



For Immediate Release:
September 19, 2017

SAWPA ANNOUNCES RICHARD E. HALLER AS NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Riverside, CA – The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) Commission announced today the appointment of Richard E. Haller as General Manager. Mr. Haller most recently served as Interim General Manager, having been appointed July 1, 2017.

Prior to July, he served as the Engineering & Operations Manager and has held several positions at SAWPA since 2001. Under his innovative leadership, Mr. Haller successfully directed all aspects of SAWPA's 73-mile, \$165 million regional brine line, achieved an 800% decrease in spill frequency, improved in-house staff efficiency resulting in enhanced quality and decreased operation costs, and managed over \$50 million in capital improvements projects. In 2013, he established the permitting and pretreatment group, working with the Orange County Sanitation District to safeguard the environment through brine line discharger permit compliance. Mr. Haller has supervised and implemented grant funding for multiple projects totaling over \$260 million, ensuring interagency coordination and successful, on-budget-and-on-time project completion.

A registered professional civil engineer, Mr. Haller was a Project Manager for CDM Smith for 10 years, serving as the on-site engineer of a \$20 million EPA Superfund project; prior to that time, he was a Project Engineer managing a variety of water, sanitary sewer and residential/commercial development projects and served as Assistant Town Engineer in Woodsboro, Maryland.

Mr. Haller began his career as an officer in the United States Air Force, conducting project development for major U.S. and NATO military construction projects at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. He supervised the development of complex Air Force facility resource and construction requirements for a missile flight test program at Vandenberg Air Force Base. As a Lieutenant Colonel Operations Officer, he led a 15-person field engineering team in designing and managing the construction of approximately 100 projects at Balad Air Base, Iraq, including the surrounding community.

"I am pleased the Commission has placed its trust in me," said Mr. Haller. "I am thrilled for the opportunity to serve the watershed as SAWPA General Manager, and I look forward to working with the stakeholder community."

"This is a unique opportunity for SAWPA to not only continue as a water leader throughout the state," said SAWPA Chair Susan Lien Longville, "but also to strengthen local stakeholder involvement through leadership and interagency consensus."

Mr. Haller is a registered professional civil engineer in California, Arizona and Maryland, and holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University. He is replacing Celeste Cantú, who retired from public service after 10 years at SAWPA and a career in government service spanning over 40 years.

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, a joint powers authority, is comprised of five member agencies: Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eastern Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Orange County Water District. It also owns and operates the Inland Empire Brine Line. The Santa Ana River Watershed encompasses 2,650 square miles, is home to six million people, and stretches over four counties – San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and portions of Los Angeles.



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