

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (BASIN PLAN) FOR THE SANTA ANA RIVER BASIN**

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB or State Board) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs or Regional Boards) are responsible for the protection and, where possible, the enhancement of the quality of California's waters. The SWRCB sets statewide policy, and together with the RWQCBs, implements state and federal laws and regulations. Each of the nine Regional Boards adopts a Water Quality Control Plan, or Basin Plan, which recognizes and reflects regional differences in existing water quality, the beneficial uses of the region's ground and surface waters, and local water quality conditions and problems.

This document is the Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region. The Santa Ana Region includes the upper and lower Santa Ana River watersheds, the San Jacinto River watershed, and several other small drainage areas. The Santa Ana Region covers parts of southwestern San Bernardino County, western Riverside County, and northwestern Orange County.

#### **FUNCTION OF THE BASIN PLAN**

The Basin Plan for the Santa Ana Region is more than just a collection of water quality goals and policies, descriptions of conditions, and discussions of solutions. It is also the basis for the Regional Board's regulatory programs. The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for the ground and surface waters of the region. The term "water quality standards," as used in the federal Clean Water Act, includes both the beneficial uses of specific waterbodies and the levels of quality which must be met and maintained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan includes an implementation plan describing the actions by the Regional Board and others that are necessary to achieve and maintain the water quality standards.

The Regional Board regulates waste discharges to minimize and control their effects on the quality of the region's ground and surface water. Permits are issued under a number of programs and authorities. The terms and conditions of these discharge permits are enforced through a variety of technical, administrative, and legal means.

Water quality problems in the region are listed in the Basin Plan, along with the causes, where they are known. For waterbodies with quality below the levels necessary to allow all the beneficial uses of the water to be met, plans for improving water quality are included.

In some cases, it has been necessary for the Regional Board to completely prohibit the discharge of certain materials. Some types of discharges are prohibited in specific areas. Details on these prohibitions also appear in the Basin Plan.

## LEGAL BASIS AND AUTHORITIES

The Basin Plan reflects, incorporates, and implements applicable portions of a number of national and statewide water quality plans and policies, including the California Water Code and the Clean Water Act.

### California Water Code

California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Section 13000 ["Water Quality"] *et seq.*, of the California Water Code), which established both the State Water Resources Control Board and the present system of nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards, directs in Chapter 4, Article 3, "Regional Water Quality Control Plans," that each Regional Board is to formulate and adopt water quality control plans for all areas within the region and is to periodically review and revise them as necessary. Each Regional Board is to set water quality objectives that will insure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and the prevention of nuisance, with the understanding that water quality can be changed somewhat without unreasonably affecting beneficial uses.

The California Water Code also lists the specific factors which are to be considered in establishing water quality objectives. A detailed listing appears in Chapter 4 (p. 4-1).

Implementation plans are to include, but not limited to:

- (1) a description of the nature of the actions necessary to achieve the objective, including recommendations for appropriate action by any entity, public or private;
- (2) a time schedule for the actions to be taken; and
- (3) a description of the surveillance to be undertaken to determine compliance with the objectives.

### Clean Water Act

The objective of the federal Clean Water Act is to "*restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters,*" to make waters of the United States "fishable and swimmable." The Clean Water Act includes several sections which relate to Basin Plans and the basin planning process, including sections on Areawide Waste Treatment Management, Basin Planning, and Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans.

The Clean Water Act requires that states adopt water quality standards, including standards for toxic substances. The states are also required to have a continuing planning process, which includes public hearings at least once every three years to review the water quality standards and revise them if necessary.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The Santa Ana Region is the smallest of the nine regions in the state (2800 square miles) and is located in southern California, roughly between Los Angeles and San Diego. Although small, the region's four million residents (1993 estimate) make it one of the most densely populated regions. People have come to southern California over the years for a wide variety of reasons. Once here, many decide to stay. Snow skiing areas in the mountains are as little as two hours from world-famous broad, sandy ocean beaches.

The climate of the Santa Ana Regions is classified as Mediterranean: generally dry in the summer with mild, wet winters. The average annual rainfall in the region is about fifteen inches, most of it occurring between November and March. Much of the area would be near-desert were it not for the influence of modern civilization.

### **Regional Boundaries and Geography**

In very broad terms, the Santa Ana Region is a group of connected inland basins and open coastal basins drained by surface streams flowing generally southwestward to the Pacific Ocean (See Figure 1-1).

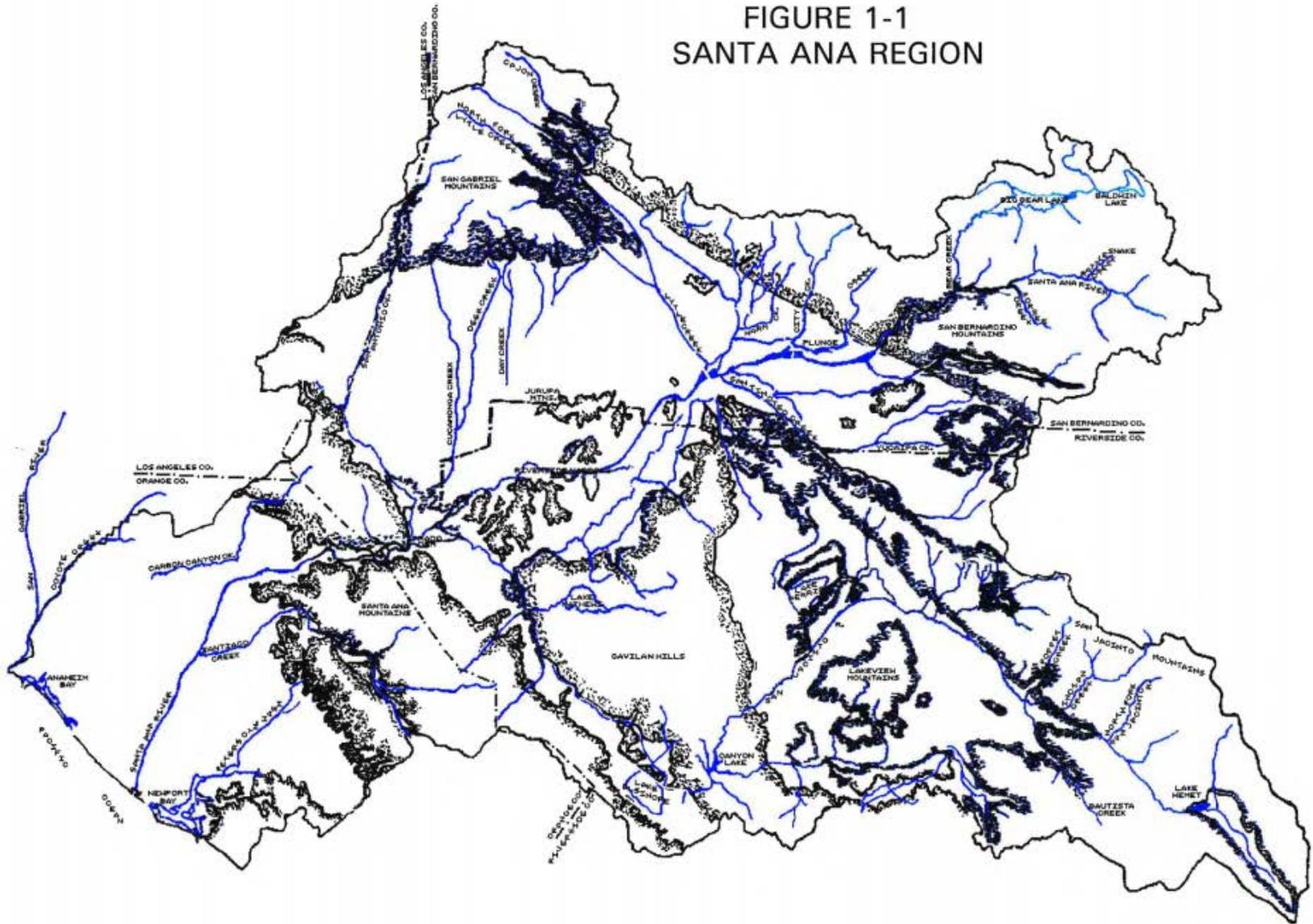
The boundaries between California's nine regions are usually hydrologic divides that separate watersheds, but the boundary between the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Regions is the Los Angeles County Line. Since that county line only approximates the hydrologic divide, part of the Pomona area drains into the Santa Ana Region, and in Orange County, part of the La Habra drains into the Los Angeles Region.

The east-west alignment of the crest of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains separates the Santa Ana River basin from the Mojave Desert, which is part of the Lahontan Basin (Region 6).

In the south, the regional boundary divides the Santa Margarita River drainage area from that of the San Jacinto River, which normally terminates in Lake Elsinore.

Near Corona, the Santa Ana River has cut through the Santa Ana Mountains and flows down onto the Orange County coastal plain. The Pacific Ocean coast of the Santa Ana Region extends from just north of Laguna Beach up to Seal Beach and the Los Angeles County line. Other features of the coast include Newport Bay, Anaheim Bay-Huntington Harbour, and the major coastal wetlands areas associated with those bays.

FIGURE 1-1  
SANTA ANA REGION





## **Geological Faults**

Southern California is a geologically active area. Major earthquake faults in the region include the San Andreas Fault and its large branch, the San Jacinto Fault; the Elsinore-Whittier Fault; and the Newport-Inglewood Fault. The San Andreas Fault divides the San Gabriel Mountains from the San Bernardino Mountains. The San Jacinto Fault, which splits off from the San Andreas Fault near San Bernardino, affects groundwater flows associated both with the Santa Ana and San Jacinto Rivers. The Elsinore-Whittier Fault passes under Prado Dam as it trends, like the others, from the northwest toward the southeast. The Newport-Inglewood Fault enters the region from the Los Angeles basin and passes offshore at Newport Beach. In addition to these major faults, there are many branching, connecting, and parallel faults in the region.

## **HISTORY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT**

### **Early Settlement**

Following the Spanish Mission and Rancho Periods, early agriculture centered around horses and cattle. In the early 1800s, the increasing population required more farms and orchards to produce more food. The weather generally supported farming year-round, but the dry summers made irrigation a necessity. Once water supplies became dependable, vast areas of citrus orchard and vineyards also followed. Today, the region still has strong ties to agriculture, including a large dairy industry, but much of what remains is under increasing development pressure. The future probably involves an even larger human population and much less commercial agriculture.

### **Original Conditions**

Before this area was settled, it is thought that the Santa Ana River flowed from its headwaters in the San Bernardino Mountains to the Pacific Ocean throughout most of the year. The San Jacinto River, also a substantial surface stream, typically would have ended at Lake Elsinore, which acted as an inland sink. Once out of the sycamore-filled mountain canyon, these rivers meandered along in sandy streambeds, shaded by willows, cottonwoods, and live oaks, flows decreasing where water percolated, filling the groundwater basins, increasing where local geological features forced the groundwater to the surface. High groundwater made springs, swampy areas, marshes and bogs common.

Deep alluvial valley deposits made up large groundwater basins, both in the inland valleys and on the coastal plain, basins naturally full of fresh water. Along with its nearby tributaries, the Santa Ana River fed the Bunker Hill groundwater basin, the Colton and Riverside basins, and to a lesser extent, part of the Chino Basin. Streams in the San Gabriel Mountains recharged the Chino Basin. The San Jacinto River recharged a deep (over two thousand feet) graben, the San Jacinto groundwater basin, as it left the mountains, then several other basins in succession on its way to Lake Elsinore. When especially heavy rainfalls or a series of wet winters filled Lake Elsinore, overflows went down Temescal Creek to the Santa Ana River near Corona. The Santa Ana River entered Santa Ana Canyon and passed through the

coastal mountains out onto the Orange County Plain, overlying another large, deep groundwater basin largely recharged by river flows. With the diversion of most of this natural surface flow for agricultural and domestic uses, creeks and rivers dried up, carrying only storm flows and runoff. Eventually, treated wastewater replaced some of the flows in some streams.

## **Irrigation**

The first irrigation diversions were made directly from the streams, often using crude brush and sand dams and hand-dug ditches to lead the water from the river to the fields. As more and more settlers arrived, the number of diversions increased. Eventually, all the surface flows were taken and groundwater recharge diminished sharply.

Ground water pumping became necessary to provide water for irrigation and for the growing settlements. Windmills were followed by motor-driven pumps, and as groundwater levels fell, deep well turbines became necessary. Artesian areas, such as those near San Bernardino and in Fountain Valley, stopped flowing naturally. The springs, swamps, and other historically wet areas began drying up.

The history of the San Jacinto River and its tributaries parallels that of the Santa Ana. The San Jacinto had historically kept all the groundwater basins in that part of the region full. Now, there is essentially no surface flow beyond the mouth of the canyon, where it exits the mountains; the riverbed is typically dry. Flood flows every five or ten years, however, produce a broad, shallow "Mystic Lake" in the riverbed near the town of Lakeview.

Further downstream, the river is dammed to form Canyon Lake, just upstream from Lake Elsinore. As noted earlier, Lake Elsinore is normally a sink, with no outflow. High annual evaporation rates have historically limited the amount of water in the lake, which has gone dry several times in this century. Only torrential rains or extended wet cycles have produced the rare overflows down Temescal Creek to the Santa Ana River. Several projects to stabilize the level of Lake Elsinore are now being completed.

When local water supplies inevitably ran short, the area's economy, based on agriculture, was strong enough to help support the construction of large imported water projects. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (locally MWD-SC or "Met") built and still operates the Colorado River Aqueduct, which has imported millions of acre-feet of water from the Colorado River across the Mojave Desert and into the region. A second, newer system, the California Water Project, pumps comparable volumes of water out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for delivery to the Santa Ana Region and other parts of Southern California.

## **Santa Ana River Stipulated Judgement**

Despite the availability of imported water, legal arguments focused on locally available (generally cheaper) water supplies. Overuse of the upstream water by extensive recycling had reduced summer flows in the Santa Ana River to a trickle, and even that trickle was somewhat salty. The largest of these legal arguments pitted Orange County (the downstream

users) against all of the upstream users in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. When the case was settled through an engineered solution the four largest water districts - San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (MWD), Chino Basin MWD, Western MWD, and Orange County WD agreed to implement the court's solution through a Santa Ana River Watermaster.

Minimum average annual flows and guaranteed quality (total dissolved solids, or TDS) from the San Bernardino area to and through the Riverside Narrows were required, as well as flows from the upper basin to the lower basin (Orange County), measured at Prado Dam. The water required to meet the Stipulated Judgement can be made up of wastewater, imported water, dry weather runoff or some combination of these, with TDS the measure of minimum acceptable quality.

Together, the four large water agencies affected by the judgement formed SAWPA, the Santa Ana Watershed Planning (later "Project") Authority, a forum for discussion of water issues as well as a joint powers agency that can build projects of common interest to two or more members.

## **BASIN PLANNING**

### **History**

In the 1950s and '60s, the Regional Boards were not actively involved in water quality planning. Water quality problems typically resulted in controls on waste discharges, usually including effluent limits for TDS and perhaps a few other parameters. Beyond that, the only serious restrictions prohibited the creation of a pollution or nuisance. By 1970, however, the Regional Boards were actively involved in the formulation of plans to meet established water quality objectives. The federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Act, which required basin-wide planning, plus the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which empowers the states to set discharge standard, placed new tools in the hands of the Regional Boards and encouraged the development of new approaches to water quality management. With the development of the "1967 Standards," applicable to interstate waters, came Water Quality Control Policies for the San Gabriel Tidal Prism, for the Coastal Bays, Marinas and Sloughs, and for Pacific Ocean Coastal Waters.

In the Santa Ana Region, the 1971 Interim Water Quality Control Plan incorporated the 1967 Standards and set water quality objectives for the Santa Ana River at Prado Dam. After the State Board developed the Ocean Plan and the Thermal Plan, the revised Interim Water Quality Control Plan incorporated that information.

Also in the early 1970s, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) was investigating the salt balance situation in the upper basin. An early computer model, primitive and slow by modern standards but providing answers of a kind never available before, had been used to assess the situation. SAWPA was contracted to write the first (1975) essentially complete Basin Plan (Water Quality Control Plan) for the Regional Board, using an improved version of that model.

The 1975 Basin Plan outlined a specific water quality management scheme designed to improve groundwater quality in the upper basin. Unfortunately, the kinds of large-scale actions necessary to maintain the quality of the region's ground and surface waters – basin management facilities, changes in water supply, regional wastewater treatment – were well beyond the regulatory powers of the Regional Board.

One of the region's major problems at that time was salt balance. Salt (TDS) buildup in the water results from excessive reuse of a given volume of water. Each cycle of use, whether in the home, in industry or use by irrigated agriculture, adds salts directly or indirectly, either through partial evaporation (or evapotranspiration) or direct addition of soluble materials. Typically, each use of water adds 200-300 parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L) of TDS. TDS begins to interfere with the use of water somewhere between 500 and 1000 mg/L TDS; at 2000 mg/L, water is brackish and generally unusable. In order to allow for subsequent use downstream and to keep ground and surface water bodies usable, careful management of water reuse was necessary. Unlimited recycling created water quality problems. "Pumpback" schemes were strongly discouraged.

Part of the 1975 Basin Plan's solution to the salt balance problem, which seemed most acute in the Chino groundwater basin, was to import and recharge large volumes of low-TDS State Water Project (SWP) water. A second feature of the implementation plan was a large wellfield to extract poor quality water from the lower part of the basin. The third component was a pipeline to the sea to export brines from the upper basin. As years have passed, the list of projects has changed, with desalters replacing groundwater flushing projects. Most of the brine line (the Santa Ana River Interceptor or SARI Line) has been built and one groundwater desalter (Arlington) is now in place. Plans for two more desalters (East and West Chino Basin) in this area are still in design; at least one more is proposed in the San Jacinto watershed.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and SAWPA (now also including Eastern MWD as a member) have continued to work together toward a common goal – a well-operated basin that meets reasonable standards in an economical manner and provides high-quality water supplies when and where they're needed.

## **THE SANTA ANA RIVER**

### **Reaches**

The mainstem of the Santa Ana River is divided into six reaches (Figure 1-2). Each reach is generally a hydrologic and water quality unit.

**Reach 6** includes the river upstream of Seven Oaks Dam, now under construction. Flows consist largely of snowmelt and storm runoff. Water quality tends to be very high.

**Reach 5** extends from Seven Oaks Dam to San Bernardino, to the San Jacinto Fault (Bunker Hill Dike), which marks the downstream edge of the Bunker Hill groundwater basin. Most of this reach tends to be dry, except as a result of storm flows, and the channel is largely

operated as a flood control facility. The extreme lower end of this reach includes rising water and intermittently, San Timoteo Creek flows.

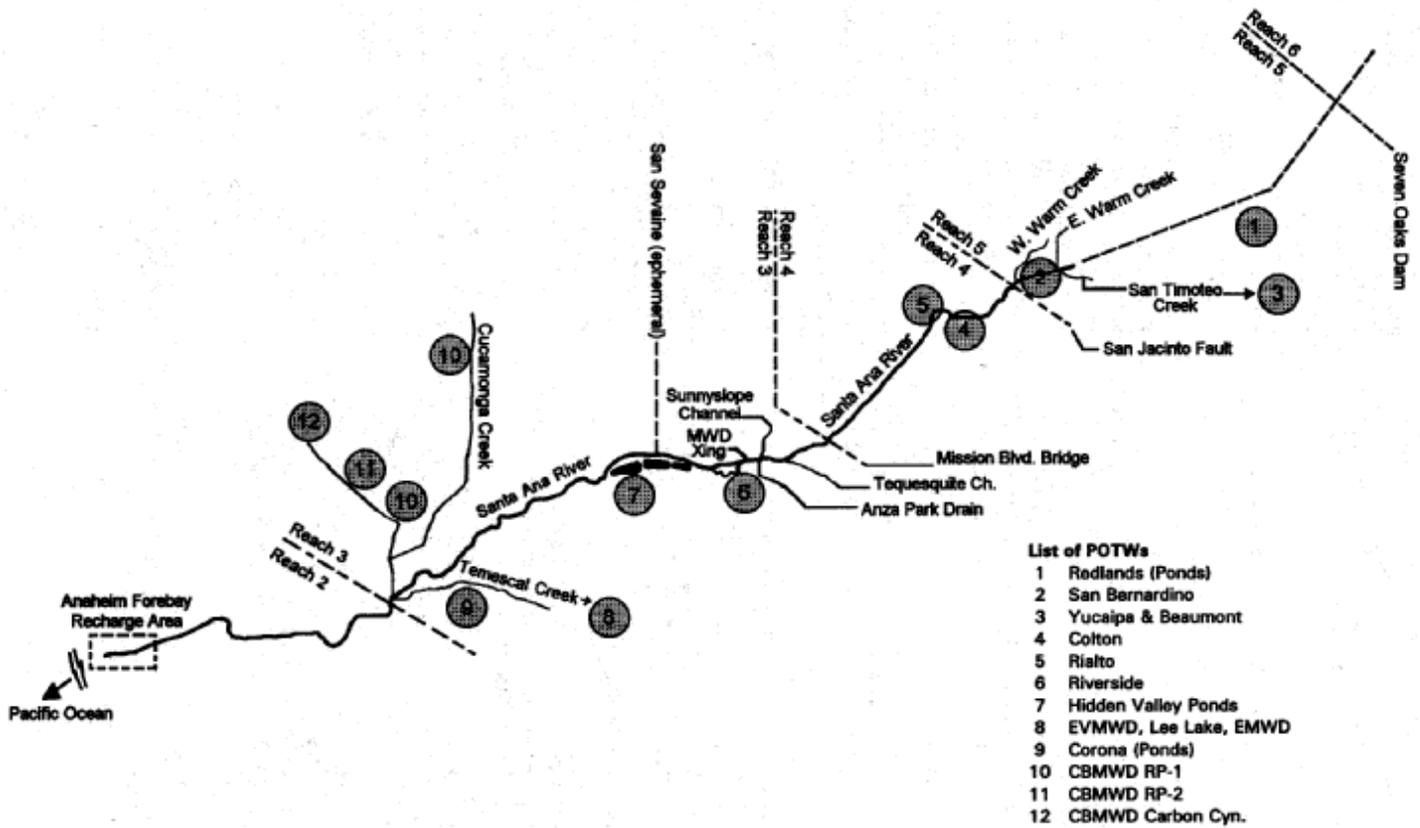
**Reach 4** includes the river from the Bunker Hill Dike down to Mission Boulevard Bridge in Riverside. That bridge marks the upstream limit of rising water induced by the flow constriction in the Riverside Narrows. Until about 1985, rising water from upstream and wastewater discharges percolated and the lower part of the reach was dry. Flows are now perennial, but may not remain so as new projects are built. Much of this reach is also operated as a flood control facility.

**Reach 3** includes the river from Mission Bridge to Prado Dam. In the Narrows, rising water feeds several small tributaries (Sunnyslope Channel, Tequesquite Arroyo, and Anza Park Drain) which are important breeding and nursery areas for the native fish. Temescal, Chino, and Mill/Cucamonga Creeks in Prado Basin are also important river tributaries.

**Reach 2** carries all the upstream flows down through Santa Ana Canyon to Orange County where as much of the water as possible is recharged into the Orange County groundwater basin. The downstream end of the forebay/recharge area and, therefore, the ordinary limit of surface flows, is at 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Santa Ana.

**Reach 1** is a normally dry flood control facility, presently being expanded and improved even further as a part of the US Army Corps of Engineers' Santa Ana River Project. This reach extends from 17<sup>th</sup> Street to the tidal prism at the ocean.

**FIGURE 1-2  
SANTA ANA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**



## **Flows and Water Quality**

When the Santa Ana River Stipulated Judgement was finalized in 1969, surface diversions and groundwater pumping had eliminated most of the dry weather surface flows in the river system between the mountains and Prado Dam. As the inland cities grew, wastewater flows increased. Between 1970 and 1990, the total volume rose from less than 50,000 to over 130,000 acre-feet per year. The river is effluent-dominated, a rare circumstance outside the Southwest. Nevertheless, water quality in the river has improved steadily, due largely to the efforts of the dischargers action in response to the requirements of the Regional Board.

In the 1970s, secondary treatment with disinfection was required in order to protect the health of the people who used it for contact recreation. These treatment requirements were further upgraded to include virus control: in-line coagulation and filtration and improved disinfection (or their equivalents) were then required. In the late 1980s, control of inorganic nitrogen levels was required to protect the aquatic habitat from un-ionized ammonia toxicity and to manage nitrate levels in groundwater for subsequent municipal uses. Further controls on residual chlorine levels were also added.

By 1991, when SAWPA's Use-Attainability Analysis of the middle Santa Ana River was conducted; full compliance with all these requirements had not yet been achieved. The river was posted to warn against water contact recreation, because certain upstream dischargers had not achieved compliance with virus control requirements. Compliance is expected by the end of 1995. Other identifiable water quality problems in the river were restricted to parts of Reach 4 where ammonia and chlorine controls were not yet in place. No water quality impairment due to toxics was seen in other parts of the system. In those other areas, the kinds and numbers of aquatic organisms at any given location tend to be dictated by habitat conditions.

## **Aquatic Environment in the Santa Ana River**

Because flows are limited or generally absent in several parts of the Santa Ana River, there is no sustained aquatic habitat in those areas. Even where there are perennial flows, the habitat is frequently harsh – warm, shallow water, shifting sand substrate, little or no instream cover, and no riparian vegetation or tree canopy for shade.

There are no dependable flows from the mouth of the canyon, where the river leaves the mountains, for some distance downstream. In the canyon itself, the Corps of Engineers is presently building the Seven Oaks Dam, a large flood control structure. Groundwater recharge basins immediately downstream percolate flows from the river and its nearby tributaries. The river channel is operated as a typically dry flood control facility.

In the San Bernardino area, the San Jacinto Fault (Bunker Hill Dike) forces groundwater to the surface. At present (1993), perennial flows in the middle Santa Ana River begin at the confluence with East Warm Creek, a short distance upstream. The rising water area associated with the fault, now relatively small, was historically a much larger, swampy area with many large springs. San Timoteo Creek, which the Corps of Engineers plans to line with

concrete in the near future, joins the river in this area, its flows predominantly reclaimed wastewater from Yucaipa and other upstream dischargers.

East Warm Creek (near San Bernardino) carries small amounts of water from various non-point sources as well as some rising water. The San Bernardino Publicly-Owned Treatment Works (POTW) currently discharges to this creek just upstream of where it joins the river, but the city plans to move its point of discharge downstream in the near future. The river passes under several major highways and railroads in this area, and parts of the river bottom are lined with concrete. West Warm Creek, fully improved by the Corps for flood control but usually dry, also joins the river in this area.

The Santa Ana River Use-Attainability Analysis (1991) found areas of relatively high habitat value downstream of La Cadena Avenue in Colton, but these areas were largely washed out during the wet 1992-93 winter. Aquatic biota in the stream in this part of Reach 4 were limited, however, because certain POTWs had not yet installed full tertiary treatment and because physical conditions downstream – high temperatures, lack of cover or shelter – strongly discouraged upstream or downstream migration. Recent flood control maintenance practices have included removal of all vegetation and straightening of the river channel, severely reducing the value of the habitat. Surface flows presently continue on down through Reach 4, though conditions are likely to change when San Bernardino and Colton effluents are diverted to the RIX (rapid infiltration and extraction) project further downstream. The City of Rialto may also change its point of discharge to the river.

Near the Mission Boulevard Bridge and the upstream limit of Reach 3, rising water marks the Riverside Narrows area. Groundwater rises in the river channel and to either side as well. This water supports several small tributaries: Sunnyslope Channel, mostly improved for flood control; Tequesquite Arroyo Creek, which also drains Sycamore Canyon; and Anza Park Drain. In addition, the overflow from Lake Evans makes up a perennial tributary to the river in this area. These small streams form the present center of population of the Santa Ana Sucker, one of two remaining native species (in the Santa Ana River).

The City of Riverside's POTW on the south side of the river discharges in the Narrows, diverting all or part of its flows through the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area. Jurupa's Indian Hills POTW on the north side is permitted to discharge under certain conditions as well, but typically reclaims all its flow for golf course landscape irrigation.

From the Riverside Narrows area downstream to Prado Basin, the river is generally natural and unmodified. Even here, however, the water is warm because the mainstem is generally shallow and has a limited canopy. The substrate is dominated by shifting sand, limiting the bottom habitat and available opportunities for attached algae and insects, with only occasional gravel bars and riffles. The Santa Ana River Use-Attainability Analysis demonstrated that these habitat limitations dictate the kinds of numbers of aquatic organisms found here.

The Prado Flood Control Basin is a largely undisturbed, dense riparian wetland. In this area, flows in tributaries from both north and south of the river are again augmented by rising

water. Temescal Creek comes in from the south, also carrying Arlington Channel flows and the occasional overflows from Lake Elsinore mentioned previously. A short distance from the river, near the edge of Prado Flood Control Basin, a section of Temescal Creek is the breeding center of the local Arroyo Chub population, the second native fish species still present in the middle river system. All the other species of fish found in the Middle Santa Ana River, including mosquitofish, bass, carp, catfish, etc., are exotics, escaped or introduced species.

All of the creeks draining Chino Basin come into the river on the north side, but the total dry-weather surface flow is negligible. Reclaimed wastewater from Chino Basin MWD's Regional Plant 1 is discharged to Cucamonga Channel, concrete-lined, offers extremely limited aquatic habitat – some attached algae, a few worms and insects, but not resident finfish. The improved channel ends near Prado Basin, and the stream changes names to Mill Creek. Chino Basin MWD's Regional Plant 2 discharges to Chino Creek near Prado Basin, some distance downstream of the discharge from the relatively new Carbon Canyon Plant. The lowest segments of Chino and Mill Creeks, down in Prado Basin, are quite different from most other streams in the watershed, with their muddy bottoms and deeper, slow-flowing water.

Most of the rising Chino Basin groundwater in the Prado area is high in TDS, nitrate, and other constituents, largely reflecting heavy present and historic agricultural water use in the area. Much of the initial water development went to citrus irrigation. That was supplanted first by large-scale vineyards and then by dairies, which are now slowly yielding to urban development.

Temescal Creek also carries reclaimed wastewater from the Lake Elsinore area, but most of that water percolates fairly quickly. Eastern MWD may discharge reclaimed wastewater to Temescal Creek in the future.

Below Prado Dam, the aquatic habitat is again different. The channel is deep in many places, with some rocky substrate and rapid sections. It supports a variety of organisms. In contrast, other stretches are improved for flood control. The river slows as it reaches Anaheim, where Orange County Water District diverts and recharges essentially all the dry weather flows. Downstream from the groundwater recharge areas near Anaheim, the Santa Ana River is normally dry.

## **WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER RECLAMATION**

The most serious water-related problem in the Santa Ana River Basin at this time is water supply. This region now uses approximately twice as much water as is available from local sources. As a result, the quantity of water imported into this region each year now equals or exceeds the amount of ground and surface water utilized.

As noted earlier, the Colorado River Aqueduct delivers water to Lake Matthews, but the relatively high mineral content of this water limits its reuse in this area. The State Water

Project likewise imports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, water with lower levels of dissolved minerals. State Water Project water can be used and reused again.

## **FLOOD CONTROL**

Most of the annual rainfall in the Santa Ana Region occurs in the winter, as noted earlier. Further, most of it can come in a day or two, resulting in major floods and widespread damage. The last of these was shortly before World War II – much of coastal Orange County was inundated, stimulating the construction of Prado Dam by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The subsequent further urbanization of Orange County has been accompanied by channelizing essentially all the surface streams in the area.

The Corps is presently increasing the capacity of the main river channel through Orange County, and has begun construction of Seven Oak Dam in the San Bernardino Mountains, upstream of the mouth of Santa Ana River Canyon. Another of the Corps' current projects involves increasing the height of the Prado dam.

Flood control channels are typically designed to move large volumes of water from one place to another rapidly, without property damage. A fully improved channel is usually concrete, severely limiting the aquatic habitat beneficial uses. Partially improved channels may only have levees on either side, but other flood control activities (such as channel straightening, vegetation clearing, and weed control using copper or other toxic materials) can reduce or eliminate the aquatic habitat. Storm flows themselves, not necessarily part of flood events, can and do eliminate streamside habitat in parts of the river through sheer scouring force every few years.

## **ADOPTION OF THE BASIN PLAN – AMENDMENTS TO THE BASIN PLAN**

As noted earlier, the California Water Code established the original requirements for the Basin Plan. After the necessary workshops and public hearings, the Regional Board formally adopts the Plan and forwards it to the State Board for their review and approval.

Pursuant to the California Fish and Game Code, Section 2090, Article 4, the Regional Board is required to consult with the Department of Fish and Game with respect to addressing the potential impacts (a) Basin Plan provision(s) may have on rare, threatened or endangered species within the Region. A Basin Plan or amendment is not considered final until that consultation has occurred.

After the State Board approval, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) must review and approve any new regulatory provisions in the plan to assure that six specific standards are met: necessity (need for the regulation), authority (legislative or legal), clarity (easily understood), consistency (with other regulations), reference (Water Code or other citation), and non-duplication (of existing regulations).

The plan is also transmitted to EPA for review and approval of those parts of the plan that establish or modify water quality standards as defined in the Clean Water Act (CWA).

## CONTENTS OF THE BASIN PLAN

**Chapter 2** (Plans and Policies) describes some of the many statewide regulatory and guidance documents which apply to the shape and the Regional Board's activities.

**Chapter 3** (Beneficial Uses) discusses the many beneficial uses of the various waters of the Santa Ana Region. Ground and surface waterbodies are identified and tabulated, showing the beneficial uses of each.

**Chapter 4** (Water Quality Objectives) also tabulates the region's waterbodies, and lists the water quality objectives (levels of various water quality parameters which must be met) necessary to protect those beneficial uses.

**Chapter 5** (Implementation) details the Regional Board's water quality regulations and protection programs, lists the region's significant water quality problems and conditions, and describes approaches and solutions to them.

**Chapter 6** (Total Maximum Daily Loads)

**Chapter 7** (Monitoring and Assessment) contains listings and discussions of the monitoring programs, agencies involved, sampling locations and parameters tested, as well as the programs which collect, manage and maintain the data bases. California's statewide Water Quality Assessment is also described and referenced.

**Chapter 8** (Water Resources and Water Quality Management) covers topics of regional importance not addressed in the other chapters.

## REFERENCES

California Water Code, Section 13000, "Water Quality" *et seq.*

Clean Water Act, PL 92-500, as amended

Annual Reports of the Santa Ana River Watermaster (Orange County Water District vs. City of Chino, *et al.*) Case No. 117628 – County of Orange

Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Reports of the Santa Ana River Use-Attainability Analysis, 1991-3