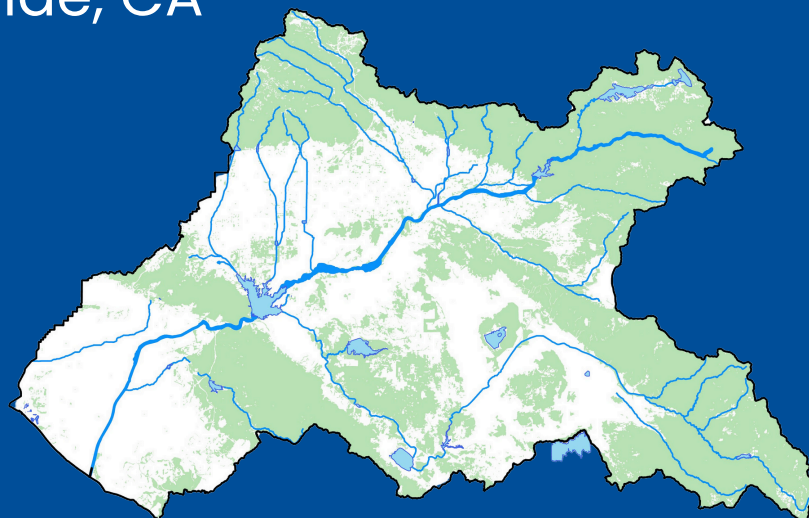




ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER FOR PLANNING SERVICES

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority

Riverside, CA



The Watershed

The Santa Ana River Watershed (Watershed) drains a 2,650 square-mile area and is home to over 6 million people and valuable natural environments, including national forests, the Santa Ana River (SAR) and its tributaries. The region includes the major population centers of parts of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, as well as a sliver of Los Angeles County. The SAR flows over 100 miles and drains into the largest coastal stream system in Southern California, discharging into the Pacific Ocean at the City of Huntington Beach. The total length of the SAR and its major tributaries is about 700 miles.

The watershed boundaries nearly match the boundaries of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, an organization with whom the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) works with closely. In addition, SAWPA's boundaries match the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region and SAWPA is the lead for the IRWM Santa Ana Funding Area. Although there are many sub-watershed planning efforts, SAWPA's One Water One Watershed (OWOW) works to bring all these efforts, as well as all different jurisdictions in the watershed, into a single watershed-wide vision. As part of OWOW, SAWPA is currently working on a watershed-wide Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP) to characterize climate risks and address vulnerabilities in the watershed. SAWPA collaborates with agencies and stakeholders across the watershed on critical issues, ongoing efforts, and opportunities to enhance the water resources in the region. As the watershed moves forward with an eye on reliability and resiliency, future water and environmental improvements will be key to achieving a sustainable balance.

About SAWPA

SAWPA, formed in 1975 as a joint power authority under California law, is comprised of five member agencies:

- Eastern Municipal Water District
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency
- Orange County Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- Western Municipal Water District

In addition to owning and operating the Inland Empire Brine Line, a 73-mile wastewater collection system for managing saline discharges, SAWPA focuses on a broad range of water resource issues in the Santa Ana River Watershed, including water supply reliability, water quality improvement, recycled water, wastewater treatment, groundwater management, salinity management, and integrated regional planning.

SAWPA's mission is to make the Santa Ana River Watershed sustainable and resilient through fact-based planning and informed decision-making, regional and multijurisdictional coordination, and the innovative development of policies, programs, and projects. In support of this mission, SAWPA develops and maintains regional plans, programs, and projects that protect the region's water resources to maximize beneficial uses within the watershed in an economically and environmentally responsible manner.



Vision Statement

SAWPA's vision is a sustainable Santa Ana River Watershed that provides clean and reliable water resources for a vibrant economy and high quality of life for all, while maintaining healthy ecosystems and open space opportunities.

Mission Statement

SAWPA strives to make the Santa Ana River Watershed sustainable through fact-based planning and informed decision-making, regional and multijurisdictional coordination, and the innovative development of policies, programs, and projects.



SAWPA manages the One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Program to encourage integrated management of water resources and provide funding for multi-benefit projects that support watershed sustainability. OWOW is part of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) IRWM Program, which promotes collaborative planning and water resources management. OWOW integrates different disciplines such as water supply, water quality, recycled water, stormwater management, water use efficiency, land use, climate change, and habitat, while considering disadvantaged communities and Native American tribal community water issues.



Under OWOW, SAWPA is spearheading a regional collaboration on climate resilience with our Member Agencies and stakeholders to develop a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan (CARP) for the Santa Ana River Watershed. The goal of the CARP is to identify our climate risks and vulnerabilities and to provide a roadmap of strategies and adaptation projects to enhance climate resilience for our region to be prepared for disruptions, recover from shocks and stresses, and adapt and grow from a disruptive experience. The CARP will document actions and measures to enhance the climate resilience of a watershed.

The Position

SAWPA is seeking a highly skilled and experienced candidate to fulfill the role of Assistant General Manager for Planning Services and advise the General Manager in the development, implementation, and evaluation of short- and long-term goals, objectives, plans, programs, projects, and policies focused on achieving SAWPA's mission and Commission priorities. The Assistant General Manager is an executive-level manager position and will direct staff activities, analyze functions, make operational decisions, and implement policy directives from the General Manager and Commission.

The Assistant General Manager will manage SAWPA teams supporting water resources planning, data management, and communications. The Assistant General Manager will provide leadership in working with SAWPA member agencies, other water agencies, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies.

A key focus of the Assistant General Manager will be to foster regional cooperation on complex water resources issues that can be addressed more effectively at the regional level than at the local level. Collaborating closely with SAWPA Member Agencies, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other partners and stakeholders, this individual will manage, oversee, direct, and supervise SAWPA's water resources planning operations, activities, and functions, providing thoughtful leadership and strategic policy recommendations on a variety of water resource issues. Areas of increasing interest include regional climate collaboratives, watershed resiliency, stormwater capture, habitat, and the inclusion of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in SAWPA planning efforts and projects. In carrying out those duties, the Assistant General Manager will facilitate several regional planning committees, coalitions, workgroups, roundtables, and task forces.



The Assistant General Manager will lead long-range planning efforts, prepare policy recommendations for the General Manager to advance SAWPA's strategic plan and major initiatives, evaluates and proposes new business initiatives and opportunities, and develop and update current plans to meet the region's future needs related to reliability, resiliency, and sustainability. Other responsibilities include:

- Working closely with the General Manager, plan, organize, direct, and manage the operations of the Agency, provide direction and leadership to SAWPA staff including managers, supervisors, and employees by setting organizational standards and objectives, and interpret and implement policies and goals.
- Represent SAWPA in dealings with other governmental agencies, private firms, citizen groups, and members of the general public and negotiate contracts with subcontractors and consultants.
- Direct the development and administration of SAWPA's budget; recommend projects for funding.
- Prepare, review, and make recommendations to the General Manager and SAWPA's Commission on issues for consideration and action.
- Prepare for and act as necessary to carry matters of interest to the General Manager and the Commission.
- Prepare for and act as necessary to carry out the mission of SAWPA in an emergency or absence of the General Manager.

Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will interact with elected representatives, management, staff, and the public in a positive, cooperative, and supportive manner. SAWPA is looking for a dynamic leader, proficient in managing teams, who excels in collaboration and possesses outstanding interpersonal abilities. Additional experience should include:

- **Knowledge:** In-depth understanding of organization design, public administration, water resources planning, and relevant laws and regulations.
- **Skills:** Proficiency in sound decision-making, effective communication, collaboration, and negotiation. Ability to analyze complex issues and present clear recommendations.
- **Abilities:** Effectively manage multiple projects simultaneously while maintaining a high level of attention to detail and meeting tight deadlines.



Education and Experience

- **Experience:** Ten years of senior-level management experience, preferably in water, wastewater, or a water resources agency.
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in planning, science, engineering, public administration, or a related field. Master's degree preferred.

Compensation and Benefits

The annual salary range for this position is \$236,767 - \$287,792. A comprehensive benefits package is also offered. Benefits includes:

- CalPERS Retirement:
 - Classic Members [2% at 55] (7% contribution is paid by employee).
 - New Members [2% at 62] (Employee shares 50% of normal cost; currently 7.25%).
- Choice of medical, dental, and vision insurance plans for you, your spouse, and your dependents, the cost of which is paid by the agency up to predesignated limits.
- Agency-paid life (2x annual salary), up to \$250,000 and long-term disability insurance (66 2/3% of monthly salary).
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Dependent Care options.
- 457 Deferred Compensation plans (pre-tax and Roth).
- Vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays.
- Remote work opportunities
- Management Leave of 45 hours per calendar year and Car Allowance.
- Flexible work schedule options include 5/40, 9/80, and 4/10 workweeks.



Full benefits summary is available [here](#).

To Apply

Applications must be submitted electronically through governmentjobs.com/careers/sawpa by June 3, 2025.

Contact information: Shavonne Turner, SAWPA Administrative Services Manager, at (951) 354-4230 or sturner@sawpa.gov.

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