

Through the
DECADES

70th Anniversary Celebration

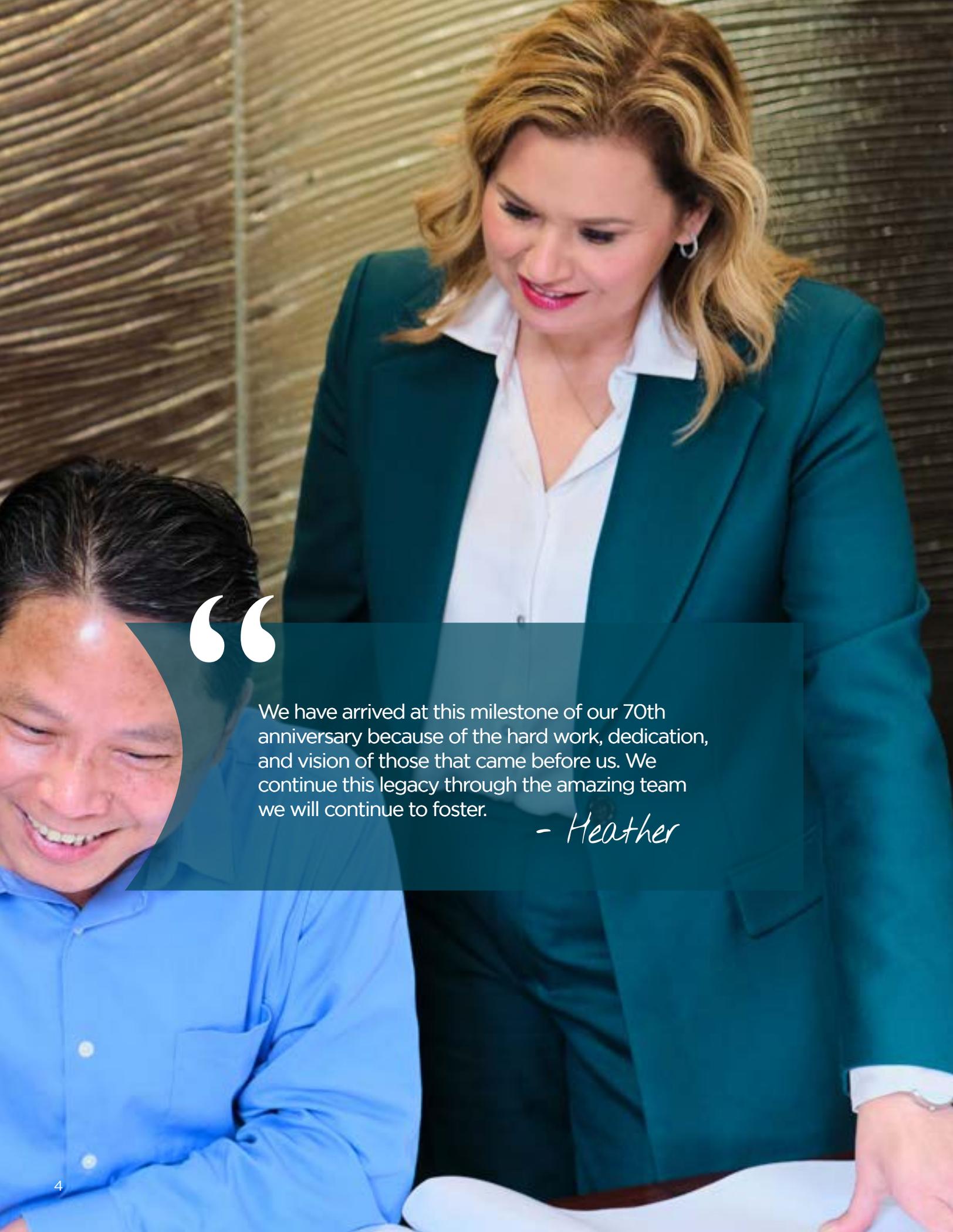


Tree rings, much like our history, represent the passage of time with the richness of experience, longevity and service. 'Through the Decades' symbolizes each layer of our past and an unwavering commitment towards a sustainable future.

Through the DECADES

Honoring a Legacy of Water Stewardship and Community Service Spanning 70 Years





“

We have arrived at this milestone of our 70th anniversary because of the hard work, dedication, and vision of those that came before us. We continue this legacy through the amazing team we will continue to foster.

- Heather

FORWARD



San Bernardino Valley has a 70-year legacy as a science-based water resource agency. For decades our policy makers, together with staff and partner organizations, have been diligently transforming plans into practice.

Since 1954, the residents of this region have trusted San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District with the responsibility to oversee and implement long-term water planning programs. The efforts that we undertake are complex. They are dynamic. They are essential to the water resiliency needed for our region’s people and environment.

Looking at what comes next requires us to think about our future a little differently. The team at San Bernardino Valley is working to ensure a resilient water supply for 50... 75... 100 years into the future. We know the future does not look like the past. Now is the time to be flexible with the path forward in order to adapt to changing and complicated challenges that include factors beyond our control. Rest assured — difficult does not equal impossible.

Together with our partners we have opened the door to opportunities we could not have achieved alone. Local, regional, state and federal agencies, together with non-profits, private business, and engaged citizens are collaborating to make investments in our future by bringing together pieces that can complete the puzzle. How will we achieve extraordinary results? By working together.

San Bernardino Valley is a small, yet nimble organization, that for the last 70 years has made science-based decisions for the good of our watershed. As we look ahead at the next 70 years we intend to carry on this tradition with a continued commitment to be collaborative, trustworthy, innovative, and driven.

We look forward to the many opportunities these transformative values will foster into the next chapter of our history.

HEATHER P. DYER



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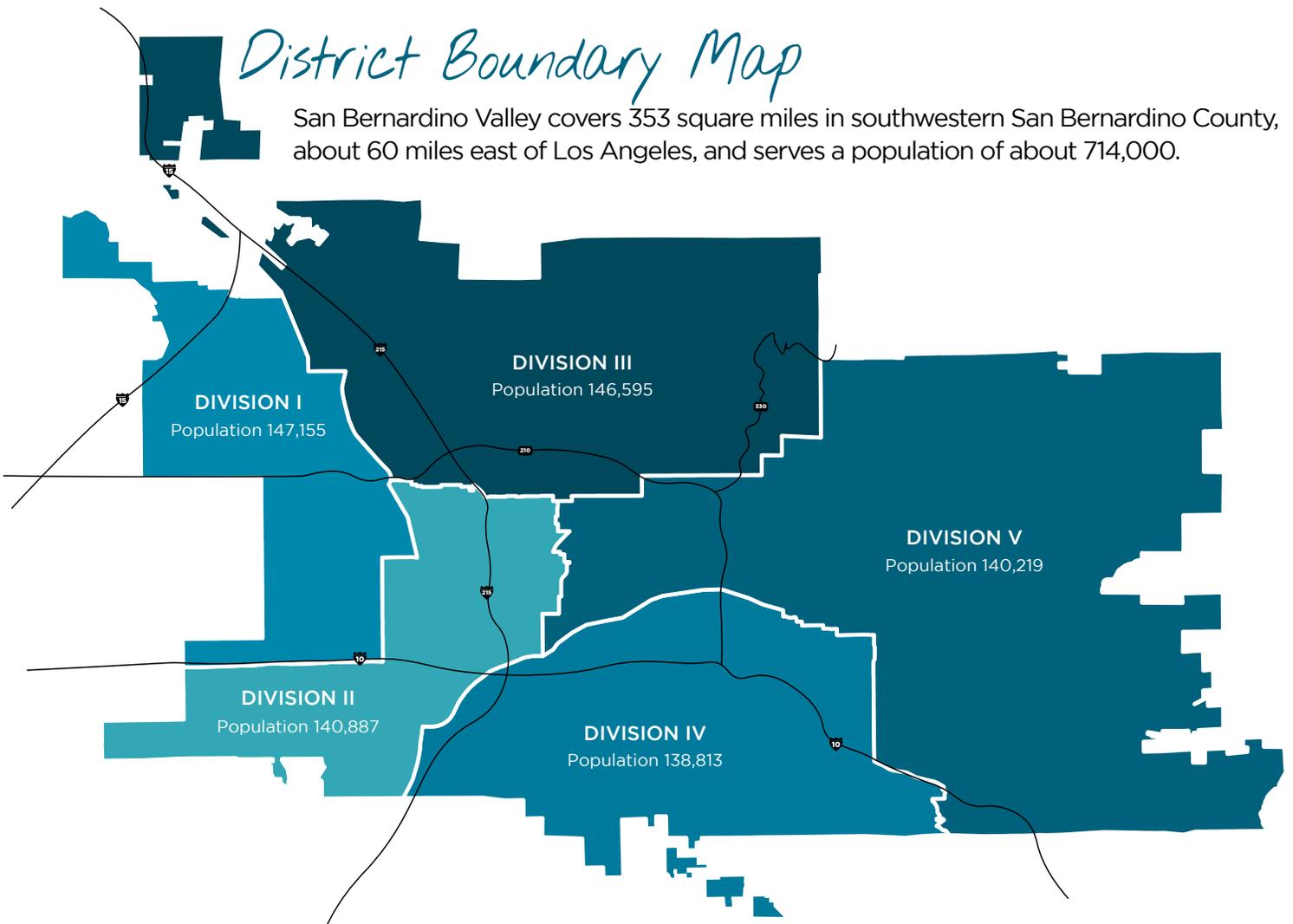
When we hold true to our mission, vision, and values while remaining committed to those we serve - we can achieve great things for our region.



INTRODUCTION

District Boundary Map

San Bernardino Valley covers 353 square miles in southwestern San Bernardino County, about 60 miles east of Los Angeles, and serves a population of about 714,000.



ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Division I, June Hayes
- Division II, Gil J. Botello
- Division III, Susan Longville
- Division IV, T. Milford Harrison
- Division V, Paul R. Kielhold

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Heather Dyer

COORDINATING WATER DELIVERIES TO:

15 RETAIL AGENCIES



CORE FUNCTIONS IN 2024

- Long-Range Water Supply Planning
- Importing Supplemental Water
- Groundwater Stewardship
- New Local Water Supplies
- Environmental Permitting and Habitat Conservation

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ACT OF 1911

As a public agency, there is a single legislative action, known as an enabling act, that serves as a foundational guide, establishing key expectations, authorities, and responsibilities. San Bernardino Valley's enabling act includes a broad range of powers to provide water, as well as wastewater and storm water disposal, recreation, and fire protection services. The Municipal Water District Act of 1911 provided for the formation of municipal water districts and can be found today as part of the California Water Code.

12" TO 78" DIAMETER PIPELINES SPANNING

42 miles

Major transmission pipelines were constructed as joint ventures with other water agencies to maximize project benefits and share costs, which would otherwise have been spent on constructing parallel pipelines. San Bernardino Valley uses these pipelines to deliver water throughout its service area.

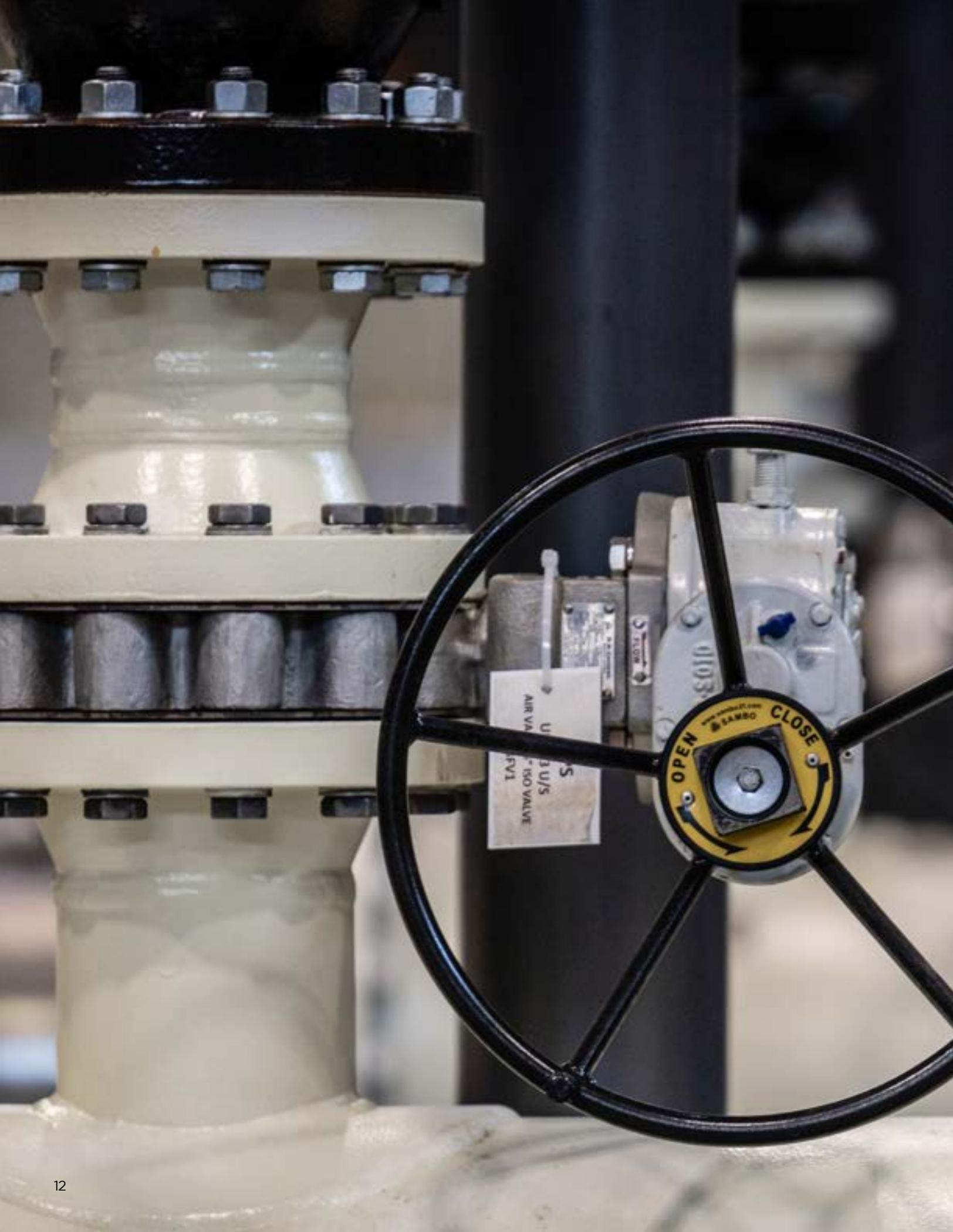
SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLY THROUGH STATE WATER PROJECT

As one of 29 State Water Contractors, San Bernardino Valley is responsible for importing water through the State Water Project. This water source is used for both direct delivery to retail water agencies and for regional groundwater replenishment.



RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY

As a State Water Contractor, San Bernardino Valley receives State Water Project (SWP) water at the Devil Canyon Power Plant Afterbay (near California State University, San Bernardino). Water is transported 17 miles eastward to various spreading grounds, agricultural, and wholesale domestic delivery points in the San Bernardino basin; and transported westward for direct delivery and recharge in the Colton-Rialto basin. The East Branch Extension delivers State Project Water to the Yucaipa Valley and Mill Creek area while also connecting the larger system flows to neighboring State Water Contractor, the San Geronio Pass Water Agency.



U-3 u/s
AIR VALVE
FV1
ISO VALVE

OPEN
CLOSE
SAMBO



Efficient Regional Water Delivery

San Bernardino Valley designed and built a state-of-the-art network of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, and canals that efficiently deliver water regionally.

Steward of Regional Resources

San Bernardino Valley's role goes beyond simply importing water from Northern California. The District has taken the lead role in resolving legal disputes, furthering groundwater recharge, creating a state-of-the-art infrastructure system, leading campaigns for flood control and water storage, developing research tools used by water agencies around the world, and developing long-term environmental compliance tools for nearly a dozen agencies throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed.



MANAGING RESOURCES

New challenges and the need to make the most efficient use of resources will continue to drive San Bernardino Valley to facilitate innovative solutions for water management and conservation.



Our mission is to work **collaboratively** to provide a **reliable** and **sustainable** water supply to support the changing needs of our region's **people** and **environment**.

MISSION



Our Vision for the Future is a **Diverse, Equitable, and Resilient** Water Supply and Healthy Watershed for Future Generations.

VISION

We Are Transformative by Living Our Values



COLLABORATIVE.

Dedicated to Work Inclusively



TRUSTWORTHY.

Committed to Earn Respect



INNOVATIVE.

Proactive and Effective Problem-Solvers



DRIVEN.

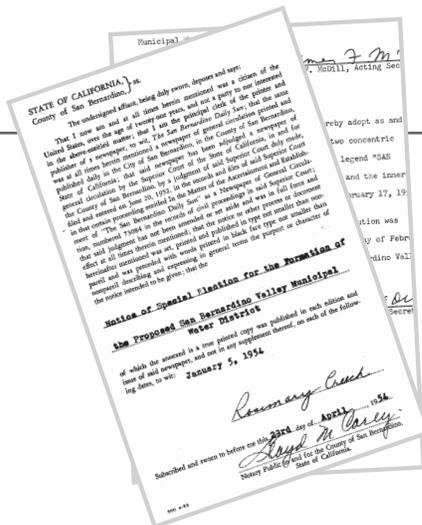
Passionate and Empowered Leaders

Following a collaborative process, San Bernardino Valley completed its first Strategic Plan in 2022. This effort resulted in a shared vision that includes a renewed mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives.

San Bernardino Valley is focusing on meeting the increasing complexities of protecting our precious resources, reaching key milestones, and remaining flexible to leverage new opportunities and manage risks.

VALUES

San Bernardino Valley Timeline



1954

January 26, 1954 Special Election: San Bernardino Valley was formed as a regional water agency.

San Bernardino Valley First Mission: To provide Inland Empire water agencies with a supplemental water supply and represent the valley in lawsuits that resulted in two judgments that are still used to manage resources in the region.

1962

Feather River Contract Signed
San Bernardino Valley signed an agreement with the Department of Water Resources to use water from Feather River.

This system is now the modern State Water Project.



East Branch Extension (EBX)

Allows delivery of State Water Project water to the Yucaipa Valley and Mill Creek areas, then continuing on to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

1980-1990s

San Bernardino Basin High Groundwater

High groundwater caused structural damage in the south part of the City of San Bernardino.

High groundwater was a unique challenge of the 1980's and 90's.



Regional Recycled Water Pipeline Design Completed

1995

Santa Ana River Water Rights Permit Received

Western Municipal Water District, and San Bernardino Valley obtained water rights to divert water from the Santa Ana River that was not being used for any other purpose.

Purchased 1,658 Acres Currently Known as Sunrise Ranch

2005

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

San Bernardino Valley led the development of this plan with local agencies.



Completed Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1a

2018

Completed the Roemer Hydro Generation Project

2020

Began the Headwaters Resiliency Partnership

2022

Dawn of a New Generation: San Bernardino Valley developed and adopted the first Strategic Plan establishing long-range priorities, values, and goals.



Election resulted in largest turnout in San Bernardino voter history.

1964

Voters in the San Bernardino Valley opt to have a local State Water Contractor.

U.S. Geological Survey

Collaboration with U.S.G.S. to study our local resources to develop a state of art model of the region.

1969

1970

1972-74

Devil Canyon Power Plant

Plant reduced electrical costs and created partnering opportunities for the Foothill Pipeline.



1982

Seven Oaks Dam

The proposed flood control dam was relocated from Mentone to a site within the mountain range.



1969 Judgments: Complex legal settlements crafted to safeguard sustainable water supplies, equitably divide resources, and ensure Santa Ana River flow obligations to Orange County. San Bernardino Valley becomes the court-appointed watermaster on behalf of the San Bernardino parties.

Santa Ana Water Rights Approved

Additional water rights mark a major milestone in enhancing local water supplies.

Completed the Baseline Feeder System

Began the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan

2008-09

2012

2014

2017



Crafton Reservoir Expansion Completed

San Bernardino Valley partnered with Department of Water Resources and San Geronio on this project.

Completed Citrus Pump Station Water Supply Well & Reservoir

Regional Recycled Water Pipeline and Weaver Basins Construction Completed

2023

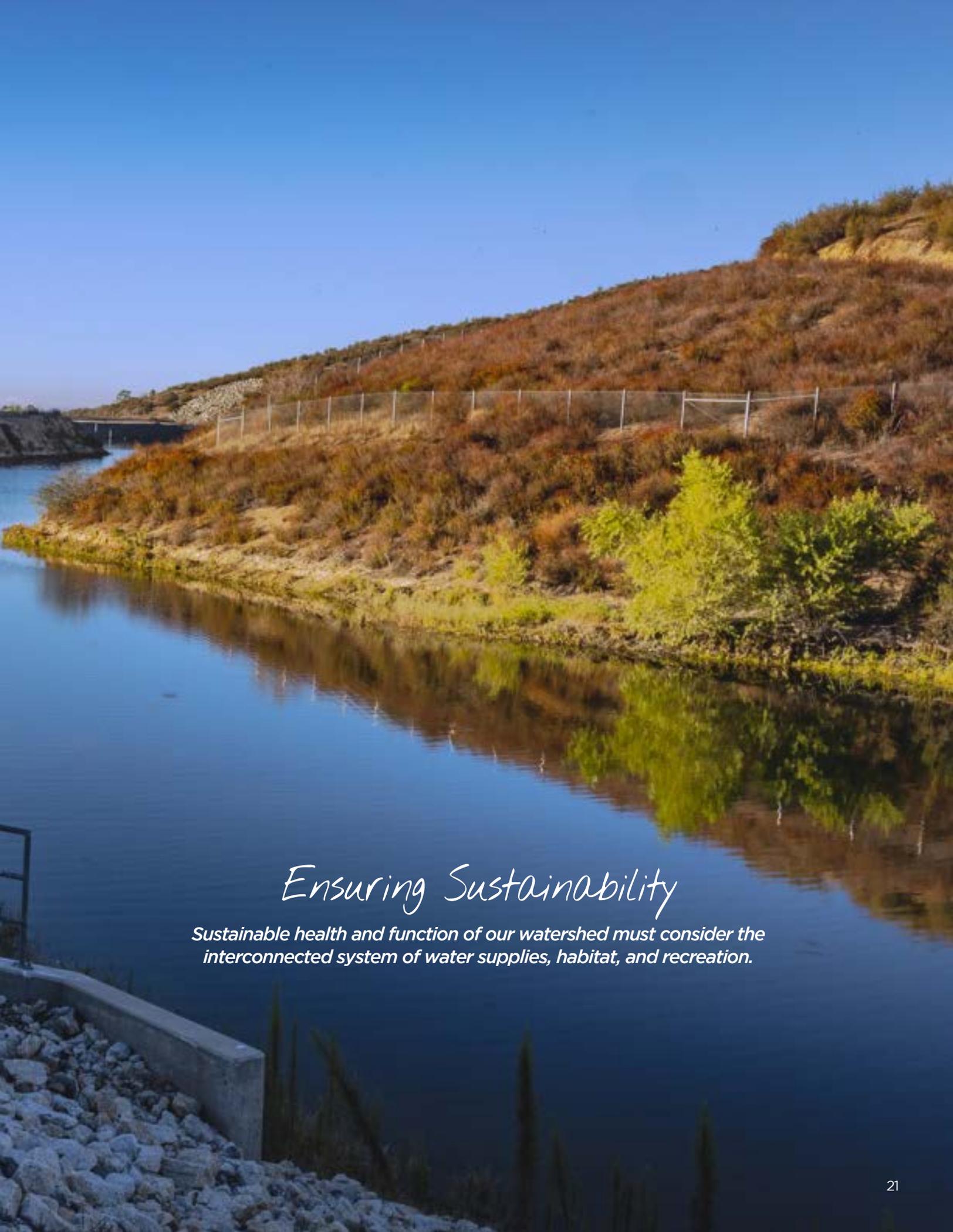
Began Construction of the Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Phase 1b

Signed a 30-year agreement for joint use of San Bernardino County Flood Control facilities for groundwater recharge.



Our desired future is bright ideas and innovative solutions.





Ensuring Sustainability

Sustainable health and function of our watershed must consider the interconnected system of water supplies, habitat, and recreation.



Through decades of challenges and triumphs, San Bernardino Valley has continually shown that we value partnerships, regional solutions, and creative problem-solving.



THE DECADES

THE FOUNDATION

1950's

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was originally formed to bring supplemental water as part of long-range water supply planning for the San Bernardino Valley.

Original Board of Directors

Horace P. Hinckley

Howard L. Holcomb

James F. McDill

Woodrow Miller

Maurice S. Schumaker

January 26, 1954

A special election was held for the creation of a new municipal water district that could import supplemental water into the valley.

February 24, 1954

San Bernardino Valley's first Meeting of the Board of Directors

APPROVED BY VOTE OF 12,400 to 11,391

Sometimes San Bernardino Valley was known as "Muni"

"This climaxes four and a half years of hard work. What the people have done regarding future water is just like what has been done in setting up a new school district."

~ A.B. Drake, Upper Santa Ana River Water Study Committee

The Sun
A Newspaper for San Bernardino County

SHOULD SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY ANNEX TO MWD?

Any question of annexation to the MWD, which would be necessary in order to obtain Colorado River water, would have to be settled at a subsequent election.

LURKING IN THE BACKGROUND

Leave? or Stay!

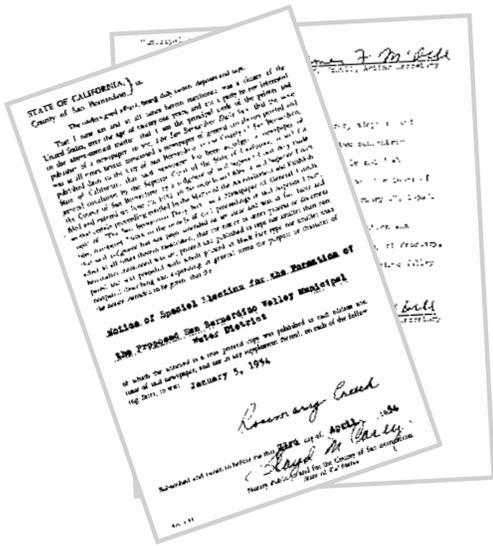
Election 2 **Water 8**

Angst in the 1950s and 60s was stimulated by the tremendous growth that Southern California experienced following the end of World War II.



ORIGINAL LOGO

The original logo featured a blend of symbolic elements and commitment to the management of the local water supply.

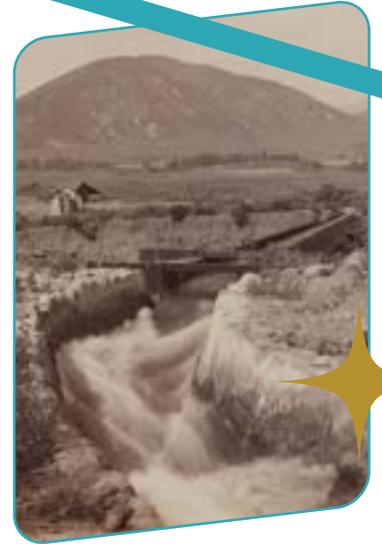


The residents of the San Bernardino Valley had confidence in local control and policy-setting for long-term water supply resiliency.

- Ray Kroc visits the first McDonald's in San Bernardino and buys rights to Franchise
- TV Surpasses Radio in Popularity
- Disneyland Opens in Anaheim, California
- Cruising E Street in San Bernardino was a Favorite Past Time

FEATHER RIVER PROJECT

The Feather River Project was first authorized by the California Legislature in 1951. Initial plans called for construction of a 710-foot dam near Oroville that would store up to 3.5 million acre feet of Feather River water as well as a canal system to bring several million acre feet of water to Southern California.



Did you know the Feather River Project is known today as the State Water Project?



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR RESILIENCY

April 28, 1964

1960's

Residents of the San Bernardino Valley voted to maintain local control over regional water management and supply.



FEATHER RIVER BONDS & CONTRACT SIGNED

Bonds for the Feather River Project were approved by California voters in 1960, and San Bernardino Valley signed a 75-year contract with the State Department of Water Resources on December 30, 1960. The contract was subsequently amended and now goes to 2085. The State Water Project includes annual maximum entitlements for each State Water Contractor. San Bernardino Valley's initial entitlement started at 46,000 acre feet, then 98,000 acre feet, and today is 102,000 acre feet per year.

"Our contract for 98,000 acre feet of Feather River water will in time solve any shortages in the San Bernardino Valley."

~ Horace P. Hinckley, San Bernardino Valley Director

68.2% VOTER TURNOUT

By the time of the election, the debate over whether the region wanted to join MWD had widespread community engagement on both sides. Ultimately, the voters opted to retain water supply planning efforts within the region.

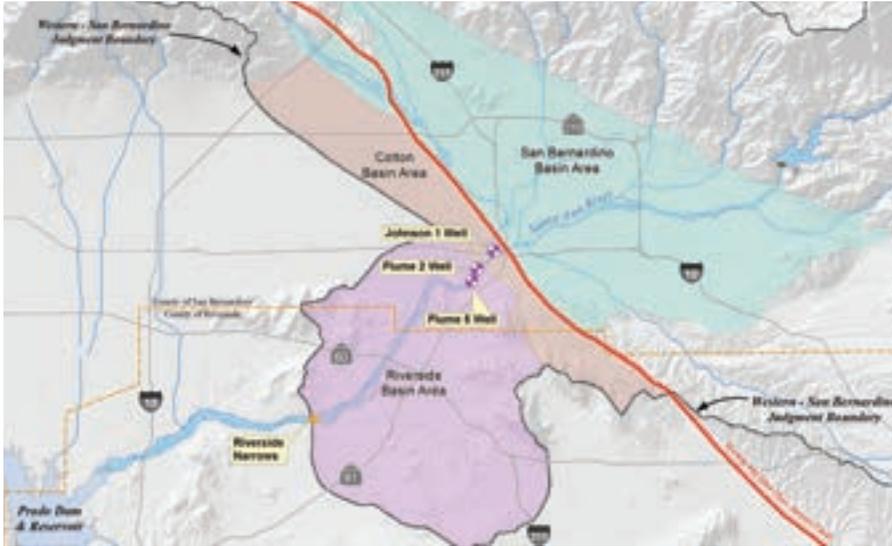
San Bernardino Valley created its own weekly newspaper called *The Independent Press* to increase communication about on-going water resource efforts.

San Bernardino Valley understood the importance of a reliable water supply. This resulted in the purchase of water rights, investment in the State Water project, and looking towards the potential of regional recycled water.



DEVELOPMENT BEGAN ON YUCAIPA REGIONAL PARK WITH THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO IN 1966.

LAYING THE GROUND RULES FOR WATERSHED RESOURCES



Two legal judgments in 1969 established how the water resources in the Upper Watershed would be shared. The first, the Orange County Judgment, set a standard for minimum flows in the Santa Ana River.

A second legal judgment, the Western San Bernardino Judgment, determined how groundwater resources would be divided between San Bernardino and Riverside. It also outlined each region's responsibilities to comply with the first judgment.

This decision created the roles of joint Watermasters, with San Bernardino Valley representing the interests of pumpers within our service area.

The court-appointed Watermasters, San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District, represent their respective parties and region to ensure compliance with the two judgments.

A NEW HEADQUARTERS IN THE CITY CENTER

The new headquarters was built in the City of San Bernardino on E Street. The large office complex included a water feature visible from the freeway as a sign of water availability, professional landscaping, and missile shell representing the local military and aerospace industrial activities.



BEGINNING WATER MANAGEMENT STUDIES

In 1966, a cooperative agreement was signed between San Bernardino Valley and the Department of Water Resources to study the local water resources in the San Bernardino Valley.

EXCHANGE PLAN

In 1968, a report was published proposing a cooperative water supply plan, also known as the Exchange Plan.

Pop Culture

- The Beatles Heard Everywhere
- Apollo Moon Landing July 20, 1969
- Color TV
- Gallon of Milk was 49¢

GROWING AND EXPANDING →

1972

1970's

FIRST STATE WATER PROJECT DELIVERY

29

San Bernardino Valley is one of the 29 contractors to import water through the State Water Project.

STATE WATER PROJECT FLOWS ARRIVE IN THE REGION



In 1970, construction began on a dam along the Santa Ana River and pipeline from Devil Canyon to Waterman Avenue turnout. In 1972, San Bernardino Valley purchased 50% of the capacity in the Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline from the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

BEGINNING OF AN IDEA: REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER

Grant funding from the Environmental Protection Agency and State Water Resources Control Board was awarded for a wastewater facilities planning study.

U.S. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Endangered Species Act was adopted in 1973 and established protections for fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered.



SANTA ANA WATERSHED PROJECT AUTHORITY (SAWPA) FORMED IN 1975

SAWPA was formed with San Bernardino Valley, Orange County Water District, Eastern Municipal Water District, Chino Basin Municipal Water District (now Inland Empire Utilities Agency), and Western Municipal Water District as member agencies. SAWPA focuses on a broad range of water resource issues, including salt removal through the Inland Empire Brine Line (Brine Line).

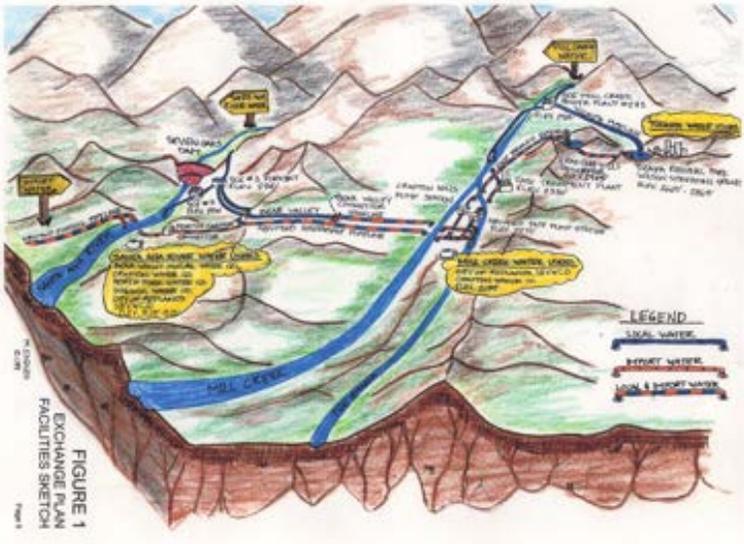
The Brine Line is a gravity pipeline that delivers non-reclaimable waste from the Upper Santa Ana River watershed to a treatment plant owned and operated by Orange County Sanitation District.

Recharge began in 1972 at San Bernardino County Flood Control facilities along the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.



WATER SWAP AGREEMENT DELIVERS TO REMOTE HIGHER ELEVATION

The Santa Ana River-Mill Creek Cooperative Water Project Agreement, a water swap agreement, was adopted on May 3, 1976. Through this innovative agreement, supplemental water was delivered to the remote, higher elevation of Yucaipa without building more pipeline and pump stations.



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

San Bernardino Valley worked with the U.S. Geological Survey to better understand our local resources resulting in sophisticated groundwater monitoring and modeling tools that tracked groundwater levels and the movement of local runoff with imported water through groundwater basins.

U.S. Geological Survey groundwater modeling funded by San Bernardino Valley has been used by other agencies in neighboring counties and water agencies across the U.S. and around the world. This innovative approach includes:

- 3D Groundwater Monitoring
- Real-Time Satellite Monitoring
- Environmental Tracers
- Computer Modeling
- Satellite Radar Techniques

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION OF A DAM ALONG THE SANTA ANA RIVER CONTINUES THROUGH THE 1970S



1979 GRANTS HIGHLIGHTS

- San Bernardino Valley received a \$10,000 grant from the California Energy Commission for a study of hydroelectric potential on the State Water Project transmission system.
- The Davis-Grunsky Act awarded a grant for the construction of reservoirs and water-related recreation facilities at Yucaipa Regional Park.



- First Earth Day April 22, 1970
- Watergate
- Star Wars Released Episode IV: A New Hope
- Video Games Introduced
- Sony Walkman Changes Music Listening
- Gas 36¢ Per Gallon



1980's

HIGH GROUNDWATER

Known for the natural springs, San Bernardino's groundwater presented a unique challenge in the 1980s. Groundwater could easily be found only four or five feet underground. In some locations, the water rose above the ground to flood San Bernardino basements.

Agreements approved in 1981 allowed additional extractions from the San Bernardino Basin Area to remedy the high groundwater problem.

REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE

In 1986, an agreement among the City of Colton, City of San Bernardino Water Commission, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, Western Municipal Water District, and San Bernardino Valley created a Task Force to formulate a Regional Plan for the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater on a region-wide basis.



Pipeline construction, supplemental water agreements, Tate Pump Station completion, and groundwater management activities enhanced San Bernardino Valley's reliability and sustainability throughout the 1980s.

RECREATIONAL PROJECT WITH A PURPOSE

San Bernardino Valley enhanced water security on the east end of the service area by developing three recreational lakes intended to serve as storage for an emergency water supply. Currently operated by the County of San Bernardino, Yucaipa Regional Park opened on July 4, 1981.

State Water Project continues to be the source of supply that maintains the public lakes, providing an added resource for residents from across the region beyond traditional imported water.



THE REGION

- Authorized construction of the Mill Creek-Yucaipa Pipeline Inlet Facility at Southern California Edison's 2-3 Afterbay Site in 1988 to support the Exchange Plan.
- Financial assistance to the City of Redlands for proposed treatment of contaminated groundwater.
- Agreement with City of Rialto and Marygold Mutual Water Company for providing supplemental water to the Colton/Rialto Basin and the Chino Basin within the District.

SEVEN OAKS DAM

After a four-year effort led by San Bernardino Valley, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decided to build the Seven Oaks Dam instead of the proposed Mentone Dam. The dam would capture runoff from local mountains and aid in the prevention of 100-year flooding along the watershed from San Bernardino to Orange County.



Water Supply agreements signed for the Baseline Feeder Pipeline with the City of Rialto, West San Bernardino County Water District (West Valley Water District), and Riverside Highland Water Company.



EAST BRANCH ENHANCEMENTS

San Bernardino Valley entered into a contract with the Department of Water Resources for enhancements to the East Branch of the State Water Project.

THE NEW SPIRIT OF COOPERATION PAVED THE WAY TO BETTER REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT



San Bernardino Valley worked with San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency on the joint construction and use of facilities to transport water to Yucaipa and the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency service area.



- MTV Launch
- Rise of Personal Computers
- Berlin Wall Falls
- First Woman Appointed to Supreme Court

Promise of Reliability

Reliability is the promise of consistency and trust in every action we take.





PROGRESSING FORWARD → 1990's

WATER CONSERVATION AT SEVEN OAKS DAM

San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District provided funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study of water conservation at the Seven Oaks Dam and paid for improvements during dam construction.



SANTA ANA RIVER WATER RIGHTS APPLICATION

San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District submits application for Santa Ana River Water Rights.

SAWPA ACTIVITIES & THE BRINE LINE CONTINUES

The cities of Rialto, Colton and San Bernardino and Yucaipa Valley Water District contract with San Bernardino Valley for capacity in the Brine Line.



BASELINE FEEDER PIPELINE COMPLETED IN 1991

MEETING DOWNSTREAM NEEDS

San Bernardino Valley partnered with Big Bear Municipal Water District in 1996 to purchase imported water from the State Water Project to meet needs "in lieu" of taking water out of Big Bear Lake.



1996

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION WITH PROPERTY SALE

San Bernardino Valley sells property to the San Bernardino County Flood Control for Seven Oaks Dam environmental mitigation.



HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY LICENSING

San Bernardino Valley becomes involved in the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency re-licensing of hydroelectric facilities within the service area.

REGIONAL WATER FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The Master Plan marked the beginning of strategically partnering with retailers on plans to move high groundwater to other parts of the service area and develop facilities for the transport of imported water.



April 1999

PLANNING PROGRESS: EAST BRANCH EXTENSION

Together, San Bernardino Valley and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency enter in an agreement to develop the joint pipeline known as the EBX.

After years of preparation, the final design and construction for the East Branch Extension of the State Water Project received authorization from the California Department of Water Resources to proceed.



PARTNERING WITH EDUCATION

In 1999, San Bernardino Valley and other local water agencies became founding members of the Water Resource Institute at California State University, San Bernardino.

Today, the program is known as the Institute for Watershed Resilience.

Pop Culture

- Rise of the Internet
- Boy Bands and Alternative Rock
- Bread Cost \$1.50

2000's

INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

BASELINE FEEDER

In 2005, the 5.5 mile, 78-inch diameter Baseline Feeder Extension South Pipeline, a joint project with Western Municipal Water District that was included in San Bernardino Valley's Master Plan, is completed.

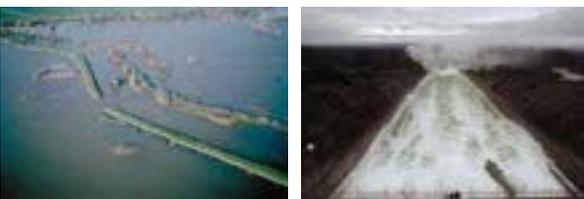
SANTA ANA RIVER WATER RIGHTS

In 2001, San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District submitted a second water rights application for the Santa Ana River. Following a lengthy public process, the State Water Resources Control Board ultimately approved the water rights applications.



BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

State Water Contractors entered a cooperative effort to obtain permits for habitat and water supply projects in the Delta. This was temporarily known as the California Water Fix and is now the Delta Conveyance Project.



San Bernardino Valley and 17 other water agencies came together in 2005 to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. San Bernardino Valley served as the lead agency to help agencies achieve several objectives, including:

- Improve reliability of water supplies during droughts;
- Develop strategies for the management and conservation of storm water;
- Protect surface water and groundwater quality;
- Reduce the risk of liquefaction; and
- Avoid impacts from the movement of contamination plumes.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline Connection begins delivering water to West Valley Water District
- Right-of-Way Acquisition and Operations & Maintenance Agreements for the East Branch Extension
- Continued Progress on the Central Feeder Project
- EIR for the Santa Ana River Water Rights application for Supplemental Water Supply
- Formation of a Task Force to Address Continuing Endangered Species Issues
- Coordinated Operations Agreement with Metropolitan Water District Regarding Sale of Surplus Water and Cooperative Use of Unused Capacity in Both Distribution Systems
- Board Authorized Evaluating Santa Ana River Spreading Facilities to Increase Recharge Capacity

SOLD!

In July 2008, the San Bernardino Valley headquarters moved to Vanderbilt Way in San Bernardino.



First delivery of water through the East Branch Extension occurred in 2003 to the Yucaipa Valley, Mill Creek areas and continued to the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

SEVEN OAKS ACCORD

The Seven Oaks Accord was a settlement agreement with local water agencies to allow for San Bernardino Valley and Western Municipal Water District to move forward with the Santa Ana River Water Rights application.

NOTABLE ENVIRONMENTAL JUDGMENTS & WATER RESOURCE ADJUSTMENTS

- 2008: A federal judge ordered a 30 percent reduction in Delta water deliveries to protect the Delta smelt, a species of endangered fish.
- 2009: The critical habitat area for the Santa Ana Sucker was doubled in the Santa Ana River and its tributaries.



PROPOSITION 13

San Bernardino Valley supported the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act, which included \$42 million in funding for projects within the Inland Empire.



A new, simplified logo was introduced with a more streamlined aesthetic. Many began calling us "Valley District".

Pop Culture

- Great Recession
- Reality TV and Social Media Platforms
- Barack Obama Elected President

2010's

LARGEST PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

During the drought emergency, San Bernardino Valley facilitated conservation education through a regional campaign titled iEfficient. The outreach effort provided an understanding of why conservation efforts are needed beyond the obvious shortages during periods of extended drought.



HISTORIC DROUGHT

California experienced a severe period of statewide drought between 2012 and 2016. Emergency regulations were put in place to achieve rapid water savings. The 2014 Proposition 1 allocated almost 8 million dollars towards various projects related to the conservation and quality of California's water.



Water banking capabilities were expanded in February 2012 by storing nearly 18,000 acre feet of water in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AFTER REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The dissolution of redevelopment agencies (ABX1 26) returned certain property taxes to taxing agencies. This complex "wind down" process required inter-agency collaboration.

San Bernardino Valley sits on each Oversight Board for Redevelopment Successor Agencies.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS

- Prepared the region's first Regional Urban Water Management Plan.
- Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP) to Explore and Develop Watershed-Scale Projects in Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utility Agency, Western Municipal Water District, and Orange County Water District. This program received \$55 million in grant funding from the Department of Water Resources.

60 YEARS OF SERVICE — IN PRINT



BEGIN EFFORT FOR UPPER SANTA ANA RIVER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan provides a framework for federal, state and local agencies to construct water infrastructure projects by working together in a cooperative way to proactively address environmental concerns and protection of the Santa Ana sucker and other threatened or endangered species.



The East Branch Extension was completed in 2016 and delivered State Water Project water to the east San Bernardino Valley Service area and San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency.

REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER STUDY

San Bernardino Valley commissioned a study to evaluate potential recycled water projects to enhance water supply reliability and regional collaboration.



JOINED JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY TO BEGIN PARTICIPATION IN SITES RESERVOIR AFTER 30 YEARS OF EVALUATION

HYDROPOWER

Using a process called conduit hydroelectricity, San Bernardino Valley led development of the hydroelectric projects to maximize high-pressure State Water Project to spin turbines and create electricity.

Coordinating with retail water agencies to maximize the power of hydroelectricity San Bernardino Valley oversaw construction of the following hydroelectric projects connected to State Water Project turnouts:

- West Valley Water District's Lytle Creek Turnout and Oliver P. Roemer Hydroelectric Station
- East Valley Water District's City Creek Turnout and Plant 134 Hydroelectric Station
- San Bernardino Municipal Water Department Turnout (In Progress)



2020's

COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED

California Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order ordering all individuals to stay at home or at their place of residence. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic and led to widespread social, economic, and health impacts worldwide.



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

San Bernardino Valley acquired 1,658 acres of undeveloped land, referred to as Sunrise Ranch, in the City of Highland. This site has unique opportunities as a location for new water infrastructure, endangered species habitat, and additional community benefits.

A master plan to analyze long-term opportunities began in 2023.



A REGIONAL WATER AGENCY
SINCE 1954

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY SUCCESSFUL GRANT FUNDING \$17.3 MILLION IN NEW PROJECTS

DAWN OF A NEW ERA

Crafted for the modern era, San Bernardino Valley's new logo embodies a renewed commitment to its mission. It reflects contemporary values and advancements.

Watershed *Connect*



Through regional collaboration, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) brought \$130 million in new water infrastructure to the San Bernardino Valley Region. This funding will bring new water and energy projects.

RECORD RECHARGE YEAR

Despite unpredictable weather patterns and multiple projects limiting recharge capacity, the region reached its highest water recharge of all time with 87,914 acre feet of water.

Santa Ana River Enhanced Recharge Project basins begin recharging stormwater from the Santa Ana River.



San Bernardino Valley began working on its first Strategic Plan in 2019 and completed it in 2022.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Committed to long-term workforce development, five students were sponsored for the inaugural San Bernardino Valley Fellowship Program through the Institute for Watershed Resiliency at California State University, San Bernardino.



- Juneteenth Recognized as a Federal Holiday
- Joe Biden Elected President with First Female Vice President - Kamala Harris
- Global Pandemic Forces Everyone to Stay at Home





Balancing Resources

Balancing water needs and environmental protection requires careful considerations.



The forethought of those before us and the innovation of today's leaders have defined San Bernardino Valley as a responsible and forward-thinking steward of our watershed.



VOICES FROM THE DECADES

THE LEGACY OF A TEAM



ENGINEERS ADMINISTRATION
WATER SUPPLY SPECIALISTS
BIOLOGISTS ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS
CONSERVATION **HUMAN**
COMMUNICATIONS **RESOURCES**
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
FINANCE WATER OPERATORS **GIS**

PROVIDING A PUBLIC SERVICE

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was formed through a vote of the people. Since establishment, this organization has had a high-performing and passionate team serving the public.



A History of Foundational Regional Leadership

PAST BOARD MEMBERS

- Howard L. Holcomb (1954-1958)
- Horace P. Hinckley (1954-1966)
- James F. McDill (1954-1955)
- Maurice S. Schumaker (1954-1966)
- Woodrow Miller (1954-1956)
- Orville Ousley (1955-1960)
- A.M. Herman (1956-1964)
- John Littleton (1959-1962)
- Williard E. White (1960-1963)
- Joseph E. Bonadiman (1963-1973)
- LeRoy Holmes (1963-1984)
- C. Patrick Milligan (1965-1979; 1984 - 2014)
- Lloyd Yount (1967-1979)
- James A. Holden (1967-1979)
- William R. Leonard (1974-1978)
- Fred Oldendorf, Jr. (1976-1980)
- Norman W. Forrest (1979-1984)
- Richard H. Ronda (1979-1982)
- Henry Van Mouwerik (1979-1990)
- William Katona (1981-1995)
- Margaret C. Wright (1983-1998)
- George Aguilar (1985 - 2012)
- Joan Dotson (1991-1998)
- Edward Killgore (1995-2008; 2013-2016)
- Mark Bulot (1999-2018)
- Steve Copelan (1999-2018)
- Mark Alvarez (2009-2012)
- Gil Navarro (2013-2020)



PAST GENERAL MANAGERS

- James P. Strickland (1954-1955)
- James F. McDill (1955-1958)
- Hugo W. Wilde (1958-1966)
- Jack A. Beaver (1966-1980)
- G. Louis Fletcher (1980-2001)
- Robert L. Reiter (2001-2006)
- Randy Van Gelder (2007-2009)
- Douglas D. Headrick (2010-2019)



Longest Tenure



Bob Tincher, Chief of Statewide Water Initiatives/Deputy General Manager

“ I consider it a privilege to be a part of the San Bernardino Valley team, working tirelessly to preserve the quality of life in our beautiful valley by ensuring a reliable water supply for generations to come. I have dedicated 32 years of my life to this mission. It's my life's work and I am grateful for the opportunity.

Welcome to the Team



Andreea Tanase, MPA, Administrative Analyst

“ Being part of the San Bernardino Valley team is a profound honor, representing my commitment to public service and enhancing the well-being of our community. I am excited to contribute to the legacy of providing essential water resources and to collaborate with this dedicated team in shaping a sustainable future for the region.



A DRIVEN TEAM IN MOTION



EMPLOYEES



Motivation & Commitment

A highly motivated team is committed to building a resilient and sustainable water future for the community.



“

I feel like I manage an All-Star Team, 35 individuals who are the best at what they do, in specialties ranging from water resource planning, infrastructure operations, environmental sciences, and human relations.

- Heather Dyer

Like in sports, there is a team built here. There is camaraderie. There's people that really do care for each other, and you can't make that up, right? It's a real thing and it's here.

- David McArthur

”

RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT PLACE

San Bernardino Valley includes a team of five Board Members, 35 full-time employees and two interns. This high-performing organization is fully committed to achieving long-lasting benefits based on our mission, vision, and values. The team sees the Strategic Plan as more than words on paper; it is a guide to inspiring daily steps, careful consideration, and fearless innovation to meet the changing needs of our region's people and environment.

Each individual is empowered to make a difference through our work. Whether it is performing key operations in the field to reliably deliver imported water, applying expert knowledge to develop functional planning documents charting the course for years to come, or carefully preparing public documents to ensure a high degree of transparency and accountability to the people we serve — San Bernardino Valley respects the trust and responsibility given by the public.



We appreciate the connection of staff to our Agency's values; collaborative, trustworthy, innovative and driven, and want to express our gratitude to the dedicated team members who make San Bernardino Valley a truly remarkable place to work.

NAMED ONE OF THE INLAND EMPIRE'S TOP WORKPLACES IN 2022 & 2023

This prestigious award is a testament to our commitment to fostering a people-centered culture, where employees are not only valued but also empowered to contribute to the success and growth of our organization.

Being recognized as a Top Workplace in the Inland Empire underscores our dedication to creating a positive and supportive work environment.

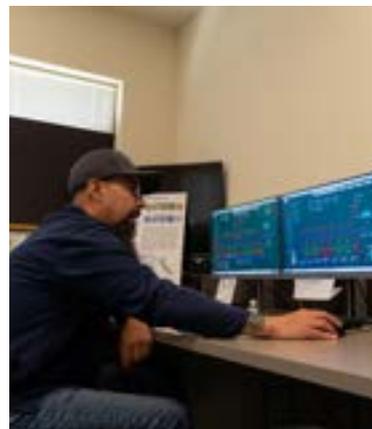
Unlike many workplace awards, the Inland Empire Top Workplace distinction is 100% employee-driven, reflecting the genuine opinions and experiences of the individuals working day-in and day-out to make sure the region's water supply is reliable, year after year. The award is based on a comprehensive set of criteria, with a primary focus on six key areas including: alignment, empowerment, growth, engagement, value, and respect and support.



INLAND NEWS GROUP
The Press-Enterprise • The Sun
The Facts • Inland Valley Daily Bulletin



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San Bernardino Valley is truly something special. Every day, our team is dedicated to making a difference for our region. We hope to inspire others to work collaboratively to achieve the impossible together.

- Kelly Malloy

Community Engagement

San Bernardino Valley supports a wide range of water conservation measures and programs that educate homeowners, business owners, students, and community members on our local water supplies, resiliency efforts and how they can take steps to save water. San Bernardino Valley is committed to providing the tools and information that will continue the conversation about how we think about and use water.



**SUSTAINABLE, CLIMATE AWARE,
WATER-EFFICIENT, DROUGHT-FRIENDLY**

EDUCATION

Transparency and collaboration foster trust and open communication, enhancing learning experiences and enabling students and San Bernardino Valley staff to share knowledge more effectively.



ESTABLISHING A FOUNDATION OF SERVICE IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Foundational efforts set the stage for future growth and commitment to providing water services in the San Bernardino Valley.



A wide-angle landscape photograph showing a person walking across a sandy, open field with sparse green and yellow vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and large, rugged mountains under a clear blue sky. The text 'Holistic Solutions' is overlaid in a white, cursive font in the upper middle section of the image.

Holistic Solutions

Optimize value to the region through a restorative, science-based and integrated approach.





When San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District was formed in 1954, the needs of our watershed, our taxpayers, and the local retail agencies were vastly different from what they are today.



THE FUTURE OF WATER

A DEPENDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

The future does not look like the past. Looking ahead at the importance of water supply resiliency for both people and the environment requires a new and innovative approach. San Bernardino Valley is committed to taking steps that ensure our community has a reliable water supply beyond today and tomorrow.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOLUTIONS

San Bernardino Valley will lead efforts statewide to inspire a collaborative approach to solving the water challenges we face in California. By working together and hearing the perspectives of others, we can achieve better solutions to challenges once perceived as impossible.



The Path Forward

San Bernardino Valley is uniquely positioned to deliver on the needs of the region today, tomorrow, and into the future as the State continues to tackle solutions to comprehensively address our ongoing water supply challenges.

SCIENCE-BASED DECISIONS

San Bernardino Valley has spent decades studying the groundwater basins and other resources of the region. In partnership with the USGS and industry leading technical firms, water resource decisions of the San Bernardino Valley are made based on cutting edge technology and a deep understanding of the system. We will continue to use this information to guide science-based decisions into the future.



We always felt that we were ultimately accountable for the engineering work that was done within our service area.

- *Louis Fletcher*
Former General Manager

Science makes the world go round.

- *Heather Dyer*
CEO/General Manager



Identified Projects for the Next Decade



CONJUNCTIVE USE

Conjunctive Use will maximize regional partnerships and protects the long-term resiliency of the San Bernardino Basin by storing water in wet years for later pumping during dry years. This collaborative effort will support water supply reliability, water quality protection, ecosystem restoration, and environmental improvements.



BASIN OPTIMIZATION

Long-term groundwater sustainability requires careful consideration of the agencies, individuals, and environment that depend on the San Bernardino Basin. Basin Optimization is a collaborative effort with regional stakeholders to understand challenges, opportunities, priorities, and long-term needs to implement investments that ensure a safe and reliable groundwater supply.



SITES RESERVOIR

Sites Reservoir is a vital part of the solution to improving water supply for generations to come. It will be a new off stream storage facility near Maxwell, California, that captures stormwater flows from the Sacramento River for release in dry years. Once constructed, Sites Reservoir will be one of the state's largest reservoirs and will provide 1.5 million acre feet of water storage capacity.



DELTA CONVEYANCE

Residents of the San Bernardino Valley have made significant investments in the State Water Project to convey water captured in Northern California and transported to this region. Delta Conveyance will complete the State Water Project's original vision by constructing a new intake north of the Delta and conveying water through a 40-foot diameter tunnel under the Delta. This project will protect our imported water supply from the potential threats of earthquake and climate change.



SECURITY

A DIVERSIFIED WATER SUPPLY PORTFOLIO

REGIONAL RECYCLED WATER

A resilient water supply requires diverse sources. San Bernardino Valley has recently completed construction on a regional recycled water pipeline and the Weaver Recharge Basins. With nearly 6 miles of pipeline conveying highly treated recycled water to the Upper Watershed, these projects maximize the potential for recycled water to be used for drought-proof groundwater replenishment.

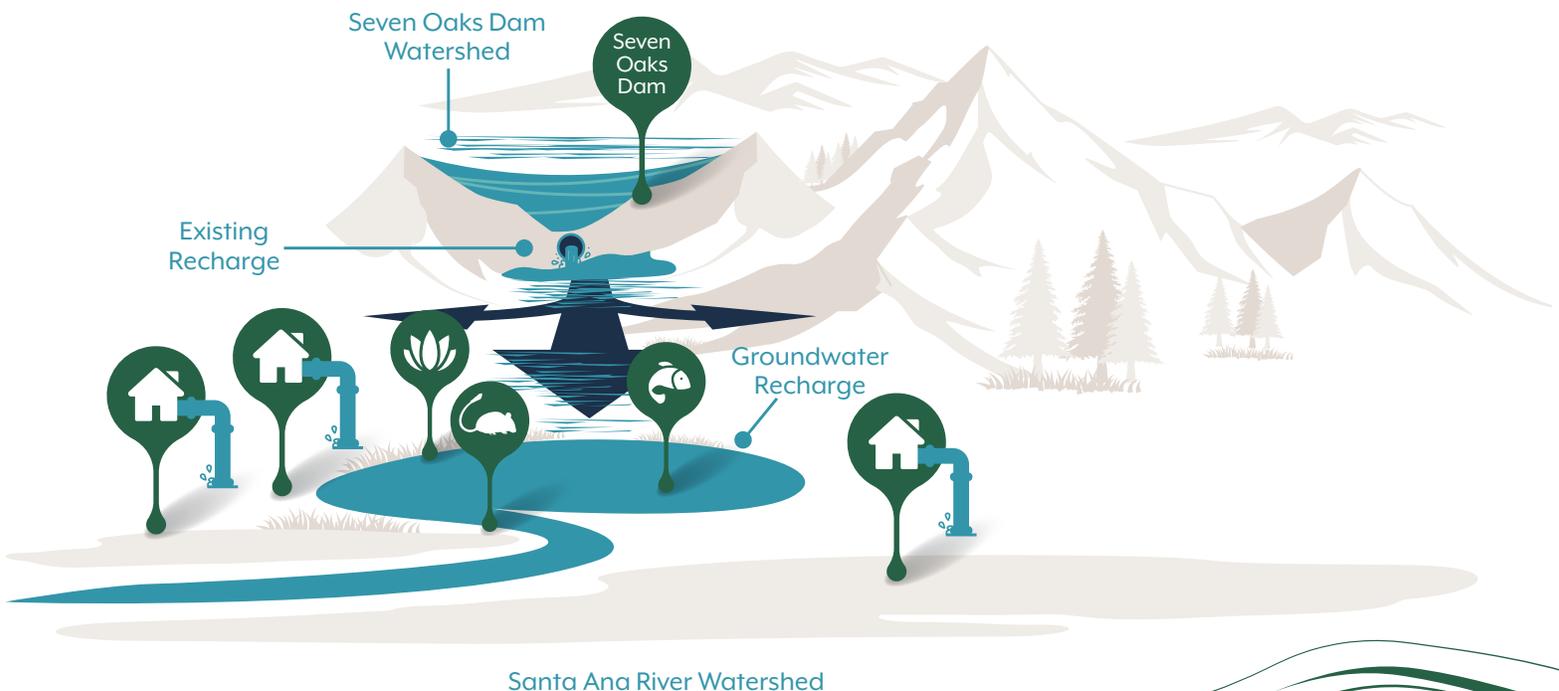
The Regional Recycled Water System is a network of infrastructure designed to replenish our shared groundwater resources and provide a sustainable, long-term supply of water across the region.



In addition to nearly 6 miles of 30-inch pipeline, the Weaver Basins 32 acres of engineered recharge basins are designed to receive treated wastewater for percolation into the groundwater aquifer below. The site includes preservation of habitat for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat.

FORECAST INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS (FIRO)

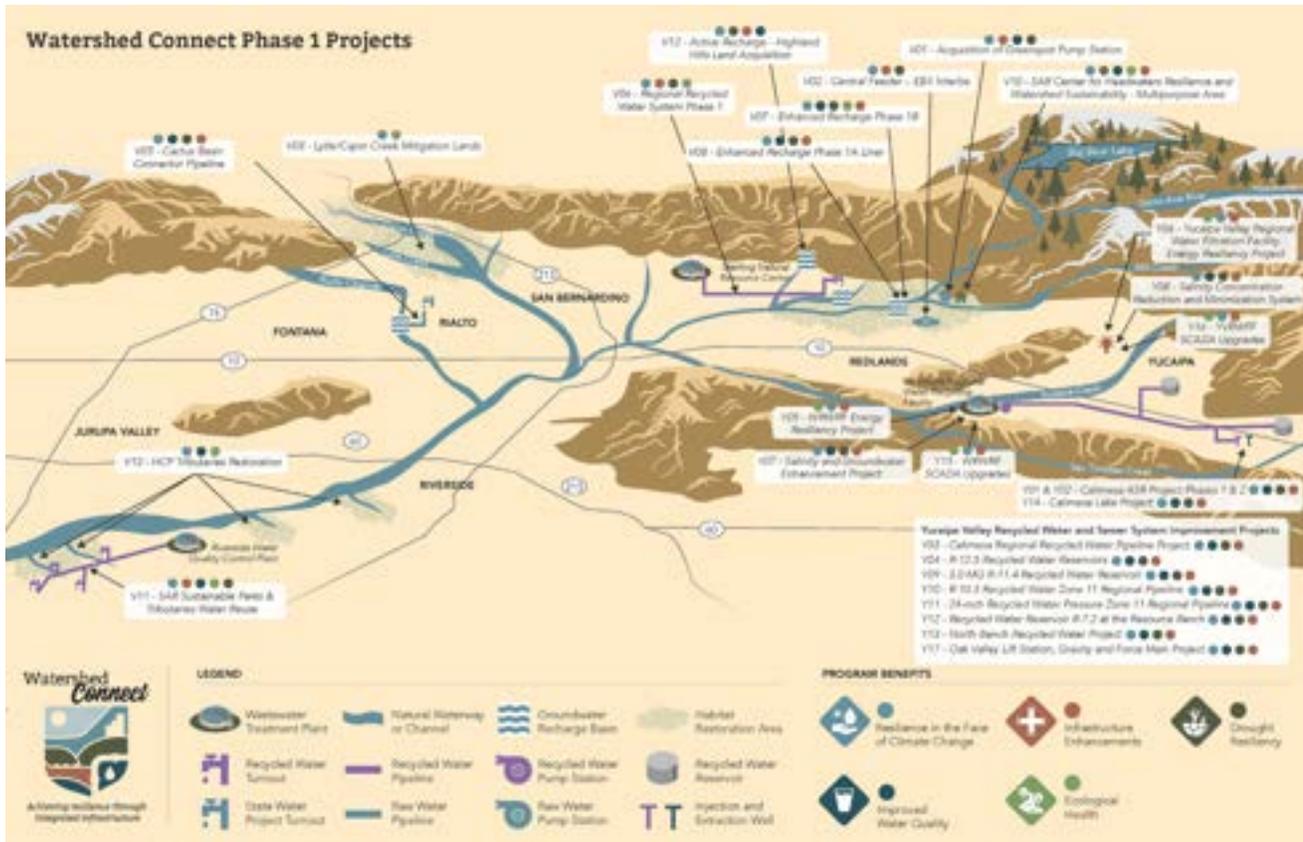
Innovation is key when it comes to maximizing resources. FIRO is an innovative approach that uses modern weather forecasting technology to selectively retain or release water from reservoirs in anticipation of future conditions. A team of experts spanning across industries have come together to analyze the regional benefits of operating the Seven Oaks Dam to maximize groundwater recharge and downstream habitat while ensuring flood risk management objectives are met or exceeded.



WATERSHED CONNECT

Watershed Connect is a regional infrastructure program that serves as a network of forward-looking projects designed to achieve water supply reliability, climate resilience, and long-term ecological health of the Upper Santa Ana River (Upper SAR) Watershed. This multiphase program includes interconnected water capture, recharge, storage, treatment, and conveyance projects.

Watershed Connect will collectively maximize the use and reuse of local water resources, while attaining a healthy, functional river ecosystem that supports 22 federally- and state-protected species.



This integrated program offers the following benefits to the region:



Resiliency in the Face of Climate Change



Infrastructure Enhancements



Drought Resiliency



Improved Water Quality



Ecological Health

Watershed Connect projects will capture up to 80,000 acre feet per year (AFY) of stormwater runoff, produce and distribute over 23,000 AFY of recycled water for groundwater recharge, restore over 600 acres of habitat, create 830 acres of open space, and generate over 7 megawatts of renewable energy within the Upper SAR Watershed.

Working Together to Address a Changing Climate

HEADWATERS RESILIENCY PARTNERSHIP

The Headwaters Resiliency Partnership aims to identify big solutions to confront the worsening challenges with water supply and natural resources that we face in our forest headwaters. Healthy headwaters are critical to our water supply, habitat function, and the well-being of the communities living near and within the San Bernardino National Forest.



San Bernardino Valley in collaboration with:

- Cal Fire
- CSU San Bernardino and Northridge
- Inland Empire Community Foundation
- Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD)
- Interested Citizens
- National Forest Foundation
- San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Save Our Forests Association (SOFA)
- Sierra Club
- Southern California Edison
- Southern California Mountains Foundation
- USDA Forest Service

This collaboration maximizes the skills and abilities of project partners to take steps toward adaptively managing projects to reduce catastrophic wildfire risks and enhance watershed health into the future. The Partnership is focused on the development of strategies to avoid and minimize negative outcomes by pooling resources and working strategically to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and adaptively manage projects that reduce catastrophic wildlife risk to protect and enhance watershed health into the future.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY PLAN

San Bernardino Valley is embarking on a process of developing a Resilience Roadmap, also known as a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan. This effort sets out to address and plan for the future of water supply and variability in climate, ensuring that there is reliable access to water in the San Bernardino Valley for decades to come.



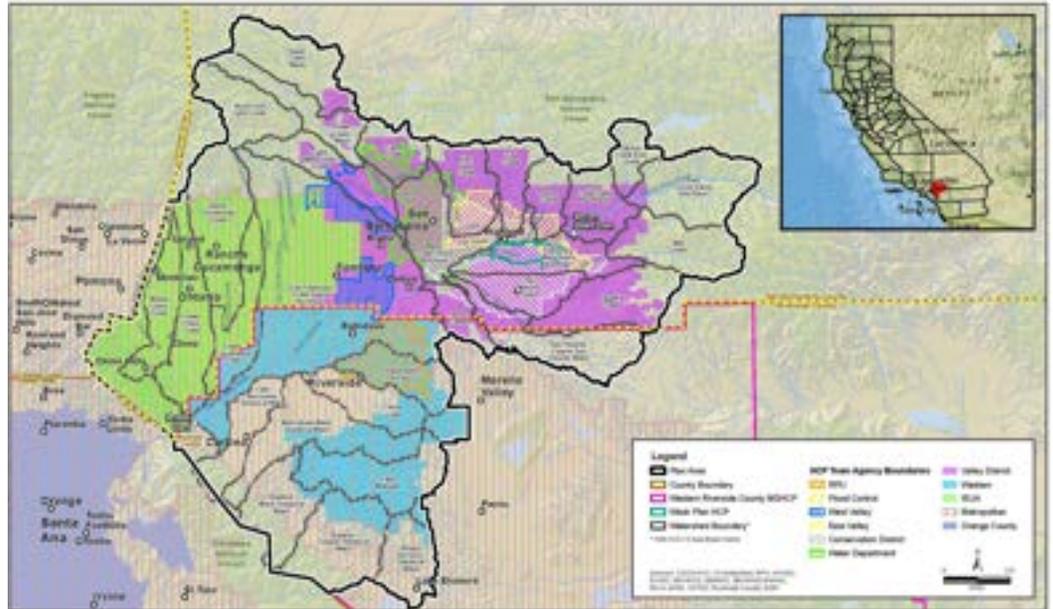
UPPER SANTA ANA RIVER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP)

In partnership with 10 other agencies, the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) will mediate destructive methods of water conservation and other activities in the Santa Ana River through conservation of the native ecosystems (plant & animal). This allows for much needed water services and developments to progress without violating the integrity of the Santa Ana's health, benefiting the river and the public.



Funding partners included:

- City of Rialto
- East Valley Water District
- Inland Empire Utility Agency
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- Orange County Water District
- Riverside Public Utilities
- San Bernardino Municipal Water Department
- San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
- San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
- West Valley Water District
- Western Municipal Water District







Optimism and Innovation

By working together, there isn't a challenge we can't overcome.



San Bernardino Valley is not only working towards a resilient water supply but a holistically healthy watershed, a goal we cannot accomplish alone.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

LOOKING TOWARD THE BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD



The future is bright for San Bernardino Valley. Our internal team and external partners are working together to achieve long-lasting results to help our region’s people and the environment. It’s more than just a check list for us, it’s coming together to be passionate about finding innovative water solutions to support future generations. By recognizing our environment as being interconnected and interdependent we can make a greater impact and effect more change in facing challenges that seemed insurmountable in the past. We accept that current and future conditions require a different model than we have used in the past.

The success we have experienced using this fresh approach is one that we are sharing beyond our region. Let’s continue to find connections and embrace opportunities to adapt. Let’s achieve greater impacts!



A LEGACY OF WATER STEWARDSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Building on a strong foundation built by those that came before us, the team at San Bernardino Valley will carry the torch for long-term resiliency. Today, in 2024, we see a bright future ahead and welcome the day when it is our time to pass along this great honor and responsibility to the next generation.



Atonna C Jones Karen Resendez VJZ
 Leo Fernando Jose James
 Kelly May We Bi Hong Tia
 Sayre Pinto ~~Harold~~ Matthew Davis M Phil
 Adekunle Ojo Pam Ford Kai Sal Beth
 Joanna Guba David Martin Yvonne Barcia Erin Mills
~~Linda~~ Aaron Jones Uhl Ragan
~~Wendy~~ Greg Woodside Dan H
~~Pat~~ Jennifer Gentry
 Mark Mayer Ben Williams Isabelle Huang
 Mike Rodriguez Cindy Sako

Forging New Paths

*Continuing our legacy of service, sustainability and community dedication
requires courage to travel down the road less traveled.*





Commemorating the Past, Celebrating the Present,
and Looking Ahead to the Future

2024

