



Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers

The Local Government Commission (LGC) is hosting a workshop series to equip local policymakers in the Santa Ana River watershed with practical strategies and accessible tools to implement innovative solutions to their community's water challenges.

The Certified Watershed Ambassador Program is offered at no-cost to local government staff and officials in the Santa Ana Watershed. This three-part program will provide valuable opportunities for participants to: connect with regional leaders; learn how California's natural drought, fire, flood cycle has impacted water and land-use decisions; and strategize innovative solutions to their community's water challenges.

Who should attend?

Mayors, city council members, county supervisors, city managers, county commissioners, high-level city and/or county department heads, and other civic leaders involved in water and land-use planning within the watershed.

Where and When?

The workshop series will occur in three rounds – September 2019, January 2020, and April 2020. Each round will address a different topic and include lectures and skill-based exercises to help participants frame better public policy questions and strengthen relational skills. LGC will host each workshop once in each County (San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside) for a total of three topics, each hosted in three locations to choose from.

Round 1: Getting to Know Your Watershed (September 2019)

- San Bernardino County: September 10, 2019, 9:30 AM 4:00 PM Pomona College, Smith Campus Center, Room 201, 450 N. College Way Claremont, CA 91711
- Riverside County: September 12, 2019, 9:30 AM 4:00 PM
 Eastern Municipal Water District, Board Room, 2270 Trumble Rd, Perris, CA 92570
- Orange County: September 16, 2019, 9:30 AM 4:00 PM
 Orange County Water District, Board Room, 18700 Ward St, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Round 2: Collaborative Planning in the Face of Uncertainty (January 2020)

- San Bernardino County: January 21, 2020 (tentative)
- Riverside County: January 23, 2020 (tentative)
- Orange County: January 27, 2020 (tentative)

Round 3: Communicating the Value of Water to Your Constituents (April 2020)

- San Bernardino County: April 21, 2020 (tentative)
 - Riverside County: April 23, 2020 (tentative)
- Orange County: April 28, 2020 (tentative)

Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Certification Program

Individuals that attend all three rounds will be recognized by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) as "Santa Ana Watershed Ambassadors," demonstrating informed leadership, a commitment to healthy and resilient communities, and dedication as a public representative of the watershed.

Background

Local Government Commission (LGC)

The Local Government Commission (LGC) provides technical assistance and manages projects centered around innovative policy, proven best practices, and cutting-edge approaches to local policy implementation. LGC works to build thriving communities that integrate civic engagement with environmental, social, and economic priorities. LGC regularly connect and convene local policymakers in California and across the nation to build leadership networks, share on-the-ground best practices, and advance strategies for developing resilient communities.

SAWPA Commission (July 16, 2019)

July 16, 2019, SAWPA Commission authorized the General Manager to execute Amendment No. 1, a time, scope and budget amendment in an amount not to exceed \$114,416 for a total agreement amount of \$556,416 with the Local Government Commission as part of the Disadvantaged Communities Involvement (DCI) Program.

This included a task for LGC to develop a certified "Advancing Community Resilience in the Santa Ana Watershed" workshop curriculum which also includes certification of "Santa Ana Watershed Ambassadors." This task is a component of deliverables associated with the prop 1 DCI Program grant.

Announcement (August 6th)

LGC is pleased to announce that <u>registration is now open</u> for the Santa Ana River Watershed Ambassador Program for Local Policymakers. <u>Visit the Watershed Ambassador Program</u> <u>Website to find out more information</u>.

We encourage mayors, city council members, county supervisors, city managers, county commissioners, high-level city and/or county department heads, and other civic leaders involved in water and land-use planning within the watershed to attend.

Space is VERY limited so if you know individuals who may be interested, please encourage them to register soon.

For additional information, contact Rick Whetsel at (951) 354-4222 rwhetsel@sawpa.org.