



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