



# SAWPA

SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY

11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California 92503 • (951) 354-4220

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting ID: 897 6916 1715</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting ID: 897 6916 1715</li></ul>

This meeting will be conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience, members of the public may also participate virtually using one of the options set forth above. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Commission using the call-in number or Zoom link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Authority from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public, the meeting will not be postponed or rescheduled but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting in-person.

## REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 – 9:30 A.M.

### AGENDA

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Bruce Whitaker, Chair)

#### 2. ROLL CALL

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Members of the public may address the Commission on items within the jurisdiction of the Commission; however, no action may be taken on an item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by Government Code §54954.2(b).

Members of the public may make comments in-person or electronically for the Commissions' consideration by sending them to [publiccomment@sawpa.gov](mailto:publiccomment@sawpa.gov) with the subject line "Public Comment". Submit your electronic comments by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4, 2024. All public comments will be provided to the Chair and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record. Individuals have a limit of three (3) minutes to make comments and will have the opportunity when called upon by the Commission.

#### 4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED

Pursuant to Government Code §54954.2(b), items may be added on which there is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the SAWPA Commission subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

#### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Commission by one motion as listed below.

##### A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 15, 2024 .....7 **Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

#### 6. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. MIDDLE SANTA ANA RIVER TMDL TASK FORCE CONSULTANT SUPPORT (CM#2024.61) .....11

**Presenter:** Rick Whetsel, SAWPA

**Recommendation:** To authorize the approval of Change Order 3 to Task Order GEI384-02 in the amount not-to-exceed \$86,530 with GEI Consultants, Inc. to support the MSAR TMDL Task Force in the preparation of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to complete limited revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.

- B. **ARUNDO DONAX REMOVAL IN THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN HEADWATERS PROJECT UPDATE (CM#2024.62)** .....35  
**Presenter:** Ian Achimore, SAWPA | Aaron Echols, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District  
**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

7. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**  
**Recommendation:** Receive for information.

- A. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT** .....63  
**Presenter:** Jeff Mosher
- B. **CHAIR’S COMMENTS/REPORT**
- C. **COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS**
- D. **COMMISSIONERS’ REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

8. **CLOSED SESSION**  
There were no Closed Session items anticipated at the time of the posting of this agenda.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you require any special disability related accommodations to participate in this meeting, call (951) 354-4220 or email [svilla@sawpa.gov](mailto:svilla@sawpa.gov) 48-hour notification prior to the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility for this meeting. Requests should specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the SAWPA office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, and available at [www.sawpa.gov](http://www.sawpa.gov), subject to staff's ability to post documents prior to the meeting.

**Declaration of Posting**

I, Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority declare that on October 31, 2024, a copy of this agenda has been uploaded to the SAWPA website at [www.sawpa.gov](http://www.sawpa.gov) and posted at SAWPA's office at 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

## 2024 SAWPA Commission Meetings/Events

First and Third Tuesday of the Month

(NOTE: All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noticed, and are held at SAWPA.)

<b>January</b>		<b>February</b>	
1/2/24	Commission Workshop [cancelled]	2/6/24	Commission Workshop
1/16/24	Regular Commission Meeting	2/20/24	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>March</b>		<b>April</b>	
3/5/24	Commission Workshop [cancelled]	4/2/24	Commission Workshop
3/19/24	Regular Commission Meeting	4/16/24	Regular Commission Meeting [cancelled]
<b>May</b>		<b>June</b>	
5/7/24	Commission Workshop [cancelled]	6/4/24	Commission Workshop
5/21/24	Regular Commission Meeting	6/18/24	Regular Commission Meeting
5/7 – 5/9/24	ACWA Spring Conference, Sacramento, CA		
<b>July</b>		<b>August</b>	
7/2/24	Commission Workshop	8/6/24	Commission Workshop
7/16/24	Regular Commission Meeting	8/20/24	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>September</b>		<b>October</b>	
9/3/24	Commission Workshop	10/1/24	Commission Workshop
9/17/24	Regular Commission Meeting	10/15/24	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>November</b>		<b>December</b>	
11/5/24	Commission Workshop	12/3/24	Commission Workshop
11/19/24	Regular Commission Meeting	12/17/24	Regular Commission Meeting
		12/3 – 12/5/24	ACWA Fall Conference, Palm Springs, CA

## 2025 SAWPA Commission Meetings/Events

First and Third Tuesday of the Month

(NOTE: All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noticed, and are held at SAWPA.)

<b>January</b>		<b>February</b>	
1/7/25	Commission Workshop	2/4/25	Commission Workshop
1/21/25	Regular Commission Meeting	2/18/25	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>March</b>		<b>April</b>	
3/4/25	Commission Workshop	4/1/25	Commission Workshop
3/18/25	Regular Commission Meeting	4/15/25	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>May</b>		<b>June</b>	
5/6/25	Commission Workshop	6/3/25	Commission Workshop
5/20/25	Regular Commission Meeting	6/17/25	Regular Commission Meeting
5/13 – 5/15/25	ACWA Spring Conference, Monterey, CA		
<b>July</b>		<b>August</b>	
7/1/25	Commission Workshop	8/5/25	Commission Workshop
7/15/25	Regular Commission Meeting	8/19/25	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>September</b>		<b>October</b>	
9/2/25	Commission Workshop	10/7/25	Commission Workshop
9/16/25	Regular Commission Meeting	10/21/25	Regular Commission Meeting
<b>November</b>		<b>December</b>	
11/4/25	Commission Workshop	12/2/25	Commission Workshop
11/18/25	Regular Commission Meeting	12/16/25	Regular Commission Meeting
		12/2 – 12/4/25	ACWA Fall Conference, San Diego, CA

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## SAWPA COMPENSABLE MEETINGS

In addition to Commission meetings, Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners will receive compensation for attending the meetings listed below, pursuant to the Commission Compensation, Expense Reimbursement, and Ethics Training Policy.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** These meetings are subject to change. Prior to attending any meetings listed below, please confirm meeting details by viewing the website calendar using the following link:

<https://sawpa.gov/sawpa-calendar/>

### MONTH OF: NOVEMBER 2024

DATE	TIME	MEETING DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
11/5/24	10:00 AM	PA 24 Committee Mtg	Hybrid (SAWPA & Virtual/Teleconference)
11/5/24	2:00 PM	Emerging Constituents Program Task Force	CANCELLED
11/12/24	9:30 AM	Lake Elsinore/Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force Mtg	Virtual/Teleconference
11/21/24	11:00 AM	OWOW Steering Committee Mtg	Hybrid (SAWPA & Virtual/Teleconference)

### MONTH OF: DECEMBER 2024

DATE	TIME	MEETING DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
12/3/24	8:30 AM	PA 23 Committee Mtg	Hybrid (SAWPA & Virtual/Teleconference)
12/3/24	10:00 AM	PA 24 Committee Mtg	Hybrid (SAWPA & Virtual/Teleconference)
12/10/24	8:30 AM	PA 22 Committee Mtg	Hybrid (SAWPA & Virtual/Teleconference)
12/19/24	4:00 PM	LESJWA Board of Directors Mtg	Hybrid (Elsinore Valley MWD, 31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530 & Virtual/Teleconference)

*Please Note : We strive to ensure the list of Compensable Meetings set forth above is accurate and up-to-date; the list is compiled based on input from SAWPA staff and Department Managers regarding meeting purpose and content.*

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**SAWPA COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Bruce Whitaker, Chair, Orange County Water District  
Mike Gardner, Vice Chair, Western Municipal Water District  
T. Milford Harrison, Secretary-Treasurer, San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District  
Jasmin A. Hall, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT**

None

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT;  
NON-VOTING**

David J. Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District [via – zoom]  
Gil Botello, Alternate, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Denis Bilodeau, Alternate, Orange County Water District

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Mosher, Karen Williams, David Ruhl, Shavonne Turner, Rachel  
Gray, Rick Whetsel, Marie Jauregui, Dean Unger, Sara Villa, Zyanya  
Ramirez, Haley Gohari, Alison Lewis

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Andrew Turner, Lagerlof; Adekunle Ojo, San Bernardino Valley  
Municipal Water District; Chris Olsen, Orange County Water District;  
Mallory O'Connor, Western Municipal Water District

The Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Bruce Whitaker on behalf of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the Clerk of the Board.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments; there were no public comments received via email.

**4. ITEMS TO BE ADDED OR DELETED**

There were no items to be added or deleted.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: OCTOBER 1, 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**B. TREASURER'S REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Recommendation:** Approve as posted.

**MOVED,** to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Gardner/Harrison
Ayes:	Gardner, Hall, Harrison, Whitaker
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	None

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. SAWPA STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE (CM#2024.58)**

Jeff Mosher provided a presentation on SAWPA's Strategic Planning update, contained in the agenda packet on pages 19-44. Mr. Mosher provided a brief background of SAWPA's Strategic Plan, SAWPA has a 2011 Strategic Plan, and it resides on SAWPA's website. In 2016, there was an update to the Strategic Plan, though it did not constitute a comprehensive review.

Currently, efforts are focused on gathering input from member agencies, with a proposal from the WSC that staff is utilizing. The strategic plan aims to improve decision-making, enhance performance, and ensure accountability. It serves as a roadmap for the future, encompassing the vision, mission, values, goals, and work plans. This document is intended to evolve, guiding consistent decision-making. The context includes new ideas and strategies regarding the Brine Line and its impact on the watershed, especially in light of drought and climate change. Additionally, state priorities are shifting, and oversight from OWOW on IRWM projects may be declining, which raises concerns about watershed funding. The ICARP grant positions the region for future financial support.

In 2016, the Strategic Plan review assessed various business lines and identified critical success factors, setting the stage for 2025 with a focus on collaboration with the Commission and member agencies. The revised WSC proposal in 2024 emphasizes engaging the Commission, General Managers, member agency staff, SAWPA staff, and WSC for facilitation. The process will include workshops and listening sessions with the Commission leading to a review and potential revision of the vision, mission statements, values, goals, strategies, and success factors.

Mr. Mosher provided a breakdown of the four (4) proposed tasks for the Strategic Plan:

Task 1 (Assessment): Review existing material, document the history of SAWPA, SAWPA staff discussion, and review with general managers, and member agency staff.

Task 2 (Vision, Mission, and Values): Commission listening sessions (one-on-one), general managers' workshop, and member agency staff workshop.

Task 3 (Goals, Strategies, and Metrics): SAWPA staff workshop, general managers workshop, member agency workshop, and Commission workshop.

Task 4 (Strategic Plan): Draft Plan, review with general managers and member agency staff, Revised Draft (2 rounds), and Commission workshop.

Mr. Mosher noted that the next step is to update WSC's proposal (scope and budget) in November 2024, in January 2025 review the scope with the General Managers and bring it to Commission as an informational item, then in February/March timeframe go to Commission for approval on the Strategic Plan Facilitation with WSC. It is anticipated that the Strategic Plan process would begin March 2025.

Commissioner Hall expressed concerns about the aggressive schedule to start the process in March 2025. Mr. Mosher noted that SAWPA staff already have the proposal, and it only needs to be refined. The one-on-ones with the Commissioners and workshops with member agency staff are anticipated from March-December 2025. Commissioner Gardner noted it is timely to do this since 2011 was a long time ago. Chair Whitaker emphasized that it will be a shame that he will not be a part of it due to him always enjoying being a part of a Strategic Planning process. Alternate Commissioner Botello requested that he be included in the one-on-ones between WSC and the Commissioners.

This item is to receive and file; no action was taken on agenda item no. 6.A.



## **7. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

Recommendation: Receive for Information.

Karen Williams reported that staff are working on SAWPA's Audit, and the results will be brought forward to Commission in December. Mr. Mosher noted that staff will also begin the 2-year budget process, and it will be Ms. Williams' last involvement due to her upcoming retirement.

- A. **CASH TRANSACTIONS REPORT – AUGUST 2024**  
Presenter: Karen Williams
- B. **INTER-FUND BORROWING – AUGUST 2024 (CM#2024.59)**  
Presenter: Karen Williams
- C. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS/FINANCIAL REPORTING – AUGUST 2024 (CM#2024.60)**  
Presenter: Karen Williams
- D. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 25 – OWOW FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2024**  
Presenter: Karen Williams
- E. **PROJECT AGREEMENT 26 – ROUNDTABLE FUND – FINANCIAL REPORT, JULY 2024**  
Presenter: Karen Williams
- F. **STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
Presenter: Jeff Mosher
- G. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**  
There was no report received from the General Manager.
- H. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/REPORT**  
Chair Whitaker informed the Commission that he attended the OC Water Summit and expressed how good of a turnout it was and shared about his recent trip to Italy.
- I. **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**  
There were no Commissioners' comments received.
- J. **COMMISSIONERS' REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**  
There were no requests for future agenda items.

Chair Whitaker recessed the meeting at 10:04 a.m. for Closed Session.

## **8. CLOSED SESSION**

- A. **PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**  
Title: General Manager

Chair Whitaker resumed the Open Session at 10:25 a.m. and Legal Counsel, Andy Turner announced that the Commission is to begin the process of conducting a performance review of the General Manager; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 8.A.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for review, Chair Bruce Whitaker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

**Approved at a Regular Meeting of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commission on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**

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Bruce Whitaker, Chair

Attest:

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Sara Villa, Clerk of the Board

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.61

**DATE:** November 5, 2024

**TO:** SAWPA Commission

**SUBJECT:** Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force Consultant Support

**PREPARED BY:** Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager

### RECOMMENDATION

To authorize the approval of Change Order 3 to Task Order GEI384-02 in the amount not-to-exceed \$86,530 with GEI Consultants, Inc. to support the MSAR TMDL Task Force in the preparation of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to complete limited revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.

### DISCUSSION

At the October 16, 2024, MSAR TMDL Task Force meeting, members of the MSAR TMDL Task Force reviewed and recommended for approval a proposal from GEI Consultants to further support the process to update and revise Basin Plan Amendment Language and the TMDL technical document for the MSAR TMDLs. Included in this proposal were additional technical support services to the MSAR TMDL Task Force during this ongoing process.

The attached Change Order with GEI Consultants provides further support to the MSAR TMDL Task Force to update and revise the MSAR TMDLs Basin Plan Amendment language, technical document, and provide additional technical support services. Included with this Change Order is a scope of work and budget providing a detailed description of support services to be performed by the consultant, GEI Consultants, as highlighted below:

- Prepare Final Revised Technical Report and Supporting Substitute Environmental Document.
- Support Regional Board staff with Basin Plan Amendment Process.
- MSAR Task Force Meeting Participation.
- MSAR Task Force Technical Support, 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

### BACKGROUND

In January 2006, at the request of stakeholders the SAWPA Commission authorized SAWPA to be administrator for the Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Pathogen TMDL Task Force.

In May 2013, at the request of stakeholders, a second revised agreement was approved by the Commission authorized SAWPA to continue to serve as administrator for the MSAR TMDL Task Force.

In August 2017, at the request of stakeholders, the SAWPA Commission approved an amendment to the Task Force agreement authorizing SAWPA to continue to serve as administrator for the MSAR TMDL Task Force as stakeholders continued their efforts to address the MSAR TMDLs through June 30, 2022.

In May 2022, at the request of stakeholders, the SAWPA Commission approved Amendment No. 2 to the existing Task Force Agreement authorizing SAWPA to continue to serve as administrator for the MSAR TMDL Task Force as stakeholders continued their efforts to address the MSAR TMDLs through June 30, 2027.

### **CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS**

- SAWPA has a strong reputation as a watershed-wide, knowledgeable, neutral and trusted facilitator, leader, and administrator of contracted activities.
- Goals, scope, costs, resources, timelines, and the contract term are approved by the Commission before executing an agreement to participate in a roundtable group.
- Clear upfront criteria and terms for completing or transitioning efforts that have been successfully established or completed.
- Adequate professional staff and resources to effectively provide facilitation, management, administrative and technical support to collaborative work efforts.

### **RESOURCE IMPACTS**

The TMDL Task Force Agreement provides funding for SAWPA administrative services. All staff contract administration time for this contract will be taken from the TMDL budget, funded by the TMDL stakeholders, and administered under Fund No. 384-01, Chino TMDL Facilitation defined in the SAWPA Budget.

#### **Attachments:**

1. GEI Consultants Change Order 3 to Task Order GEI384-02
2. GEI Consultants scope of work, cost estimate, and rate schedule
3. Presentation



**SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY  
CHANGE ORDER NO. 3  
TO TASK ORDER NO. GEI384-02**

**CONSULTANT:** GEI Consultants, Inc.  
4601 DTC Boulevard, Suite 900  
Denver, CO 80237

**VENDOR NO.:** 2213

**PROJECT:** MSAR TMDLs – Limited Basin Plan Amendment Revisions

**COST:** \$86,530.00

**REQUESTED BY:** Rick Whetsel, Senior Watershed Manager

November 5, 2024

**FINANCE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Williams, Deputy GM/CFO Date

**FINANCING SOURCE:** Acct. Coding: 384CHINO-6113-01  
Acct. Description: General Consulting

**COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED FOR THIS CHANGE:** YES (X) NO ( )  
Authorization: November 5, 2024; CM#2024.61

Consultant is hereby directed to provide the work necessary to comply with this change order.

**DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGE:** The purpose of this change order is for the consultant to perform the following tasks: (a) prepare Revised Draft Technical Report and Supporting Substitute Environmental Document; (b) provide technical support to the Task Force and Santa Ana Water Board staff during the BPA adoption process; (c) continued participation in Task Force meetings during the development and review of deliverables; and (d) provide additional technical support to the MSAR Task Force during Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**CHANGE IN CONTRACT TIME:** June 30, 2025

<b>CHANGE IN TASK ORDER PRICE:</b>	Original Task Order Amount:	\$ 67,000.00
	Change Order No. 1 Amount:	\$ 0 (time extension only)
	Change Order No. 2 Amount:	\$ 0 (time extension only)
	Change Order No. 3 Amount:	\$ <u>86,530.00</u>
	Contract Total:	\$ 153,530.00

**ACCEPTANCE:**

Consultant accepts the terms and conditions stated above as full and final settlement of any claims arising from or related to this Change Order. Consultant agrees to perform the above described work in accordance with the terms and in compliance with applicable sections of Contract Specifications. This Change Order is hereby agreed to, accepted and approved, all in accordance with the General Provisions of the Contract Specifications.

**SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey J. Mosher, General Manager Date

**GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type/Print Name and Title

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October 2, 2024

Consulting  
Engineers and  
Scientists

Rick Whetsel  
Senior Watershed Manager  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
11615 Sterling Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92503

**Re: Proposed Amendment for Preparation of a Basin Plan Amendment for Limited Revisions to the Middle Santa Ana River Bacterial Indicator TMDLs**

Dear Mr. Whetsel,

The purpose of this letter is to present a proposal to amend GEI Consultants existing contract to provide regulatory and technical support to the Middle Santa Ana River (MSAR) Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Task Force to support preparation of a Basin Plan amendment (BPA) to complete limited revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.

**Background**

GEI began work to support the BPA in September 2022 following approval of a scope of work and budget by the MSAR TMDL Task Force (Task Force). The approved Scope of Work, which was prepared in coordination with Tess Dunham (Kahn Soares & Conway [KSC]), included a number of tasks to support efforts by the Task Force and Santa Ana Water Board staff to prepare the BPA. These tasks and status of completion are summarized as follows:

- *Task 1 - Draft CEQA Scoping and Tribal Outreach Document* – GEI and KSC to (a) assist with preparation of a draft CEQA Scoping meeting announcement for Task Force review and finalization by the Santa Ana Water Board staff; (b) assist the Board staff with preparation of presentation materials; and (c) attend the scoping meeting to provide as needed support to the Board staff during the meeting.

Status: Task completed.

- *Task 2 - Draft Outline of BPA Supporting Technical Report* - GEI to prepare draft and final BPA Technical Report Outline for Task Force review and approval.

Status: Task completed.

- *Task 3 - Draft BPA with Supporting Technical Report* – GEI to prepare a Draft and Revised Draft Technical Report (two drafts) that provides the technical justification for the proposed BPA to modify the existing MSAR TMDLs.

Status: Task partially completed. Draft Technical Report submitted for review in July 2023. Comments were received from Task Force members, including Santa Ana Water Board staff, through September 2023. Subsequently, the Santa Ana Water Board requested additional justification for the proposed 20-year extension of the compliance schedule for the Wet Winter Condition TMDLs. Based on an approach prepared in collaboration with Santa Ana Water Board staff, a “White Paper” providing additional justification for the proposed 20-year extension was submitted to the Santa Ana Water Board staff for review. In May 2024, Santa Ana Water Board staff provided formal comments on the White Paper and a significant number of new comments on the July 2023 Draft Technical Report.

- *Task 4 - Draft BPA Staff Report* – GEI in coordination with KSC to prepare a Draft and Revised Draft BPA Staff Report (assumed to be similar in structure/content as an Executive Summary of the Technical Report prepared under Task 3).

Status: Not started yet since Task 3 not complete.

- *Task 5 - Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED)* - GEI to prepare Draft and Revised Draft SED to support BPA process.

Status: Internal draft SED was prepared based on the July 2023 Draft Technical Report and comments received through September 2023. Existing internal Draft SED will require revision based on the May 2024 comments received on the Draft Technical Report and White Paper.

- *Task 6 - Draft BPA Resolution* – KSC and Santa Ana Water Board staff will prepare a Draft and Revised Draft Basin Plan amendment language to support the adoption of the BPA.

Status: All work to be completed by KSC in coordination with Santa Ana Water Board staff; however, work has not started yet since Tasks 3 and 4 have not been completed.

- *Task 7 – Assistance Assembling the Administrative Record & As Requested Support to BPA Adoption Process* - GEI to support efforts by the Santa Ana Water Board staff to (a) prepare the Administrative Record to support the BPA adoption process; and (b) provide as requested assistance with responses to comments and document revisions during the public BPA adoption process.

Status: Administrative record partially developed, e.g., documents referenced to date in the Draft Technical Report have been compiled during development of the draft report. Compilation of additional materials expected to occur during completion of the Technical Report and BPA adoption process.

- *Task 8 – Project Coordination* - GEI will attend MSAR TMDL Task Force meetings during the execution of this project. Budget included funds if needed to support attendance at up to two face to face meetings with the Task Force or meetings before the Santa Ana Water Board.



Status: GEI has attended scheduled MSAR TMDL Task Force meetings (all virtual) since project, which began in September 2022 and have continued through August 2024 (Note: Original project schedule [and associated project budget] was based on seven months of MSAR Task Force meetings - from September 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023). In addition, GEI has participated in meetings with Santa Ana Water Board staff to discuss White Paper and comments on the 2023 Draft Technical Report.

## **Purpose for Amendment**

GEI is currently preparing a Revised Draft Technical Report based on all input received to date. While there is some budget remaining in the original approved scope of work in September 2022, GEI is requesting additional funds to: (a) complete remaining project deliverables; (b) support continued participation in Task Force meetings during the development and review of these deliverables; and (c) provide additional technical support to the MSAR Task Force during Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Following is a summary of the proposed request based on a revised task structure:

### **Task 1: Prepare Final Revised Technical Report and Supporting Substitute Environmental Document.**

GEI is currently preparing the Revised Draft Technical Report based on comments received to date on the Draft Technical Report. This Revised Draft Technical Report will include substantive changes to the existing Draft Technical Report, including revisions to the proposed Phase 2 Implementation Program, preparation of a new section to establish how compliance will be determined under the Phase 2 Implementation Program, and incorporation of a new appendix that provides a detailed justification for the proposed 20-year extension of the compliance date for the Wet Winter Condition TMDLs. Because there will be substantive changes to portions of the Draft Technical Report, an additional round of Task Force review and comment will be required. Task 1 includes the following activities:

- Prepare Revised Draft Technical Report (with appendix providing justification for proposed 20-year compliance schedule extension) for Task Force review;
- Prepare written responses to comments received on (a) July 2023 Draft Technical Report (in particular, May 2024 comments received from Santa Ana Water Board staff) and (b) White Paper;
- Provide opportunity for Task Force review of the Revised Draft Technical Report;
- Prepare written responses to comments received on the Revised Draft Technical Report;
- Revise existing internal draft SED based on revisions to the Technical Report and provide Draft SED for Task Force Review;
- Prepare and submit Final SED based on comments received on the Draft SED; and
- Prepare and submit Final Revised Technical Report.

## **Task 2: Support BPA Process**

The purpose of this task is to provide technical support to the Task Force and Santa Ana Water Board staff during the BPA adoption process. This effort includes the following activities:

- Provide as requested support to KSC and Santa Ana Water Board staff during preparation of the BPA language and adoption of the BPA;
- Participate in meetings (virtual) with key stakeholders where needed to facilitate preparation and adoption of the BPA; and
- Complete development of the BPA administrative record of materials used to support preparation of the Final Revised Technical Report.

## **Task 3 – MSAR Task Force Participation**

GEI will continue to participate in MSAR TMDL Task Force meetings through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2024-2025. It is assumed that Task Force meetings will occur virtually and on an approximate monthly frequency. Additional project coordination will occur as needed via email and teleconference.

## **Task 4 – MSAR Task Force Technical Support, 2024-2025 Fiscal Year**

To facilitate next steps in implementation of the Phase 2 Implementation Program, GEI will provide as requested technical service support to the Task Force during the remainder of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. Support may include planning to support Phase 2 implementation, preparation of work plans or proposed scopes of work for studies to support efforts to comply with the MSAR TMDLs.

## **Key Personnel**

Work under this proposed amendment will be managed and directed by Steven Wolosoff. Richard Meyerhoff will provide as needed support. During the BPA adoption process, any work by GEI will be closely coordinated with Tess Dunham (KSC) and Santa Ana Water Board staff.

## **Project Schedule and Budget**

Table 1 summarizes the proposed schedule (as best known at this time) and budget for each task. It is assumed that the need for BPA technical support will be essentially complete by the end of Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

**Table 1. Proposed Project Schedule & Budget**

Task	Schedule	Proposed Budget
Task 1 - Prepare Final Revised Technical Report and Substitute Environmental Document	Complete all deliverables by April 30, 2025	\$41,600
Task 2 – Support BPA Process	Dependent on BPA adoption schedule	\$19,200
Task 3 - MSAR Task Force Participation	Approximately monthly meetings, teleconferences through June 30, 2025	\$9,600
Task 4 – MSAR Task Force Technical Support	As requested by Task Force	\$16,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$86,530</b>

## Closing

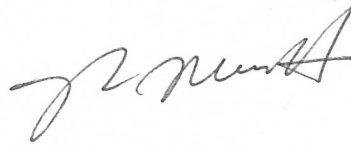
Please call me at 781-430-9150 or Richard Meyerhoff at 303-345-3083 if you any questions regarding our proposal or need any further information. We look forward to assisting SAWPA in conducting these proposed tasks.

Sincerely,

GEI CONSULTANTS, INC.



Steve Wolosoff, BCES, PMP  
Senior Project Manager



Richard Meyerhoff, Ph. D  
Senior Water Quality Specialist

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# Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force Consultant Support

Commission Meeting  
Item Number 6.A

Rick Whetsel  
Senior Watershed Manager

November 5, 2024

# Recommendation

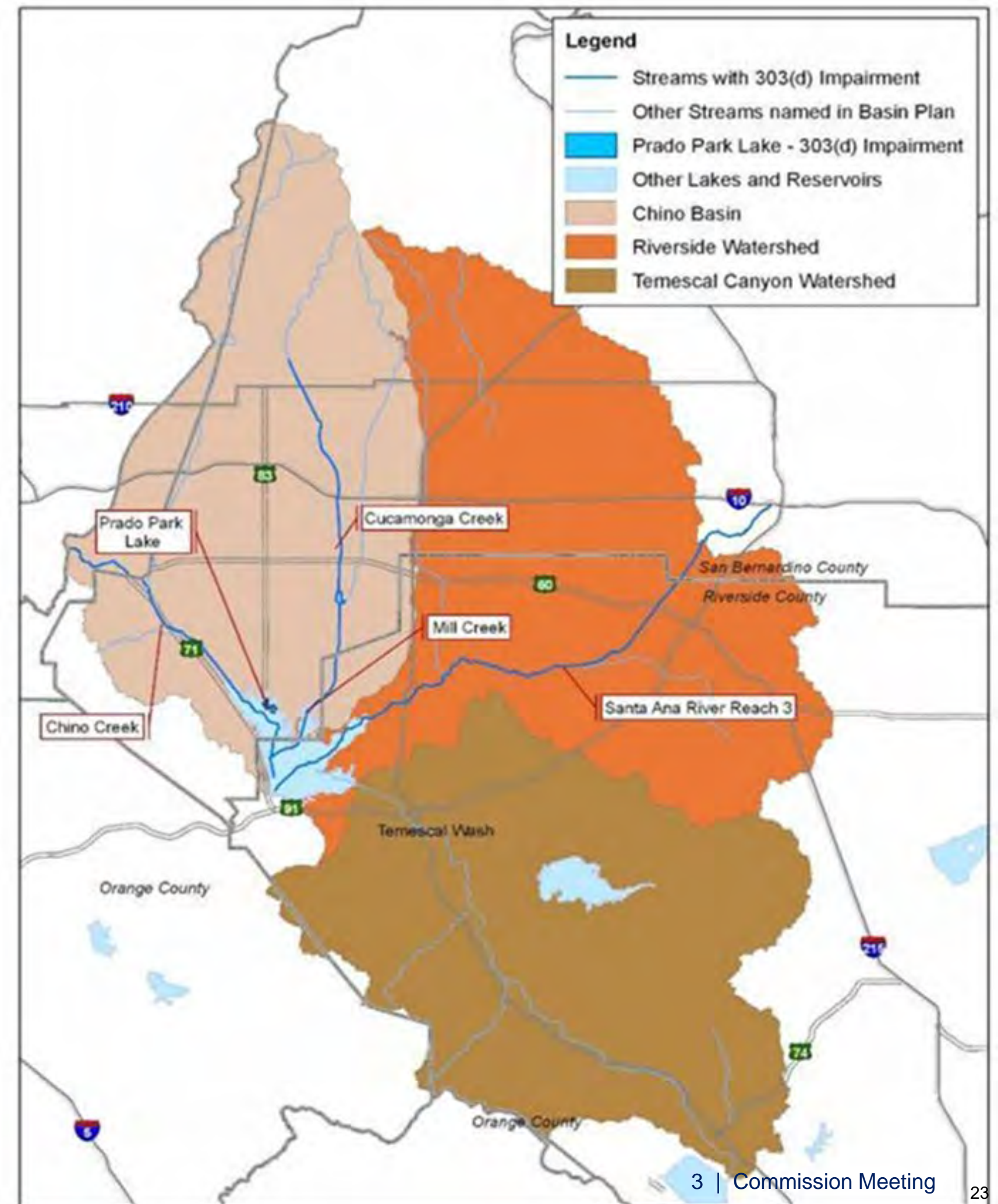
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- To authorize the approval of Change Order 3 to Task Order GEI384-02 in the amount not-to-exceed \$86,530 with GEI Consultants, Inc. to support the MSAR TMDL Task Force in the preparation of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to complete limited revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.



# Middle Santa Ana River TMDLs

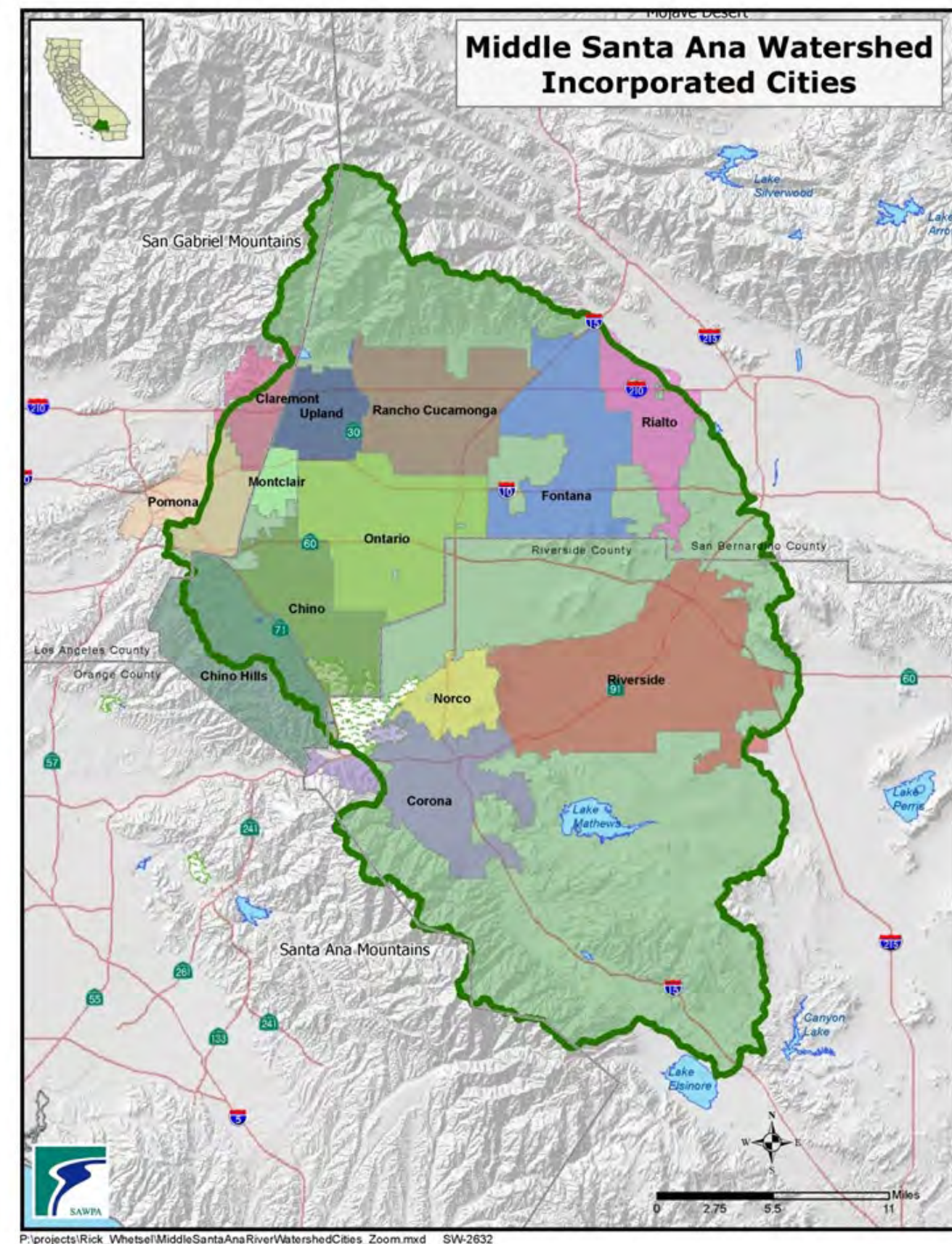
- February 2005, Basin Plan amended to include Bacterial Indicator TMDLs for Middle Santa Ana River Waterbodies
  - Santa Ana River, Reach 3
  - Chino Creek, Reaches 1 and 2
  - Cucamonga Creek, Reach 1
  - Mill Creek (Prado Area)
  - Prado Park Lake
- Key Compliance Dates:
  - December 31, 2015 - compliance with Dry Season TMDLs, wasteload allocations and load allocations.
  - December 31, 2025 - compliance with Wet Season TMDLs, wasteload allocations and load allocations.





# Middle Santa Ana River Bacteria TMDL Task Force Members

- Formed: August 2005
- Stakeholders:
  - San Bernardino County Flood Control District representing the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Rialto, and Upland
  - County of Riverside
  - City of Claremont
  - City of Corona
  - City of Norco
  - City of Pomona
  - City of Riverside
  - Agricultural Operators represented by Chino Basin Watermaster Agricultural Pool





# Task Force Purpose

- Implements regulatory requirements of the Middle Santa Ana River Watershed bacteria indicator TMDLs (R8-2005-0001)
  - Investigate Long Term TMDL Implementation Structure, Cost Sharing Formula, and Funding Sources.
  - Implement, report and update a watershed-wide bacterial indicator water quality monitoring program.
  - Implement, report and update bacterial indicator urban source evaluation activities.



# Task Force Benefits

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Supports SAWPA's continuing mission to improve regional water quality



Continues partnership with Santa Ana Regional Board in providing regional facilitation and support services, including assistance to Regional Board with future triennial reviews and future amendments of the Basin Plan



Support watershed stakeholders in addressing regulatory compliance with the Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Plan

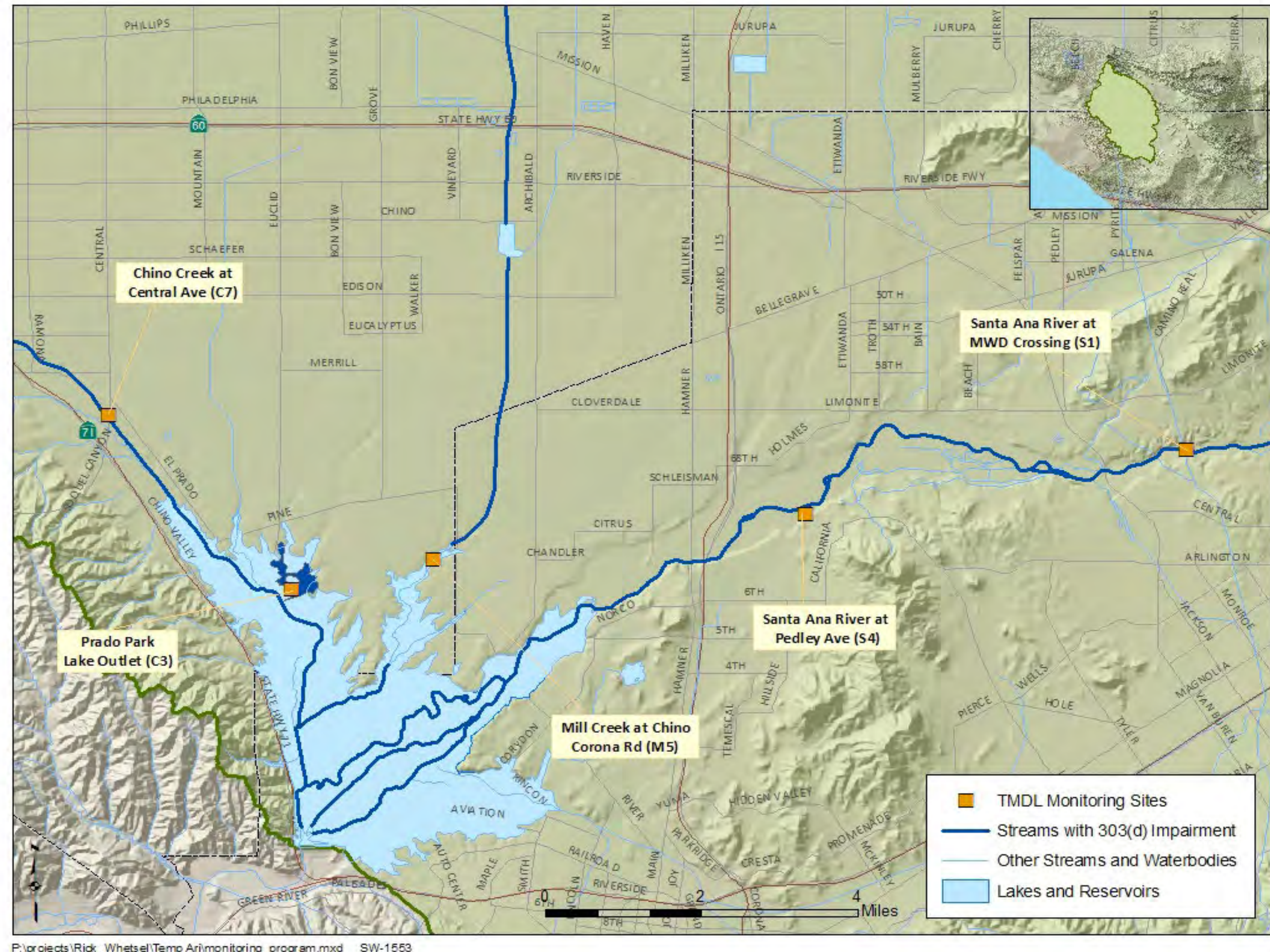


Achieves economies of scale for Task Force partners



# TMDL Compliance Monitoring and Reporting

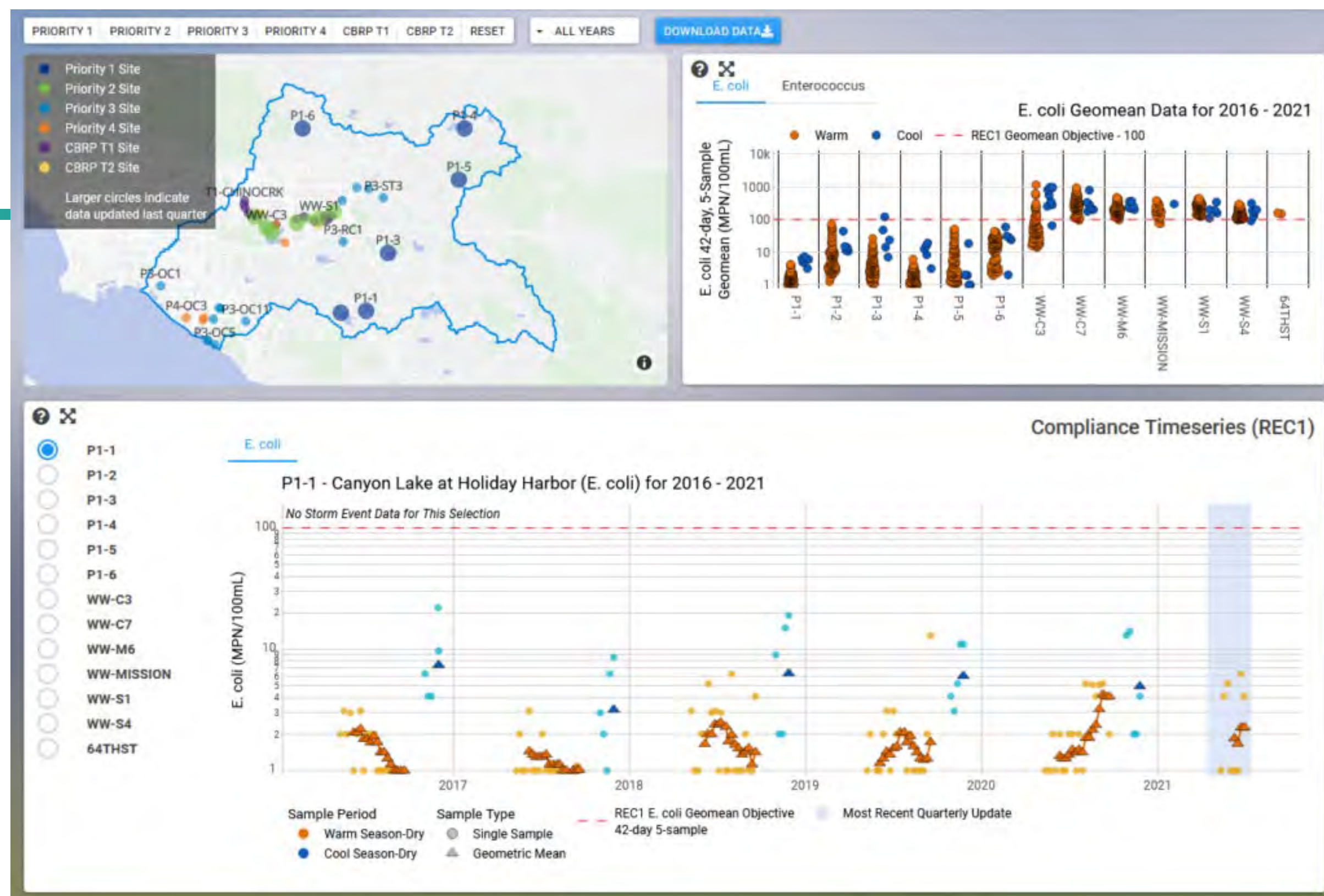
- Monitoring Program to measure compliance with numeric TMDL targets
- Conducted as part of the SAR Regional Bacteria Monitoring program (since 2016)
- Five comprehensive monitoring sites (priority 2)
- Dry and Wet season monitoring
  - Laboratory: E. coli, enterococci, and total suspended solids (TSS)
  - Field: temperature, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, turbidity, and pH
- Triennial Reporting on the progress and findings of the MSAR TMDL Task Force





# Program Data Viewer Dashboard

- Replaces tabular reports with online data dashboard
- Includes complete record of regional bacteria data
- Provides robust analyses of the data to demonstrate compliance for stakeholders:
  - Interactive graphical user interface
  - Plots and maps to support analyses of data
  - Updated quarterly



**[Go to Data Viewer  
sarwqmdashboard.org](http://sarwqmdashboard.org)**



# Support Implementation of Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans

- February 2012: Regional Board adopted Comprehensive Bacteria Reduction Plans (CBRP) for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties
- Plans designed to achieve compliance with dry weather wasteload allocations for bacterial indicators established by the TMDL
- Requires dischargers source evaluation of and implementation of BMPs



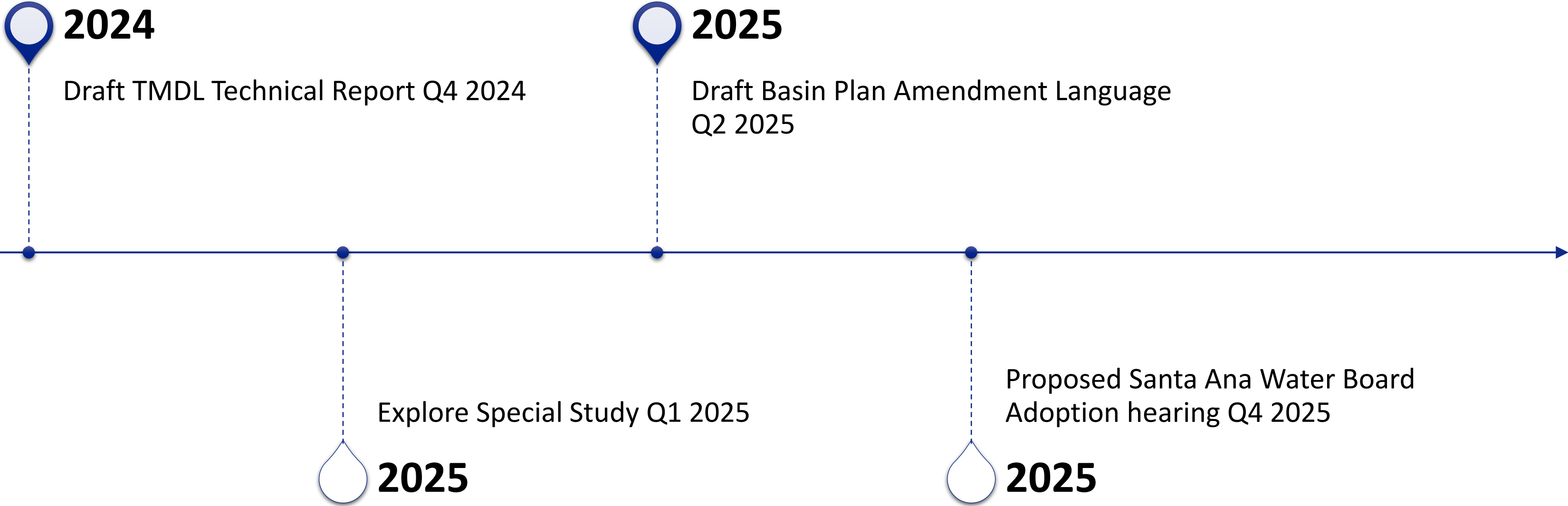


# Consultant Scope of Work

- Prepare:
  - Final Revised Technical Report
  - Supporting Substitute Environmental Document
- Support:
  - Regional Board staff with Basin Plan Amendment Process.
  - MSAR Task Force Meeting Participation
- MSAR Task Force Technical Support (FY 2024-2025)



# TMDL Update Schedule



# Recommendation

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- To authorize the approval of Change Order 3 to Task Order GEI384-02 in the amount not-to-exceed \$86,530 with GEI Consultants, Inc. to support the MSAR TMDL Task Force in the preparation of a Basin Plan Amendment (BPA) to complete limited revisions to the MSAR Bacterial Indicator TMDLs.



# Questions?

# Thank You

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Rick Whetsel  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Office (951) 354-4220 | Direct (951) 354-4222  
rwhetsel@sawpa.gov  
sawpa.gov



## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM NO. 2024.62

**DATE:** November 5, 2024

**TO:** SAWPA Commission

**SUBJECT:** Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project Update

**PREPARED BY:** Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

### DISCUSSION

Per the SAWPA Commission's approval of the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) Task Order for the Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project on July 19, 2022, the invasive weed Arundo donax has been surveyed and removed in several key areas in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed's headwaters. Through the Task Order which is funded by the Arundo Habitat and Restoration Fund, IERCD has done 10,000+ acres of surveys using aerial imagery and, in the field, to determine the most upstream occurrences of Arundo in the Watershed. As the weed spreads from its rhizomes (underground stems) being uprooted and flowing downstream by high flows, and not through air-based seed disbursement, it is important to start at the top of the Watershed.

IERCD has surveyed the following sites shown in the table below and removed critical upstream stands of Arundo that have the potential to repopulate throughout the entire Santa Ana River Watershed from Mill Creek to Prado Basin, and potentially even further downstream if rhizomes can make it through the Prado Dam intake. "N/A" is shown in the Table to represent that Arundo has not been removed in those sites yet for several reasons including in-field surveys have not been fully completed (and thus the corresponding inventoried amount is 0), there is standard resource/staff limitations, or property access has not been granted yet.

Site Name for Surveys	Total Site Size Surveyed (Acres)	Stands* Inventoried	Stands* Removed	% Stands* Removed
Cajon Creek	876	587	40	7%
Coopers Creek	74	0	0	NA
Devore	1,426	19	1	5%
Live Oak Canyon	31	91	91	100%
Lytle Creek	4,361	10	0	0%
Mill Creek	467	14	14	100%

Morey Arroyo	9	11	11	100%
Noble Creek	167	0	0	NA
Palm Canyon	23	0	0	NA
San Timoteo	350	73	73	100%
Santa Ana River Main Stem	2,182	36	36	100%
Waterman, East Twin Creek	141	0	0	NA
Yucaipa Waterways	42	10	10	100%
Zanja	29	6	1	17%
Devil's Canyon	5	17	17	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,183</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>34%</b>

\*See corresponding Commission PowerPoint for examples of Arundo stands.

## BACKGROUND

Using the Arundo Habitat and Restoration Fund, SAWPA has implemented Arundo donax invasive weed removal projects that cover approximately 3,000 acres in the Santa Ana River Watershed saving an estimated total of 14,000-acre feet of water since the first Fund's project began in 2006. This amount of acre feet is likely an underestimate because removal of Arundo prevents reinfestation of new stands downstream (thus saving further water from potential new plants).

IERCD is one of four resource conservation districts in the SARW, and its service area covers the upper SARW. A resource conservation district (RCD) is natural resource conservation entity that can work on public and private lands at the local, regional, state, tribal, and federal levels. In California, RCDs are special districts organized under Division 9 of the State's Public Resources Code. All RCDs operate with a Board of Directors made up of elected or appointed volunteer landowners in that district.

Proposition 13 (2000 Water Bond) funding created the SAWPA managed Southern California Integrated Watershed Program (SCIWP) and provided SAWPA \$4,000,000 to purchase 100 units in the existing Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank. The Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank was created in 1996 by an agreement with local bank manager Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District and the lead federal regulatory agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As stated in the original SCIWP work plan, proceeds of the sale of these 100 SAWPA units were to fund projects that prevent Arundo re-infestation in areas where the weed has been removed.

As part of that 100-unit purchase, the SAWPA Commission approved Resolution No. 427 in 2004 that stipulates that the proceeds of the sale of these units would be used to remove

Arundo and other non-native invasive plants, as well as related habitat efforts in the SARW. Resolution No. 427 states that any project related expenditures from the account shall be approved by the SAWPA Commission to ensure consistency with the purpose of the intent of the SCIWP.

**CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS**

Roundtables: Goals, scope, costs, resources, timelines, and the contract term are approved by the Commission before executing an agreement to participate in a roundtable group.

**RESOURCE IMPACTS.**

This \$147,777 Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project Task Order is funded solely through the proceeds of the sale of mitigation credits from the Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank. Revenue from the mitigation bank is kept in a separate interest bearing SAWPA fund – the Arundo Management & Habitat Restoration Fund. The fund's current balance is approximately \$754,835 as of July 31, 2024.

Attachments:

1. Presentation

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SANTA ANA WATERSHED  
PROJECT AUTHORITY

# Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project Update

Commission Meeting  
Item No. 6.B

Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Aaron Echols, Restoration Ecologist  
Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

November 5, 2024



Recommendation

Receive and file.



# Overview

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- Purpose:
  - Provide the SAWPA Commission with an update on Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project
- Agenda:
  - Background information on Arundo
  - Watershed-wide occurrence
  - Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) Project





# Problematic Plant – *Arundo Donax*

*Arundo donax*, or giant reed

Invasive, non-native plant that provides no habitat benefit

Grows **4 inches per day** and up to a total **height of 33 feet**

Highly flammable

Causes **flooding** by altering flow regimes

Consumes large volumes of water from **Santa Ana River Watershed** that could be used downstream





# Estimated Net Water Savings Calculation

**Arundo Water Consumption – Native Vegetation Water Consumption = Water Savings**

- Native vegetation consumes an estimated **4 AFY/acre**.
- Reported Arundo consumption rates have varied across studies
  - Determined through evapotranspiration (ET)\*

\*ET is the process by which water is transferred from the land to the atmosphere by 1) evaporation from the soil, and 2) transpiration from plants. It can be expressed in acre feet (AF), the metric commonly used by water agencies.





# Estimated Net Water Savings Calculation

Arundo Water Consumption – Native Vegetation Water Consumption = Water Savings

- An early paper used the ET value of **rice** to approximate the ET value for Arundo, resulting in a water consumption rate of **7.7 AFY/acre**
- Two newer studies that used direct measurements of **Southern California Arundo** yielded water consumption rates of **24 AFY/acre**

7.7 AFY/acre – 4 AFY/acre =  
**3.7 AF/year/acre** = Water Savings

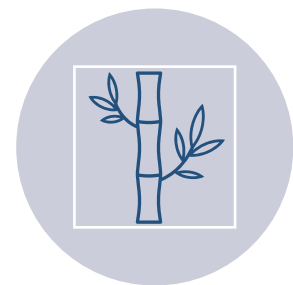
Iverson  
1998

24 AFY/acre – 4 AFY/acre =  
**20 AF/year/acre** = Water Savings

Abichandani 2007 &  
Cal-IPC 2011

# Arundo as a Watershed-Wide Issue

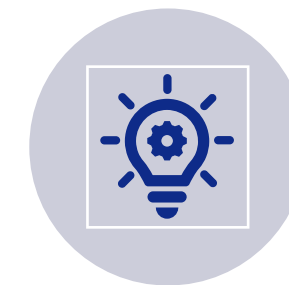
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The invasive weed spreads as its rhizomes (subterranean stems) are uprooted and flow downstream in waterways.



In our watershed's waterways, invasive weeds are largely managed through mitigation-related funding, conservancy organizations, and through property maintenance efforts. But mitigation is dependent on specific projects and conservancies are often focused on specific areas in the Watershed. This leads to "gaps" in waterways where Arundo can gain a foothold.



SAWPA is using deep learning software to determine presence of Arundo (in acres) in the watershed.



- Presented to the Commission on June 18
- Uses 2021 high resolution imagery and a ESRI deep learning imagery analysis
- Most Arundo (83%) in the watershed is upstream of Prado Dam
- Upper watershed Arundo can seed lower watershed areas (red circles)
- Arundo occurs in lower watershed (blue circle)



Arundo detected using ArcGIS Pro Deep Learning analysis on 3" resolution, 4 band aerial imagery from 2020 (Orange County) and 2021 (Upper Watershed). Urban/Concrete lined streams or dry streams with no candidate vegetation were analyzed using manual inspection of imagery.

P:\Projects\JeffMosher\ArundoWatershed\ArundoFinalMaps\ArundoFinalMaps.aprx LoDetectedArundo1to5 SW-3354



# Arundo Donax Removal in the Santa Ana River Basin Headwaters Project Summary

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- Scope of Project
  - IERCD shall help acquire access, survey for, and perform removals of the noxious weed Arundo donax in the Santa Ana River Basin's headwaters.
  - IERCD shall remove all documented Arundo donax stands within the designated areas, which will occur in the approximately first two years.
  - Treatment locations will be monitored for the three subsequent years following the initial treatment. Re-treatment applications will be conducted if necessary following monitoring of initial treatments within those three subsequent years.
- SAWPA Commission approved a five-year IERCD Task Order on July 19, 2022.

# Project Budget

Time Period	Task Description	Amount
Task 1	Access Agreements, Right of Entry, Encroachment	\$10,775
Task 2	Surveying and Mapping	\$16,357
Task 3	Invasive Species Removal, Herbicide Application, Retreatment, and Restoration	\$107,097
Task 4	Admin - Environmental Review, Project Management, Administration, and Reporting	\$13,547
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$147,777</b>



# Project Budget/Schedule Status

Item	Amount Incurred	% of Schedule/Budget Incurred
Schedule Implemented*	2 of 5.5 years	36%
Budget Utilized	\$70,266 of \$147,777	48%

Task Order is funded using the Arundo Management & Habitat Restoration Project Fund. Fund balance as of July 31, 2024, is \$754,835. Fund gains revenue from credit sales from Santa Ana River Mitigation Bank (not grants or member agency dues).



\*Task Order Term – July 2022 to December 2027 (5.5 years)



# Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD)

- One of four RCDs in the Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW).
- IERCD service area covers the upper SARW
- Previous IERCD Arundo projects:
  - Mill Creek Spanish Broom Control Project
  - Cajon Pass Invasive Species Control Project.
- IERCD has a detailed invasive species removal plan for their field staff
- Staff are certified by Department of Pesticide Regulation for herbicide application



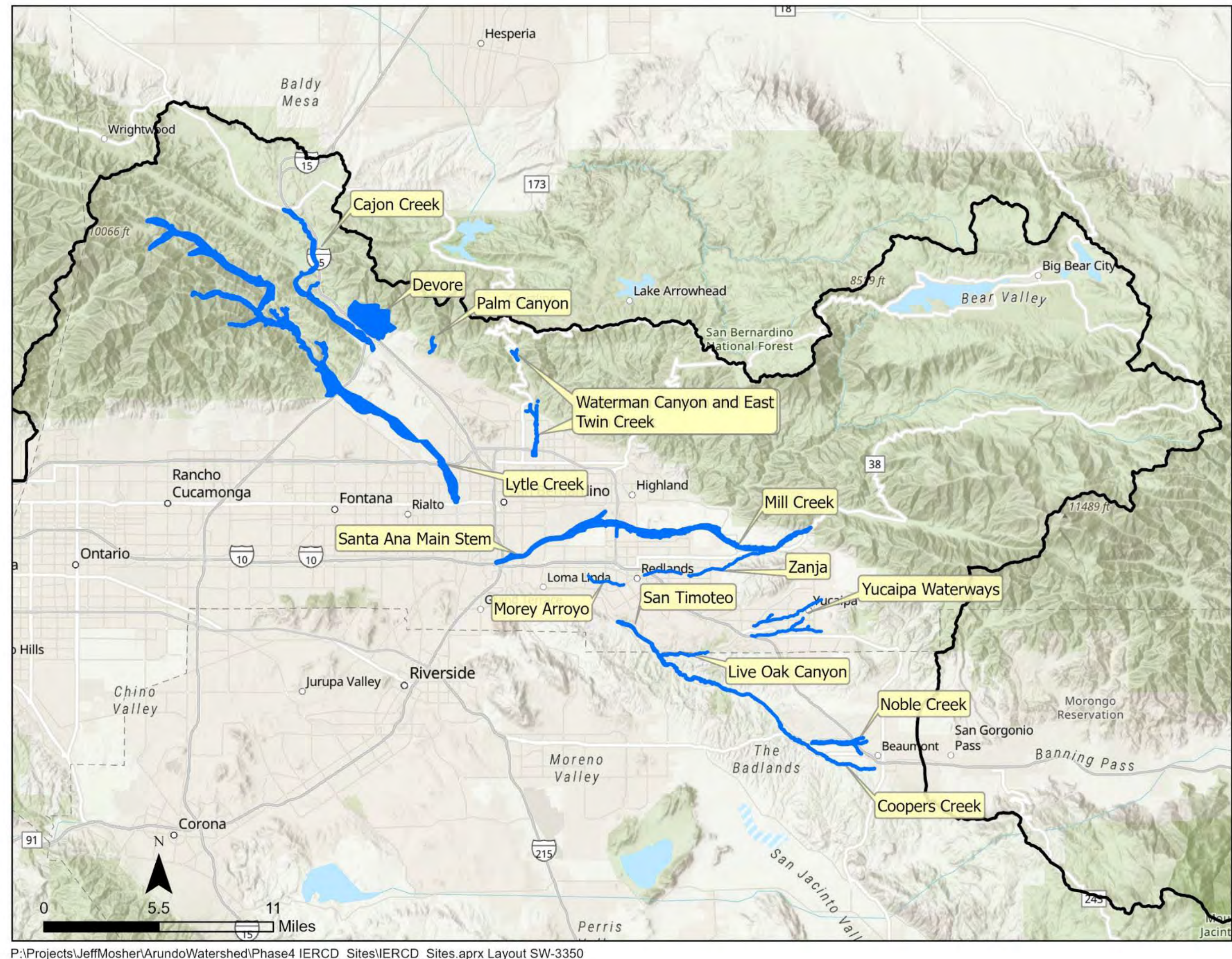
**INLAND EMPIRE**  
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Prepared by:  
The Inland Empire Resource Conservation District  
25864 Business Center Dr # K  
Redlands, CA 92374  
(909) 799-7407



# Map of Surveyed Sites

- Surveying completed by IERCD via aerial imagery viewing and/or in-site field visits.





# Example of Arundo Stands (Group of Canes)

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Most stands encountered are composed of 5 to 20 canes/stalks. A larger stand has been 200 square meters of canes.



# Arundo Sites Surveyed/Removed To Date

Site Name for Surveys	Total Site Size Surveyed (Acres)	Stands Inventoried	Stands Removed	% Stands Removed
Cajon Creek	876	587	40	7%
Coopers Creek	74	0	0	NA
Devore	1,426	19	1	5%
Live Oak Canyon	31	91	91	100%
Lytle Creek	4,361	10	0	0%
Mill Creek	467	14	14	100%
Morey Arroyo	9	11	11	100%
Noble Creek	167	0	0	NA
Palm Canyon	23	0	0	NA
San Timoteo	350	73	73	100%
Santa Ana River Main Stem	2,182	36	36	100%
Waterman, East Twin Creek	141	0	0	NA
Yucaipa Waterways	42	10	10	100%
Zanja	29	6	1	17%
Devil's Canyon	5	17	17	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,183</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>34%</b>



# Devore – Before and After





# Devils Canyon – Before and After





# Live Oak Canyon – Large Arundo Stand

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# IERCD Hauling Arundo Offsite





# Treated Rhizome Example

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# IERCD Outreach

- Copy of IERCD Letter



- Presentation to Cajon Community

## Why are Invasive Species Bad?

- Ecology – invasive species displace native plants, decreasing diversity. Large invasions create “dead zones”
- Hard to control
- Reduce crop yields
- Etc.





# Lessons Learned (To Date)

- Foliar application\* of herbicide is working efficiently. That removal method has been done more than cutting of canes.
- Right of entry letter requests have been updated/refined to increase participation by landowners.
- There is more Arundo stands in the upper watershed's tributaries than previously thought at the start of this project in 2022.

\*Foliar application is a technique that involves spraying nutrients, boosters, or pesticides directly onto a plant's leaves and stems





# Next Steps



- Complete sites this season before “wet weather” begins
- Reassess total task order budget after this season to estimate how many project sites can be treated within 5.5-year task order timeline.
- Continually work on access agreements to perform arundo removal at various sites



# Thank You

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Ian Achimore  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Office (951) 354-4220 | Direct (951) 354-4233  
ian@sawpa.gov  
sawpa.gov





**1** Annual Santa Ana Riverwalk Provides 18 Years of Habitat Data.

## Annual Santa Ana Riverwalk Provides 18 Years of Habitat Data

On October 3 and 24, 2024, SAWPA, with support from Orange County Water District, hosted one of the longest running Southern California annual habitat assessments, the Santa Ana Riverwalk. Started in 2006, the primary purpose of the Riverwalk is to assess habitat beneficial to an endemic aquatic species, the Santa Ana sucker. Data collected each year is available in the Riverwalk Atlas report.



**2** SAWPA Staff Attend Louis Rubidoux Parkland Field Visit

**3** San Bernardino Valley Basin Technical Advisory Committee Water Conservation Subcommittee

**4** SAWPA IT Received 2024 MISAC Quality in IT Practices Award

## SAWPA Staff Attend Louis Robidoux Parkland Field Visit

Under its role as the administrator of the Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team, SAWPA staff met with San Bernardino Valley Municipal District (SBVMWD), Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, and Scheevel Engineering at the Louis Robidoux Parkland & Pecan Grove. The site visit kicked off an effort to identify a reliable water source to support habitat restoration at two ponds within the management area and potentially augment flows to Sunnyslope Creek.

SBVMWD and Orange County Water District (OCWD) are members of the Louis Robidoux Parkland & Pecan Grove Consortium. The Consortium, which also includes the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District and Huerta Del Valle, manages the site through a lease agreement with the Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District. SBVMWD and OCWD's main involvement in the site centers around mitigation measures intended to benefit Santa Ana sucker and other native species covered by the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan.

## San Bernardino Valley Basin Technical Advisory Committee Water Conservation Subcommittee

On October 30, 2024, SAWPA staff presented to the BTAC Water Conservation Subcommittee on the Santa Ana River Watershed Urban Outdoor Landscape Modeling using Deep Learning Tools. This project develops a cost effective, consistent, and reproducible method to identify and measure outdoor landscape features and estimates parcel-level outdoor landscape measurements.

## SAWPA IT Receives 2024 MISAC Quality in IT Practices Award


SAWPA's IT team was presented with the Quality in IT Practices Award at this year's Municipal Information Systems Association of California (MISAC) conference. This award highlights SAWPA's commitment to meeting and exceeding recognized state standards in information security and IT governance.

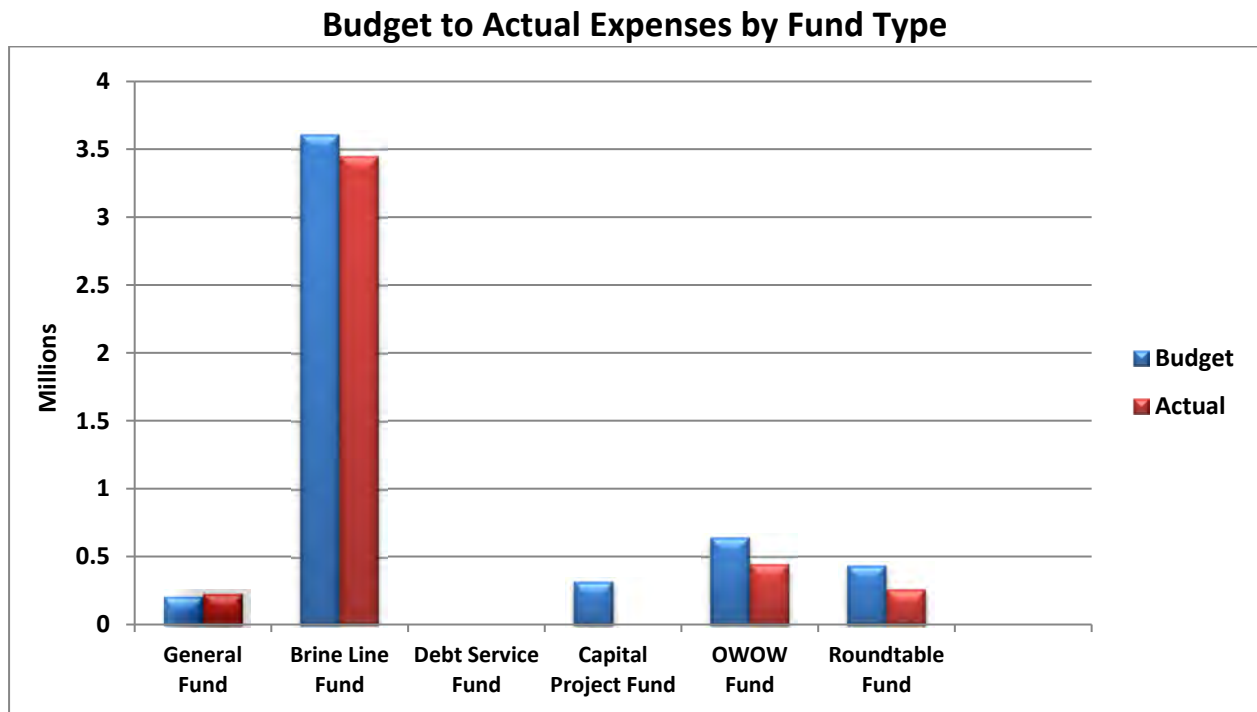


**Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
Executive Financial Information Report  
August 2024**

*Staff comments provided on the last page are an integral part of this report.*

Overview	This report highlights the agency's key financial indicators for the Fiscal Year-to-Date (FYTD) August 2024 unless otherwise noted.
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Budget to Actual Expenses by Fund Type				 Favorable
	Annual Budget	FYTD Budget	FYTD Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance
General Fund	\$712,910	\$202,152	\$222,115	(\$19,963)
Brine Line Enterprise	11,368,636	3,607,929	3,450,204	157,725
Debt Service Fund	1,709,476	-	-	-
Capital Project Fund	1,870,013	311,669	2,167	309,502
OWOW Fund	4,229,319	638,221	445,909	192,312
Roundtable Fund	1,953,263	434,143	259,694	174,449
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,843,617</b>	<b>\$5,194,114</b>	<b>\$4,380,089</b>	<b>\$814,025</b>





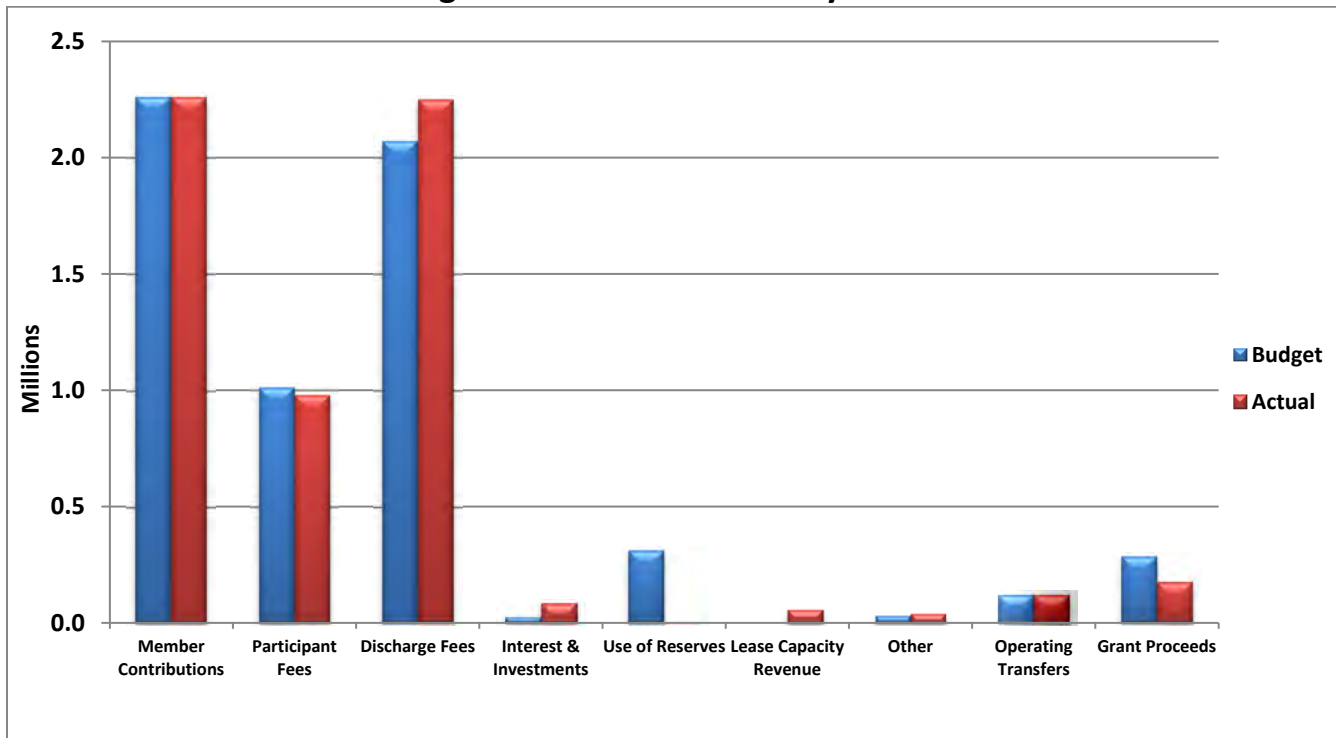
## Budget to Actual Revenues by Source



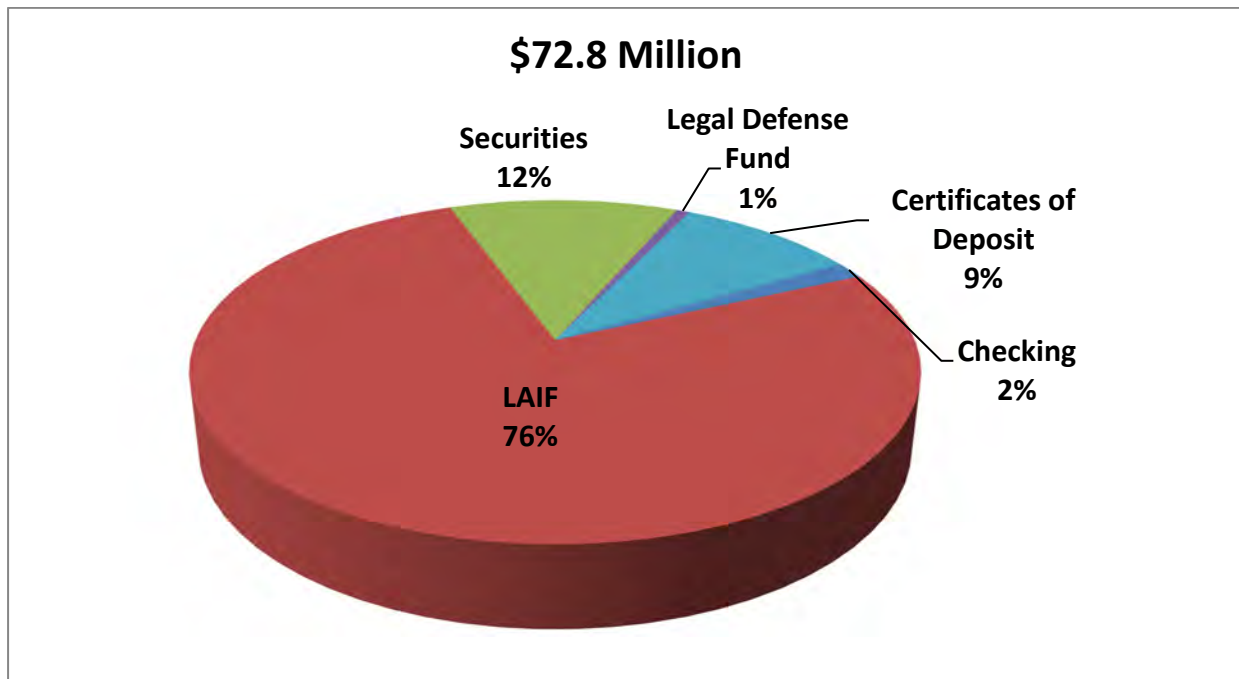
**Favorable**

	Annual Budget	FYTD Budget	FYTD Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance
Member Contributions	\$2,261,410	\$2,261,410	\$2,261,410	\$-
Participant Fees	1,324,212	1,010,720	978,265	(32,455)
Discharge Fees	12,405,112	2,070,986	2,248,998	178,012
Interest & Investments	673,000	28,833	84,023	55,190
Use of Reserves	1,870,013	311,669	2,167	(309,502)
Lease Capacity Revenue	-	-	58,181	58,181
Other	1,078,085	31,381	39,755	8,374
Operating Transfers	120,320	120,320	120,320	-
Grant Proceeds	2,359,785	284,964	176,768	(108,196)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,091,937</b>	<b>\$6,120,283</b>	<b>\$5,969,887</b>	<b>(\$150,396)</b>

## Budget to Actual Revenues by Source



## Total Cash & Investments







## Reserve Fund Balance

	Amount
General Fund	\$2,307,569
Building Fund	778,238
OWOW Fund	2,714,416
Roundtable Fund	2,919,026
Debt Retirement	3,011,686
Pipeline Replacement & Capital Investment	36,650,156
OC San Pipeline Rehabilitation	3,036,460
Pipeline Capacity Management	12,808,111
OC San Future Treatment & Disposal Capacity	1,960,963
Brine Line Operating Reserve	2,288,059
Brine Line Operating Cash	4,268,811
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>\$72,743,495</b>

## Legend

### Compared to Budget

	Ahead or Favorable	Above +5% Favorable Revenue or Expense Variance
	On Track	+5% to -2% Variance
	Behind	-3% to -5% Variance
	Concern	Below -5% Variance

## Staff Comments

For this month's report, the item(s) explained below are either "behind", a "concern", or have changed significantly from the prior month.

Both expenses and revenues are favorable.

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