board and represent positive steps toward integrated and collaborative solutions.



## Overview of Governing Laws, Judgments and Agreements

This section lists most of the governing laws, judgments, and agreements in place that have had significant influence on water management and addressed conflicts in the watershed.

- Settlement Agreement between City of San Bernardino and City of Riverside and Riverside Water Company, 1922
- Colorado River Compact, 1922
- Seven-Party Agreement, 1931
- Rialto Basin Judgment, 1961
- Chino Basin-City of Pomona Agreement, 1968
- Orange County/Chino Judgment, 1969
- Western/San Bernardino Judgment, 1969
- Western, Chino Basin, County of Riverside, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Agreement, 1969
- Chino Basin-Western Agreement, 1970
- Endangered Species Act, 1973
- Santa Ana River-Mill Creek Cooperative Water Project Agreement, 1976
- Big Bear Municipal Water District/North Fork Water Co. Judgment, 1977
- Chino Basin Judgment, 1978
- San Bernardino-City of San Bernardino, City of Riverside Agreement, 1981
- San Bernardino-Western Agreement, 1981
- San Bernardino-Western, Orange County, Riverside, and San Bernardino City Agreement, 1985
- Monterey Agreement, 1994
- Big Bear Municipal and Valley District Agreement, 1996
- Chino Basin Peace Agreement, 2000
- Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act, 2002
- Groundwater Management Planning Act, 2002
- Seven Oaks Accord, 2004
- Beaumont Basin Judgment, 2004
- Settlement Agreement with San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, 2005
- Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Riverside, 2005
- Chino Basin Peace II Agreement, 2008
- Soboba Water Rights Settlement Act, 2008
- Institutional Controls and Settlement Agreement (ICSA), 2004
- Agreement Relating to the Diversion of Water from the SAR System among WMWD, Valley District, and City of Riverside, 2004
- Cooperative Agreement to Protect Water Quality and Encourage the Conjunctive Uses of Imported Water in the SAR Basin, 2007
- Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan, 2012



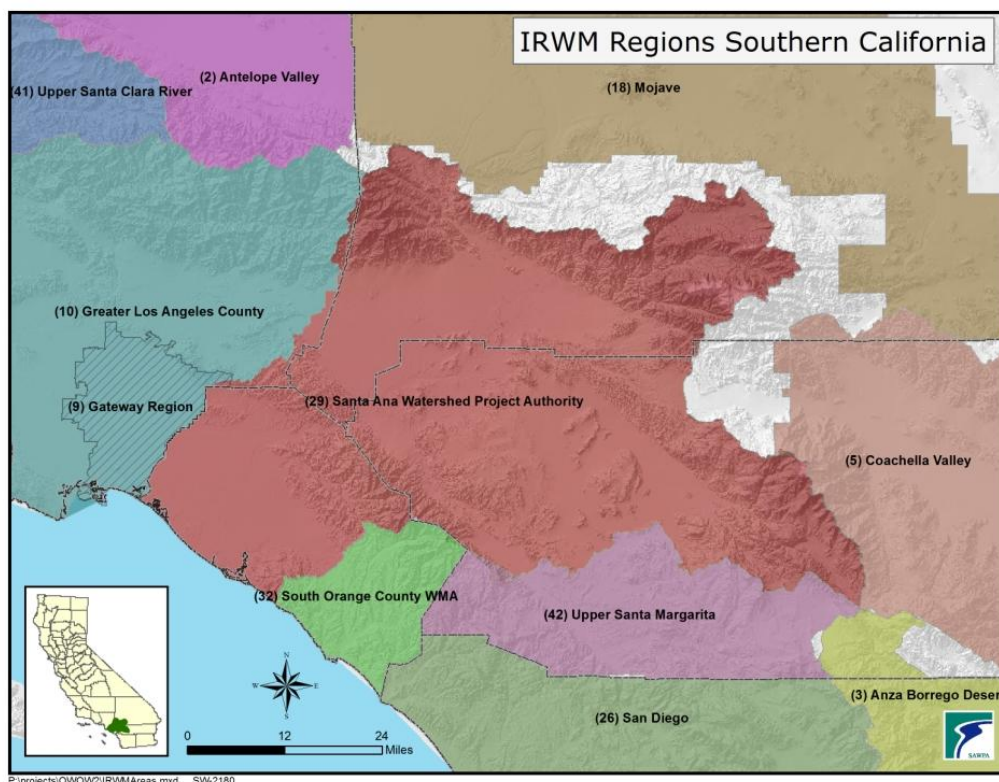


## Collaborative Efforts with Adjacent or Overlapping Areas to Watershed

The Santa Ana IRWM region is surrounded by six other IRWM regions, as shown in the map below, including: South Orange County Watershed Management Area, Upper Santa Margarita, Greater Los Angeles County, Gateway Region, Coachella Valley and Mojave.

SAWPA proactively seeks meeting with neighboring regions to share and stay abreast of critical issues, ongoing efforts, and opportunities for collaboration in the region. Under OWOW 2.0, SAWPA worked closely with the Upper Santa Margarita RWMG serving on their review panel for selecting a consultant to support their IRWM plan development. Through SAWPA staff's involvement on the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County, the Southern California Water Committee, Southern California Water Dialogue, and various other water resource forums, communication and collaboration about water resource planning has been conducted with all six other IRWM regions. When SAWPA conducted multiple climate change workshops working closely with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, invites were sent out to all neighboring IRWM regions as well as State and Federal agencies all impacted by the climate change and are currently conducting analysis on their own respective impacts. Feedback received from these surrounding and involved regions was that these workshops were extremely beneficial particularly as each continued development on their respective climate change adaptation plans under the IRWM planning.

Another forum in which SAWPA plays a significant role in promoting cooperation and coordination with other neighboring regions as well as IRWM regions across the State is through the Roundtable of Regions organization. This coalition of IRWMs allows all the regions to voice and discuss common issues and concerns and have worked closely with the CA Dept of Water Resources on many occasions.



The Roundtable of Regions has conducted informational surveys, conducted collaborative workshops and conferences and provided important input to DWR on grant applications and other legislative issues affecting IRWMs. At the IRWM conferences, SAWPA has been very involved in the sponsoring, planning and speaking of the Roundtable of Regions events.

At the State level, SAWPA has also taken a prominent leadership role in assisting the visioning and strategic planning of IRWM for the State through its participation on a select focus group called the IRWM Strategic Plan Focus Group. Selected by his peers along with four other IRWM region staff, Mark Norton, Water Resources and Planning Manager for SAWPA, represents the 48 IRWM regions' voice at the meetings of the focus group. The focus group is designed to review and comment on DWR's planning approach for stakeholder outreach and engagement, validate DWR's efforts to collect, document and assimilate stakeholder input and provide preliminary review and feedback on strategic plan documents to ensure input is appropriately portrayed and addressed. The focus group is expected to serve in this role in 2013-2014.

Finally, the collaboration among neighboring regions has also on occasion led to interregional projects as in the case of the "Brine line to the Salton Sea". This conceptual project was conceived as an opportunity to transfer brine flow that is ordinarily sent to the ocean for disposal as a resource to the inland water body, the Salton Sea located in the Coachella Valley and outside the Santa Ana River Watershed. This brine flow could be delivered to the Salton Sea to help stabilize water levels at the sea and provide water for playa dust abatement. With brine flow concentrations coming out of the Santa Ana River Watershed at 5000-6000 mg/L TDS, these concentrations are far lower than the ambient salt levels of the Salton Sea at 55,000 mg/L and could actually be viewed as a benefit. In discussions of this conceptual project, several meetings were held by SAWPA with the US Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Salton Sea Authority and representatives from the Coachella Valley IRWM region who are also working to update their IRWM plan. The brine line to the Salton Sea project would involve the construction of a brine disposal pipeline heading east out of the Santa Ana River Watershed and would traverse portions of the Coachella Valley IRWM region to the Salton Sea. In addition to Salton Sea water level stabilization, potential benefit of a new brine disposal pipeline to help dispose of brine from future groundwater desalination from Coachella Valley groundwater basins was also discussed. An appraisal level analysis is described and included under **Chapter 5.5.1 Brine Line to the Salton Sea.**

Though the project at this stage still needs much further study and evaluation, the project serves as an effective demonstration of an inter-regional cooperative project among two neighboring IRWM regions initiated by SAWPA that could enhance efficiencies and help solve salt issues facing both regions.