



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

Presenters:

Celia Pazos, Engineering Geologist

Jayne Joy, Executive Officer



# 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:

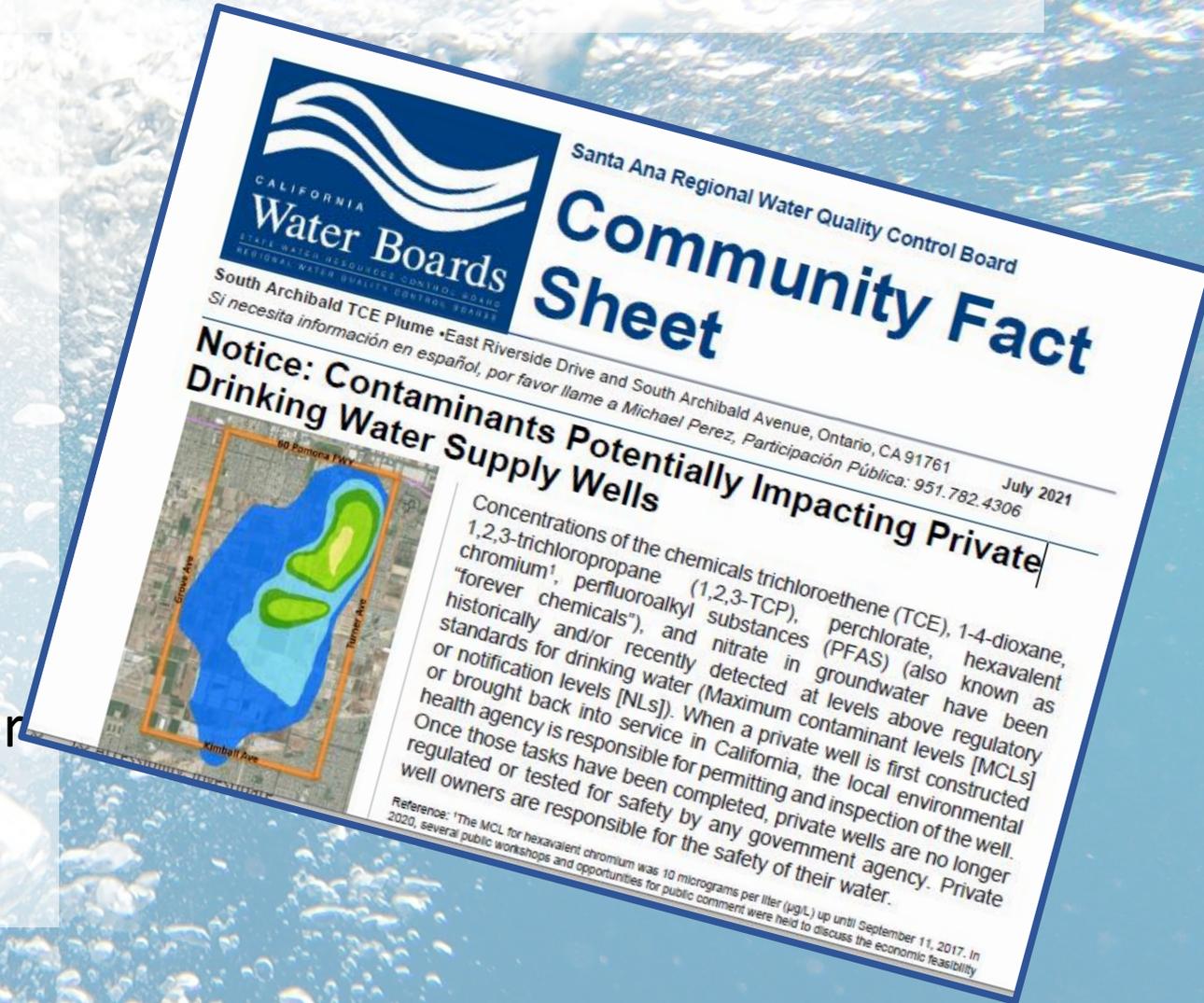
- Division of Water Rights
- Division of Financial Assistance
- Division of Drinking Water

## 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.

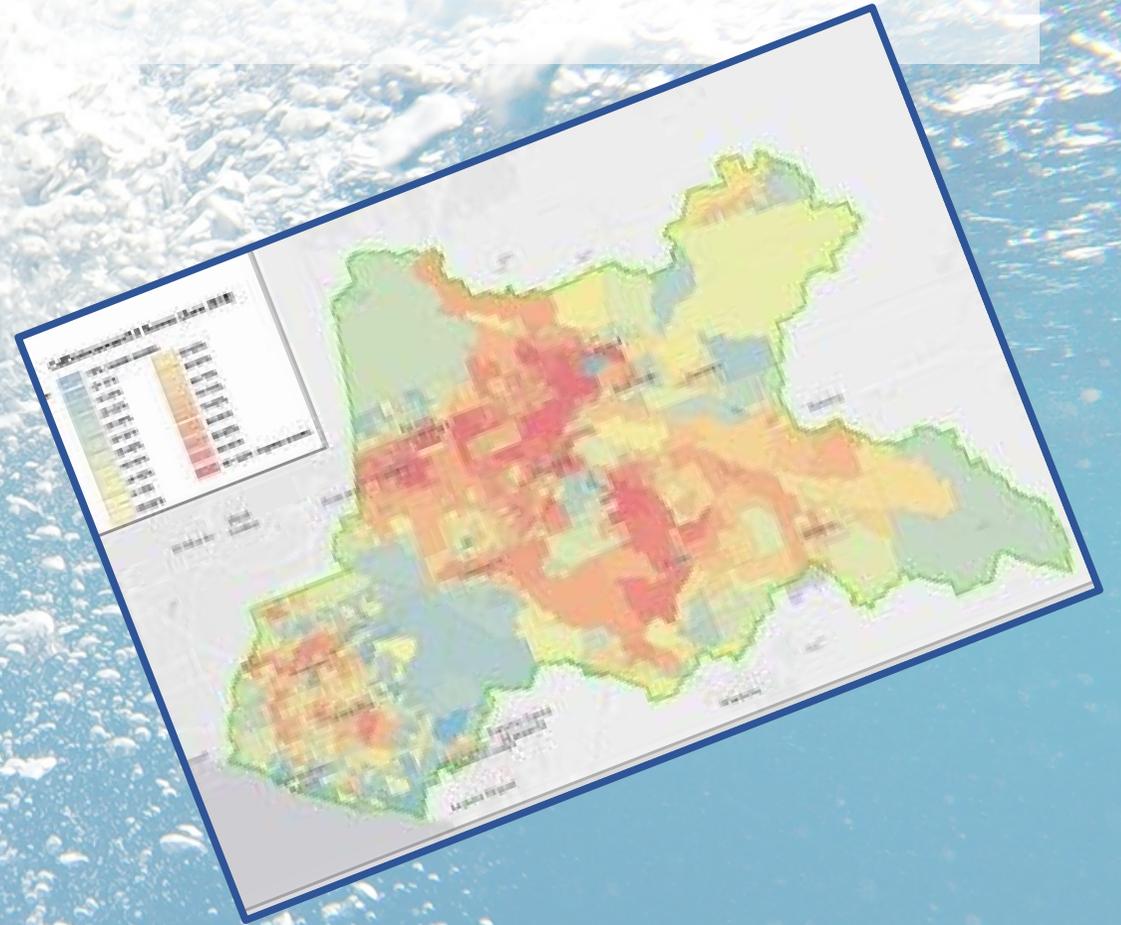
# Summary of Completed Work Plan Tasks

- 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

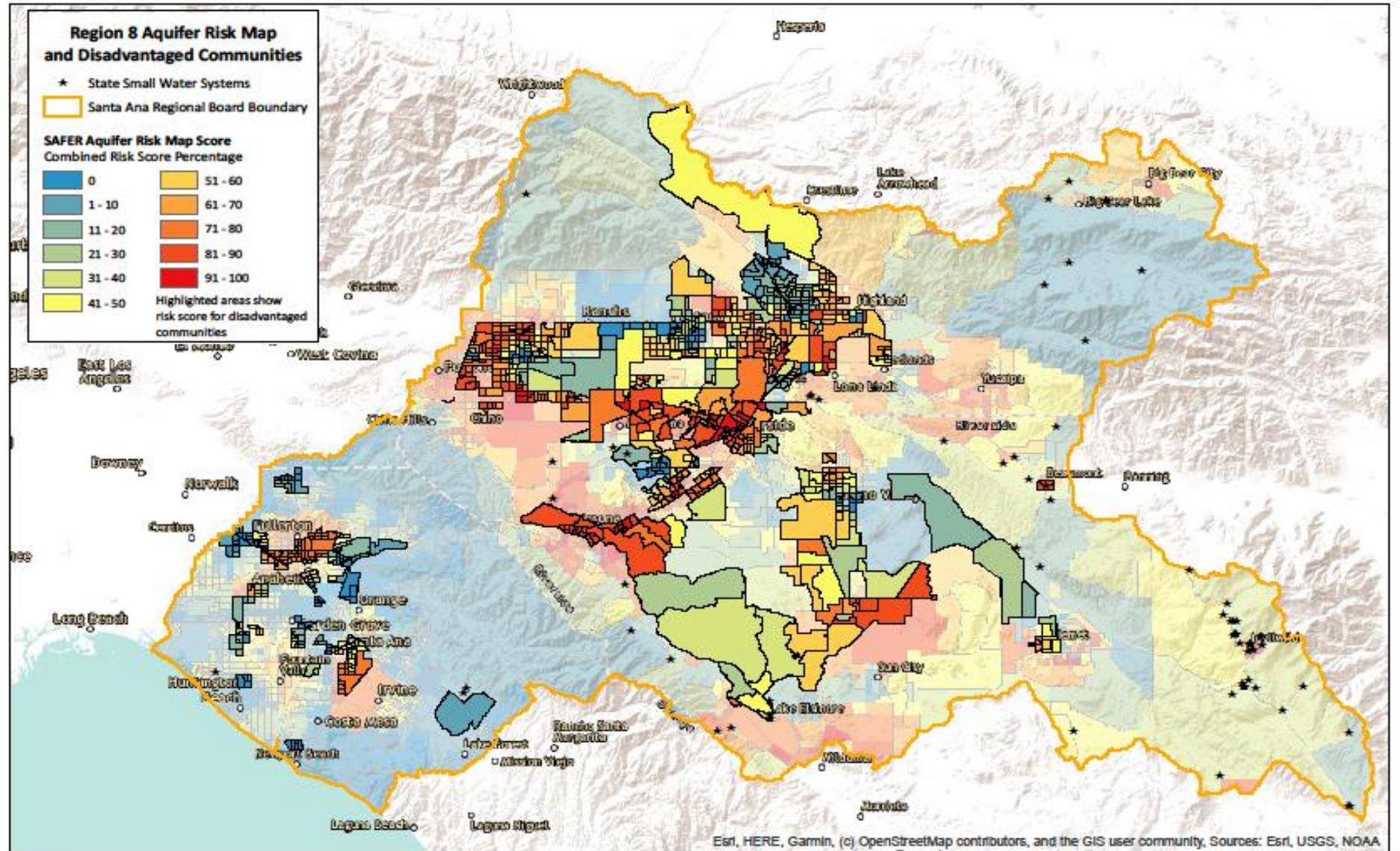


## Disadvantaged Communities at Risk (SAFER)

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



Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board  
 Author: Celia Pazos, PG, Engineering Geologist  
 Reviewed by: Erik Lindberg, PG, CHG



0 2.5 5 10 15 20  
 Miles

**Region 8 Aquifer Risk Map (SWRCB, SAFER)**  
 Executive Officer's Report Update- Human Right to Water Resolution

Figure 1

# Ongoing Activities

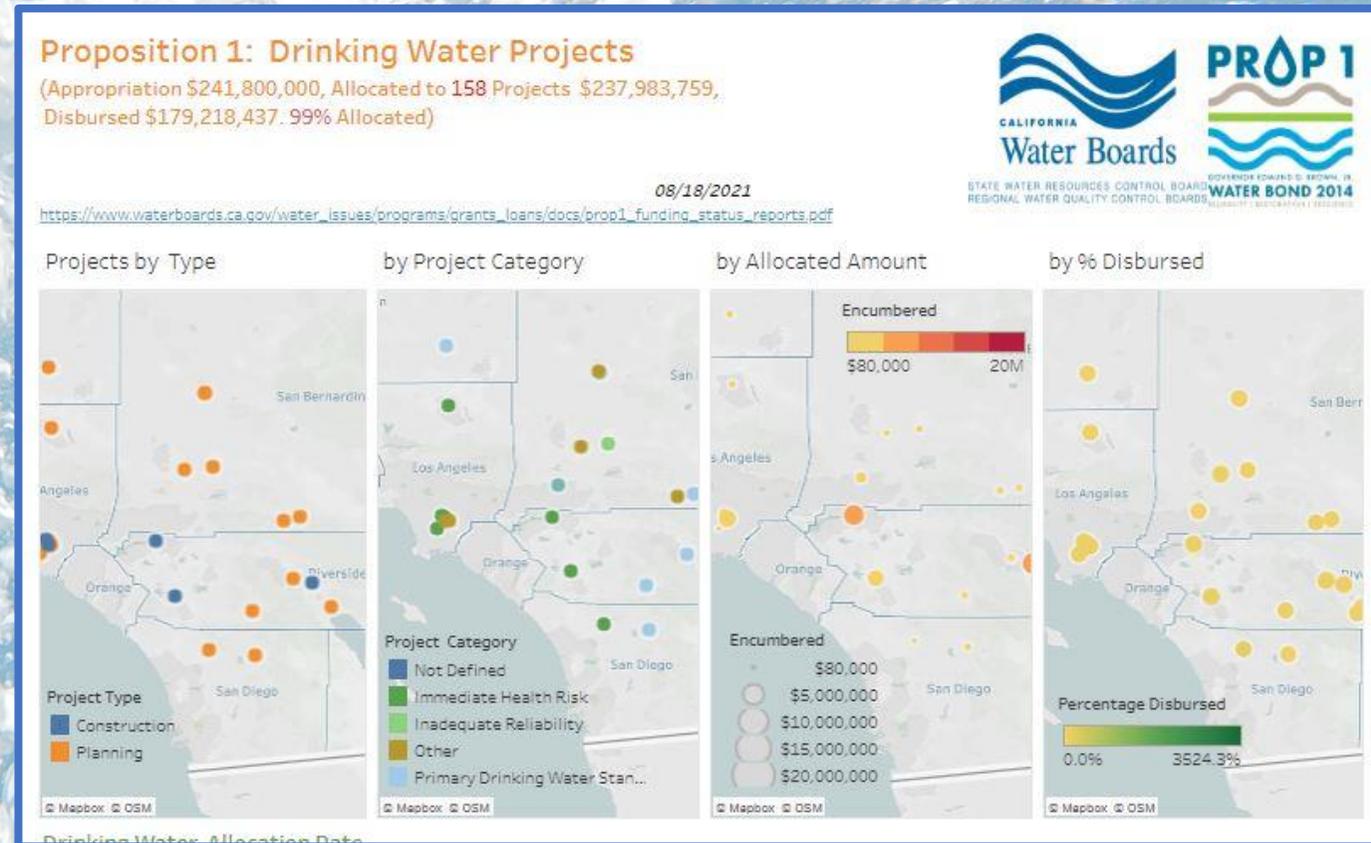
- Collaboration with the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) staff
  - Identify locations of impaired drinking water systems in Disadvantaged and Environmental Justice communities within the Santa Ana Region.
  - Included three DAC sites on the Santa Ana Water Board's Supplemental Environmental 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

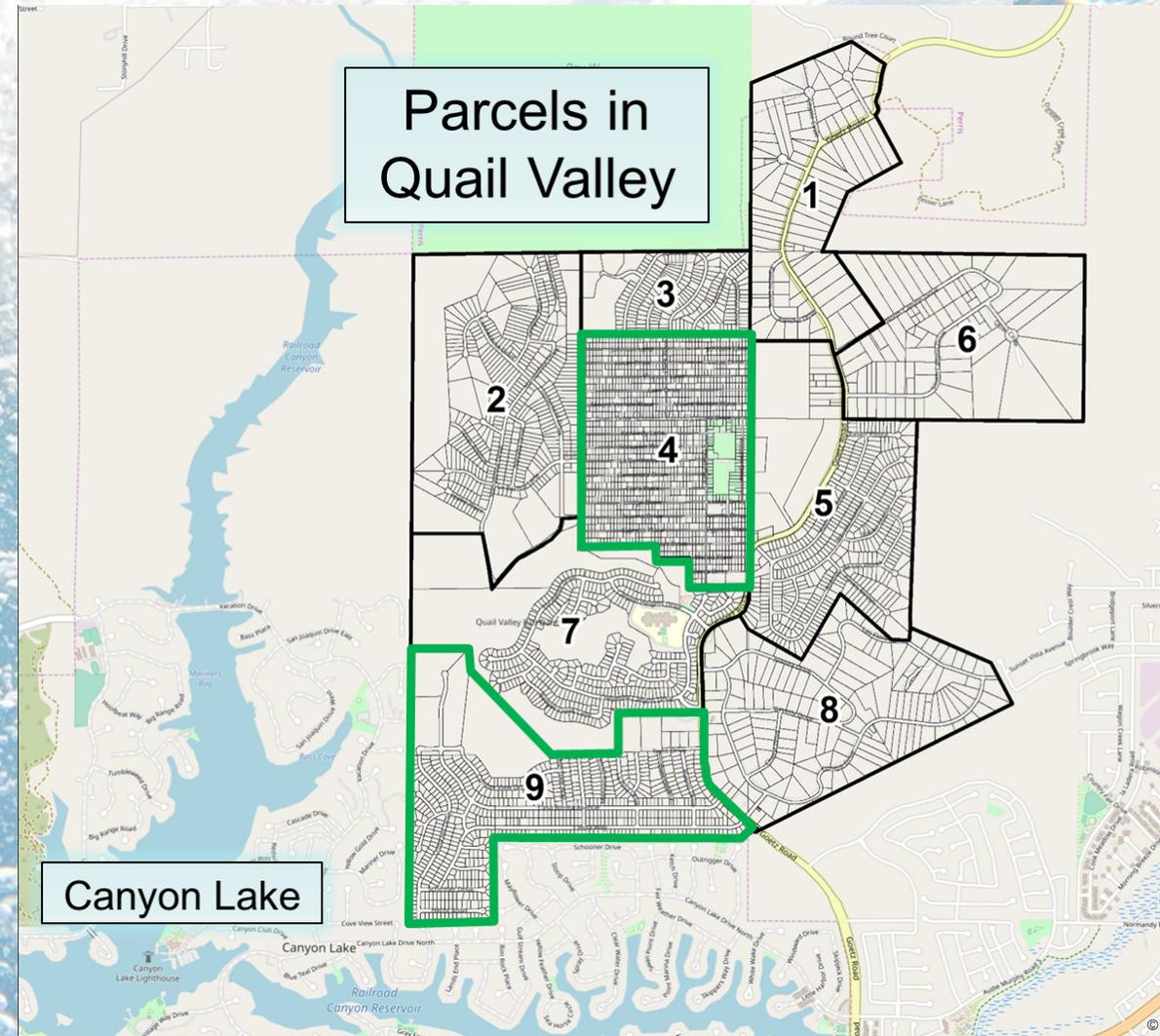
# Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Proposition 1 Funding Success

- 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

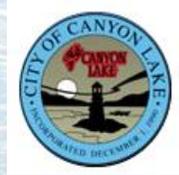


# Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Project

- 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 Regional Water Quality Control Board  
April 20, 2022

Phil Paule  
President, Board of Directors  
Eastern Municipal Water District  
2270 Trumble Road  
Perris, California 92572-8300

**SUPPORT FOR EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S REQUEST FOR USEPA'S STATE AND TRIBAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDING FOR QUAIL VALLEY SEPTIC TO SEWER CONVERSION**

Dear President Paule,

On behalf of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Water Board), I am pleased to support Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD's) request for U.S. EPA's State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) funding for the Quail Valley Septic to Sewer Conversion Project in the FY 2023 Interior EPA Appropriations bill.

As EMWD is the water, wastewater service, and recycled water provider to nearly one million people in western Riverside County, the Santa Ana Water Board recognizes that EMWD works hard to leverage external funding to reduce the financial burden of its ratepayers, as over a third of whom are disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged.

A prohibition for new septic systems in Subareas 4 and 9 of Quail Valley was issued by the Santa Ana Water Board to protect public health and surface water quality due to numerous failed septic systems. During rain events, the failed septic systems have been known to result in sewage surfacing within the residential areas of Quail Valley that then flows downstream into Canyon Lake, a drinking water reservoir.

The Santa Ana Water Board supports EMWD's request for \$2.5 million from STAG to help fund the next phase of the septic to sewer conversion project in the ethnically diverse, disadvantaged community of Quail Valley. This project helps to protect the public health of the Quail Valley residents and water quality impacts to Canyon Lake and aligns with the Santa Ana Water Board's Human Right to Water Resolution.

The Quail Valley Septic to Sewer project has been identified as a priority for both the California State Water Resources Control Board and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. EMWD's efforts are now being directed to provide sewer solutions to the 540 homes within Subarea 4. This region is hilly, the soil is rocky, lot sizes are very

Kristine Murray, Chair | Jayne Joy, Executive Officer

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President Paule - 2 - April 20, 2022

small, and the roads are very narrow. These are all variables that make sewer system construction very challenging and expensive.

Please let me know if we can support this important project in any other way.

Sincerely,

Jayne Joy, P.E.  
Executive Officer

Jayne Joy, P.E.  
Executive Officer

cc: Joe Mousavadi, General Manager, EMWD  
Kristine Murray, Santa Ana Water Board Chair

# Santa Ana Region HRTW Highlights: Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) Perris II Desalination Project

- Provides water for about 15,000 homes, and has multiple benefits
- Supports local water supply for cities in our Region, including:
  - Canyon Lake
  - Hemet
  - Menifee
  - Moreno Valley
  - Perris
  - Temecula
- Reduces the demand on imported water supplies
- Exports salts from the basin
- Offsets salt and nutrient loading from recycled water program
- Rejuvenates a groundwater basin contaminated by past agricultural practices
- Due to grant and funding levels, cost of the water is not significantly increased

# EMWD's Perris II Desalination Ceremony

June 23, 2022



## 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.”



# EMWD Perris II Desalination Project (continued)

- 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



PERRIS II DESALTER



# 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

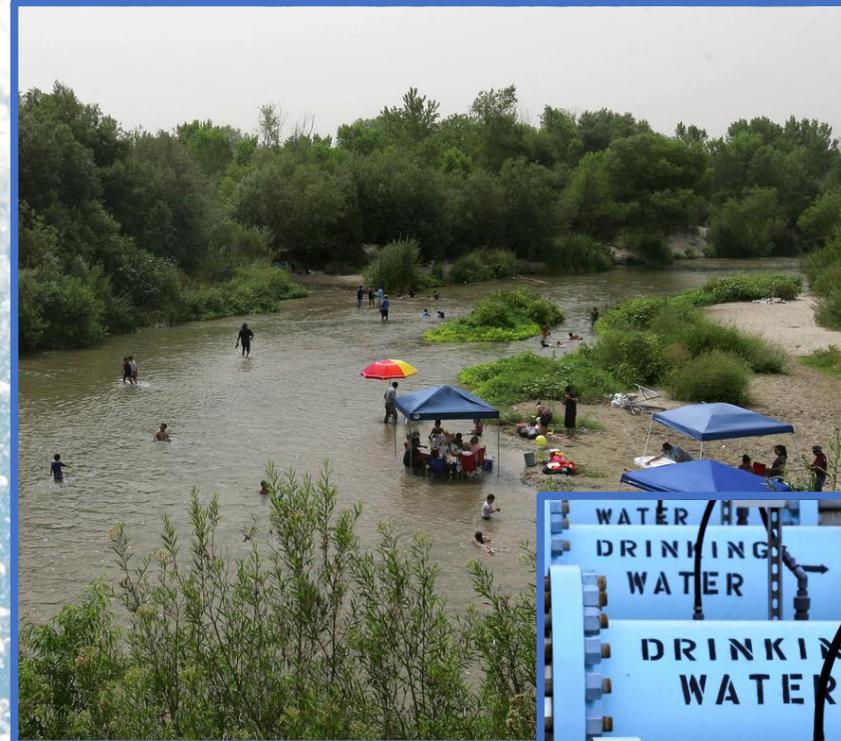
- Enforcement

- 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?

Contact information:

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