



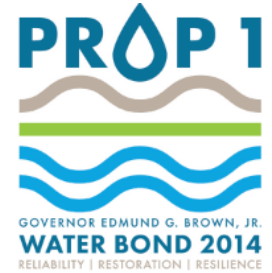
Proposition 1 Round 2 Replacement Projects Approval

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.



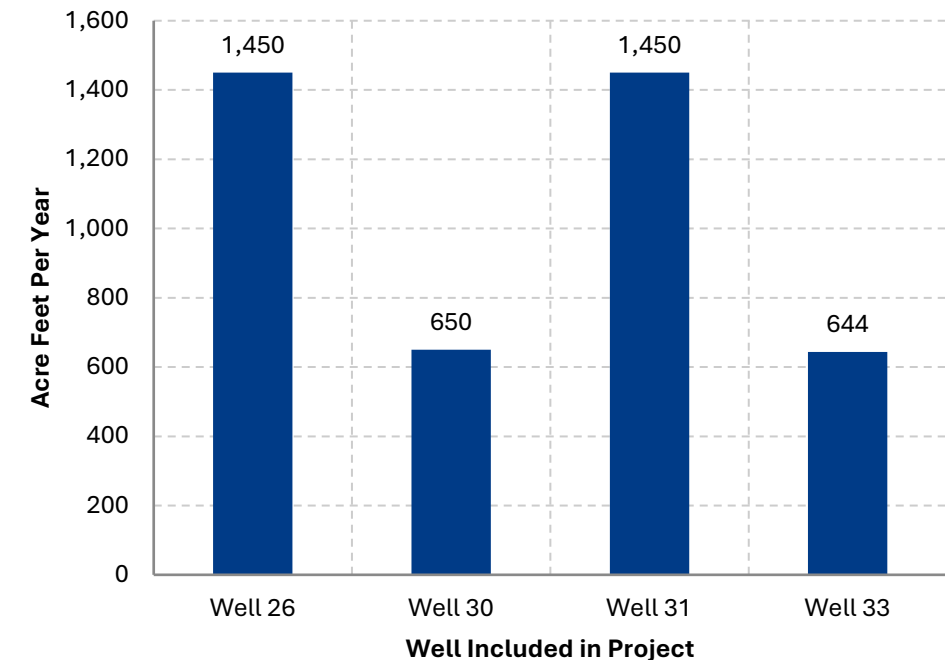
Well Pump Replacements



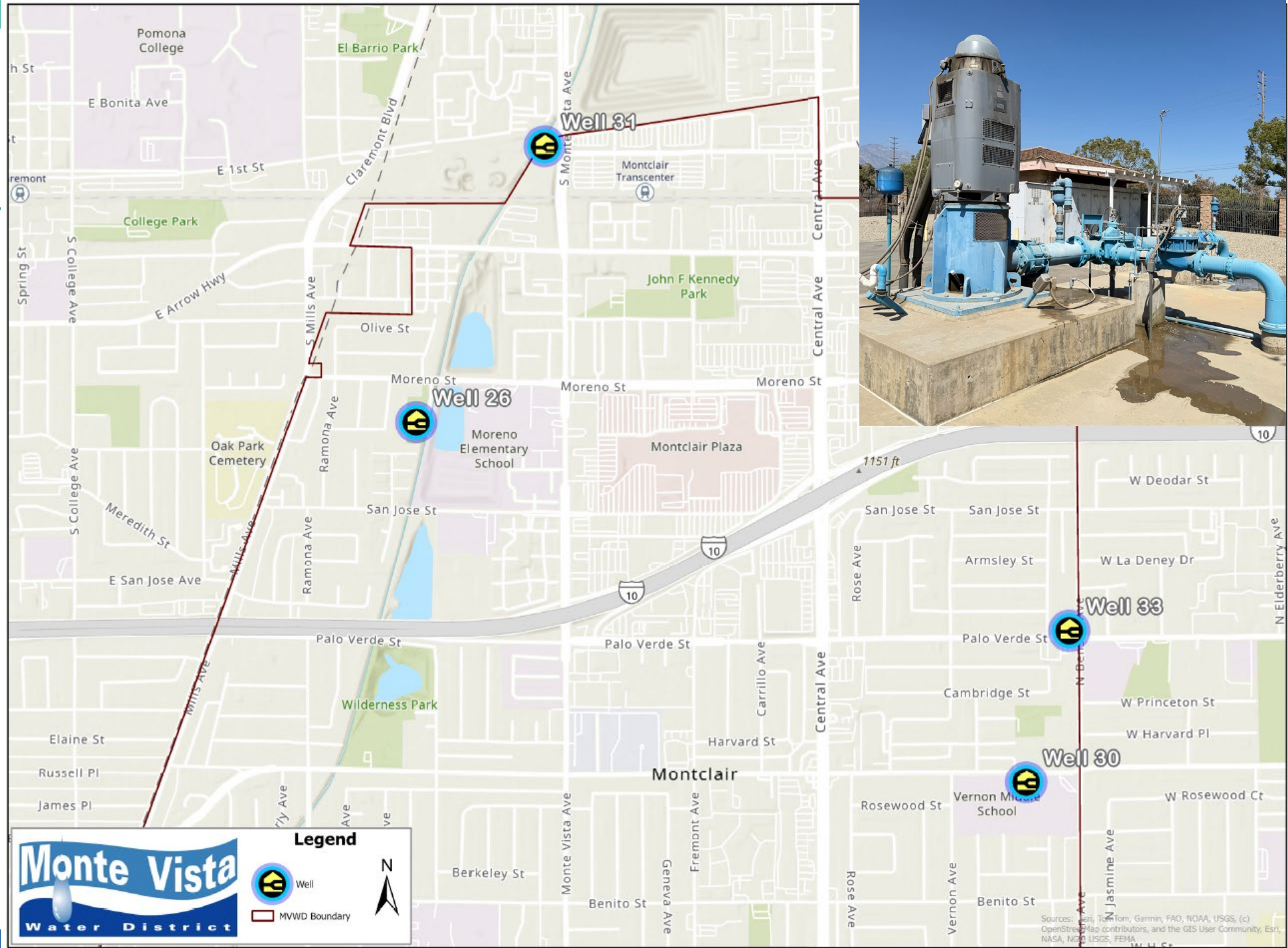
Dedicated to Quality, Service and Innovation

- 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**



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
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*Does not include \$242,662 allocated/utilized by Weather Modification Pilot. Total Grant Funding Awarded amount, with that Weather Modification Pilot allocation included, is \$14,526,842.

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

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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.

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

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

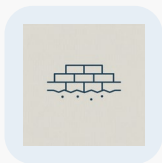
- July 21 — Regional stakeholder coordination meeting (≈27 unique agencies/participants)
- August 18 — Follow-up Arundo Workgroup meeting
- Planning Managers — Survey reviewed before broader distribution
- Arundo Workgroup — Stakeholder survey finalized and distributed
- September 8 — Concept presented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

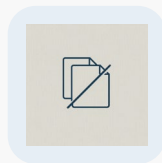
Stakeholder Feedback Themes



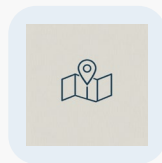
Build on existing work



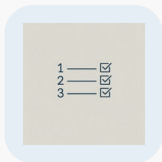
**Strong interest in
collaboration**



Avoid duplication of effort



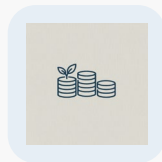
Shared GIS and monitoring



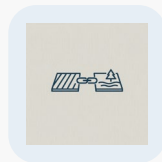
Regional prioritization



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

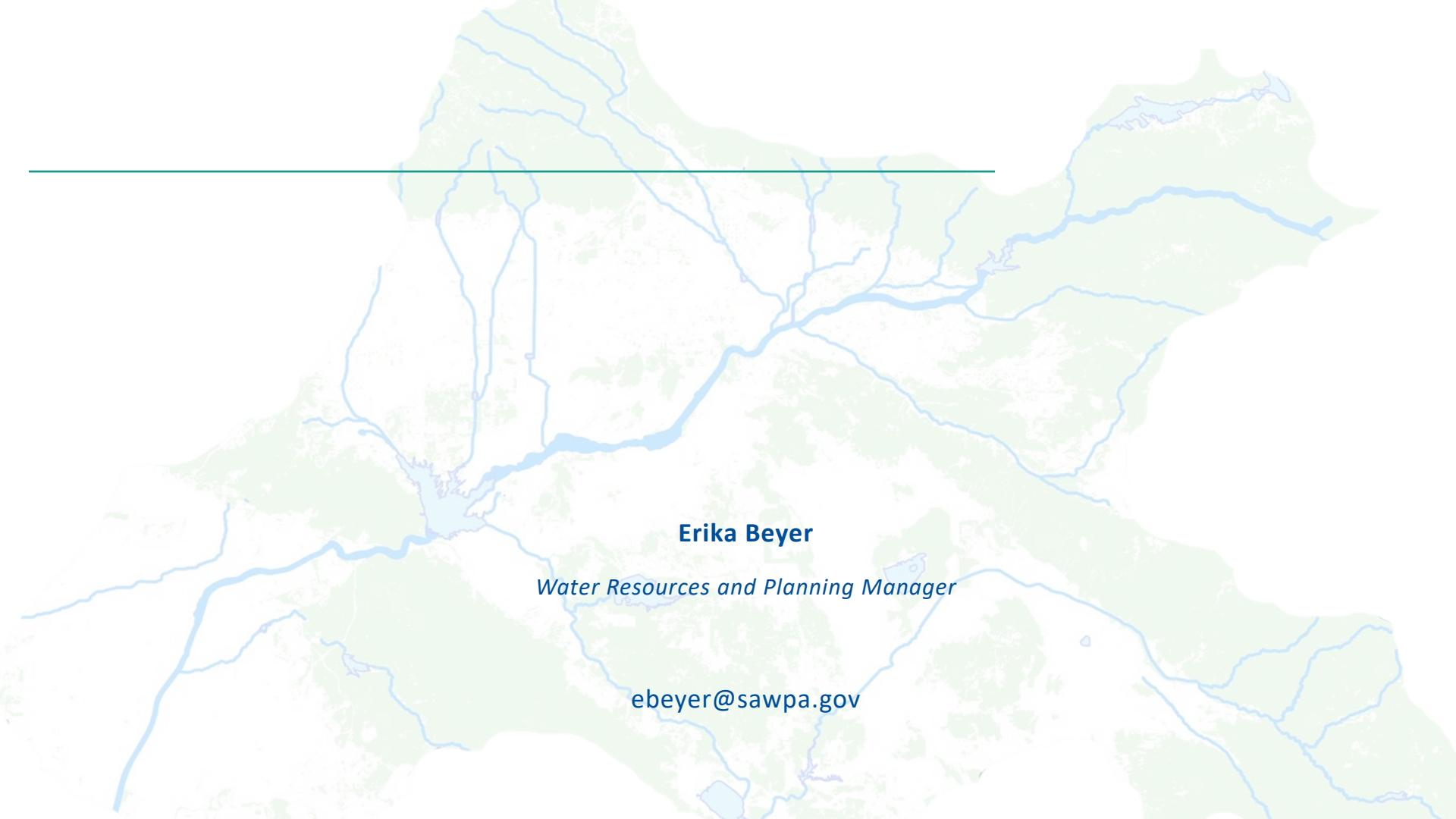
Arundo-specific • Build from existing • Avoid duplication • No new obligations

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.



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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.

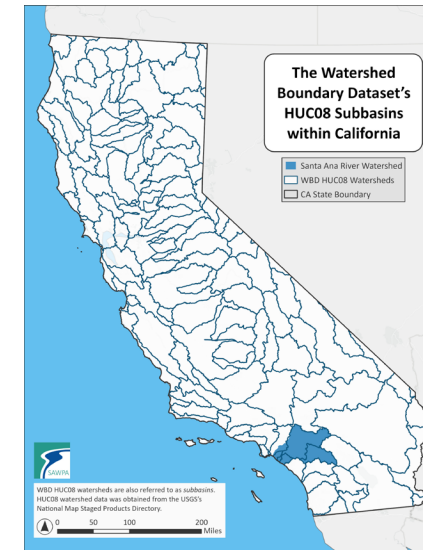
Hydrologic Region



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?

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