



**OCSA/SAWPA  
Joint Board Meeting and  
Facilities Tour**



**February 2, 2016  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm**  
Orange County Sanitation District  
10844 Ellis Avenue  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

As part of our continuing collaboration and partnership, we are pleased to announce OCSA will host a facilities tour and lunch for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Commissioners with the OCSA Board of Directors.

**What:**

Tour the Orange County Sanitation District: A Resource Recovery Agency and the Groundwater Replenishment System, the world's largest indirect potable water reuse system.

**When:**

Tuesday, February 2, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Where\*:**

Orange County Sanitation District, 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA

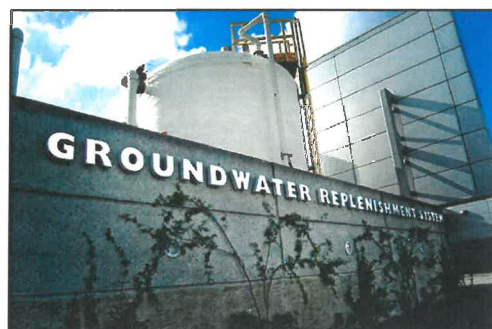
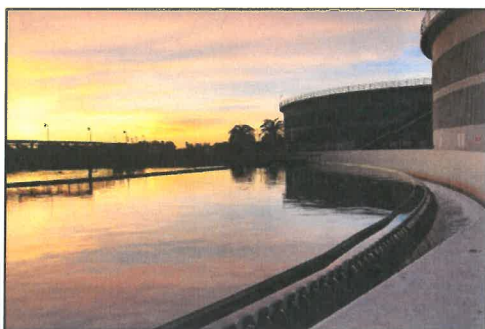
**RSVP:**

Kelly Berry via email at [kberry@sawpa.org](mailto:kberry@sawpa.org) or phone at (951) 354-4230

**Note:**

Everyone must wear covered shoes and no high heels will be permitted

\* If you would like to carpool from SAWPA, arrangements can be made to rent a vehicle as needed. Please RSVP to Kelly Berry no later than 12:00 pm, on Wednesday, January 27, at [kberry@sawpa.org](mailto:kberry@sawpa.org) or (951) 354-4230.



# WATER: State grants to increase Inland groundwater storage

BY DAVID DANIELSKI / STAFF WRITER

Published: Jan. 13, 2016 Updated: Jan. 14, 2016 12:08 a.m.



Inland and Orange County water providers expect to greatly increase their groundwater storage capacity, thanks to \$64.3 million in state grants announced Wednesday, Jan. 13. Most of the money -- \$55 million -- will go toward building wells, pump stations and pipelines needed to store water imported from the state's canals in the ground, said Mark Norton, the water resource and planning

manager for the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Water from the California Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct will be stored underground when it is plentiful and used as needed during dry seasons, he said. The wells and recharged facilities will be built in the Chino, San Bernardino, San Jacinto and Lake Elsinore water basin areas.

The authority expects these projects to store enough water to meet the annual needs of about 120,000 households, Norton said. Work is expected to begin in about six months and be completed within five years. "This is very good news for us," Norton said, adding the projects show cooperation between members of the watershed authority.

These members will be contributing about \$50 million in additional funds for the groundwater storage projects. They include the Eastern, Western, and San Bernardino Valley municipal water districts, and the Orange County Water District.

The remainder of the grants announced Wednesday will go toward flood control work in Riverside County and a sewer pipeline in Orange County.

The \$64.3 million comes from \$5.4 billion on bonds for water and coastal protection projects approved by California voters in 2006 with the passage of Proposition 85.

**Contact the writer:** 951-368-9471 or [ddanelski@pe.com](mailto:ddanelski@pe.com)

# PPIC WATER POLICY CENTER

## A Strong Start for PPIC's Water Policy Center

Nine months ago—serendipitously, just one day after Governor Brown announced a state of emergency in response to the drought—the PPIC Water Policy Center was launched with the goal of spurring water management innovations to support a healthy economy, environment, and society. Today, cities throughout the state remain focused on water conservation while simultaneously bracing for El Niño floods (it will take more than one wet year to recover from the drought). Through it all, our center—with its network of 40 researchers—has been contributing to important water policy debates with new research, publications, and public outreach. We couldn't have come this far without support from generous funders and broad interest in our work.



Ellen Hanak  
Center Director

In our first nine months, the Water Policy Center waded quickly into the depths of California's most pressing water issues, starting with the ongoing drought. Our first major report, *What If California's Drought Continues?*, documented the drought's effects on different sectors and provided suggestions to improve drought response in the most urgent problem areas—particularly water for rural communities and the environment. We received substantial positive feedback from policy audiences and the press regarding the timeliness of this study and the value of highlighting areas where California still needs to take action to strengthen both emergency

response and longer-term drought resilience.

We also reviewed the performance of the state's water market and water rights systems in response to drought. *Allocating California's Water: Directions for Reform* describes ways to improve these systems' efficiency and transparency, as well as their responsiveness to the environment and public health. The report generated a spirited conversation in the media and with decision makers about the need to reform water rights to improve water management across the state.

In addition to these major research efforts, we've been hard at work interpreting key water issues in "short form" as well. You can get quickly up to speed on key topics through our water blog (sign up for it here) and our growing library of fact sheets, which cover topics such as California's water quality challenges and reforming groundwater management. Our popular briefing kit outlines nine pressing water issues facing the state. Our YouTube page hosts our videos on a range of key topics and events. We'd be interested to hear your feedback on these resources.

Another very important aspect of our work is public outreach. In its inaugural year, the Water Policy Center sponsored four regional events in Fresno, Monterey, Los Angeles, and San Jose on locally important topics. We testified at hearings held by the state assembly and senate, and had numerous meetings with state, federal, and local water officials and key stakeholders. We gave many talks around the state and in other western states, including at a "Climate One" panel in San Francisco; a forum for environmental educators in San Diego; and at meetings of Water Education for Latino Leaders, the Association of California Water Agencies, and the Western Growers Association, among others.

Looking ahead, we're working on a number of exciting new projects, ranging from improving the federal response to western drought, to strengthening California's water accounting and information systems, to applying lessons from Australia's experience with environmental drought planning and management. We are beginning a three-year project funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency to examine the response by federal, state, and local

institutions to drought. From this work we will develop recommendations to improve long-term drought management.

California's water landscape is unpredictable and challenging—yet ripe for reforms that will help the state prepare for a changing climate and a growing population and economy. We're already seeing progress on some of California's toughest problems, from groundwater management to water security in rural communities.

The success of the Water Policy Center is tied to the support and interest of our many partners, from our generous donors to the dedicated researchers that form our expert network. For our research to be timely and useful, it must be grounded in a deep understanding of the diverse water community that uses our findings to inform opinions and decisions. During 2016 we plan to expand our engagement with this community to better inform our work. We hope you will continue to be part of this effort—whether through advice, information, or financial support—in the coming year.

We're looking forward to more water adventures in 2016.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ellen Hanak  
Center Director

Public Policy Institute of California  
500 Washington Street, Suite 600  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Phone: (415) 291-4400  
Website: [www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)

PPIC Sacramento Center  
Senator Office Building  
1121 L Street, Suite 801  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 440-1120