



**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**  
380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPECIAL MEETING - POLICY/ADMINISTRATION WORKSHOP**  
**2:00 PM Thursday, April 2, 2026**

**ZOOM INFORMATION**

Online: <https://sbvmwd.zoom.us/j/88452499078>

Telephone: (877) 853-5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 884 5249 9078

PASSCODE: 3802026

If you are unable to participate online or by telephone, you may submit your comments and questions in writing for Board consideration by emailing [comments@sbvmwd.com](mailto:comments@sbvmwd.com) with the subject line Public Comment Item # (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment) or Public Comment Non-Agenda Item. Submit your written comments no later than 6 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. All public comments will be provided to the Board President and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

**IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTE:** Online participants MUST log in with a Zoom account. The Zoom app is a free download. Please keep in mind: (1) This is a public meeting; as such, the virtual meeting information is published on the World Wide Web and available to everyone. (2) Should you participate remotely via telephone, your telephone number will be your identifier during the meeting and available to all meeting participants; there is no way to protect your privacy if you elect to call in to the meeting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

1) **INTRODUCTIONS**

2) **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 off-agenda items except as authorized by law. Each speaker is limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

3) **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

- 3.1 Consider the 2026 BTAC Regional Water Management Plan (10 min) - Page 3  
[Staff Memo - Consider the 2026 BTAC Regional Water Management Plan Summary of the Plan](#)

3.2 SoCal STEAM Challenge Update (20 min) - Page 11

[Staff Memo - SoCal STEAM Challenge Update](#)

3.3 CSUSB Fellows Update (20 min) - Page 13

[Staff Memo - CSUSB Fellows Update](#)

4) **FUTURE BUSINESS**

5) **ADJOURNMENT**



**DATE:** April 2, 2026

**TO:** Board of Directors' Special Meeting – Policy/Administration

**FROM:** Adekunle Ojo, Manager of Integrative Planning  
Michael Plinski, Chief of Water Resources

**SUBJECT:** Consider the 2026 BTAC Regional Water Management Plan

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### **Recommendation**

That the Board approve the 2026 Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC) Regional Water Management Plan, which satisfies provisions of the 2004 Seven Oaks Accord, the 2005 Settlement Agreement, and 2020 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan.

### **Summary**

The 2026 BTAC Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP) recommends a recharge threshold to help avoid high groundwater conditions and provides recommendations on the use of SBVMWD/WMD Santa Ana River diversions. This year, the recommended artificial recharge threshold is 320,000 acre-feet. On February 2, 2026, BTAC adopted the 2026 RWMP and recommended forwarding the Plan to both San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District (Western Water) Boards for consideration.

### **Background**

Within the San Bernardino Valley service area, over 60% of the water demand in most years is met by groundwater, and of that groundwater, over 70% typically comes from the San Bernardino Basin Area (SBBA). Given the importance of the SBBA, there are many judgments and agreements that guide the management of the Basin, including but not limited to the 1969 Western Judgment, the 2004 Seven Oaks Accord, and the 2005 Settlement Agreement between the Water Conservation District, San Bernardino Valley, and Western Water, just to mention a few.

The parties to the 2004 Seven Oaks Accord are six Santa Ana River water users (Bear Valley Mutual Water Company, City of Redlands, East Valley Water District, Lugonia Water Company, North Fork Water Company, and Redlands Water Company) and the water rights applicant (San Bernardino

Valley and Western Water), and the settlement addresses the diversion of water from the Santa Ana River including the natural flow of the river, historic water users, groundwater spreading by water users, and preservation of water rights. The Seven Oaks Accord requires the parties to vote on adopting the Plan each year, and this is now done through BTAC. The companion agreement between the Conservation District, San Bernardino Valley, and Western Water in 2005 added Conservation District as a party to the Seven Oaks Accord and resolved a wide range of issues related to the Santa Ana River water rights application filed by San Bernardino Valley and Western Water.

More recently, the 2020 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP) requires the development of an annual RWMP by BTAC. The RWMP is to be presented, considered, and approved by the BTAC, and then submitted to the two agencies that make up the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster: San Bernardino Valley and Western Water Boards for review and approval.

The 2026 RWMP was considered first by BTAC at the December 6, 2025 meeting and adopted at the February 2, 2026 meeting. The full RWMP can be found on the San Bernardino Valley's website using the link here: <https://www.sbvmd.com/about-us/local-water-conditions>

### **Fiscal Impact**

There are no fiscal impacts related to approving this item.

### **Attachment**

Summary of the Plan

## Basin Technical Advisory Committee

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Mailing Address:  
380 East Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92408







# **2026 Regional Water Management Plan**

January 2026

# Executive Summary

In December 2007, fourteen agencies adopted the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (Integrated Plan). This comprehensive water resources plan identifies various management strategies that will help ensure a reliable water supply for the San Bernardino, Yucaipa and Big Bear Valleys, as well as the San Gorgonio Pass area. The Plan covers all, or portions of the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Riverside, Fontana, Rialto, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Highland, Redlands, Mentone, Yucaipa, Big Bear Lake, the San Timoteo Watershed, Beaumont, Banning, Cherry Valley and a large portion of the San Bernardino National Forest. Most of the planning area is within the boundaries of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (San Bernardino Valley). The Integrated Plan was updated in 2020 as the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan (IRUWMP).

The Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC), made up of water agency staff and other stakeholders, was formed to implement the Integrated Plan. Each year, the BTAC prepares its Regional Water Management Plan (RWMP) for consideration by the two Boards that make up the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster: Western Municipal Water District and San Bernardino Valley. The goal of the RWMP is to evaluate the three, general water management goals based on the Integrated Plan and the underlying agreements and judgments.

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Management Action(s)</u>	<u>Status</u>
	<b>Manage Water Levels.</b> Water levels that are too high can cause liquefaction in an earthquake.	Recharge thresholds are set to maximize recharge while avoiding high groundwater	
	<b>Manage Santa Ana River Diversions.</b> Mitigate for San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District diversions that would have recharged the SBB and the Riverside North Basin.	A minimum of 17% of diversions shall be recharged in the SBB.  Recharge in Riverside North tracked by Watermaster Table 17-C.	
	<b>Manage Contaminant Plumes.</b> We do not want management actions to cause additional spread of the existing contaminant plumes.	Recharge thresholds are set to reduce, or eliminate, any impacts to contaminant plumes.	

# 2026 Regional Water Management Plan

## WATER RESOURCES AND FORECAST:

	2025	2026 Estimate
<b>San Bernardino Basin Condition:</b>		
Total Storage, as of March 2025 (acre-feet):	4,987,549	5,037,549
Estimated Storage Space Available, Fall 2025 (acre-feet)	(702,451)	(652,451)
Artificial recharge threshold in SBBA (no high groundwater or plume movement) (acre-feet)	424,000	320,000
<b>Riverside North Basin Condition:</b>		
	n/a	
<b>Rialto-Colton Basin Condition:</b>		
Total Storage, as of March 2025 (acre-feet):	1,518,373	1,520,873
Estimated Storage Space Available, Fall 2025 (acre-feet)	(230,627)	(228,127)
Average spring-high water level elevations for Rialto Basin Index Wells	Appendix D	
1961 Rialto Decree Extraction Limits (%)	49	
<b>Yucaipa Basin Condition:</b>		
Total Storage, as of March 2025 (acre-feet):	2,266,201	2,274,201
Estimated Storage Space Available, Fall 2025 (acre-feet)	(529,799)	(521,799)

## USE OF AVAILABLE SAR DIVERSIONS AND SWP WATER

	2025	2026 Estimate
<b>SBVMWD/WMWD Santa Ana River Diversions:</b>		
Direct delivery	4,706	5,000
Artificial Recharge (17% required by Riverside Agreement unless credits)	None	None
Exchange (long-term storage/banking, 40 cfs max)	All	All
	None	None
<b>Additional San Bernardino Basin pumping to lower water levels:</b>		
	No	No
<b>State Water Project Water:</b>		
<b>Supplies:</b>		
Carryover (acre-feet) from previous year	15,426	8,923
Kern-Delta Water Bank (5,000 af/yr maximum)	2,907	2,907
Entitlement (acre-feet) - Table A allocation	51,300	25,650
CLAWA Exchange, Yuba Accord, Article 21 and Transfers (acre-feet)	4,984	-
<b>TOTAL STATE WATER PROJECT SUPPLIES</b>	<b>74,617</b>	<b>37,480</b>
<b>Demands:</b>		
Direct Deliveries	30,120	24,343
Recharge of local groundwater basins (acre-feet)	32,565	-
CLAWA Sale (acre-feet)	102	200
<b>Other Uses of available State Water Project Water:</b>		
Short-term (carryover) storage to next year for direct deliveries (acre-feet)	8,923	10,000
Long-term storage/banking (acre-feet)	2,907	2,907
Sale outside of service area	-	-
<b>TOTAL USE</b>	<b>74,617</b>	<b>37,450</b>

# 2026 Regional Water Management Plan (continued)

## USE OF AVAILABLE SAR DIVERSIONS AND SWP WATER (Continued):

### Artificial Recharge Targets (Local and Imported Water)

	Recommended Maximum (AF)	Estimated Recharge Capacity (AFY)*
<b>San Bernardino Basin</b> <sup>1,2</sup>		
1. Waterman Basins & 9. East Twin Creek Spreading Basin	54,625	29,160
2. Santa Ana Basins & 14. Weaver Basins (Recycled Water)	71,250	81,000
3. Mill Creek Basins	42,750	42,750
4. City of Redlands Spreading Basins	-	-
5. Bear Valley Spreading Basin	-	-
6. Santa Ana River Bottom	-	Variable
7. Patton Basin	-	-
8. EVWD Turnout	-	-
10. Badger Basins	8,313	900
11. Wiggins Basin	-	-
12. Devil Canyon & Sweetwater Basins	13,063	12,150
13. Gravel Pits	-	-
15. Others, including City Creek and streambeds	-	Variable
<b>Sub-total SBBA</b>	<b>190,000</b>	<b>165,960</b>

<sup>1</sup> Suggested maximum recharge values. See Appendix B.

<sup>2</sup> Due to shallow groundwater levels in this area, exceeding this value may result in rejected recharge at this location.

\*Assumes 75% firm capacity based on percolation rate and monthly capacity; equivalent to nine (9) months of continuous recharge

	Recommended Maximum (AF)	Estimated Recharge Capacity (AFY)
<b>OTHER BASINS WITHIN SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY SERVICE AREA</b>		
<b>Rialto-Colton Basin*</b>	7,000	None
<b>Yucaipa Basin</b>	8,000	8,000
<b>Riverside North Basin - SBVMWD Recharge in Riverside North (Watermaster Table No. 17C)*</b>	7,543	None
<u>Other</u>	-	-

\*Recharge facilities for imported water are not currently in operation

## Other Requirements

Water Level Requirements of Agreements met?	Yes	
Triennial water quality report provided to Regional Water Quality Control Board?	Submitted to RWQCB in Dec. 2021	Next report due in Dec. 2026

## **New for 2026**

Beyond normal updates to hydrographs and numbers, no new changes were made to the Plan in 2026.

## Definitions

Artificial recharge: Intentionally introducing water into the groundwater system by man-made means such as pouring water into pits and allowing it to percolate into the ground.

BTAC: Basin Technical Advisory Committee

Direct delivery: Any delivery that is made to benefit one single agency. Examples include deliveries to surface water treatment plants and for artificial recharge projects that recharge a specific well field owned by one agency.

SBB: San Bernardino Basin

Western Judgment: Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County, et al. vs. East San Bernardino County Water District, et al., 1969.

**DATE:** April 2, 2026  
**TO:** Board of Directors' Special Meeting – Policy/Administration  
**FROM:** Kelly Malloy, Strategic Communications Manager  
**SUBJECT:** SoCal STEAM Challenge Update

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**Staff Recommendation**

Receive and file.

**Summary**

San Bernardino Valley has proudly sponsored the SoCal STEAM Challenge (formerly called the Inland Solar Challenge or ISC) since 2008. As part of the FY 2025-26 Budget process, the Board of Directors approved \$15,000 in sponsorship funding. Staff and SoCal STEAM Planning Committee Members will provide an update on the progress of the program for the 2026 event.

**Background**

The first SoCal STEAM Challenge took place in May 2008. Each year, students are required to build a solar-powered boat, complete multiple races, and prepare and present water-related reports. Through this event, regional students learn the importance of water conservation, water resources, and environmental resource conservation during the eight-month program.

Today, the SoCal STEAM Challenge provides students with an educational experience that expands their knowledge through hands-on activities that promote innovation, problem-solving, creativity, and the exploration of career pathways. In the months preceding the event, students engage in the construction of boats and the preparation of two technical reports, culminating in a three-day period of racing sixteen-foot solar-powered boats and presenting a Public Service Announcement. This initiative offers students a practical application of their skills in a real-world context, while also opening their eyes to the diverse career opportunities available in the water industry.

The SoCal STEAM Challenge has successfully expanded outreach efforts and secured increased sponsorship opportunities. This expansion reflects the growing support and recognition for the

impact of the program. Through these combined efforts, new avenues have opened for students to explore career pathways in the water industry, further enhancing the impact and relevance of the program.

The 2026 event will take place on May 1-3 at Yucaipa Regional Park. This year the following high schools will be participating in the event, including:

1. Banning High School
2. Cajon High School
3. Cathedral City High School
4. Colton High School
5. Desert Hot Springs High School
6. Desert Mirage High School
7. Rialto High School
8. San Geronio High School
9. Yucaipa High School

The event is organized by a volunteer group of staff members from local water retail agencies. The team commits countless hours of time to communicating with local school representatives, maintaining the 501c3 status, and organizing the event. A key to the event's success is the use of Yucaipa Regional Park as a local option for the boat races, and a unique overnight camping field trip for students within a close proximity to the Planning Committee's service area. This venue lends itself to rapid operational support from Planning Committee Members.

### **District Strategic Plan Application**

The SoCal STEAM Challenge aligns with the District's mission of *working collaboratively to provide a reliable and sustainable water supply to support the changing needs of our region's people and environment*. Sponsoring the event helps the Agency achieve its goal to *Build trust by being a collaborative and resourceful partner through effective communication and engagement*.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact related to this update. Sponsorship of the SoCal STEAM Challenge was approved in the FY 2025-26 Budget.

**DATE:** April 2, 2026  
**TO:** Board of Directors' Special Meeting – Policy/Administration  
**FROM:** Kelly Malloy, Strategic Communications Manager  
**SUBJECT:** CSUSB Fellows Update

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### **Staff Recommendation**

Receive and file.

### **Summary**

San Bernardino Valley has embraced the importance of supporting top talent in our industry through sponsorship of five Fellows as part of California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) Institute for Watershed Resiliency's San Bernardino Valley Regional Water Fellowship Program (Fellowship Program). In the third academic year, the Fellowship Program has provided a unique opportunity for local students to serve the community, receive real-world experience, and foster professional relationships. This academic year, five Fellows conducted field research, earned valuable certifications, and partnered with San Bernardino Valley Environmental staff. The Fellows will be in attendance for brief reflection on highlights from the program.

### **Background**

The San Bernardino Valley Regional Water Fellowship is administered by the CSUSB Institute for Watershed Resiliency. Fellows participate in diverse activities that collectively prepare participants to enter the workforce in a water-related career setting, including scientific studies, regulatory compliance, communication and marketing to public audiences, data analysis, public education, and project management.

The San Bernardino Valley Regional Water Fellowship aims to engage and prepare participants to connect knowledge gained in the classroom with real-world applications through San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's goals and objectives for the communities they serve. This year, San Bernardino Valley sponsored five Fellow positions that include students in both undergraduate and graduate phases of their education. The program is a paid Fellowship that has taken place

over the Fall, Winter, and Spring semesters, which includes costs for professional development, field equipment, and other job-related supplies.

### **District Strategic Plan Application**

The CSUSB San Bernardino Valley Fellowship program aligns with the District's mission of *working collaboratively to provide a reliable and sustainable water supply to support the changing needs of our region's people and environment*. By sponsoring Fellows in the program, it helps the Agency achieve its goal to *Attract and support top talent and promote a rewarding culture of growth and opportunity*.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact related to this update.