

One Water One Watershed

...A United Voice for the Santa Ana River Watershed

OWOW Steering Committee Members

Gil Botello, Convener | SAWPA Commissioner
David Slawson, SAWPA Commissioner
Vicente Sarmiento, Orange County Supervisor
Amanda Carr, Orange County Supervisor Representative (Alt.)
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Supervisor
Jesse Armendarez, San Bernardino County Supervisor
Jesse Streeter, San Bernardino County Supervisor (Alt.)

Judy Woolsey, San Bernardino County Municipal Representative
Helen Tran, SB County Municipal Representative (Alt.)
Wes Speake, Riverside County Municipal Representative
Fred Jung, Orange County Municipal Representative
William Ruh, Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Scandura, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Alt.)
James Hessler, Business Community Representative
Garry W. Brown, Environmental Community Representative

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A HYBRID FORMAT, OFFERING BOTH VIRTUAL VIEWING AND IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE. THE ZOOM LINK PROVIDED IS FOR VIEWING PURPOSES ONLY; MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL NOT HAVE SPEAKING PRIVILEGES VIRTUALLY. PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE PROVIDED IN PERSON OR SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE TO PUBLICCOMMENT@SAWPA.GOV. SPEAKING PRIVILEGES THROUGH ZOOM ARE LIMITED TO APPROVED ENTITIES AND PRE-VETTED PARTICIPANTS, WHO MUST REQUEST AUTHORIZATION BY CONTACTING SAWPAEXECADMIN@SAWPA.GOV. ALL VOTES TAKEN DURING THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ORAL ROLL CALL.

ZOOM LINK FOR VIEWING ONLY
<https://sawpa.zoom.us/j/85052022643>

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY
11615 STERLING AVENUE, RIVERSIDE, CA 92503**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026– 11:00 A.M.

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (GIL BOTELLO, CONVENER)**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Members of the public may address the Committee on items within the jurisdiction of the Committee; 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 Committees' consideration by sending them to publiccomment@sawpa.gov with the subject line "Public Comment". Submit your electronic comments by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2026. 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 Committee.



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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 Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority 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 Committee by one motion as listed below.

- A. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: MAY 28, 2026** 5
Recommendation: Approve as posted.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 2 REPLACEMENT PROJECTS APPROVAL (SC#2026.5)** 11
Presenter: Ian Achimore
Recommendation: It is recommended that the OWOW Steering Committee approve transferring \$4,539,803 in Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Round 2 funding currently obligated to the two Monte Vista Water District projects no longer moving forward - 1) Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27 and 2) Well 2 Replacement projects, to the following projects in the amounts shown below:

Project Name	Applicant	Transferred Grant
Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	+\$938,910
Well Pump Replacements	Monte Vista Water District	+\$3,600,893
Total		\$4,539,803

- B. **PROPOSITION 4 FUNDING UPDATE AND REGIONAL ARUNDO COORDINATION INITIATIVE (SC#2026.6)** 29

Presenter: Erika Beyer

Recommendation: Receive and file.

- C. **CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN 2028 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP WORKSHOP 1 UPDATE (SC#2026.7)** 49

Presenter: Erika Beyer

Recommendation: Receive and file.

7. **SAWPA GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

8. **CONVENER'S COMMENTS/REPORT**

9. **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

10. **REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

PLEASE NOTE:

Americans with Disabilities Act: Meeting rooms are wheelchair accessible. If you require any special disability related accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact (951) 354-4220 or sawpaexecadmin@sawpa.gov. Notification at least 48 hours 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.



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Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Committee 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, subject to staff's ability to post documents prior to the meeting.

Declaration of Posting

I, Zyanya Ramirez, Senior Administrative Services Specialist for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority declare that on September 17, 2026, a copy of this agenda has been uploaded to the SAWPA website at www.sawpa.gov, and posted at the SAWPA office, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, California.

2026 OWOW Steering Committee Regular Meetings

Fourth Thursday of Every Quarter (February, May, September, November)

(Note: All meetings begin at 11:00 a.m., unless otherwise noticed, and are held at SAWPA.)

February	May
2/26/2026 Regular Committee Meeting	5/28/2026 Regular Committee Meeting
September	November
9/24/2026 Regular Committee Meeting	11/19/2026 Regular Committee Meeting*

*Meeting date adjusted due to conflicting holiday.

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OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2026

Committee Members	
<u>Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Representatives</u>	
Gil Botello, Convener, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District	Present
David Slawson, Eastern Municipal Water District	Absent
<u>County Supervisor Representatives</u>	
Vicente Sarmiento, Orange County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Amanda Carr, Orange County Public Works (OC Alternate)	Present
Karen Spiegel, Riverside County Board of Supervisors	Present
Jesse Armendarez, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors	Absent
Jesse Streeter, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors (SB Alternate)	Present
<u>County Municipal Representatives</u>	
Fred Jung, Orange County Municipal Representative	Present
Wes Speake, Councilmember, City of Corona	Present
Judy Woolsey, San Bernardino County Municipal Representative	Present
Helen Tran, San Bernardino County Municipal (SB Alternate)	Absent
<u>Business Community Representative</u>	
James Hessler, Director of West Coast Operations, Altman Plants	Present
<u>Environmental Community Representative</u>	
Garry W. Brown, President, Orange County Coastkeeper	Present
<u>Regional Water Quality Control Board Representative</u>	
William Ruh, Regional Water Quality Control Board	Absent
John Scandura, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB Alternate)	Present
Others Present	
<u>SAWPA COMMISSIONERS:</u>	T. Milford Harrison, Denis Bilodeau
<u>SAWPA STAFF:</u>	Karen Williams, Emily Fuentes, Erika Beyer, Haley Gohari, John Leete, Marie Jauregui, Natalia Gonzalez, Rick Whetsel, Joel Osuna-Williams, Sara Villa
<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u>	Thomas S. Bunn, Lagerlof LLP; Christy Suppes, County of Orange

The OWOW Steering Committee meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Gil Botello, Convener, at the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, 11615 Sterling Avenue, Riverside, CA 92503.



1. **CALL TO ORDER | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

2. **ROLL CALL**

An oral roll call was duly noted and recorded by the serving clerk.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

MOVED, to approve the Consent Calendar as posted.

Result:	Adopted by Roll Call Vote
Motion/Second:	Spiegel/Streeter
Ayes:	Botello, Carr, Hessler, Jung, Scandura, Speake, Spiegel, Streeter, Woolsey
Nays:	None
Abstentions:	None
Absent:	Brown

6. **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

A. **DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM: 2021 URBAN AND MULTI-BENEFIT DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM SET-ASIDE FUNDING (SC#2026.2)**

Rick Whetsel provided a presentation titled *DWR DACI Program Set-Aside Funding, 2021 Urban and Multi-benefit Drought Relief Grant Program*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 13-31.

The presentation summarized SAWPA's implementation of approximately \$5 million in Department of Water Resources drought-relief grant funding for projects benefiting disadvantaged communities. Five projects were initially selected, with four completed following project modifications and funding reallocations resulting from increased construction costs and implementation challenges. Completed projects benefited Box Springs Mutual Water Company, the City of Colton, Marigold Mutual Water Company, and the City of Fullerton. The DeVore Water Company project did not proceed, and most of its funding was reallocated to other projects. Whetsel noted that no grant funds were returned to the State and that completed projects are subject to three years of post-performance monitoring.

Committee discussion focused on the challenges smaller water systems face in developing and implementing grant-funded projects, particularly where staffing and technical capacity are limited. Members discussed the importance of technical assistance and regional support in helping smaller systems successfully access and administer State funding. The Committee also discussed lessons learned through the program and how those experiences could help inform the administration of future funding opportunities.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.A.



B. SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES' APRIL 30 WATERSHED RESILIENCE AND SGMA FUNDING WORKSHOP (SC#2026.3)

Haley Gohari provided a presentation titled *Summary of DWR April 30 Watershed Resilience and SGMA Funding Workshop*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 35-49.

Draft guidelines for the Watershed Resilience and SGMA programs are anticipated in fall 2026, with concept proposals expected in early 2027 and awards potentially beginning in late 2027 or early 2028. Gohari reviewed approximately \$152 million anticipated for Watershed Resilience activities, including early-action implementation and planning opportunities, and approximately \$386.25 million for SGMA-related activities. She also highlighted requirements related to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and additional Proposition 4 opportunities involving dam safety, habitat restoration, invasive species, desalination, forest health, and wildfire resilience.

Committee member Brown asked whether nonprofit organizations and tribes would be eligible to participate in Watershed Resilience funding. Gohari explained that applicants are expected to apply on behalf of collaborative groups and that participation by tribes and community organizations could strengthen those partnerships. She noted that the collaborative approach aligns with the work already underway through the CARP.

Committee member Scandura asked whether regulatory and administrative issues that had previously delayed Proposition 4 funding had been sufficiently resolved to allow funding to begin moving later in the year. Gohari responded that some funding processes were moving forward, although State agencies were still completing various administrative requirements, with additional activity anticipated following the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Convener Botello emphasized the importance of SAWPA and the Steering Committee serving as a regional connection point to ensure agencies are informed of funding opportunities and prepared to pursue them, particularly for shovel-ready projects. Gohari noted that the CARP process is collecting planning documents from public agencies throughout the watershed and identifying potential projects, which can help establish partnerships and position the region for future competitive funding opportunities.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.B.

C. SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE PLAN - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATES (SC#2026.4)

Haley Gohari provided a presentation titled *SARWCARP Community Engagement Updates*, contained in the agenda packet on pages 54-69.

Community engagement activities include surveys, community events, interviews, and other outreach. Approximately 1,200 survey responses had been received, representing 147 of approximately 174 ZIP codes within the watershed. After removing responses from outside the watershed and invalid responses, approximately 900 usable responses remained. Preliminary results identified wildfire, drought, extreme heat, and pollution among the primary community concerns, while poor air quality and extreme heat were among the most frequently reported impacts. Engagement will continue through fall 2026, with a Community Advisory Panel planned for June and additional climate hazards and



vulnerability assessment information anticipated for the September Steering Committee meeting.

During discussion, a Committee member asked how members could assist with distributing the survey and expressed interest in increasing outreach within the Eastvale area. Gohari offered to provide the survey link, QR code, and prepared outreach materials for distribution.

The Committee also discussed communities in eastern Riverside County experiencing inadequate access to drinking water and significant climate-related challenges, including extreme heat. A Committee member asked whether resources identified through the CARP or Proposition 4 process could potentially assist those areas. Gohari explained that eligibility and requirements for regional projects were still developing and offered to provide State contacts and information regarding other resources that could potentially assist communities located outside the Santa Ana River Watershed boundary.

This item was for discussion purposes; no action was taken on Agenda Item No. 6.C.

7. SAWPA GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager Karen Williams thanked Committee members for their continued participation and emphasized the importance of attendance and regional involvement. She noted that SAWPA staff continue working to identify and bring funding opportunities into the region.

8. CONVENER COMMENT/REPORT

Convener Botello echoed the General Manager's comments and emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and demonstrating that agencies throughout the watershed are working collectively. He encouraged continued participation so the region is positioned to pursue future funding opportunities.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Committee member Scandura recognized Committee member Carr's participation in the meeting while Orange County agencies were responding to a chemical incident in Garden Grove. He provided an update on the coordinated response involving Orange County Public Works, the Orange County Fire Authority, health agencies, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other State agencies. He noted that agencies were monitoring potential discharges to storm drains and waterways, implementing preventative measures, and coordinating sampling and follow-up investigation.

Committee member Carr provided additional context regarding the Garden Grove incident and recognized the work of the emergency response teams, including the Fire Authority's lead role and Orange County Public Works' support and preventative measures. She noted that the situation had the potential to become significantly more serious and emphasized the importance of appropriate regulation, oversight, and emergency protections. Convener Botello thanked Carr and the responding agencies for their efforts.

Committee member Brown expressed appreciation for the informational reports and noted that scheduling conflicts had affected his attendance at prior meetings but that he would make an effort to participate more regularly.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for future agenda items.



11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 12:07 p.m.

APPROVED: September 24, 2026

Gil Botello, Convener

Attest:

Zyanya Ramirez, Senior Administrative Services Specialist

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**OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMORANDUM NO. 2026.5**

DATE: September 24, 2026

TO: OWOW Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Proposition 1 Round 2 Replacement Projects Approval

PREPARED BY: Ian Achimore, Senior Watershed Manager

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the OWOW Steering Committee approve transferring \$4,539,803 in Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Round 2 funding currently obligated to the two Monte Vista Water District projects no longer moving forward - 1) Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27 and 2) Well 2 Replacement projects, to the following projects in the amounts shown below:

Project Name	Applicant	Transferred Grant
Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	+\$938,910
Well Pump Replacements	Monte Vista Water District	+\$3,600,893
Total		\$4,539,803

DISCUSSION

In April 2026, two Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) projects, both from Monte Vista Water District, informed SAWPA they could no longer move forward. These projects are:

Project Name	Project Lead	Reason for Halting Project
Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27	Monte Vista Water District	-Well 4 casing failed and the overall well has reached the end of its useful life -Well 27 no longer requires treatment for 1,2,3,- Trichloropropane
Well 2 Replacement		-Well 2 is no longer considered a viable production source.

In summer 2026, SAWPA staff contacted the higher-ranked unfunded project proponents in ranked order to determine whether their projects could proceed within the remaining grant period of December 31, 2027. Through this process, Monte Vista Water District (MVWD) was able to provide updated benefits information for their highly ranked Well Pump Replacements Project and share schedule information to confirm completion by December 31, 2027. Some other highly

ranked projects offered further benefits (through secondary phases of their projects), and Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority (LESJWA) identified an additional pilot-scale water-quality scope with measurable incremental benefits and provided schedule information demonstrating that the additional work can be completed by December 31, 2027.

These recommended funding actions are consistent with the Proposition 1 Round 2 competition criteria approved in 2022 and the State's IRWM funding requirements established by DWR. These requirements include:

- Replacement projects must be included on the list of ranked projects,
- Replacement projects are considered in ranked order, taking into account continued eligibility, project readiness, available funding, and ability to meet the grant schedule, and
- Additional funding provided to an existing funded project should support additional scope and associated benefits rather than simply fill an existing project funding gap.

If the Steering Committee approves this recommendation, SAWPA staff will present it to the SAWPA Commission for consideration. Upon Commission approval, staff will submit these projects to DWR. Upon DWR approval, SAWPA will execute a Proposition 1 Round 2 grant agreement amendment to remove the two discontinued MVWD projects, add the Well Pump Replacements Project, and increase the grant amount and scope of the existing Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal Project.

Descriptions of the recommended projects are provided below -

Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal

This LESJWA project's second phase is recommended for an additional \$938,910 in grant funding to evaluate a pilot-scale nutrient treatment approach as a complementary component of the broader Lake Elsinore nutrient-management strategy. This additional \$938,910 in funding recommended for the pilot would provide a direct water-quality benefit through phosphorus removal during operation and would generate information on treatment effectiveness, operational requirements, treatment costs, and scalability to inform future nutrient-management decisions.

LESJWA's existing project, which has a current grant amount of \$1,500,000 and current total cost of \$3,247,007, is evaluating the effectiveness of nanobubbles to increase dissolved oxygen levels within Lake Elsinore and reduce internal phosphorus release from lake sediments. While increasing dissolved oxygen may address an important internal source of phosphorus, the proposed second phase would evaluate, through sediment, lake, and influent/effluent monitoring, a complementary approach for reducing phosphorus inputs to the Lake.

The second phase would pilot an in-line treatment system at approximately 5 gallons per minute (GPM). The pilot would evaluate total phosphorus removal effectiveness, operational

requirements, treatment costs, and scalability. Results would provide the information necessary to determine whether the treatment approach could be technically and economically viable at larger flow rates. Approximately 5,500 kg per year is the estimated phosphorus contribution from the existing recycled-water discharge into the Lake. The pilot's in-line 5 GPM treatment system is intended to reduce phosphorus concentrations and mass-loading.

The anticipated measurable water-quality benefits include:

Pilot scale: Treatment of approximately 5 gallons per minute at an influent total phosphorus concentration of approximately 0.5 mg/L, with an estimated total phosphorus reduction of approximately 5.0 kg/year.

Potential scalability: The treatment concept could potentially be applied at substantially larger flow rates, including flows of up to approximately 5.5 million gallons per day. The pilot will generate the treatment-performance, operational, and cost information needed to evaluate whether application at larger scale would be technically and economically feasible.

Project Budget:

	Budget Category	Grant	Required Cost Share**	Other Cost Share**	Total Cost
A	Project Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
B	Land Purchase	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
C	Planning / Design	\$293,910*	\$0	\$0	\$293,910
D	Implementation	\$2,145,000*	\$1,645,632	\$101,375	\$3,892,007
	Total	\$2,438,910	\$1,645,632	\$101,375	\$4,185,917

*The additional \$938,910 in grant is included in Categories C and D.

**Preliminary cost share budget.

Project Schedule:

	Budget Category	Start Date	End Date
A	Project Administration	7/1/2023	12/1/2027
B	Land Purchase	N/A	N/A
C	Planning / Design	7/1/2023	4/30/2027
D	Implementation	10/1/2024	12/1/2027

Well Pump Replacements Project

This Monte Vista Water District (MVWD) Project is recommended for \$3,600,893 in grant funding. The new replacement project will restore and maintain reliable groundwater production, improve

efficiency, and support current and future treatment requirements. The scope of the project will improve the reliability of approximately 4,194 acre-feet per year of local groundwater production capacity.

This new replacement project consists of installing pump assemblies, bowls, line shafts, column pipe, bearings, discharge heads, motors, electrical equipment, controls, and associated appurtenances, as required. Existing oil-lubricated systems will be removed and replaced with new water-flush pumping systems, eliminating the potential for lubricating oil to affect downstream treatment facilities and filtration media. The existing systems were installed between 2001 and 2013 and have reached or are approaching the end of their useful service lives.

Replacement of the complete well pumping systems will help MVWD and its partner, the City of Chino Hills, maintain reliable local groundwater production and reduce dependence on imported State Water Project supplies. The project supports regional self-reliance by preserving existing local production capacity for MVWD's retail and wholesale service areas.

Project Budget

	Category	Grant	Required Cost Share	Other Cost Share	Total Cost
A	Project Administration	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
B	Land Purchase	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
C	Planning/Design	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
D	Implementation	\$3,500,893	\$0	\$0	\$3,500,893
	Grand Total	\$3,600,893	\$0	\$0	\$3,600,893

Project Schedule

	Task Category	Start Date	End Date
A	Project Administration	1/04/2027	12/31/2027
B	Land Purchase	NA	NA
C	Planning/Design	1/04/2027	3/31/2027
D	Implementation	4/1/2027	12/15/2027

BACKGROUND

A Call for Projects was open from January to June 2022 and 18 implementation projects requesting Proposition 1 IRWM Round 2 OWOW grant funding were received. These 18 projects are shown in the table titled OWOW Implementation Projects – 2022 Call for Projects.



SAWPA scored the projects based on ranking criteria the OWOW Steering Committee approved. The Steering Committee approved seven projects on September 22, 2022. The Steering Committee selected the seven projects because they exceeded the applicable scoring threshold and could be completed within the necessary deadlines. SAWPA entered into a Grant Agreement with DWR on January 10, 2024 for the seven OWOW implementation projects.

Under a 2019 agreement with the County of Orange, Orange County Sanitation District, and Orange County Water District (collectively, the Orange County parties), 30% of Proposition 1 IRWM General Implementation grant funds are allocated to Orange County projects selected through the parties' own ranking process. Neither the Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27 Project nor the Well 2 Replacement Project received any of this funding. Therefore, SAWPA has not asked the Orange County parties to act on the two replacement projects.



OWOW Implementation Projects – 2022 Call for Projects

2022 Ranking	Project Name	Project Lead	2022 Score	2022 Grant Award
1	Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot	SAWPA	31.5	\$861,400*
2	Etiwanda Intervallley Water Quality and Water Resiliency Phase-1A	JCSD	17.5	\$2,954,213
3	Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27	MVWD	15.0	\$2,533,492
4	Cable Creek Basin (Upper)	SBCFCD	14.9	\$2,521,678
5	Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	LESJWA	12.8	\$1,500,000
6	Lake Rialto Habitat Management and Community Open Space	Rialto, City	12.7	\$2,149,748
7	Well 2 Replacement	MVWD	11.9	\$2,006,311
8	City of Rialto Recycled Intertie	IEUA	10.9	NA - Projects below 2022 scoring threshold
9	Santa Ana River Sustainable Parks & Tributaries Water Reuse	SBVMWD	10.0	
10	Calimesa Aquifer Storage and Recovery	YVWD	9.5	
11	Well Pump Replacements	MVWD	8.9	
12	Improving Water Quality of Recycled Water Used in Local Groundwater Recharge Project	MVWD	8.8	
13	Well 4 Replacement	WMWD	8.8	
14	Water Well RN #6 Nitrate Removal System	MVWD	8.2	
15	Improved Lake Circulation at Prado Regional Park	RHWC	7.5	
16	Large Landscape Water Efficiency Program	SBCRP	6.4	
17	Regional Water Distribution System Leak Detection and Repair Program	IEUA	5.6	
18	Cactus Basins Connector Pipeline	MWDOC	5.3	
			Total	\$14,526,842

ATTACHMENTS

1. PowerPoint Presentation



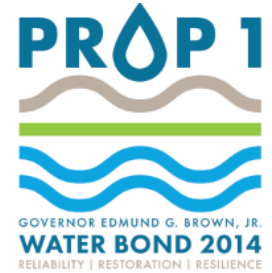
Proposition 1 Round 2 Replacement Projects Approval

Ian Achimore

September 24, 2026

OWOW Steering
Committee

Purpose of Presentation



Purpose of Presentation: Staff recommends approval of two Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) projects.

Background: A Call for Projects was open from January to June 2022 and 18 OWOW implementation projects requesting grant funding were received

- Seven of those 18 projects were adopted by the Committee for funding:

#	OWOW Implementation Projects	Applicant	2022 Score	2022 Grant Award
1	Santa Ana River Watershed Weather Modification Pilot	SAWPA	31.5	\$861,400
2	Etiwanda Intervalley Water Quality and Water Resiliency Phase-1A	Jurupa Community Services District	17.5	\$2,954,213
3	Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27	Monte Vista Water District (MVWD)	15.0	\$2,533,492
4	Cable Creek Basin (Upper)	San Bernardino County Flood Control	14.9	\$2,521,678
5	Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	12.8	\$1,500,000
6	Lake Rialto Habitat Management and Community Open Space	Rialto, City	12.7	\$2,149,748
7	Well 2 Replacement	MVWD	11.9	\$2,006,311

SAWPA's Process for Halted Projects

- During the course of implementation of funded projects, occasionally project leads will approach SAWPA and state they can no longer complete the approved project.
- SAWPA abides by the OWOW Plan and DWR's IRWM funding requirements. These requirements include:
 - Replacement projects must be included on the list of ranked projects,
 - Replacement projects are considered in ranked order, taking into account continued eligibility, project readiness, available funding, and ability to meet the grant schedule, and
 - Additional funding provided to an existing funded project should support additional scope and associated benefits rather than simply fill an existing project funding gap.



Halted Projects

In April 2026, two of the seven projects, both from Monte Vista Water District, informed SAWPA they could no longer move forward. These projects are:

1. Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27
2. Well 2 Replacement

Reasons for Halting Projects

Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27

- Well 4 casing failed and the overall well has reached the end of its useful life
- Well 27 no longer requires treatment for 1,2,3,-Trichloropropane

Well 2 Replacement

- This well is no longer considered a viable production source



Inquiry with Ranked Projects

- Staff contacted the higher-ranked unfunded project proponents in ranked order to determine whether their projects could proceed within the remaining grant period.
- Monte Vista Water District was able to provide updated benefits information for their highly ranked Well Pump Replacements and share schedule information to confirm completion by December 31, 2027.
- Some projects offered further benefits (through secondary phases of their projects).
- LESJWA identified an additional pilot-scale water quality scope that could be completed within the remaining grant period.



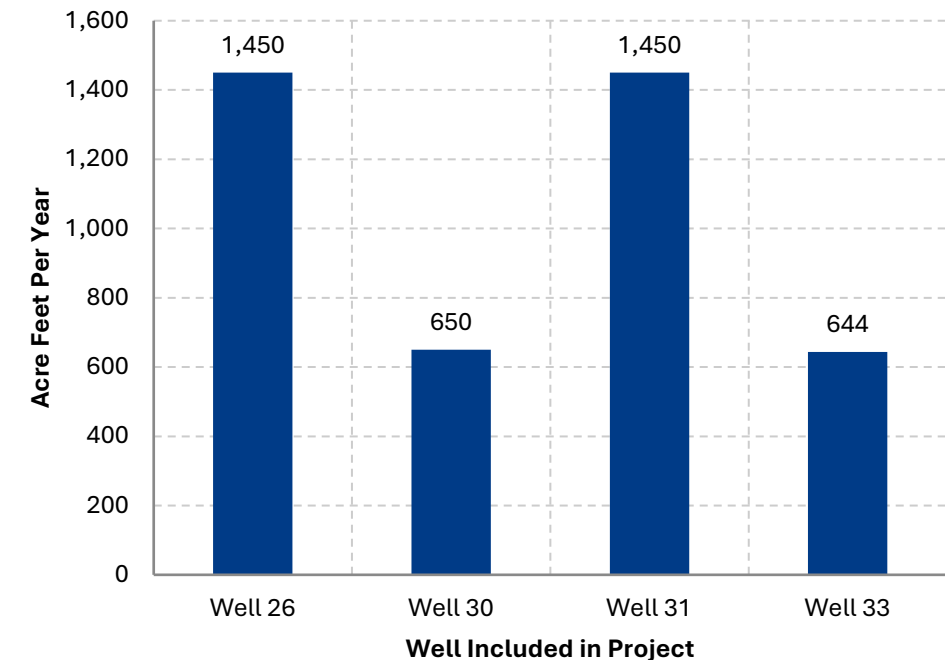
Well Pump Replacements



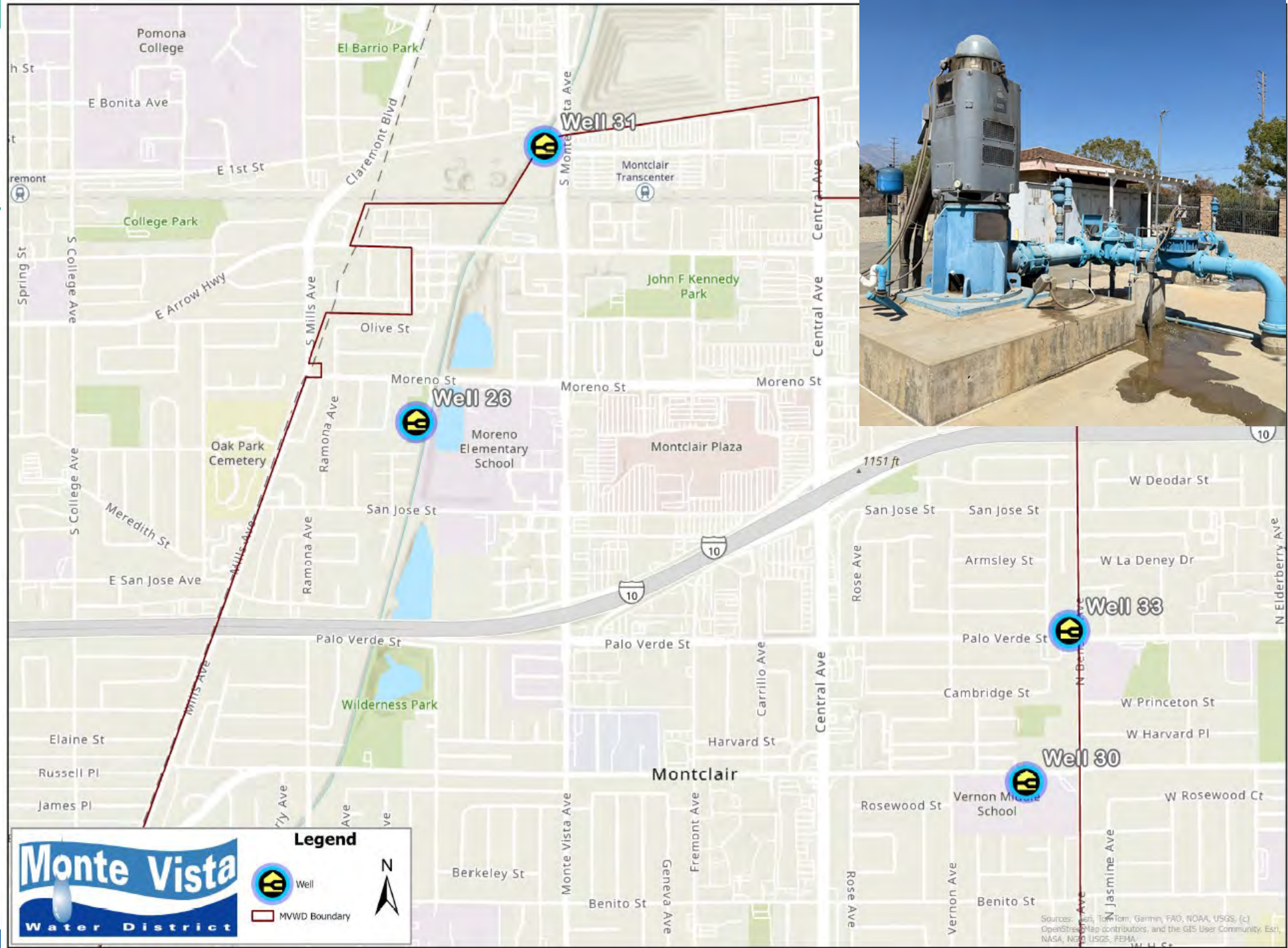
Dedicated to Quality, Service and Innovation

- This new Monte Vista Water District Project is recommended for \$3,600,893 in grant funding.
- This new replacement project consists of replacing the complete well pumping systems at Wells 26, 30, 31, and 33.
- The existing systems were installed between 2001 and 2013 and have reached or are approaching the end of their useful service lives.
- Depending on the requirements of each installation, the work will include pump assemblies, bowls, line shafts, electrical equipment, etc., to provide complete operational pumping systems.
- These improvements will improve the reliability of approximately 4,194 AFY of local groundwater production capacity.

Anticipated Annual Production by Well



**Total Anticipated Annual Production:
4,194 AFY**



Map/Photo Credit: Monte Vista Water District

Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting & Nutrient Removal Project

- This LESJWA project's second phase is recommended for an additional \$938,910 in grant funding to evaluate a pilot-scale nutrient treatment technology as one component of the broader Lake Elsinore nutrient-management strategy.
- LESJWA's existing project is evaluating the effectiveness of nanobubbles to increase dissolved oxygen and reduce internal phosphorus release from lake sediments.
 - The proposed second phase would evaluate, through sediment, lake, and influent/effluent monitoring, a complementary approach for reducing phosphorus inputs to the lake.
- The second phase would pilot an in-line treatment system at approximately 5 gallons per minute intended to reduce phosphorus concentrations and mass-loading.
 - The pilot would evaluate total phosphorus removal effectiveness, operational requirements, treatment costs, and scalability.
 - The approximately 5,500 kg/yr estimated phosphorus contribution from the existing recycled-water discharge provides an important baseline against which pilot performance can be evaluated.

Existing Project



Photo Credits: GEI Consultants.

Recommended Second Phase



Recommended Funding Changes

Project Amount	OWOW Implementation Project List	Applicant	Current Funding Awarded	Proposed Funding Award	Change
1	Etiwanda Intervalley Water Quality and Water Resiliency Phase-1A	JCSD	\$2,954,213	\$2,954,213	\$0
-	Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27	MVWD	\$2,533,492	\$0	-\$2,533,492
2	Cable Creek Basin (Upper)	SBCFCD	\$2,521,678	\$2,521,678	\$0
3	Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	LESJWA	\$1,500,000	\$2,438,910	+\$938,910
4	Lake Rialto Habitat Management and Community Open Space	Rialto, City	\$2,149,748	\$2,149,748	\$0
-	Well 2 Replacement	MVWD	\$2,006,311	\$0	-\$2,006,311
5	Calimesa Aquifer Storage and Recovery	YVWD	\$618,738	\$618,738	\$0
6	Well Pump Replacements	MVWD	Not Funded	\$3,600,893	+\$3,600,893
		Totals	\$14,284,180*	\$14,284,180	\$0

From Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27 and Well 2 Replacement		
To Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal and Well Pump Replacements	Total Moved Between Projects	\$4,539,803

Recommendation

It is recommended that the OWOW Steering Committee approve transferring \$4,539,803 in Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Round 2 funding currently obligated to the two Monte Vista Water District projects no longer moving forward - 1) Wellhead Nitrate Treatment for Wells 4 & 27 and 2) Well 2 Replacement projects, to the following projects in the amounts shown below:

Project Name	Applicant	Transferred Grant
Lake Elsinore Algae Harvesting and Nutrient Removal	Lake Elsinore and San Jacinto Watersheds Authority	+\$938,910
Well Pump Replacements	Monte Vista Water District	+\$3,600,893
Total		\$4,539,803

Next Steps: If approved, SAWPA staff will bring forward this recommendation to the SAWPA Commission on October 6, 2026.

Questions

Ian Achimore

Senior Watershed Manager

SAWPA

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**OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMORANDUM NO. 2026.6**

DATE: September 24, 2026

TO: OWOW Steering Committee

SUBJECT: Proposition 4 Funding Update and Regional Arundo Coordination Initiative

PREPARED BY: Erika Beyer, Water Resources and Planning Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

DISCUSSION

SAWPA staff continues to track Proposition 4 funding opportunities that may support Santa Ana watershed priorities. Across programs reviewed to date, recurring themes include multi-benefit projects, regional and collaborative approaches, climate resilience, benefits to disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, and vulnerable communities, and strong partnerships, community and Tribal engagement, and leveraged funding.

Current examples being tracked include the Watershed Resilience Program, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, and the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) Invasive Species Grant Program. Proposition 4 allocated \$25 million to the Santa Ana River Conservancy Program, with approximately \$4.6 million currently available through rolling applications for eligible river-related projects and programs. The balance of this item focuses on invasive species because regional stakeholder engagement has identified potential value in a coordinated Arundo approach.

Proposition 4 Invasive Species Grant Program

The California Department of Food and Agriculture, on behalf of ISCC, is developing the Proposition 4 Invasive Species Grant Program. Current draft program information identifies approximately \$16.45 million in available funding, with anticipated individual awards ranging from \$250,000 to \$1 million. Joint powers authorities, including SAWPA, are eligible applicants. ISCC is finalizing the program guidelines, and a firm solicitation release date has not been announced.

The draft program supports invasive-species prevention, control, containment, eradication, monitoring, research, outreach, and development of regional or statewide programmatic capacity. Projects that build regional program capacity are identified as a priority. Grant funds may supplement, but not supplant, existing funded activities. For an Arundo-focused concept, staff is therefore evaluating a regional coordination and implementation-readiness approach rather than duplicating treatment programs already underway.

Regional Arundo Coordination

Arundo donax is established throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed, and significant removal, retreatment, habitat restoration, and related management work is already occurring. Stakeholder discussions have identified a recurring regional challenge: projects are implemented across different ownerships and jurisdictions, while treatment history, GIS information, monitoring, permitting experience, funding, and long-term maintenance approaches are not consistently coordinated at the watershed scale. The opportunity is to improve continuity across existing efforts, not replace existing implementation programs.

SAWPA reconvened regional stakeholders on July 21, 2026, with approximately 27 unique participants, and held a follow-up Arundo Workgroup meeting on August 18. Participants represent expertise in Arundo removal and retreatment, habitat restoration and mitigation, flood and channel management, land and open-space management, permitting and regulatory compliance, GIS and monitoring, grant-funded implementation, and cross-jurisdictional coordination.

Discussions have consistently emphasized building from existing work and avoiding duplication. Recurring themes include shared GIS and monitoring information, regional prioritization and treatment sequencing, long-term maintenance, sustainable funding, and improved coordination across ownership and jurisdictional boundaries.

Staff developed a stakeholder survey to inventory existing and planned Arundo projects, available GIS and monitoring information, treatment history and other resources, implementation barriers, regional priorities, and potential opportunities for coordination. The survey was first provided to SAWPA Member Agency Planning Managers for review and was subsequently distributed to the broader Arundo Workgroup. Survey responses will be used to refine the concept and identify where regional coordination could provide measurable value.

General Manager Input

On September 8, 2026, staff presented the concept to the SAWPA General Managers. The General Managers were generally supportive of continued development and viewed the effort as potentially beneficial at the watershed scale. The discussion reinforced the need to maintain a clear coordination role, avoid duplication of existing programs, remain mindful of staff level of effort and long-term resource implications, and continue evaluating the opportunity against the final ISCC guidelines.

Potential Regional Coordination Framework

Based on the draft ISCC program and stakeholder discussions to date, a potential Proposition 4 application could use Arundo as the specific invasive-species problem while focusing grant resources on regional information, prioritization, coordination, and implementation readiness. Potential products could include:

- A watershed-scale Arundo GIS, project, and treatment inventory;
- Compilation of treatment history and existing monitoring information;
- A regional monitoring framework and shared data resource;

- Science-based regional prioritization and treatment sequencing;
- Identification of untreated areas, reinfestation risks, and other regional gaps;
- Development of a pipeline of implementation-ready projects;
- Evaluation of long-term maintenance and funding approaches; and
- Recommendations regarding an appropriate regional coordination and governance framework.

The concept remains under development and will be evaluated against the final ISCC guidelines before staff determines whether a competitive application can be developed. At this stage, staff is not proposing creation of a new SAWPA Task Force, a regional funding mechanism, or assumption by SAWPA of Arundo removal or long-term maintenance responsibilities. Any recommendation for a formal SAWPA-sponsored structure or ongoing resource commitment would proceed through the appropriate management and governance process.

OWOW Input

Staff is seeking OWOW input on the overall direction of the concept, including the following questions:

- Does continued development of a regional Arundo coordination concept make sense?
- Are shared data, regional prioritization, monitoring, and treatment continuity the right areas of emphasis?
- Do OWOW members see major concerns, gaps, or opportunities that staff should address as the concept is refined?

Detailed technical information regarding existing projects, datasets, permits, plans, partnerships, and monitoring programs can continue to be provided through the stakeholder survey and Workgroup process.

RESOURCE IMPACTS

This item is informational and has no direct fiscal impact. Current concept development and stakeholder coordination are being performed within existing SAWPA work activities. Any future grant application, agreement, budget amendment, formal regional structure, or ongoing program commitment would be brought forward separately as appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS

1. PowerPoint Presentation

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Proposition 4 Funding Update and Regional Arundo Coordination Initiative

Erika Beyer

September 24, 2026

OWOW Steering Committee

Proposition 4: What We Are Seeing Across Funding Programs

RECURRING THEMES IN PROP 4 GUIDELINES AND GRANT PROGRAMS

Multi-benefit projects

Applications that deliver water, habitat, and community benefits together

Regional and collaborative approaches

Projects vetted and supported by collaborative groups, not single agencies

Climate resilience

Advancing adaptation and long-term watershed resilience

Benefits to DAC, SDAC, and vulnerable communities

Disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged, and vulnerable population benefits are prioritized

Partnerships, engagement, and leverage

Community and Tribal input, leveraged funding, and partner capacity strengthen applications

High-level orientation only. These themes shape how SAWPA and watershed partners position Proposition 4 applications.

Proposition 4 Opportunities Relevant to the Santa Ana Watershed

A SAMPLE OF OPPORTUNITIES SAWPA IS TRACKING FOR THE WATERSHED

Program	Potential Regional Relevance	Current Status
Watershed Resilience Program	Regional watershed planning and implementation	Monitoring — awaiting guidelines
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program	Block grant for wildfire and forest-related projects	Evaluating — awaiting guidelines
Santa Ana River Conservancy Program	Trails, wildlife habitat, agricultural land protection, water quality, educational use, and public access (\$25M statewide; \$4.6M currently available, rolling applications)	Monitoring
Invasive Species Program (ISCC)	Arundo donax; golden algae and golden mussel preparedness	High interest — awaiting guidelines

Invasive species is one of several Proposition 4 programs relevant to the watershed — and the focus of the balance of this update.

Why We Are Focusing on Arundo

FROM THE BROADER PROP 4 LANDSCAPE TO ONE AREA OF STRONG REGIONAL INTEREST

The situation

- Arundo donax is established throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed
- Significant treatment and management work is already occurring
- Proposition 4 may provide an opportunity to improve regional coordination

TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- Update on the Proposition 4 ISCC invasive species opportunity
- What we have heard through regional stakeholder engagement
- General Manager direction to date
- OWOW technical and regional input as the concept is refined

The concept remains Arundo-focused. No new Task Force, funding mechanism, or SAWPA implementation program is being proposed through this discussion.

Proposition 4 Invasive Species Grant: Current Status

ISCC/CDFA PROGRAM STATUS AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

\$16.45M

Current Proposition 4 funding available for the ISCC Invasive Species Grant Program

\$250K–\$1M

Anticipated individual grant award range

Eligible

Joint powers authorities, including SAWPA, are eligible applicants

Guidelines Pending

ISCC is finalizing the program guidelines; no exact solicitation release date has been announced

Estimated Initial ISCC ISG Solicitation Timeline

Timelines are provided for planning purposes and are subject to change.

PROPOSAL OPENS

September/October 2026

PROPOSAL CLOSE

October/November 2026

AWARD NOTIFICATION

January 2027

AWARD EXECUTION

March 2027

DRAFT PROGRAM INFORMATION – Final ISCC requirements and schedule may change.

What Matters for the Arundo Concept

POSITIONING AGAINST THE DRAFT PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- The draft program supports invasive-species prevention, control, containment, eradication, monitoring, research, outreach, and regional program capacity.
- Projects that increase or develop regional or statewide programmatic capacity are specifically identified as a priority.
- Arundo is already established in Southern California, so SAWPA should not frame the project around the “new to a geographic region” priority.
- A stronger fit is an Arundo/invasive species project that improves regional coordination, shared data, prioritization, monitoring, treatment continuity, and implementation readiness.
- Grant funds may supplement but not supplant existing funded activities. This is important because substantial Arundo work is already underway throughout the watershed.
- Match is optional and is not scored under the current draft guidelines.
- Final scope, schedule, budget, and application strategy should remain subject to the final ISCC guidelines.

Why Are We Discussing This?

CONDITIONS ACROSS THE SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED

Significant Arundo work is already occurring

Information is fragmented across agencies

Funding is episodic and project-driven

Long-term maintenance is difficult to sustain

Reinfestation crosses jurisdictional boundaries

Clear opportunities exist for regional coordination

WHY THE PROBLEM PERSISTS

Treatment occurs reach by reach



Untreated stands remain upstream



Rhizomes fragments move downstream



Treated areas become reinfested

The opportunity is to improve continuity across existing efforts, not replace existing implementation programs.

Regional Engagement to Date

JULY–SEPTEMBER 2026

≈27

unique participants

HOW THE EFFORT HAS PROGRESSED

- July 21 — Regional stakeholder coordination meeting (≈27 unique agencies/participants)
- August 18 — Follow-up Arundo Workgroup meeting
- Planning Managers — Survey reviewed before broader distribution
- Arundo Workgroup — Stakeholder survey finalized and distributed
- September 8 — Concept presented to SAWPA General Managers

PARTICIPANT EXPERTISE

- Arundo removal and retreatment
- Habitat restoration and mitigation
- Flood/channel and land management
- Permitting and regulatory compliance
- GIS, monitoring, and data management
- Grant-funded implementation
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination

The process is now moving from identifying whether there is regional interest to defining where regional coordination can provide measurable value.

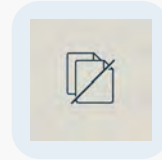
Stakeholder Feedback Themes



Build on existing work



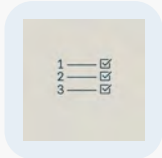
**Strong interest in
collaboration**



Avoid duplication of effort



Shared GIS and monitoring



Regional prioritization



Long-term maintenance



Sustainable funding



**Coordination across
ownership boundaries**

The discussion has consistently focused on improving regional coordination rather than creating another implementation program.

We Are Not Starting From Scratch

EXISTING CAPACITY AND A COMPLEMENTARY ROLE

Existing Regional Resources

- Existing Arundo removal projects
- GIS datasets and mapping
- Monitoring programs
- Permitting experience
- Habitat restoration projects
- NGO implementation capacity
- Team Arundo — Orange County

Potential SAWPA Role

- Coordinate across jurisdictions
- Compile existing information
- Support regional prioritization
- Facilitate partnerships
- Develop shared regional tools
- Support future funding pursuit

Potential Regional Coordination Framework

WHAT COULD PROPOSITION 4 HELP DEVELOP?

Watershed GIS
inventory

Treatment history

Existing project
inventory

Monitoring framework

Prioritization and
treatment sequencing

Gap and reinfestation
analysis

Shared data repository

Implementation-ready
project pipeline

Long-term
maintenance and
funding strategy

Coordination and
governance
recommendations

The proposed value is the regional information, prioritization, and coordination layer that can make existing and future implementation more effective.

General Manager Input

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

WHAT WE ASKED

- Is an Arundo/invasive species coordination initiative an appropriate SAWPA role?
- Does the concept complement existing member agency programs?
- Should staff continue refining the concept and evaluating Proposition 4?

WHAT WE HEARD

- General Managers were generally supportive of continued development
- The effort was viewed as potentially beneficial at the watershed scale
- Maintain a clear focus on coordination and avoid duplication
- Be mindful of level of effort and long-term resource implications
- Currently focused on Arundo, with the potential to expand to other invasive species

Direction: Continue development and evaluate the opportunity against the final ISCC guidelines.

Next Steps

WHAT COMES NEXT AND THE GUARDRAILS WE ARE WORKING WITHIN

1

Stakeholder survey responses

Compile responses as they come in

2

Compile existing projects and data

Build the regional inventory

3

Final ISCC guidelines

Release date not yet announced

4

Refine scope, partners, deliverables

Informed by regional input

5

Develop budget and grant strategy

Against final requirements

6

Evaluate competitiveness

Test the concept against scoring criteria

7

Incorporate Commission and OWOW input

Refine concept based on governance and regional feedback-return for formal action if warranted

CURRENT GUARDRAILS

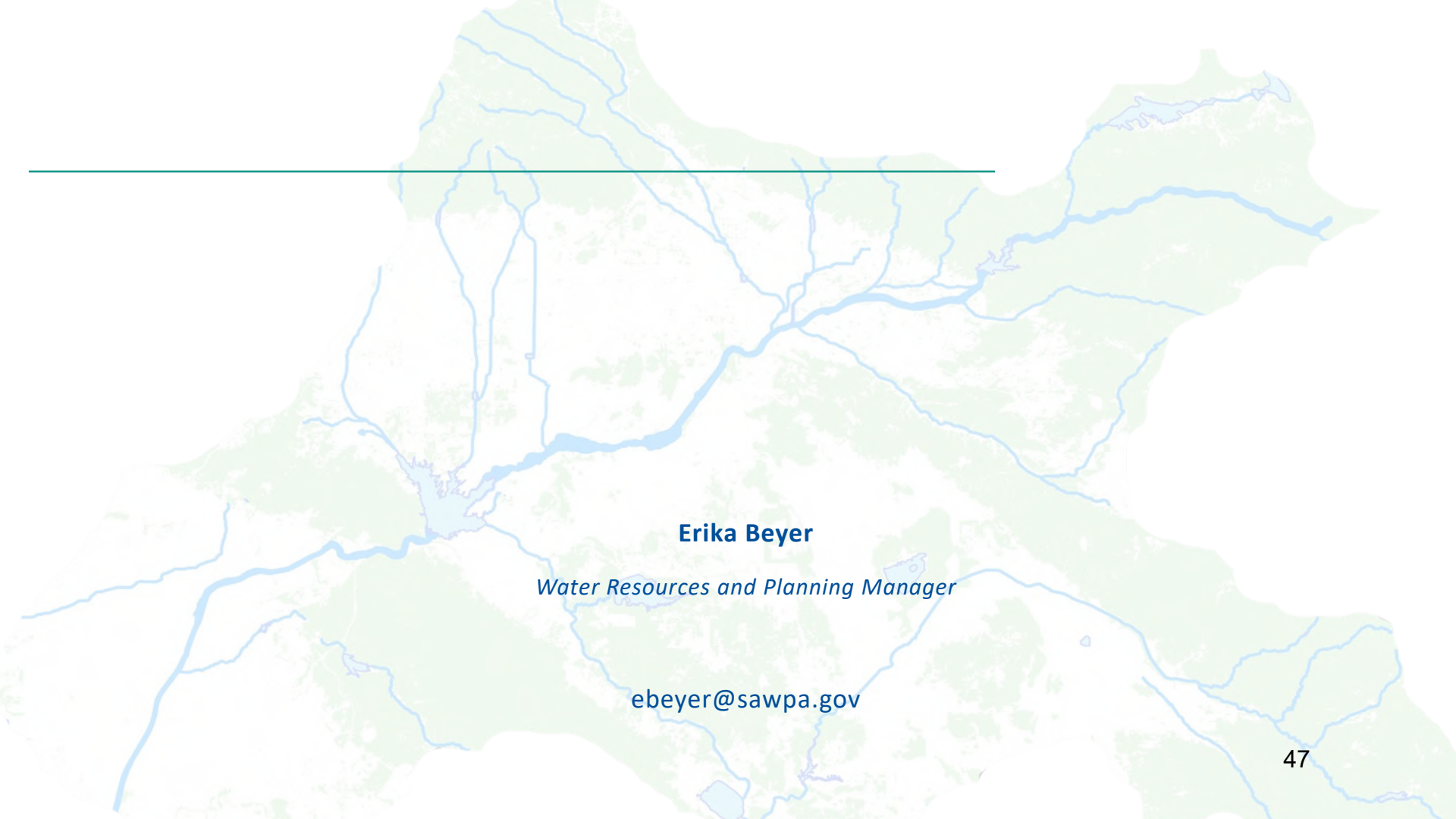
Arundo-specific • Build from existing • Avoid duplication • No new obligations

What We Need From OWOW

DIRECTION ON THE OVERALL APPROACH

- 1 Does continued development of a regional Arundo coordination concept make sense?
- 2 Are shared data, regional prioritization, monitoring, and treatment continuity the right areas of emphasis?
- 3 Do OWOW members see major concerns, gaps, or opportunities we should address?

Proposition 4 is creating several funding opportunities across the Santa Ana watershed, and SAWPA will continue tracking those for watershed partners. For invasive species, the regional need extends beyond a single grant solicitation, and the ISCC opportunity may provide a near-term mechanism to strengthen regional coordination for Arundo management.



Erika Beyer

Water Resources and Planning Manager

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**OWOW STEERING COMMITTEE
MEMORANDUM NO. 2026.7**

DATE: September 24, 2026

TO: OWOW Steering Committee

SUBJECT: California Water Plan 2028 Technical Working Group Workshop 1 Update

PREPARED BY: Erika Beyer, Water Resources and Planning Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file.

DISCUSSION

SAWPA is participating in DWR's California Water Plan 2028 (CWP 2028) Technical Working Group (TWG) to provide technical review and to help ensure that the Santa Ana watershed is represented with appropriate regional context. Workshop 1 was held August 13-14, 2026 and introduced the principal technical elements being developed for CWP 2028, including the Watershed Hub, the Water Evaluation and Planning - Future Scenarios (WEAP-FS) framework, economic and socioeconomic analysis, and performance and vulnerability assessment. The accompanying presentation is intentionally public-facing. It summarizes only DWR materials identified for public or non-confidential use. Detailed TWG technical-support materials, calibration results, and other restricted working-group information are not included.

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 72 established a statewide interim planning target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040 and directs DWR to modernize statewide water planning. The 9 million acre-foot figure is a statewide planning target; it is not an allocation to the Santa Ana watershed or a requirement for individual member agencies. CWP 2028 begins the initial statewide analytical and project-inventory work, while CWP 2033 is expected to refine and expand long-term watershed-scale water-supply targets and strategy evaluation statewide.

South Coast Geography and WEAP-FS

For CWP 2028, DWR is organizing portions of its planning and engagement work by hydrologic region, including the South Coast Hydrologic Region. In this context, "South Coast" is a broad DWR hydrologic-region label, not a governance structure, service area, or replacement for the Santa Ana watershed. The Santa Ana watershed lies within the broader South Coast Hydrologic Region.

DWR also uses finer analytical geographies within WEAP-FS. At a public-safe level, the framework uses watershed-scale units for surface-water analysis, Bulletin 118 groundwater basin

and subbasin geography for groundwater representation, and cross-watershed connections for imported and regional supplies. WEAP-FS is intended as a regional and statewide scenario-screening framework that integrates major water-system components so different future conditions and broad strategies can be compared consistently. It complements, but does not replace, local agency planning, detailed operations, locally calibrated groundwater models, engineering studies, permitting, or project-level environmental analysis.

Santa Ana Watershed Considerations

The Santa Ana watershed includes conditions that require careful interpretation at the statewide planning scale, including substantial imported-water dependencies, adjudicated groundwater basins, conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater, and boundaries that do not perfectly align among service areas, adjudications, groundwater basins, and hydrologic units. Existing UWMPs, groundwater planning, adjudications, and OWOW/IRWM planning also provide substantial local and regional context.

SAWPA's technical focus is therefore on regional fidelity, appropriate analytical scale, institutional and legal context, cross-basin connections, and transparent communication of assumptions and uncertainty. The objective is not to recreate local agency analysis, but to help DWR locate and appropriately interpret the strong planning work that already exists.

Regional Engagement and OWOW Role

The TWG is one of several CWP engagement pathways. DWR is also developing Regional Forums intended to obtain local and regional input on projects, strategies, regional conditions, and information used in statewide planning. DWR currently anticipates multiple South Coast Regional Forums beginning in late 2026 and continuing through 2027; specific dates, agendas, and sequencing remain subject to change.

OWOW can add value by identifying important Santa Ana watershed projects or actions that may be missing or mischaracterized in the statewide project inventory; pointing DWR to authoritative regional datasets and existing plans; flagging imported-supply dependencies, adjudications, operating relationships, and other regional conditions that could be oversimplified at a statewide scale; and helping coordinate the Santa Ana watershed perspective before and during the Regional Forum process.

Next Steps

SAWPA staff will continue participating in the TWG, tracking DWR's public materials and Regional Forum schedule, and coordinating with member agencies and OWOW as additional regional input is requested. Near-term emphasis will be on making sure existing regional projects, plans,



datasets, and institutional context are visible and appropriately interpreted before statewide screening and future portfolio evaluation become more consequential.

ATTACHMENTS

1. PowerPoint Presentation

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SANTA ANA WATERSHED
PROJECT AUTHORITY

California Water Plan 2028

What It Means for the Santa Ana Watershed

OWOW Steering Committee Briefing
September 2026

Public-facing briefing | Draft DWR materials remain subject to change





Why This Matters to OWOW

CWP 2028 creates a statewide planning framework that will increasingly rely on regional projects, data, and local context.



OWOW already does much of the regional coordination DWR will need.

- SB 72 establishes a statewide interim planning target of 9 million acre-feet by 2040; it is not a Santa Ana watershed allocation.
- CWP 2028 begins a more consistent statewide comparison of water-supply and demand conditions and potential strategies.
- DWR is building a statewide project/action inventory and Regional Forum process that will depend on local and regional information.
- SAWPA is participating early so the Santa Ana watershed is represented with appropriate regional context.

Public-safe summary based on DWR CWP 2028 Fact Sheet, Roadmap, Engagement Venues, and WEAP-FS Overview (Draft, Subject to Change).



Key Clarification: What “South Coast” Means

“South Coast” is DWR’s statewide hydrologic-region label — not a governance structure, service area, or replacement for the Santa Ana watershed.

DWR planning & engagement geography

South Coast Hydrologic Region



Santa Ana watershed

WEAP-FS analytical framework

- DWR’s public WEAP-FS description says the model is organized at the watershed scale.
- It integrates surface water, groundwater, infrastructure, storage, and water demands in a common scenario framework.
- The South Coast label identifies the broad CWP 2028 region; it does not mean every local system is treated as one operating unit.

Bottom line: SAWPA remains the Santa Ana watershed regional entity; “South Coast” is the state’s broader planning geography for this phase of CWP 2028.

How the Geography Works: Region and Watershed

DWR uses different geographies for different planning and analytical purposes.

Hydrologic Region



Broad CWP planning and engagement geography

Santa Ana sits within DWR's broader South Coast Hydrologic Region.

HUC8 Watersheds



Finer watershed-scale geography for surface-water analysis

HUC8 boundaries give a more detailed watershed-scale framework.

CONCEPTUAL ILLUSTRATION — simplified for public discussion; not an exact representation of DWR's current WEAP-FS model configuration.



The WEAP-FS Analytical Framework

WEAP-FS uses multiple analytical scales rather than treating the South Coast as one uniform system.

Analytical layers used in the model

Surface water → HUC8 watershed scale

Groundwater → Bulletin 118 basins / subbasins

Imported / regional supplies → cross-watershed links

Demands, storage, infrastructure & operations

CONCEPTUAL ILLUSTRATION — simplified for public discussion; not an exact representation of DWR's current WEAP-FS model configuration.

KEY TAKEAWAY: “South Coast” is DWR’s broad regional planning and engagement geography. It is not the same thing as the Santa Ana watershed, and it is not the only spatial scale used in WEAP-FS.

SAWPA’s role is to help DWR understand whether the statewide analytical framework appropriately represents the Santa Ana watershed’s regional connections and local complexity.



How WEAP-FS Works — at a Public-Safe Level

DWR is integrating major parts of the water system into a common scenario framework so different futures can be compared consistently.

Inputs & system representation

- Climate & hydrology
- Surface water & imported supplies
- Groundwater & storage
- Reservoirs, conveyance & operating constraints
- Urban, agricultural & environmental demands
- Future climate & demographic conditions



WEAP-FS

Scenario screening
& comparison



Planning-level outputs

- Where vulnerabilities or supply-demand gaps may emerge
- How broad strategies compare
- Tradeoffs across sectors and regions
- Where more detailed local analysis is warranted

Common assumptions • rapid scenario testing
• regional/statewide comparison

WEAP-FS complements — but does not replace — local agency models, detailed operations, groundwater models, engineering studies, or CEQA/project analysis.



Screening vs. Local Decision-Making

The framework is useful when interpreted at the scale it was designed to support.

Appropriate uses

- Identify regional vulnerability patterns
- Compare broad adaptation strategies and potential portfolios
- Support statewide and regional scenario discussions
- Flag where more detailed local analysis may be needed

Not intended to replace

- Agency-specific supply planning or operating decisions
- Locally calibrated groundwater or water-supply models
- Site-specific feasibility and engineering
- CEQA, permitting, or project-level technical analysis

Use statewide screening results as one planning lens alongside the more detailed local work already maintained by agencies and regional partners.



Why the Santa Ana Watershed Needs Careful Representation

The challenge is not whether statewide analysis includes the region — it is whether the planning-scale representation preserves the conditions that materially shape how water is managed here.

Imported-water dependencies

Substantial supplies arrive from outside hydrologic boundaries.

Adjudicated basins

Established legal and basin-management frameworks affect how groundwater is managed.

Conjunctive use

Surface water, imported supplies, recharge, storage, and groundwater are managed together.

Boundaries differ

Agency service areas, adjudications, groundwater basins, and hydrologic boundaries do not perfectly align.

Existing regional planning

UWMPs, groundwater planning, adjudications, and OWOW/IRWM provide important local context.

SAWPA's focus: regional fidelity, appropriate scale, institutional/legal context, cross-basin connections, and transparent communication of uncertainty.



CWP 2028 Is More Than a Model

The modeling framework, project inventory, economic analysis, and regional engagement are intended to work together.



Watershed Hub

Statewide platform for watershed conditions and project/action tracking.



WEAP-FS

Scenario-screening framework for comparing water-system conditions and strategies.



Economic / socioeconomic analysis

Planning-level evaluation of strategy costs, benefits, and regional effects.



Performance & vulnerability

Analysis of supply-demand gaps and future vulnerabilities.

Local plans & projects → regional input → statewide screening → future strategy / portfolio evaluation

For OWOW, the near-term opportunity is to make sure existing regional projects, plans, and data are visible before statewide screening becomes more consequential.

Regional & Public Engagement

The Technical Working Group is only one pathway. DWR is also developing Regional Forums and other public engagement opportunities.

● Technical Working Group

Technical review of data, methods, models, assumptions, and analytical approaches.

● Regional Forums

Open regional input on projects, strategies, regional conditions, and information used in statewide planning.

● Other statewide engagement

Advisory Committee, Tribal engagement, topic-based workshops, and statewide planning forums.

DWR currently anticipates multiple South Coast Regional Forums beginning in late 2026 and continuing through 2027. Specific dates, agendas, and sequencing remain subject to change.

“South Coast” is the DWR engagement geography; SAWPA can use OWOW and member-agency coordination to prepare the Santa Ana watershed perspective for those forums.



Where OWOW Can Add Value Now

The most useful regional input is information that already exists — projects, authoritative datasets, and context that helps statewide screening avoid oversimplifying the watershed.

1. Review projects

Identify important Santa Ana watershed projects or actions that may be missing or mischaracterized in the statewide project inventory.

2. Point to data

Identify authoritative regional datasets and existing plans DWR should rely on rather than recreating local information.

3. Flag regional context

Surface imported-supply dependencies, adjudications, operating relationships, and other conditions that matter at the Santa Ana scale.

4. Prepare for forums

Could use OWOW to coordinate regional input before and during DWR's South Coast Regional Forum process.

No need to recreate agency plans. The objective is to make sure DWR can find and appropriately interpret the strong planning work that already exists.



CWP 2028 Builds Toward CWP 2033

The work happening now establishes the analytical and regional-engagement foundation for more detailed watershed-scale work in the next Water Plan cycle.

CWP 2028

- 9 MAF statewide interim planning target for 2040
- Initial WEAP-FS analysis in five hydrologic regions, including South Coast
- Statewide project/action inventory
- Initial testing of broad water-management strategies



CWP 2033

- Long-term 2050 water-supply targets
- Refined watershed-scale analysis statewide
- Regional project portfolios and strategy evaluation
- Additional economic and cost analysis

The 9 MAF figure is statewide — it is not a Santa Ana watershed allocation or member-agency requirement.



Discussion: What Should DWR Understand About the Santa Ana Watershed?

Use the statewide process to reinforce — not recreate — the local and regional planning information already available.

Projects

What high-value regional projects or actions should be visible in the statewide project inventory?

Data & plans

Which existing regional datasets or plans should DWR treat as authoritative context?

Regional conditions

What Santa Ana-specific relationships could be lost if statewide results are interpreted too broadly?

Source / status note

Visible content is limited to DWR materials identified for public or non-confidential use, including the CWP 2028 Fact Sheet, CWP 2028/2033 Roadmap, WEAP-FS Overview (Draft, Subject to Change), Engagement Venues, Spring Outreach Summary, and public CWP 2023 supporting documentation. Detailed TWG technical-support material and calibration results are intentionally omitted.

Questions?

Erika Beyer

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