

Chapter 5.0 Current Resources & Management Strategies

Introduction

In the early stages of the planning process, various resource management strategies were evaluated. In 2000, as reflected in SAWPA's early integrated water resource plans, six resource management strategies were developed that covered a broad spectrum of water resource planning. At the time, the integration of these six strategies 1) Groundwater Cleanup and Purification, 2) Water Storage, 3) Flood Protection, 4) Wetlands, Habitat, and the Environment, 5) Water Recycling and 6) Recreation and Conservation was considered innovative in proposing a new way to support the needs of water resources in a region. Past water resource management practices focused primarily on water supply functions without considering the more expansive and integrated benefits of integrating other resource management strategies.

The groundwork for implementation of this approach was set into place with the passage of Chapter 6 Watershed Protection Program, Article 5 Southern California Integrated Watershed Program under Proposition 13 Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act in the Year 2000, in which \$235 million dollars was directed to support implementation of integrated multi-benefit projects in the Santa Ana Region. Using this template, the State Department of Water Resources adopted SAWPA's integrated regional approach with the development of new guidelines for statewide implementation of this concept under the Integrated Regional Water Management Program for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 in the Year 2002. Under this program, integrated regional strategies were encouraged for the management of water resources and to provide funding, through competitive grants, for projects that protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water. The program was jointly administered by the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board and was intended to promote an integrated and regional approach to water management.

To further emphasize the importance of integrated regional water management planning, the State incorporated the integrated resource management approach into its California Water Plan Update 2005 and again in its 2009 Update. This latest plan emphasizes the value of an integrated regional water management approach using multiple resource management strategies as the first of 13 objectives for the implementation of the California Water Plan.

In 2006, in light of new threats to water resources in the Santa Ana region and to the State overall, as previously described as the four horsemen of the apocalypse, SAWPA reviewed its past resource management strategies, the resource management strategies defined in the California Water Plan, previous DWR guidelines for IRWMP development, and local water resource needs. A total of ten broad-based resource management strategies were defined and are depicted in the graphic below.



To assure that these resource management strategies for the OWOW plan are comprehensive and fully reflect the resource management strategies as defined in the California Water Plan Update 2009, the OWOW Plan resource management strategies or pillars are aligned with the Resource Management Strategies identified in the Proposition 84 Guidelines, as summarized below:

Pillar Group	Corresponding Proposition 84 Guidelines Resource Management Strategies
Land Use and Water	Increase water supply Improve water quality
Water Supply Reliability	Reduce water demand Improve operational efficiency and transfers
Water Recycling	Increase water supply Increase water quality
Water Use Efficiency	Reduce water demand
Water Quality	Improve water quality
Environmental and Habitat Restoration	Practice resource stewardship
Stormwater Risk Assessment	Improve flood management
Environmental Justice	Included in Guidelines as part of Impact and Beneficial Standard
Parks and Open Space	Not explicitly mentioned in Guidelines
Climate Change	Included in Guidelines as separate standard

In order to manage the initial planning work, the stakeholders were organized into ten workgroups, or Pillars, centered on a specific water resource management issue. Discussion of the formation of the Pillars and their work approach is previously described in Chapter 1 - OWOW Governance.

Technical Analysis

[Table 5.0-1](#) summarizes the studies, models, and other technical methodologies used in the development of the OWOW Plan.

Pillar Chapter Development

Each of the following ten chapters of this report have been written and prepared by the respective OWOW water management strategy committees (Pillars), and represent the culmination of work by the Pillar chair and the Pillar members (local stakeholders). Unlike a single agency or consultant-prepared report, SAWPA did not significantly modify the following Pillar chapters, other than minor editing, in order to ensure that the work developed through the grassroots stakeholder-driven OWOW process was genuinely conveyed intact, and best reflects the interests, issues, and potential solutions of interested stakeholders in the Watershed.

Each Pillar was led by a recognized expert in their subject area, and was selected by the SAWPA Commission. A list of Pillar leaders can be found here ([Pillar Leaders](#)). Local stakeholders participated in a number of Pillar or subject area meetings held in person throughout the Watershed, or virtually using Web-based meeting technology. The number of meetings scheduled for each particular group was determined by the individual Pillar leaders. Additional stakeholders with an interest in particular subject areas were referred to Pillar leaders for inclusion into the process.

Each of the following chapters reflects the direction given to each Pillar by SAWPA to first prepare a list of current conditions, describe current management strategies, identify problems, review the goals and objectives of the Steering Committee, and describe strategies to address the problems as they relate to their respective water management strategy. As a next step, each Pillar leader was asked to list opportunities for collaboration among other Pillars, and as a group, worked to define the benefits of collaboration. The results of the collaboration and benefit assessment are described in later chapters.