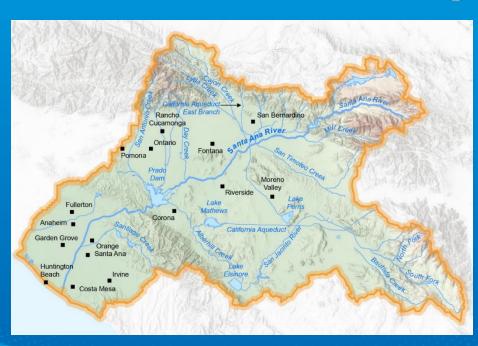
## Santa Ana Watershed Ambassador Program



Randy Record September 12, 2019



## History of Conflict

- The Santa Ana River faced years of legal disputes over water rights, over 4,000 litigants.
- To bring the lawsuits to an end, on April 17, 1969, it was decided that rights to the Santa Ana River would be managed by four representative parties.















### Creation of SAWPA

- SAWPA, formed as a planning agency in 1968 to deal with water quality issues.
- The federal Clean Water Act was signed into law in 1972. Leaders wanted to get ahead on implementation.
- SAWPA's founders started with water quality, and moved to broad watershed management.

#### New Santa Ana watershed agency to study river pollution problem

Daily Enterprise Staff Writer The newly created Santa Ana Watershed Planning Agency yesterday voted to move as rapidly as possible to apply for a federal grant to study pollution problems of the Santa Ana Riv-

At its first meeting - held in Riverside for formal organization - the three-county agency agreed to invite officials of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration (FWPCA) to meet later this month in Santa Ana to help prepare the grant application.

THE AGENCY HOPES to be the first in California to make a study of water quality problems of an entire river from the mountains to the sea. It will ask William Schreeder of San Francisco, FWPCA chief for California, and one of his assistants, Richard O'Connell, project director, of Alameda, to come to the Santa Ana

Answering fears expressed in Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange Counties, O'Connell is reported to have assured agency members they can take the initiative "and establish a program before the federal agency noves in and does it for us."

There has been widespread criticism of the newly created FWPCA in California over federal "dictation" of water quality for the Colorado River and for the Sacramento-San Joaquin

THE NEW AGENCY is the creation of Western Municipal Water Disrict of Riverside County, San Bernarlino Valley and Chino Basin Municipal Water Districts in San Bernardino County and the Orange County Water

The plan was proposed by Western. After nine months of negotiations, agistice to organize under a joint now rs agreement was reached a couple of nonths ago and final action taken by he last of the four last month.

In honor of Western's leadership he agency elected Western's manager,

Howard Hicks, president.

Don Owen, district engineer and ssistant manager of the Orange Coun-Water District, was elected vice Bernardino and the April meeting in Riverside again.

Two of the four member agencies made it clear their respective boards of directors don't want the new joint agency to become involved in legal

BEAVER SAID San Bernardino Valley "doesn't want to get the work (of the agency) diluted with legal pan-

Owen said the engineers of the four Santa Ana watershed agencies are pretty well agreed (in contrast to the lawyers) on the physical data on the

"We're dealing with physical and factual conditions and there is no need for legal discussions," said Beaver.

"The agency shouldn't become a forum for legal debate."

OWEN CAUTIONED: "It's up to us four (the four men, one from each member agency, who constitute the board). Any one of us could get it into the legal field."

Beaver then declared the "physical facts" which he had mentioned "are going to get worse the longer we de-

Owen called the new attempt at cooperation among elements along the river which already are involved in more than one lawsuit over the water in it "an experiment in regional gov-

"We are dealing in the future," Owen said, "Not in the past, as in the

The meeting place will be rotated clockwise among the four agencies with the February and March meetwigs to be held in Cucamonga and San use of Santa Ana water by 2,550 users in Riverside and San Bernardino Coun-

> Beaver described the new approach as a "cookbook operation - too many stews are made without a re-

> To which Owen responded: "What you are trying to say is that too many cooks don't spoil the broth if a recipe is followed.

> THE FOURTH MEMBER of the board is Richard R. Hall, manager of Chino Basin.

> One reason for formation of the district - according to observers not directly involved — is to question whether Riverside County's plan for a \$26 million industrial waste sewer to the sea is justified.

Just last week a consulting engi-neering firm told the San Bernardino district it is economically impractical for the San Bernardino area to join because it does not have enough land available there for heavy industry to justify the high cost of the line.

ORANGE COUNTY already has such a sewer. Chino Basin is building one to connect with a Los Angeles County line at Pomona.

Although water quality is to be the first concern of the new agency its backers hope it may eventually lead to a management plan for the entire San-

Such a plan presumably would inolve supplementing the admittedly inadequate amount of water in the river with Northern California water - of relatively high quality - brought in THE SUIT HE MENTIONED is through the California Aqueduct.

Tuesday, January 9, 1968 Daily Enterprise



#### SAWPA and its Service Area

- SAWPA (JPA) by the numbers:
  - Five member agencies (below).
  - 2,840 square mile Santa Ana River Watershed
    - 70 retail water agencies
    - 10 wholesale water agencies
    - 4 flood control districts
  - 60 cities and approximately
  - 6 million people.













## Early Days of SAWPA

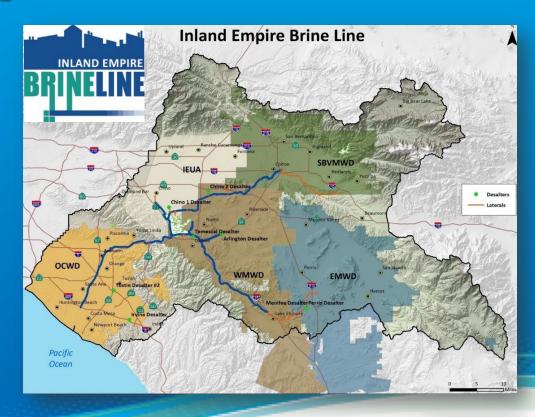
- SAWPA's initial task: develop water quality management plan
- The Plan was completed in 1972 and included 12 major projects to improve water quality by:
  - Exporting salt and pollutants (projects like Stringfellow Superfund site);
    - Reducing salt coming into water from agriculture;
  - Keeping salty groundwater out of the Santa Ana River to improve the Orange County Groundwater Basin.





## Water Quality Solution

- Brineline was a major success
- 93-mile-long brineline
- 30 million gallons per day capacity





### Benefit of Brineline to EMWD

- Brineline Supports EMWD Desalination Program Goals:
- Provide reliable local water supply for up to 30,000 households from an otherwise unusable brackish water source.
- Export up to 50,000 tons of salt per year accumulated from imported water sources in the watershed
- Protect adjacent high-quality, lower salinity groundwater sources thorough strategically located pumping
- Increases sustainability of EMWD's recycled water program







# SAWPA and Integrated Regional Water Management

- Integrated Regional Water
   Management (IRWM) finds winwin solutions for watershed.
  - Multi-agency task forces;
  - Funding; and
  - Long term regional water planning One Water One Watershed.



Emerging Constituents Task Force



**Forest First** 



Basin Monitoring Program
Task Force

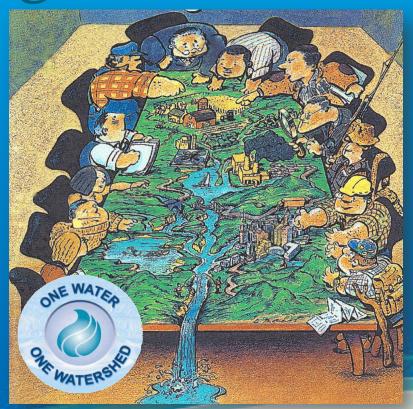


Middle Santa Ana River Watershed TMDL Task Force



## **OWOW Planning**

- Focus of OWOW:
  - Remove agency silos;
  - Encourage a team approach; and
  - Think regionally.





# OWOW – Project Implementation

- Planning 

  funding
- State grant funding is available for IRWM: Proposition 13, 50, 84 and 1.
- Projects are multi-benefits and cover larger areas of the watershed.

#### **Examples:**

- regional water banking;
- watershed-wide conservation programs;
- integrated stormwater capture programs.



San Jacinto Basin Groundwater Well
- Part of the Santa Ana River Conservation and
Conjunctive Use Program -



## Resolving Today's Conflicts



- SAWPA's early days, fight over water rights,
- Today, the conflicts are over local control vs. State-wide regulations,
- SAWPA leverages partnerships and funding.

