Santa Ana Water Board’s Human Right to Water Resolution Work Plan Update (Resolution No. R8-2019-0078)

Presenters:
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Human Right to Water

• In 2012, the California legislature adopted Water Code Section 106.3 establishing the Human Right to Water (HRTW) policy
• “Every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes”
• In 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted Resolution 2016-0010 establishing the HRTW as a core value

✅ Safe  ✅ Clean  ✅ Affordable  ✅ Accessible
Human Right to Water Resolution
R8-2019-0078

• On December 6, 2019, the Santa Ana Water Board adopted Resolution R8-2019-0078

• Establishes the human right to water as a core value and commits to the advancement of the human right to water and protection of public health as a priority” in the Santa Ana Water Board's programs and policies

• Includes a work plan to ensure programs and policies are equitably implemented in the Region
Water Board’s Role
in Human Right to Water (HRTW)

State Water Board’s Role
Authority to protect the quality of water resources and considering HRTW in the establishment of policies, regulations and grant criteria used by the following divisions:

• Division of Water Rights
• Division of Financial Assistance
• Division of Drinking Water

Regional Board’s Role
• Authority to protect beneficial uses and water quality in the Santa Ana Region through implementation of the State’s policies and regulations within the Region.
• Ensure Region’s programs are fair and equitable; make certain that all four factors are considered: safe, clean, affordable and accessible.
Summary of Completed Work Plan Tasks

- Conducted internal program assessments
- Created and updated regional maps that depict areas of groundwater contamination, in comparison with impacts to private supply wells and disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- Coordinated with Chino Basin Watermaster to obtain regional water quality data including contaminant plume data and recent PFAS data
Summary of Completed Work Plan Tasks

• Updated regional maps showing state small water systems
• Drafted regional CalEnviroscreen maps
• Drafted regional aquifer risk maps using Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) project data
Disadvantaged Communities at Risk (SAFER)

Red Zones are highest risk of impacted water quality

Blue Zones have lower or no risk of impacted water quality

The outlined areas show risk score for DACs
Ongoing Activities

• Collaboration with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) staff
  • Identify locations of impaired drinking water systems in Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice communities within the Santa Ana Region.
  • Included three DAC sites on the Santa Ana Water Board’s Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) list in 2020
  • Staff is always considering new sites to add to the SEP list; these can be added at any time
  • May be eligible for State grants under Proposition 1 or SB 200 (SAFER) funds
Ongoing Activities (continued)

• Vulnerable Water Systems
  • Awareness and consideration of Small Water Systems ("State Smalls") that are located in disadvantaged or Environmental Justice communities, and lack emergency backup for power supply and disinfection
  • Follow up with DDW and Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) on availability of funds in fiscal year 2022-2023 to support emergency response for repair of water systems after natural disasters
Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Proposition 1 Funding Success

• Benefits to municipal water supply systems in the Region
  • Reduces demands on imported water supplies
  • Increases the ability to use recycled water
  • Removes salt from the Inland Empire's groundwater basins
  • Funded through grants—availability of affordable drinking water

• All support the Human Right to Water in the Santa Ana Region
Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Project

- Project is in response to the Santa Ana Water Board’s Prohibition of new septic systems in Quail Valley due to failing existing septic systems
- Project is costly and phased, based on availability of funds
- First phase is complete and provided sewer in Subarea 9.
- Second phase will provide sewer to Subarea 4, seeking funds
Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Project (continued)

- Jointly with Eastern Municipal Water District, the Santa Ana Water Board initiated the Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Funding Advocacy Task Force.

- Other agencies involved are Menifee, Riverside County, Canyon Lake, Quail Valley Environmental Coalition, and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.

- Goal is to educate and gain support for the project and grant funding opportunities.
### Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights:

**Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD)  
Perris II Desalination Project**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Provides water for about 15,000 homes, and has multiple benefits</td>
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<td>Supports local water supply for cities in our Region, including:</td>
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<td>• Canyon Lake</td>
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<td>• Hemet</td>
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<td>• Menifee</td>
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<td>• Perris</td>
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<td>• Temecula</td>
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<td>Reduces the demand on imported water supplies</td>
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<td>Exports salts from the basin</td>
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<td>Offsets salt and nutrient loading from recycled water program</td>
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<td>Rejuvenates a groundwater basin contaminated by past agricultural practices</td>
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<td>Due to grant and funding levels, cost of the water is not significantly increased</td>
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Chair Joaquin Esquivel  
State Water Resources Control Board  

“This facility and other projects funded by Prop 1 — together with Governor Newsom’s historic, three-year, $5.2 billion investment in California water systems enacted last year, and the billions in funding coming from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law — provide us with a generational opportunity to transform our state’s water system to meet the 21st century challenges of a changing climate.”
• Project is anticipated to:
  • Reduce concentrations of non-point source total dissolved solids (TDS), nitrate, and perchlorate through extraction and treatment
  • Limit migration of these contaminants within the aquifer (preventing impact to other potable wells)
  • Produce 4,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of clean potable water reducing the amount of imported water and corresponding salt loading to the San Jacinto Basins
Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights:
Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA)
Chino Basin Improvement and Groundwater Cleanup Project

• The project included installation of a groundwater extraction well: Number II-12 (2,000 gpm)
  • Installation of 4 miles of dedicated pipeline conveying water from wells impacted by trichloroethylene (TCE), nitrate and TDS
  • installed three new air stripper towers at Chino II Desalter

• Supports local water supply for cities in our Region, including:
  • Chino
  • Chino Hills
  • Ontario
  • Norco
  • Eastvale
  • Jurupa Valley
IEUA Chino Basin Improvement and Groundwater Cleanup Project (continued)

- The project is anticipated to address:
  - Groundwater that is high in nitrate and salts resulting from century-long dairy and agricultural practices; and
  - Groundwater impaired with TCE resulting from past industrial operations (South Archibald TCE Plume).

- Goals for the project include:
  - Producing 6,813 AFY of clean drinking water,
  - Remediate Nitrate, TDS, TCE in groundwater; and
  - Protect private wells.
2022 Regional HRTW Efforts
Anaheim Trading Credit Proposal

Stormwater retention system that support the local communities

Program benefits include:
- Pollutant Removal from stormwater
- Generates funding for new regional projects
- Recharges aquifer
- Improves effectiveness and efficiency of best management practices
- Flood control

Pilot Program supported by:
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- Orange County Transportation Authority
- Orange County Business Council
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Orange County Water District
- Orange County Sanitation District
2022 Regional HRTW Efforts

- Integrated Report
  - DACs, EJ communities and HRTW will be considered during current listing cycle
- Investigation of per- and polyfluoro-alkyl substances (PFAS)
- Site Cleanup Program:
  - Prioritization of cases in disadvantaged and EJ communities

- Enforcement
  - Violations of permits and other regulations can disproportionately impact disadvantaged and EJ communities
  - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) trash removal requirements for middle Santa Ana River
Looking Ahead

• New data available through SAFER
  • Staff will continue to review data and consider impacts to disadvantaged and EJ communities

• Possible Future Efforts
  • Incorporate consideration of HRTW in discharge permits
  • Promote septic to sewer conversion based on protection of water quality
  • Collaborate with Basin Monitoring Task Force and Water Agencies
Questions?

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