

Santa Ana River Watershed Cloud Seeding Pilot Program



Program Overview

In 2020, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) conducted a study on the economic and technical feasibility of implementing cloud seeding in the Santa Ana River Watershed to increase water supply in the region. With the completion of the study, the Pilot Program is now underway for four years, having commenced on November 15, 2023, and will continue through April 2027.

Cloud seeding is a type of weather modification used to increase the amount of precipitation, including snow or rain, during the storm season. This process works through releasing particles of silver iodide into clouds, which increase the chances of droplet condensation.

Benefits

- Increases precipitation by 5-15 percent
- Increases snowpack
- Increases water supply for the region

Cloud Seeding Methods

Ground-based seeding consists of two methods:

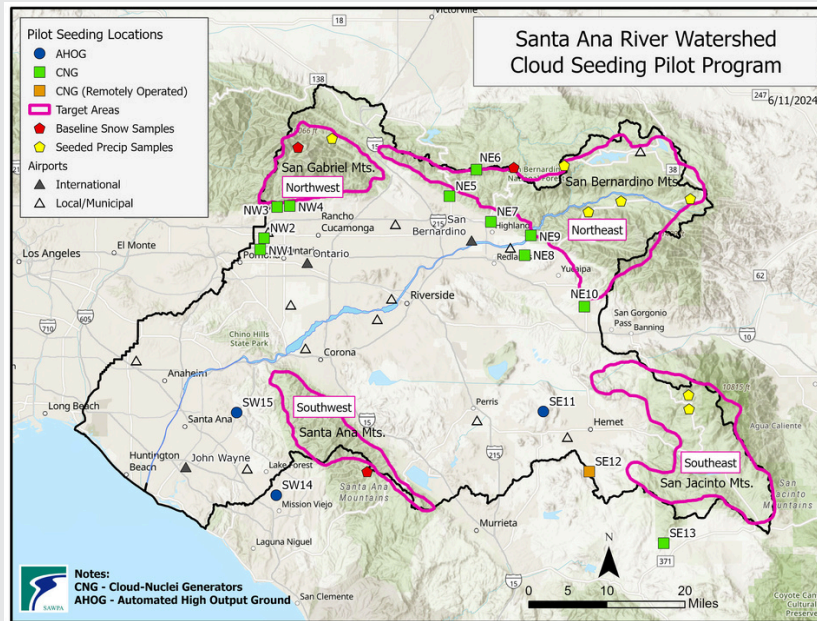
- Cloud Nuclei Generators (CNGs)
- Automated High Output Ground Seeding (AHOGS).

Safety Facts

- Research spanning more than 50 years has consistently shown no measurable human or environmental effects resulting from the use of silver iodide.
- The concentration of silver iodide in rainwater and snow from a seeded cloud is nearly 1,000 times less than the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard.

Seeding Locations

The Pilot Program strategically selected suitable locations for the generators to maximize their effectiveness in reaching desired clouds. The map below provides the locations of the 15 ground-based seeding units.



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(951) 354-4220

cloudseeding@sawpa.gov



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