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Call to Order

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Tuesday, March 19, 2024





Roll Call



Paul Kielhold President



June HayesVice President



T. Milford HarrisonTreasurer



Gil J. Botello
Director



Susan Longville
Director



Public Comment

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board; however, no action may be taken on offagenda items except as authorized by law. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.



Consent Calendar

All matters on the Consent Calendar may be approved by one motion. Any member of the Board of Directors may request an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion or separate action.

Consent Calendar 2.1 - 2.2

2.1 Approve Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors' Meeting - March 5, 2024 (pg. 3)

2.2 Approve Minutes of the Board of Directors' Workshop - Policy/Administration - March 7, 2024 (pg. 10)

Board Motion & Roll Call Vote



Paul Kielhold
President



June HayesVice President



T. Milford HarrisonTreasurer



Gil J. BotelloDirector



Susan Longville
Director

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Consent Calendar items 2.1 - 2.2.



Discussion and Possible Action Items

Discussion Item 3.1 (pg. 16)

Kai Palenscar - Environmental Compliance and Permitting Program Mana Joanna Gibson, MS - Executive Director, Upper Santa Ana River HCP

Consider Approval of a Joint Funding Agreement for United States Geological Survey to Complete Tasks Identified in the Awarded Traditional Section 6 Grant: Development of Alternative Sampling Methodologies for Year-Round Santa Ana Sucker Monitoring





Section 6 Grant: Development of Alternative Sampling Methodologies for Year-Round Santa Ana Sucker Monitoring

Nov. 14, 2023, BOD Workshop – Resources/Engineering

- Approved Resolution 1181:
 - Enter into funding agreement with CDFW (\$117,858.35)
 - Provide non-federal matching funds (\$43,600)
- Missing step: Agreement with USGS to conduct study (\$83,237)

Inland Empire water agencies pool resources to save Santa Ana sucker









WHY?

Limitations of SAR Native Fish Survey (2015-2023)

- Single Timepoint
- Expense
- Climate Change
- Expertise

- late summer/fall (limited dataset)
- High (laborious)
- Summer Storms? (impacts dataset)
- Needed to capture/handle fish



Inland Empire water agencies pool resources to save Santa Ana sucker









Benefit of Grant Research

Research: Test alternative survey techniques at RCRCD native fish raceways (camera/fish tagging)

- Multiple Timepoints: no restrictions on timing
- Expense: Moderate to Low
- Climate Change: Multiple timepoints reduce effect
- Expertise: Lower threshold



AVID







Breakdown of Budget

Total Awarded Federal Funds:

USGS Budget:

USGS Match:

\$117,858

\$ 83,237

\$ 19,755



Inland Empire water agencies pool resources to save Santa Ana sucker









Staff Recommendation

Authorize CEO/General Manager:

• Execute Joint Funding Agreement with USGS to complete tasks identified in Section 6 grant: Development of Alternative Sampling Methodologies for Year-Round Santa Ana Sucker Monitoring (\$83,237).

Fiscal Impact:

- None
 - [Temporal: SBVMWD pays USGS, then reimbursed 100% by CDFW]

Director Comments and Discussion



Paul Kielhold
President



June HayesVice President



Harrison
Treasurer



Gil J. BotelloDirector



Susan Longville

Director

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the CEO/General Manager to execute a Joint Funding Agreement (Attachment 1) with the United States Geological Survey to complete tasks identified in the awarded Section 6 grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Development of Alternative Sampling Methodologies for Year-Round Santa Ana Sucker Monitoring.

Discussion Item 3.2 (pg. 67)

Joanna Gibson, MS - Executive Director, Upper Santa Ana River HCP Chris Jones, MESM - Preserve System Program Manager

Consider Authorizing Execution of Amendment to Riparian Bird Monitoring Consulting Services Agreement



Purpose & Need

- Continuation of ongoing study to establish baseline distribution and population of riparian bird species
- Enables future comparisons of HCP project impacts and benefits (comparing project impacts or benefits against baseline)
- Supports Tributary Restoration Projects (mitigation for regional water supply reliability projects: facilitating recharge of up to 87,000 AFY)
- Data establishes averages (ameliorate variability between years)
 - More robust/defensible dataset
 - Preferred by Regulatory Agencies

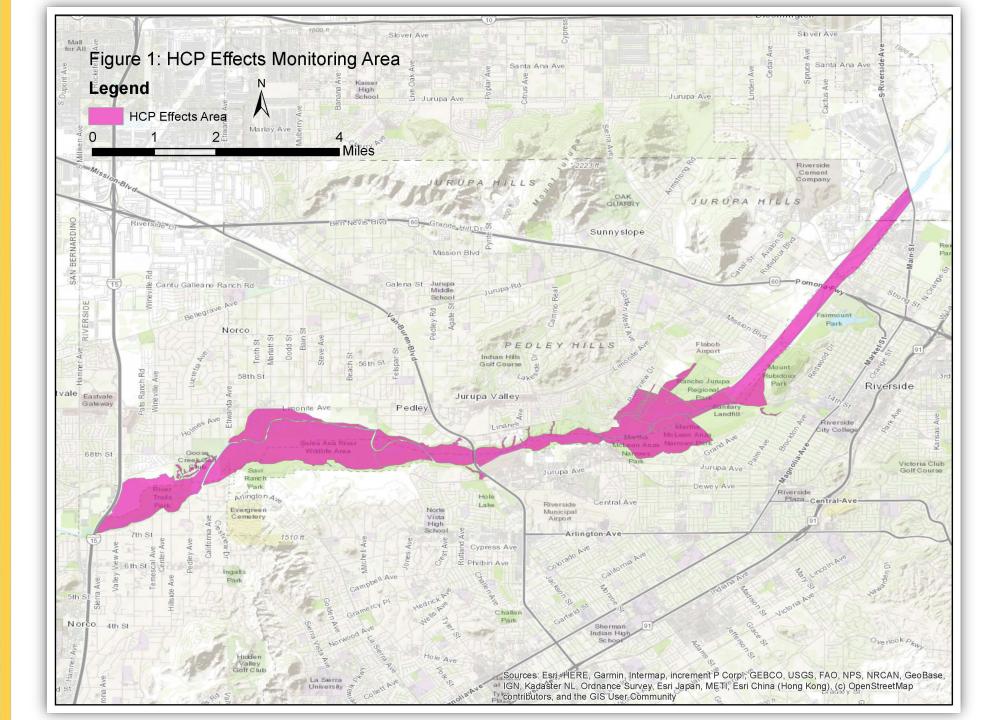




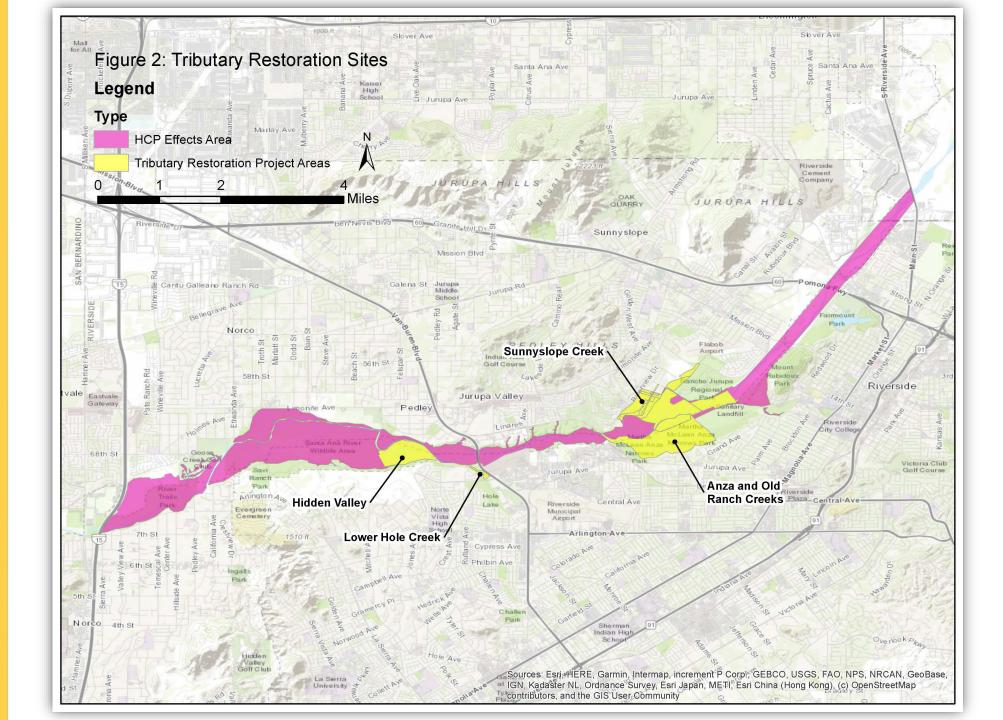




Project Area: HCP Effects Area



Project Area: Tributary Restoration Projects



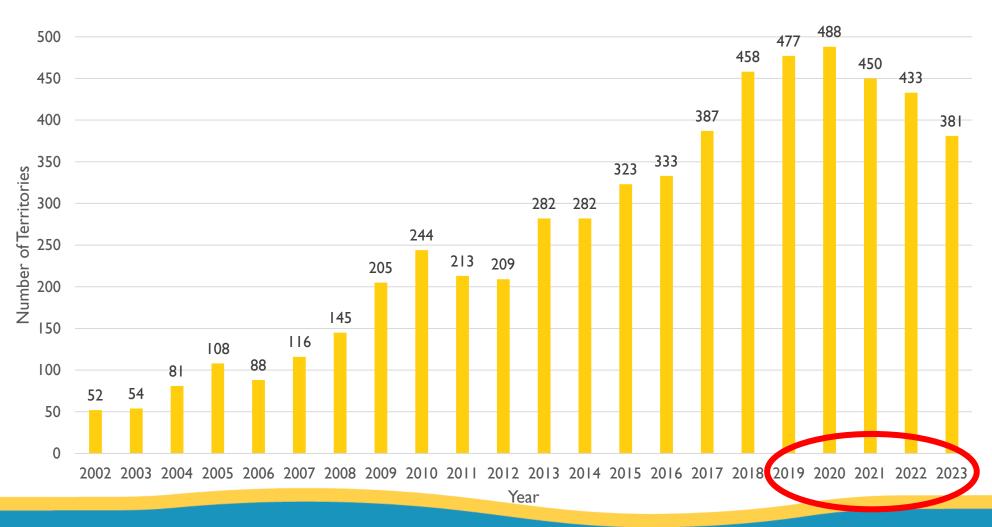
Summary of 2023 Survey Results: Vireo Territories in Upper SAR



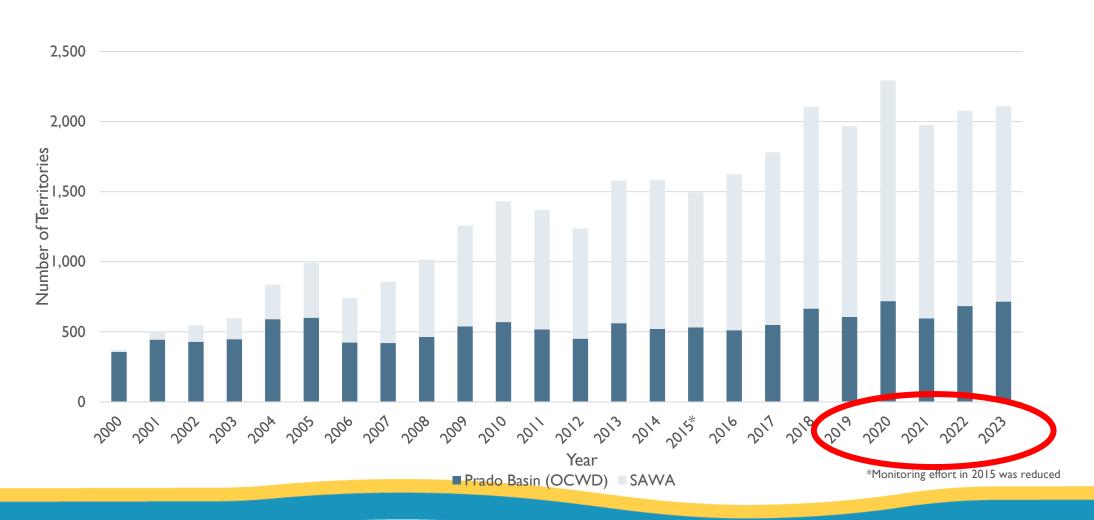




Vireo Territories in Upper SAR Watershed

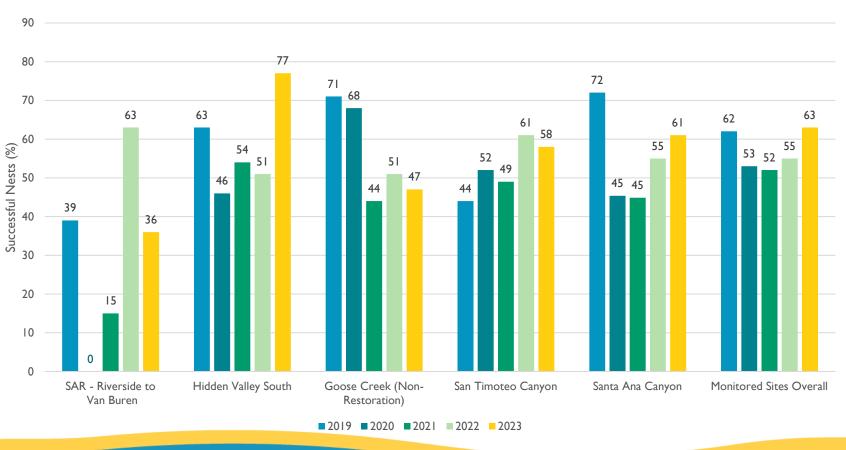


Vireo Abundance in SAR Watershed 2000-2023



Summary of 2023 Survey Results: Vireo Nest Success

Percent Nest Success at Select Monitored Sites

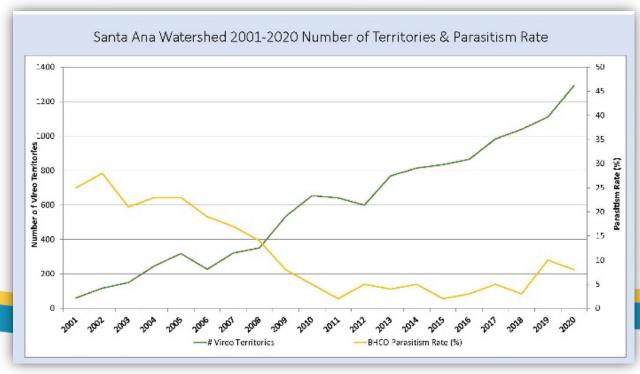


Brown-headed Cowbird Trapping

- Brood parasites:
 - females do not build nests;
 - lay eggs in nests of "host" birds
 - transfer responsibility of hatching, raising young to "host" bird
- Remove host bird eggs
- Young hatch sooner, larger, outcompete host young
- Single female: 30 eggs per year, 1-2 in each host nest.

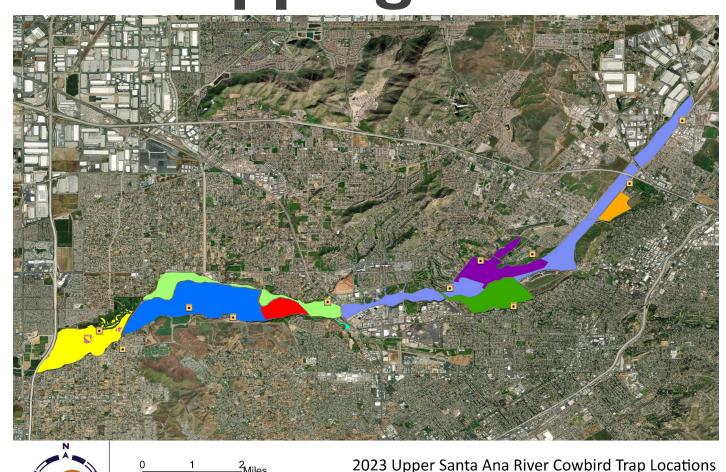






Summary of 2023 Survey: Cowbird Trapping

- 0 parasitized nests in monitored nests!!!
- Upper SAR contained 86% of parasitized nests in 2022
- 61 BHCO removed from 11 traps in Upper SAR Watershed
- 42 traps in entire watershed





Goose Creek Mitigation Goose Creek Hidden Valley-North Hidden Valley South

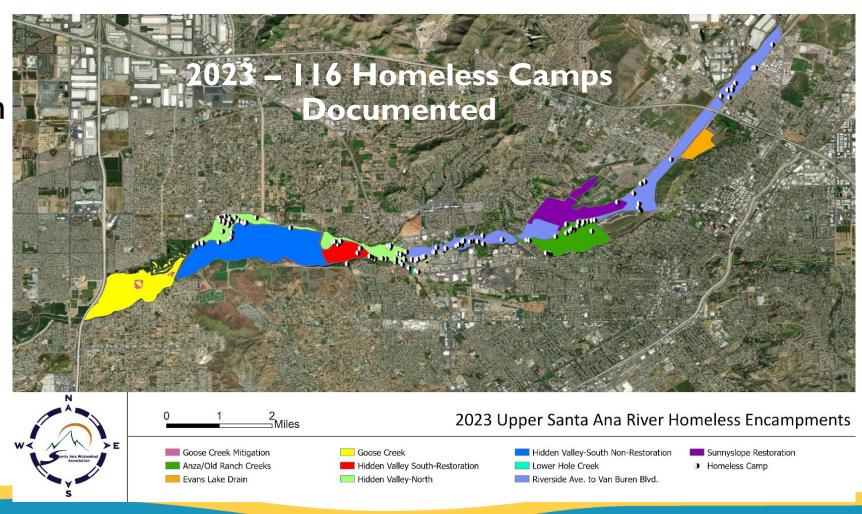
Hidden Valley-South Non-

Sunnyslope Restoration ■ BHCO Trap

Summary of 2023 Survey: Recommendations

Safety is a Priority

- Hostile encounters with unhoused
- People with weapons
- Vehicles in habitat
- Illegal cannabis grows
- Fire
- Wildlife





2024 Scope of Work Amendment to existing Consulting Services Agreement

Tasks:

- I. Baseline Monitoring of Riparian Birds for Effects from HCP Covered Activities
- 2. Baseline Monitoring to Measure Success of Restored Tributaries and Management of Other Conservation Areas
- 3. Cowbird Trapping
- 4. Agency Coordination Assistance
- 5. Reporting
 - Monitoring Results
 - Unhoused Camp Mapping

Optional Tasks:

 Security for high-risk locations (subject to demonstrated need & Valley District approval)



Amendment to existing Consulting Services Agreement

Year	Surveys	Cowbird Trapping	Optional S ecurity	Total
2022	\$ 179,449.68	\$ 38,053.20	\$ 25,526.50	\$ 243,029.38
	·			
2023	\$ 201,607.24	\$ 48,423.26	\$ 15,589.50	\$ 265,620.00
2024	\$ 227,712.65	\$ 46,847.06	\$ 15,589.50	\$ 290,149.21

2023 Data

- Critical to SNRC startup
- Levered data as baseline monitoring
- SNRC would have been delayed 12 months without dataset

Previous Selection Process

January 2022: RFP Advertised

• 3 Firms Proposed

SAWA Selected

- Low-Bid
- >20 years experience in the watershed
- Continuity of trusted data
- Regional integration of data
- Awarded prior contracts in 2019 and 2021



Entity	Base Cost Estimate	Optional Items	Total Cost Estimate
SAWA	\$218,282.38	\$25,526.50	\$265,873.16
Firm B	\$232,752.00	\$119,287.00	\$352,039.00
Firm C	\$790,302.00	\$10,640.00	\$800,942.00

District Strategic Plan Application

- Monitoring supports mitigation that offsets impacts from water supply projects that will facilitate capture and recharge of approximately 87,000 AFY
- Monitoring data allows us to track potential impacts and benefits of HCP Covered Activities
- Science-based results help manage potential risks to resources and meet HCP commitments.



Fiscal Impact

2024 Budget Estimate: \$290,149

HCP Cost Share:

- HCP Partner Share (60%): \$174,090
- San Bernardino Valley Share (40%): \$116,060

Approved 23/24 General Fund Budget (6780): \$265,500



Director Comments and Discussion



Paul Kielhold
President



June HayesVice President



Harrison
Treasurer



Gil J. BotelloDirector



Susan Longville

Director

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is requesting the Board of Directors authorize the CEO/General Manager to execute Amendment 2 to the existing Consulting Services Agreement with the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) to conduct riparian bird surveys during the 2024 survey season for an amount not to exceed \$290,150.

Discussion Item 3.3 (pg. 85)

Joanna Gibson, MS - Executive Director, Upper Santa Ana River HCP

Update on the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan



PURPOSE



- Large "Umbrella" permit
- Provides Endangered Species Permits for 21 Covered Species
- Provides federal regulatory assurances that there will be no additional requirements for those Covered Species
- Streamlines > 100 water agency facility projects and operations activities, providing an additional 4 million acre-feet of water over 50 years
- Protects and manages habitat for Covered Species,
 which contributes to watershed health and resiliency



Upper SAR HCP Program Update



HCP Document

- Revisions to species models
- Delhi Sands flower-loving fly as impacted species, new model created, developed step-wise procedure for assessing impacts
- Revisions to Covered Activities (Rearrangement/Reclassification)
- Impact clarifications
 - ➤ Ongoing Maintenance v Impacts within Existing Facilities v New Impacts
 - >SNRC as baseline
- Added new mitigation area
 - **≻Lytle Creek (RHWC)**

Upper SAR HCP Program Update



- ➤ Revisions to HCP goals and objectives
- > Revisions to species goals and objectives
- Completed additional analyses to demonstrate that we have an implementable strategy to reverse impacts to groundwater-dependent ecosystems (if detected).







ESA Permitting for Covered Species



<u>Plants</u>

Slender-horned spineflower Santa Ana River woolly-star

Fishes

Santa Ana sucker

Arroyo chub

Santa Ana speckled dace*

Amphibians and Reptiles

Western spadefoot*

Mountain yellow-legged frog

Western pond turtle*

South coast garter snake

California glossy snake

Mammals

San Bernardino kangaroo rat Los Angeles pocket mouse

Insect

Delhi Sands flower-loving fly

<u>Birds</u>

Least Bell's vireo

Southwestern willow flycatcher

Yellow-breasted chat

Western yellow-billed cuckoo

Tricolored blackbird

Burrowing owl*

Coastal California gnatcatcher

Cactus wren

Fully avoided species

Arroyo toad









Photo: Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Photo: F

Upper SAR HCP Program Update



NEPA & CEQA

- ➤ Historically joint documents
- ➤ Rule change mid-2020:
 - Time and page limits (1 year, 75 pages)
 - Documents separated
- > Prepared for HCP (a federal document)

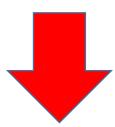
NEPA – CEQA – HCP Consistency

Upper SAR HCP Program Update



HCP To Do:

- Financial calculations for mitigation strategy
 - USFWS concurrence



JPA

- **>** Draft
- ➤ Outstanding: Participation and financing agreement



EVWD, SBVMWD Projects



- 1. Sterling Natural Resources Center
 - 2 Amendments to Biological Opinion, last one required significant coordination/review (3-4 months)
 - Review and approval of required deliverables:
 - Santa Ana sucker Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan
 - Microhabitat enhancement plan
 - Nonnative aquatic predator control plan
 - Nonnative plant management program
 - Water temperature amelioration
 - Santa Ana sucker translocation plan
- 2. Enhanced Recharge, Phase 1B
- 3. WIFIA

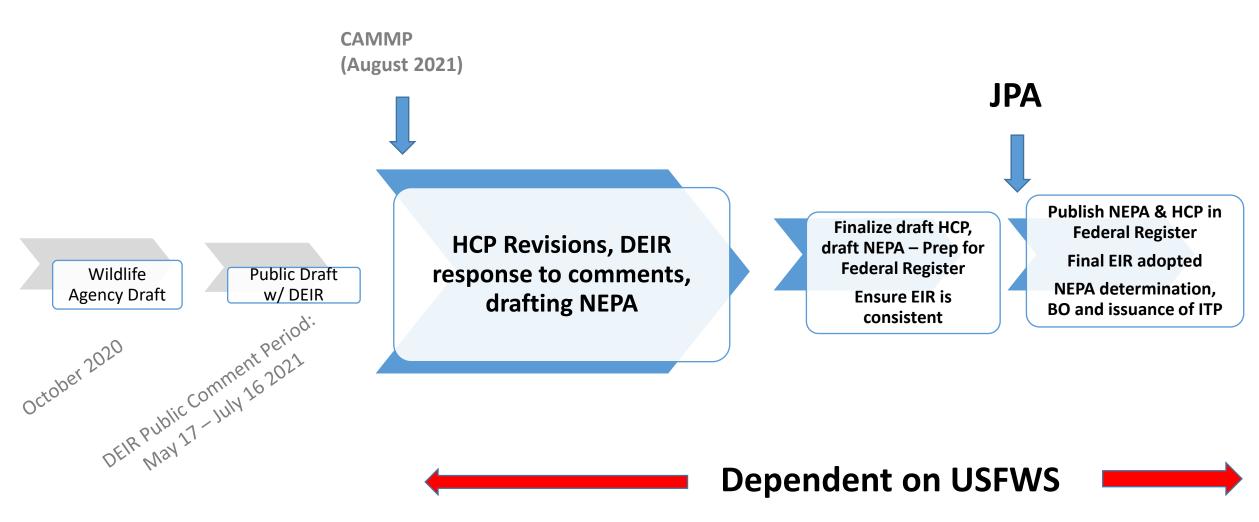
OTHER: Sucker translocation



- Concerns expressed by:
 - > SBCFCD
 - Downstream landowners
 - > CDFW
- Proposed new rule
 - ➤ If made final, will benefit translocation (mitigation for stormflow and baseflow reduction projects)

HCP UPDATE





**Requested Staffing Detail: should be established in next 2 weeks.



UPPER SAR HCP MITIGATION

CREATE MORE HABITAT

PROTECT & ENHANCE EXISTING HABITAT

REDUCE THREATS

Tributary Restoration Sites



ANZA

- ➤ Work underway (palm treatment)
 - Final stages of securing permits/permissions

HIDDEN VALLEY

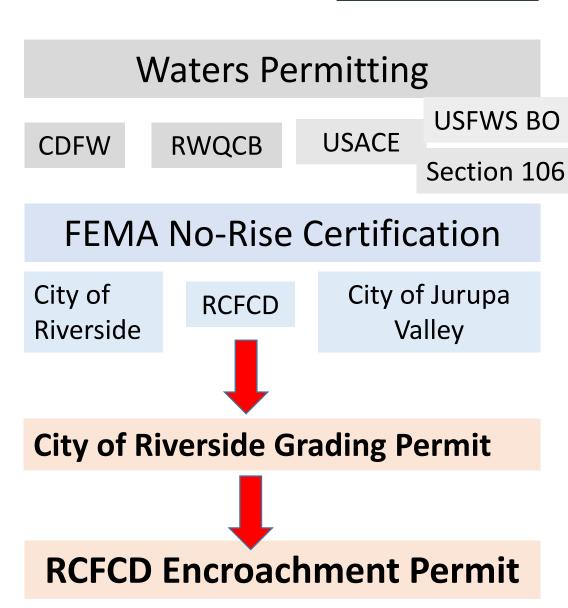
- Work underway (palm treatment)
 - ➤ Obtained CDFW ROE January 2024

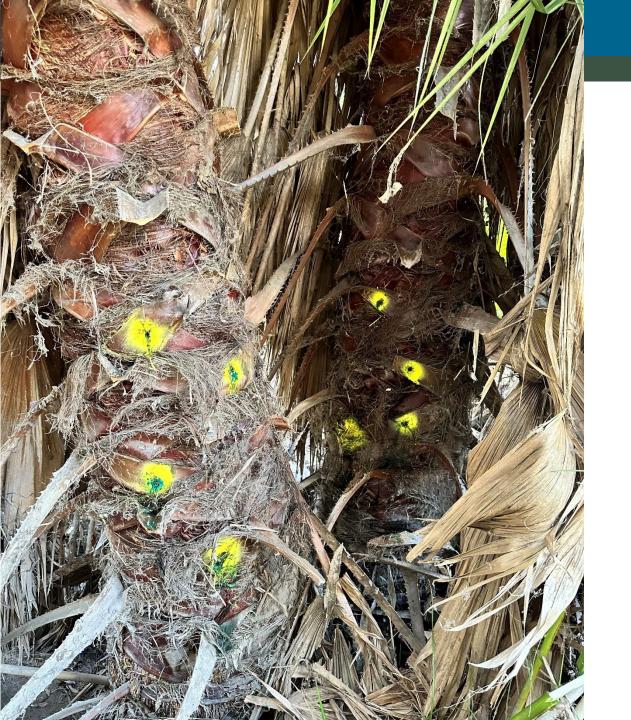
OLD RANCH, LOWER HOLE

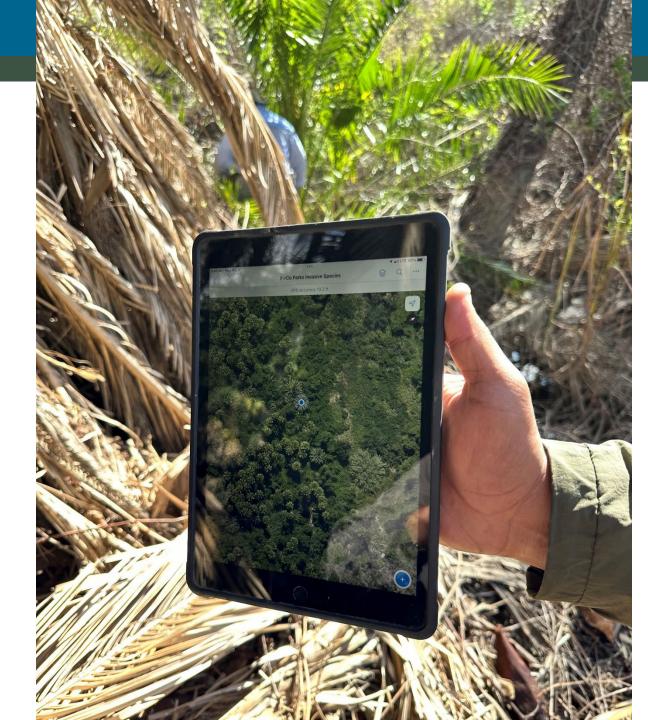
➤ Work underway (palm treatment)

SBVMWD Environmental Unit

- ➤ Handling preparation and submission of deliverables
- > Engineering providing assistance
- ➤ Significant cost-savings







SANTA ANA SUCKER



All documents prepared for SNRC incorporated into HCP

- ➤ Nonnative aquatic species control plan
- ➤ Nonnative plant management program
- >Temperature amelioration study
- ➤ Santa Ana sucker translocation
- ➤ Mainstem microhabitat:
 - Achieved acreage goal in 2023 (proof to USFWS that it works)

Benefits to HCP: demonstrated success



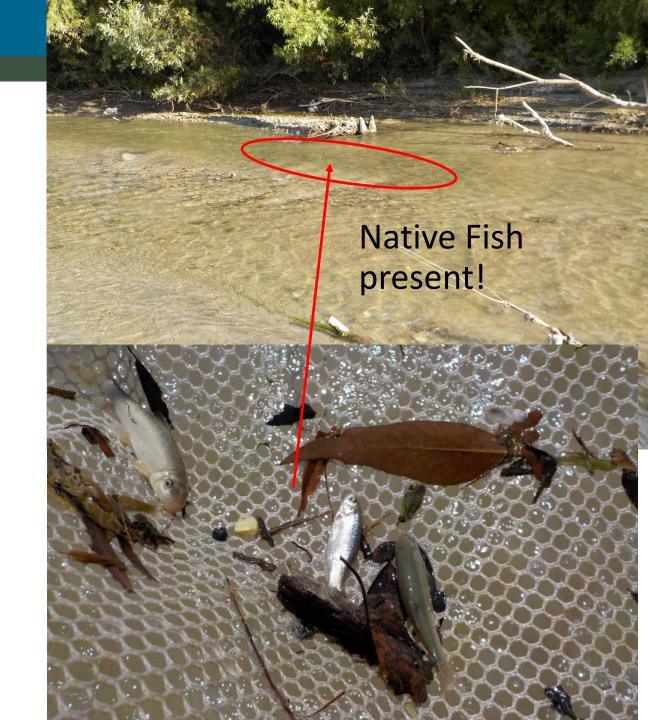




October and November 2022 (#1 stake array)





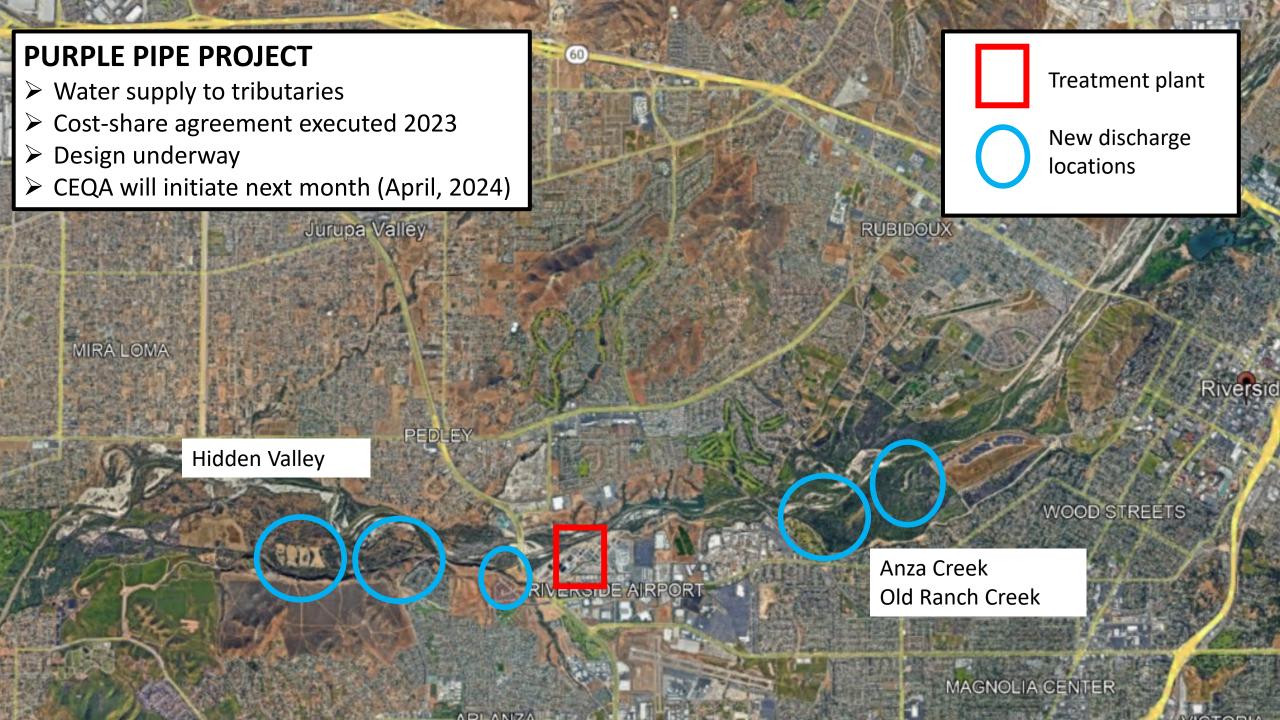


SANTA ANA SUCKER



- ➤ Native Fish Surveys 9 Yrs. to date (2015-23), next survey fall 2024
- ➤ Larval Native Fish Surveys 9 Yrs. to date (2015-23), Monthly (March-July)
- ➤ Section 6 Grant: Development of alternative sampling methodologies for year-round Santa Ana sucker monitoring. ~\$118,000 Awarded





HCP Update - Mitigation



ALLUVIAL SCRUB AREAS

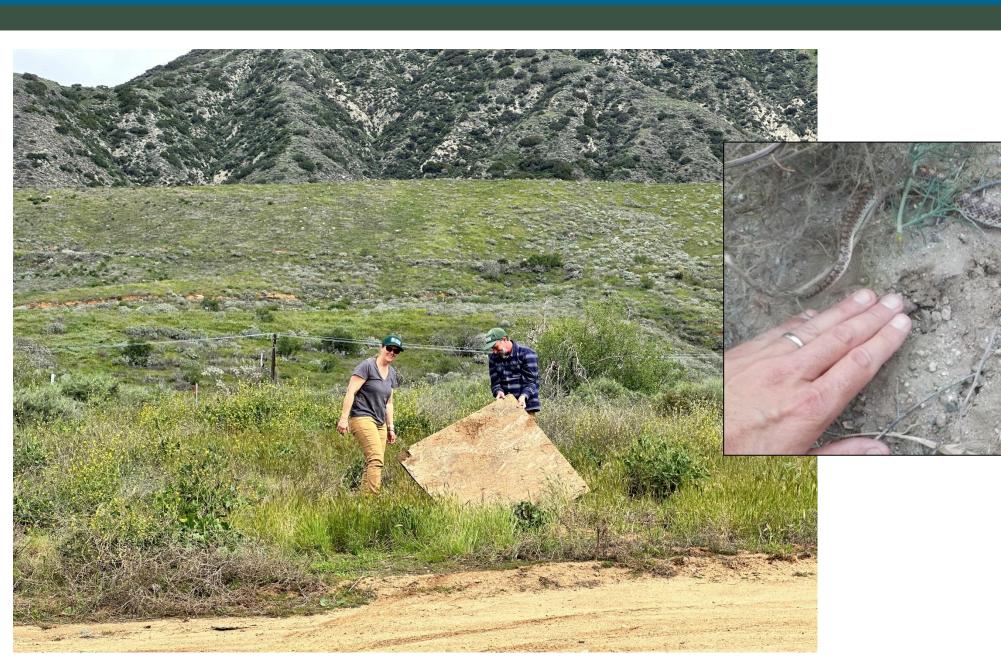
- ➤ Started habitat management at three sites
- > Experiments on treatment
- ➤ USGS Biodiversity surveys underway











SBKR – Impacts vs Mitigation



Factors considered in mitigation calculations

- ➤ Impact type: Permanent v Temporary
- > Type of permanent impact
 - ➤ New impact
 - > Existing facility
 - > Continuation of operations and maintenance
- ➤ SBKR present
- ➤ Habitat quality

SBKR Mitigation Land "Required" for HCP Implementation

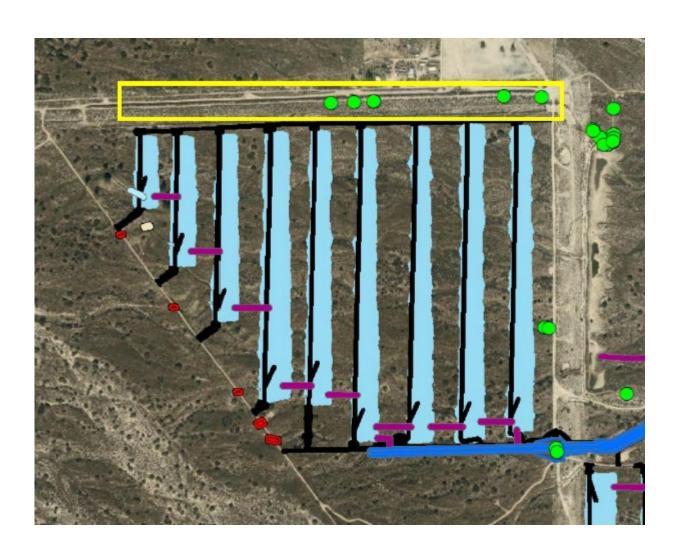
SBKR	Est Mitigation	Owned	To be Acquired
Pop Unit	(ac)	(ac)	(ac)
SAR	285	609	0
Lytle/Cajon	780	78.5	700
Total	1065	687.5	700

SBKR – Impacts vs Mitigation – SAR ER1B



SAR ER1B

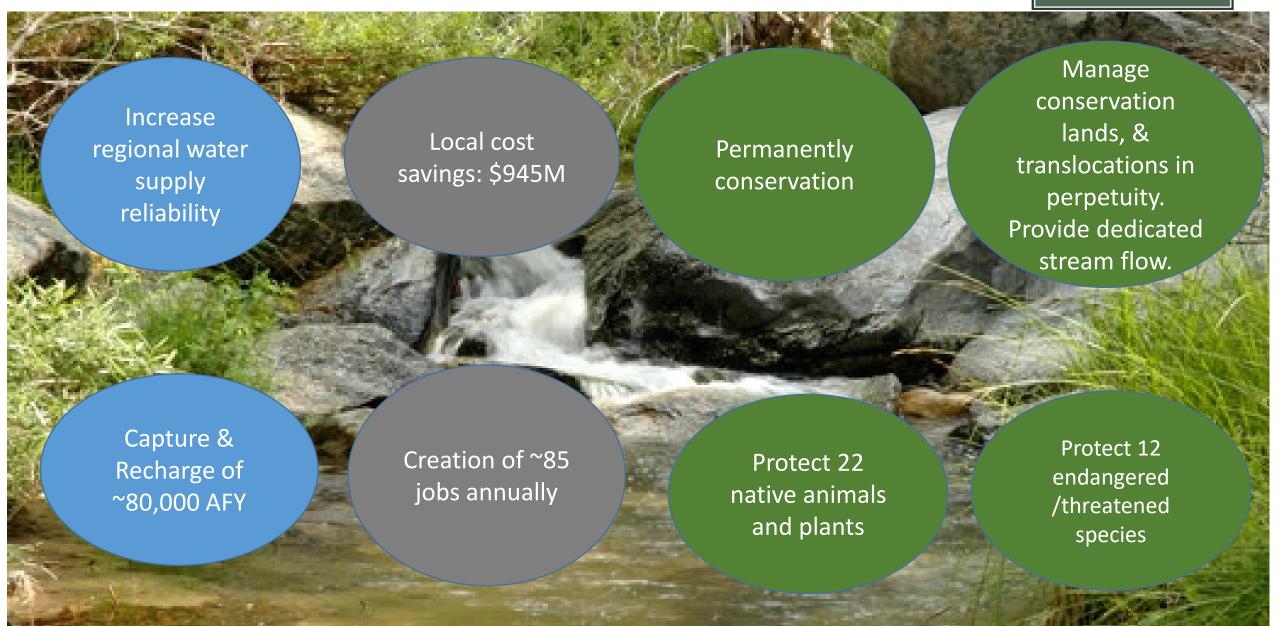
- ➤ Approx. 500-acre project site
- Impacts: 225 acres (120 permanent, 105 temporary)
- ➤ Mitigation*: 120 acres, plus restoration of 105 acres of temporary impact areas



HCP Benefits



• HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN •



Director Comments and Discussion



Paul Kielhold
President



June Hayes
Vice President



T. Milford HarrisonTreasurer



Gil J. BotelloDirector



Susan Longville
Director

Staff Recommendation:

Receive and File.



Reports 4.1 (pg. 89)

CEO/General Manager's Report

70th Anniversary Commemorative Dinner



American Association of University Women



Sunrise Ranch Master Plan Workshop 3







Reports 4.2 (pg. 98)

Directors' Report of Activities and Travel Requests in accordance with Resolution 1100



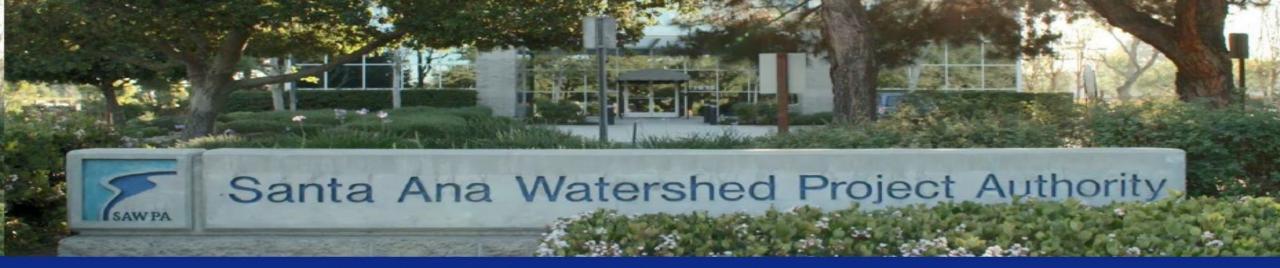
Reports 4.3

General Counsel Report



Reports 4.4

SAWPA Meeting Report



SAWPA MEETING SUMMARY

March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting

SAWPA Commission

- Adopted Resolution No. 2024-4 authorizing the General Manager, or designee:
 - The SAWPA General Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the funding agreement with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) and any amendments thereto.
 - The SAWPA General Manager, or designee, will serve the function of Authorized Signatory, as shown in the attached Authorized Signatory Form.
 - The SAWPA must keep Authorized Signatory Forms up to date. SAWPA shall notify OPR in writing of any change in Authorized Signatory within seven (7) working days.
- Received Informational Report on the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force and the Declaration of Conformance with the State's Recycled Water Policy.



Reports 4.5 (pg. 104)

Water Delivery Report

Reports Item 4.5 (pg. 104)

Michael Plinski, PE - Chief of Water Resources

Water Delivery Report

Staff Recommendation:

Receive and file.



Water Delivery Report

	February	Year to Date
State Water Project	2,271	7,936
Groundwater Baseline Feeder Wells	311	649
San Bernardino Avenue Well	0	0
Santa Ana River Diversions	0	0



Direct Deliveries through February

Direct Deliveries	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Orders	Remaining	% Remaining
Big Bear Agreement (In-Lieu)	0	0											0	4,700	4,700	100%
BVMWC	139	34											173	2,000	1,827	91%
City of Redlands	0	0											0	0	0	-
CLAWA Sale (07-025)	0	0											0	200	200	100%
EVWD	120	174											294	2,000	1,706	85%
Fontana (incl. Cemex)	47	26											72	3,650	3,578	98%
Greenspot Mutual	0	0											0	175	175	100%
Marygold Mutual	0	0											0	320	320	100%
SB County - Glen Helen	0	0											0	375	375	100%
SBV - Enhanced Recharge Construction	0	0											0	230	230	100%
WVWD	46	76											123	4,300	4,177	97%
Yucaipa Regional Park	9	0											9	200	191	96%
YVWD/WHWC	340	339											679	8,350	7,671	92%
Total Direct Deliveries (AF)	700	650	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	26,500	25,151	95%



Recharge Deliveries through February

Γ	Tum-Out																0,
SBBA Recharge	Capacity (cfs)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Target	Remaining	% Remaining
Badger Basins	5													0	1,000	1,000	100%
City Creek	3		<u> </u>											0	1,000	1,000	100%
Mill Creek Spreading	15	1,522	958											2,481	9,000	6,520	72%
Patton Basins	5													0	0	0	-
Plunge Creek Spreading	3													0	0	0	-
Santa Ana Low & SARC	95	2,429	605											3,034	17,140	14,106	82%
Sweetwater	8	245												245	3,000	2,755	92%
Waterman / East Twin Creek Basins	40	670												670	12,000	11,330	94%
SBBA Recharge Sub-Total (AF)	174	4,866	1,563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,429	43,140	36,711	85%
Yucaipa Recharge	Tum-Out Capacity (cfs)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Target	Remaining	% Remaining
Oak Glen Basins	3													0	1,000	1,000	100%
Wilson Creek Basins	15	99	58											157	4,000	3,843	96%
Yucaipa Recharge Sub-Total (AF)) 18	99	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	157	5,000	4,843	97%
Total Recharge Deliveries (AF)) 192	4,965	1,621	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,586	48,140	41,554	86%



Water Delivery Report

Monthly updates on the SWP are being provided to the Retail Water Agencies within our service area

DWR continues to evaluate reservoir conditions and measure snowpack. DWR has increased the SWP Allocation from 10% to 15% in late February

San Bernardino Valley Operation's staff continues to try and maximize SWP deliveries with the support of the Water Conservation District, San Bernardino County Flood Control, and our local Retail Water agencies



Reports 4.6 (pg.108)

Treasurer's Report

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE THE EXPENSES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024 FOR THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

STATE WATER CONTRACT FUND \$ 7,839,669.67

GENERAL FUND \$ 18,663,912.02





Future Business



Announcements 6.1 (pg. 118)

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March 20, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA by Teleconference (Cancelled)
March 27, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA Technical Advisory Committee by Teleconference (Cancelled)
April 2, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - SAWPA PA 23 Committee Meeting
April 2, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - SAWPA Commission Meeting by Teleconference or In-Person
April 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m. - SAWPA PA 24 Committee Meeting
April 2, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting by Teleconference or In-Person
April 3, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA by Teleconference (Cancelled)
April 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - Board Workshop - Policy/Administration by Teleconference or In-Person
April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - Board Workshop - Resources/Engineering by Teleconference or In-Person
April 10, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA Technical Advisory Committee by Teleconference (Cancelled)
April 10, 2024, 1:30 p.m. - SBVW Conservation District Board Meeting
April 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. - ASBCSD dinner (Hosted by East Valley Water District; Location TBD)
April 16, 2024, 9:30 a.m. - SAWPA Commission Meeting by Teleconference or In-Person
April 16, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - Regular Board Meeting by Teleconference or In-Person
April 17, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA by Teleconference (Cancelled)
April 24, 2024, 8:30 a.m. - Upper SAR WIFA Technical Advisory Committee by Teleconference (Cancelled)
April 24, 2024, 1:30 p.m. - SBVW Conservation District Board Meeting
April 25-26, 2024 - Foundation Summit Days
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