



# Alternative Approaches to Integrated Regional Watershed Management for North and Central OC

South Orange County Watershed  
Management Area Executive  
Committee

November 19, 2015

# Introduction



- Prop. 84 Integrated Regional Watershed Management grant funds allocated to designated funding areas
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) serves as administrator of IRWM program for Santa Ana Funding Area

# SAWPA




- Joint Powers Authority, with 5 water districts including OCWD
- Developed One Water One Watershed (OWOW) plan
  - Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan for Santa Ana Watershed
- Mission: plan & build facilities to protect watershed water quality
  - Manages brine line to dispose of high salinity wastewater
  - Facilitates task forces to manage water quality issues in watershed

# IRWM Plans in OC




SINCE 1933

ORANGE COUNTY  
**OC Public Works**  
*Our Community, Our Commitment*




**North Orange County Watershed Management Area Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan**

February 2011



**Integrated Regional Water Management Plan**



**Central Orange County Watershed Management Area**

September 2012



ORANGE COUNTY

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

South Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan

FINAL JUNE 2013





# Considering Future Options

- OCWD considering 2 options for future participation in IRWM program
  - Work with local stakeholders to consider forming Integrated Regional Watershed Management region for Orange County
  - Work with SAWPA to refine OWOW funding process

# Existing Challenges



- Santa Ana River watershed area is large and diverse
- Smaller-scale local projects have difficulty competing on watershed scale
- Current process does not focus collaboration at local level





# Existing Collaboration in OC

- Orange County has history of collaborative efforts:
  - South Orange County Watershed Management Area
  - Newport Bay Executive Committee water quality programs
  - Water Use Efficiency programs in all 34 Orange County cities
  - OCWD and Orange County Sanitation District collaboration on Groundwater Replenishment System



# Benefits of OC IRWM Region

- Focus on addressing priorities in Orange County, such as, but not limited to:
  - Upper Newport Bay, Bolsa Chica Reserve
  - Beach water quality
  - Stormwater capture/stormwater management
- Build on existing, strong stakeholder collaboration & Watershed Management Areas in Orange County
- Utilize experience of South Watershed Management Area as framework for building similar program





# Advantages of OC IRWM Region

- Regional planning in Orange County will outlast grant funding
  - Planning will be on more sustainable foundation with Orange County Integrated Regional Watershed Management
- County of Orange provides support to maintain collaboration over long term
- Management structures already in place
- 3 Watershed Management Areas have prepared Integrated Regional Watershed Management plans

# Next Steps



- Seek input/support from Orange County stakeholders
- Create proposed framework for developing Region Management Working Group
- Develop proposal and submit to Department of Water Resources
- Continue working with SAWPA and water agencies in watershed to re-define OWOW process