

## Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study

Contacts: Bill Steele, So. California Area Office, Ph. (951) 695-5310  
Mark Norton, P.E., SAWPA Water Resources, Ph. (951) 354-4221

The Santa Ana River Watershed Basin Study is a collaborative effort by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and the Bureau of Reclamation, which is authorized under the Secure Water Act (Title IX, Subtitle F of Public Law 111-11). The study will be initiated in the fall of 2010 and will be completed in 2012. The study focuses on SAWPA's integrated regional water resources management planning process and will refine the region's water projections, and identify potential adaptation strategies, in light of potential effects of climate change.

SAWPA is a joint powers authority that represents five major water resource agencies. SAWPA's membership includes over 350 water, wastewater and groundwater management, flood control, environmental, and other non-governmental organizations. These entities work together collaboratively and focus on the region's Integrated Water Resources Management plan called the "One Water One Watershed" (or the OWOW) Plan.

The Santa Ana watershed is home to over 6 million people within an area of 2,650 square miles. In light of climate change, prolonged drought conditions, growth, and population projections, a strong concern exists to ensure there will be adequate water supplies to meet future water demand. The Basin Study will update the OWOW Plan, address the impacts of climate change and identify potential adaptation strategies, assess increased energy demand, and ensure that future water quality and supply needs are met. Goals of the study include: incorporating existing regional and local planning studies within the watershed; sustaining the innovative "bottom up" approach to regional water resources management planning; ensuring an integrated, collaborative approach; using science and technology to assess climate change and greenhouse emissions affects, conducting watershed adaptation planning; and expanding outreach to all major water uses and stakeholders. Over \$2 million dollars has been committed to the Basin Study, with a 50/50 cost-share.

