

REGIONAL LEADERS RECOMMEND FUNDING PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE LOCAL WATER SUPPLY, ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT, AND CREATE JOBS

RIVERSIDE, CA—The Steering Committee of the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) One Water One Watershed Program recommended allocating \$12 M in Department of Water Resources (DWR) funding to 13 projects from throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed. These projects are intended to reduce the region's dependence on imported water while creating local employment. SAWPA was authorized to allocate this bond funding by DWR.

SAWPA's goal is to provide incentives for projects that provide multiple benefits to the region and to protect and restore our rivers. "Viewing water supply and environmental protection as equal goals is our path to sustainability and protecting our quality of life," said Celeste Cantu, SAWPA's General Manager.

The purpose of the One Water One Watershed Program is to look at water holistically. Water normally associated with flooding and run-off can be used to generate local supply if agencies work together. "Through this process, we have seen more project integration and we like the collaborative process that has happened," said One Water One Watershed Convener, Ron Sullivan.

Funding is being recommended for a portfolio of projects from the following cities and agencies within the Santa Ana River Watershed:

- San Bernardino County Flood Control District
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Orange County Sanitation District
- Eastern Municipal Water District
- Western Municipal Water District
- City of Huntington Beach
- City of Ontario
- City of Menifee
- West Valley Water District
- Orange County Water District
- City of Corona
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Santa Ana Watershed Association

The 11-member One Water One Watershed Steering Committee is made up of County Supervisors, Mayors, and Water Board Members from Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The Committee also includes representatives from the business and environmental communities, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The SAWPA Commission will consider ratifying the project portfolio and funding strategy at their October 19 meeting. For more information go to www.sawpa.org.

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