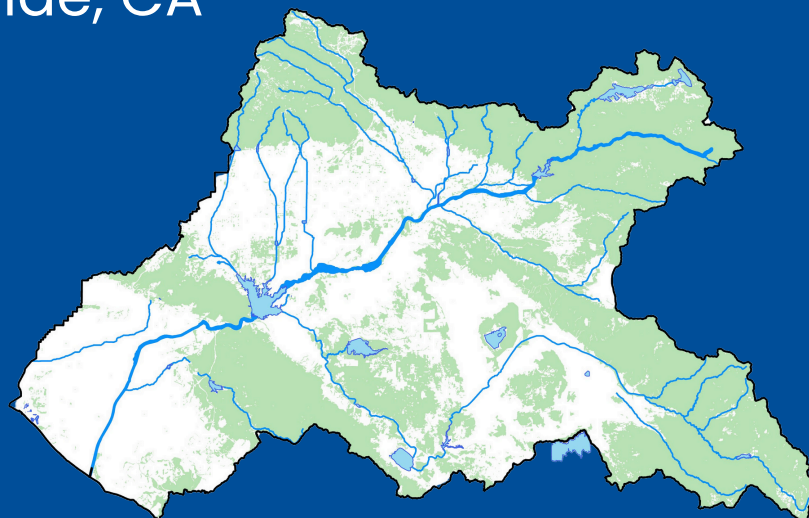




WATER RESOURCES AND PLANNING MANAGER

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 93-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.



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.

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.

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

The key focus of SAWPA's Water Resources and Planning Manager is to foster regional cooperation on complex water resources issues that can be addressed more effectively at the regional level than at the local level.

Reporting to SAWPA's General Manager and collaborating closely with member agencies, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other partners and stakeholders, this person manages, oversees, directs, and supervises SAWPA's water resources planning operations, activities, and functions, providing thoughtful leadership and making strategic policy recommendations on a variety of water resource issues, including surface water, groundwater, stormwater, wastewater, recycled water, water use efficiency, habitat conservation, drought response, forest health, and climate resiliency. Areas of increasing interest include regional climate collaboratives, watershed resiliency, stormwater capture, and the inclusion of disadvantaged and underrepresented communities in SAWPA planning efforts and projects.

In addition to the above, the Water Resources and Planning Manager oversees and administers loan and grant programs; researches and applies for funding assistance from various sources for major projects; negotiates the conditions and terms of funding agreements; leads long-range planning efforts; prepares policy recommendations for the General Manager to advance SAWPA's strategic plan and major initiatives; evaluates and proposes new business initiatives and opportunities; and develops and updates current plans to meet the region's future needs related to reliability, resiliency, and sustainability.



This is a Department Head role that serves as a key member of SAWPA's leadership team. The Water Resources and Planning Manager works cross-functionally with other departments and entities to ensure coordinated implementation of watershed-wide initiatives.



Ideal Candidate

SAWPA is seeking an effective leader, skilled project manager, and collaborative individual with exceptional interpersonal skills to serve as its next Water Resources and Planning Manager. The best-qualified candidate is a self-starter who enjoys setting priorities and has a strong interest in addressing future challenges related to reliability and resiliency of the watershed. Moreover, they gain satisfaction from seeing the plans and programs they develop being successfully implemented. They are a big picture thinker who interacts with partners at the local, regional, state and federal levels to advance innovative approaches to water resource management. Finally, they are an optimist who believes positive change is possible through good planning, communication, and collaboration.

Education and Experience

SAWPA invites individuals with diverse professional backgrounds to apply for this position. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major coursework in water resource planning, civil engineering, geological engineering, environmental engineering, or a related field is required; a Master's degree is desirable. Candidates should have at least 8 years of increasingly responsible professional experience, including 5 or more years in senior-level project management. While direct experience in water resources planning, water systems, or watersheds is advantageous, candidates from related fields such as hydrology, hydrogeology, and sustainability who demonstrate the attributes of the ideal candidate are encouraged to apply.



Compensation and Benefits

The annual salary range for this position is \$194,326.22 - \$236,204.73. 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] (8% contribution is paid by employee, subject to future CalPERS adjustments).
- 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 July 30, 2025.

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

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