

Who is SAWPA?

SAWPA is a Watershed Agency Focused on Regional Water Issues

Formed originally in 1968 as a planning agency, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) was created to help resolve interagency conflicts and address regional water issues in the Santa Ana River watershed. SAWPA tackles issues related to water supply reliability, water quality improvement, recycled water, wastewater treatment, groundwater management, and brine disposal.

SAWPA's Role

SAWPA Administers Multi-Agency Task Forces

SAWPA serves as an administrator for several Task Forces within the watershed through meeting facilitation, contract service administration, and Task Force Agreement coordination. Through collaborative processes, SAWPA creates value by building relationships among regulators, SAWPA members, and regulated parties that allow for economies of scale, reduced costs, or increased benefits in addressing water related issues; provides regional capacity and neutral venue for supporting multi-agency forum(s) to address the water resources challenges in the Santa Ana River Watershed; and assists in the establishment and on-going facilitation of stakeholder processes to address watershed-specific issues.

SAWPA Supports its Member Agencies and Other Organizations with Water Planning

SAWPA is a Joint Powers Authority of five member agencies that supports water resources planning: Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Orange County Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Western Municipal Water District. SAWPA seeks to create and facilitate partnerships with and between organizations pursuing shared interests and overall watershed sustainability. Our regional leadership provides a model of collaboration and cooperation utilizing integrated solutions. SAWPA's Mission is to:

- Facilitate communication
- Identify emerging opportunities
- Develop regional plans
- Secure funding
- Implement programs
- Build projects
- Operate and maintain facilities

The **SAWPA Roundtables/Task Forces** are only a few of our success stories – additional information about SAWPA programs can be found at www.sawpa.gov.

SAWPA Regional Planning Efforts

Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force
Emerging Constituents Program Task Force
Basin Monitoring Program Task Force
Imported Water Recharge Workgroup
Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force
One Water One Watershed Program
Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team
Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force
Forest First
WECAN
Arundo Habitat Management
Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority



SAWPA ROUNDTABLES

A forum for joint management efforts to address watershed issues and regulatory challenges.

SAWPA Member Agencies



What are SAWPA Roundtables or Task Forces?

Roundtables Provide a Forum for Joint Management

The SAWPA Roundtables, also known as Task Forces, provide a forum for joint water resource management efforts to address watershed issues and regulatory compliance. The SAWPA Roundtables operate under formal and informal agreements, often with the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board as a member, and are designed to work cooperatively with the regulated community to address water quality issues. The Roundtables have a long and strong track record of partnerships with organizations with shared interests pursuing overall watershed sustainability.

What is the Purpose of the Roundtables?

Collaboration and Relationship Building

The Roundtables create value among regulators, regulated parties, and SAWPA members by facilitating stakeholder processes for collaboration, producing significant cost savings through joint efforts to address water management issues. SAWPA serves as administrator and provides both regional capacity and a neutral venue for Roundtable collaboration and watershed planning.

"SAWPA has created a **platinum template** for integrated regional planning and a cooperative stakeholder process **that can and should be copied** across the States."

— Frances Spivy-Weber, Former Vice Chair, State Water Resources Control Board

Learn More and Contact Information

For the latest information on the SAWPA Roundtables please visit:



www.sawpa.gov/task-forces/



www.CAWaterLibrary.net



Contact Rachel Gray at rgray@sawpa.gov

Three Major Functions of SAWPA



Collaborative Planning and Facilitation (Roundtables)



Facilities, Operation, and Management (Brine Line)



One Water One Watershed (OWOW)

SAWPA manages Workgroups, Task Forces, and Roundtables through collaboration within the region. SAWPA also runs the Inland Empire Brine line and facilitates the One Water One Watershed Program to bring together watershed community and agency members to plan for and implement projects towards a more sustainable future.



Where does SAWPA Serve?

Santa Ana River Watershed

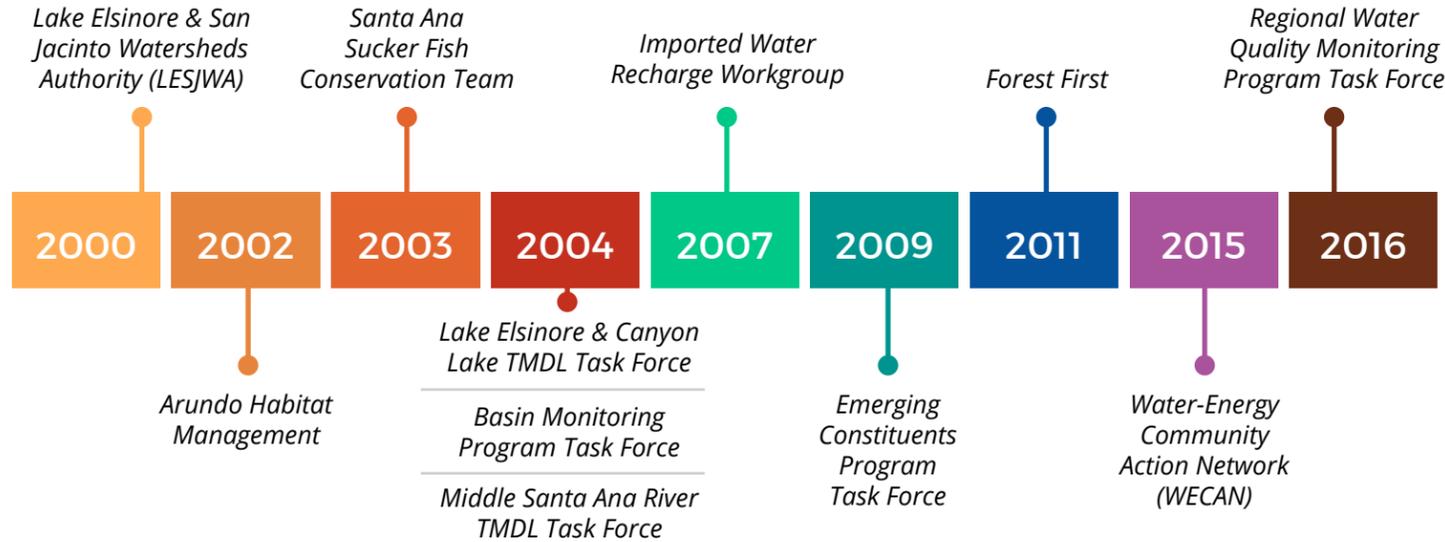
The Santa Ana River watershed, with over six million people, spans approximately 2,840 square miles and covers portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange Counties, and small portions of Los Angeles County. Since the development of the watershed's initial basin plans in the 1970s, SAWPA, its member agencies, and the Santa Ana Regional Water Control Boards, continue to collaborate on numerous water quality protection efforts.

"Today we are presented with more and more challenges. SAWPA continues to play a vital role in initiating and facilitating roundtables in which **stakeholders can develop solutions.**"

— Garry Brown, Orange County Coastkeeper and Inland Empire Waterkeeper Executive Director

History of SAWPA Roundtables

SAWPA has established 11 Roundtables/Task Forces since 2000 that are still active. In addition to serving as organizer and administrator of many multi-agency task forces, SAWPA also represents its member agencies on several regional multi-agency partnerships, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Regional Studies and the Southern California Salinity Coalition.



Arundo Habitat Management



- Provides mitigation credits and restores riparian habitat through removal of the non-native invasive vegetation such as the Arundo Donax.
- Arundo is an invasive species brought to the region for erosion control and as a forage crop for livestock but uses three times more the water than native vegetation.

Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds Authority



- A joint powers authority that supports planning, design and implementation of project to improve water quality at Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake and the San Jacinto River Watershed.
- Administrator of the Lake Elsinore/ Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force.

Basin Monitoring Program Task Force



- Implements an extensive water quality monitoring program in the Santa Ana River watershed.
- Studies the effects of salinity and nitrogen on the long-term sustainability of groundwater supply.

Emerging Constituents Program Task Force



- Evaluates emerging constituents of concern, such as pharmaceuticals, in the water supply.
- Builds awareness of the safety of potable drinking water.
- Implemented voluntarily as an alternative to new regulation.

Imported Water Recharge Working Group



- Models nitrogen and salt impacts to groundwater basins resulting from imported water recharge.
- Considered a statewide template for regional collaboration among regulators and the regulated community.

Regional Water Quality Monitoring Task Force



- Implements a regional surface water quality monitoring program focused on bacteria.
- Streamlines monitoring water quality efforts and reporting through collaboration.

Middle Santa Ana River TMDL Task Force



- Improves water quality by reducing bacterial concentrations in local water bodies.
- Joint monitoring efforts conducted by this task force and the Regional Water Quality Task Force have reduced costs needed to address new surface water quality regulations.

Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake TMDL Task Force



- Addresses lake quality problems of at Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, and the San Jacinto River Watershed by reducing nutrient discharges (TMDL).
- Administered through a joint agreement under LESJWA that allows stakeholders to coordinate and share the cost of implementation efforts.

Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team



- Helps address the decline of the Santa Ana Sucker, a threatened native fish species in the Santa Ana River.
- Conducts habitat surveys and implements native habitat restoration efforts for the fish.

Forest First



- Collaborative venture between the U.S. Forest Service and downstream stakeholders to develop methods to ensure forests and headwaters within the Santa Ana River Watershed are protected.
- Addresses common water issues and helps protect water quality from wildfires and debris flows to downstream recharge basins.

Water-Energy Community Action Network (WECAN)



- Regional approach to water and energy savings that support watershed sustainability and water demand reduction.
- Provides water and energy savings to disadvantaged communities through turf removal and retrofit, outreach, and in-home energy retrofits.