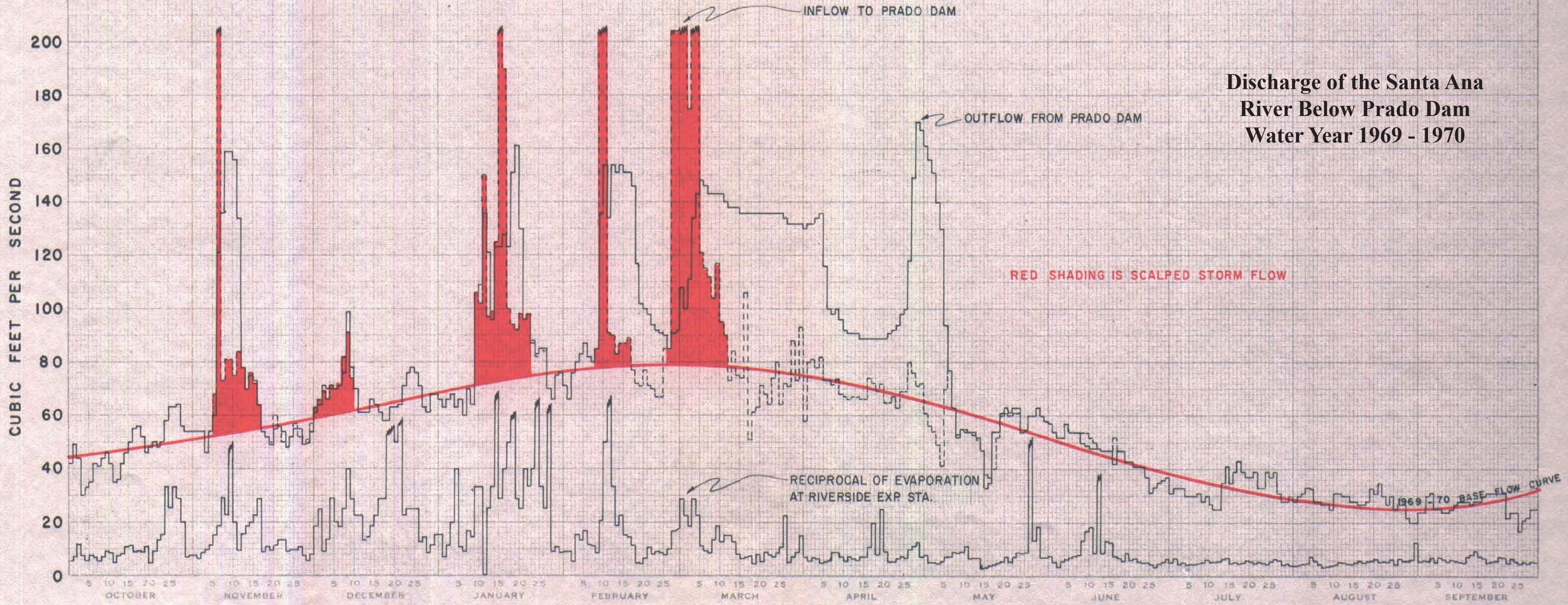


50 YEARS of
COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION on the
SANTA ANA RIVER

Discharge of the Santa Ana River Below Prado Dam Water Year 1969 - 1970



“Too many people and not enough water to go around – that’s what led to the seemingly endless rounds of lawsuits and countersuits that characterized the 1960s in this watershed [which] takes in parts of three separate counties.”

– Gordon K. Anderson, former Chief of Planning, California Regional Water Quality Control Board





It All Started with Conflict

After decades of disputes dating to the early 1900s, two major lawsuits were filed in 1963, involving surface water and groundwater pumping rights in the Santa Ana River Watershed. One lawsuit was filed by Western Municipal Water District and the other by Orange County Water District.

In reference to the Orange County lawsuit, Corona City Attorney Robert Timlin and Don Stark, Counsel for the Chino Basin Municipal Water District, declared in 1968, “The suit was the largest and most complex ever filed in the history of the state.”

A Press Enterprise article published on September 21, 1968, on the development of a potential settlement of the Orange County lawsuit stated, “A long full-fledged trial and appeals to higher courts might well cost \$15 million, observers say. And after 10 or 15 years the case might result in a cutback verdict which attorneys believe could be considerably worse than the proposed settlement they now have worked out.”

Peace and Partnership on the River

April 17, 2019, marks the 50th Anniversary of the settlement of two major lawsuits regarding surface water and groundwater rights on the Santa Ana River. The Orange County Judgment and the Western-San Bernardino Judgment, known together as the 1969 Settlement, are two innovative agreements between water agencies representing millions of Southern Californians living in the Santa Ana River Watershed.

The agreements ended a decades-long period of lawsuits and ushered in a new era of stability and cooperation. As a result, the Settlement allowed water agencies to peacefully and efficiently plan for long-term water needs. The agreements created a cascading set of benefits resulting in 50 years of effective water resources management that are realized today in the following ways:

- More reliable, affordable and higher quality water for millions of water customers in Southern California
- Improvement of many Southern California ecosystems
- Development of endangered species recovery programs to prevent regulatory restrictions on water supplies
- Improved water infrastructure and planning





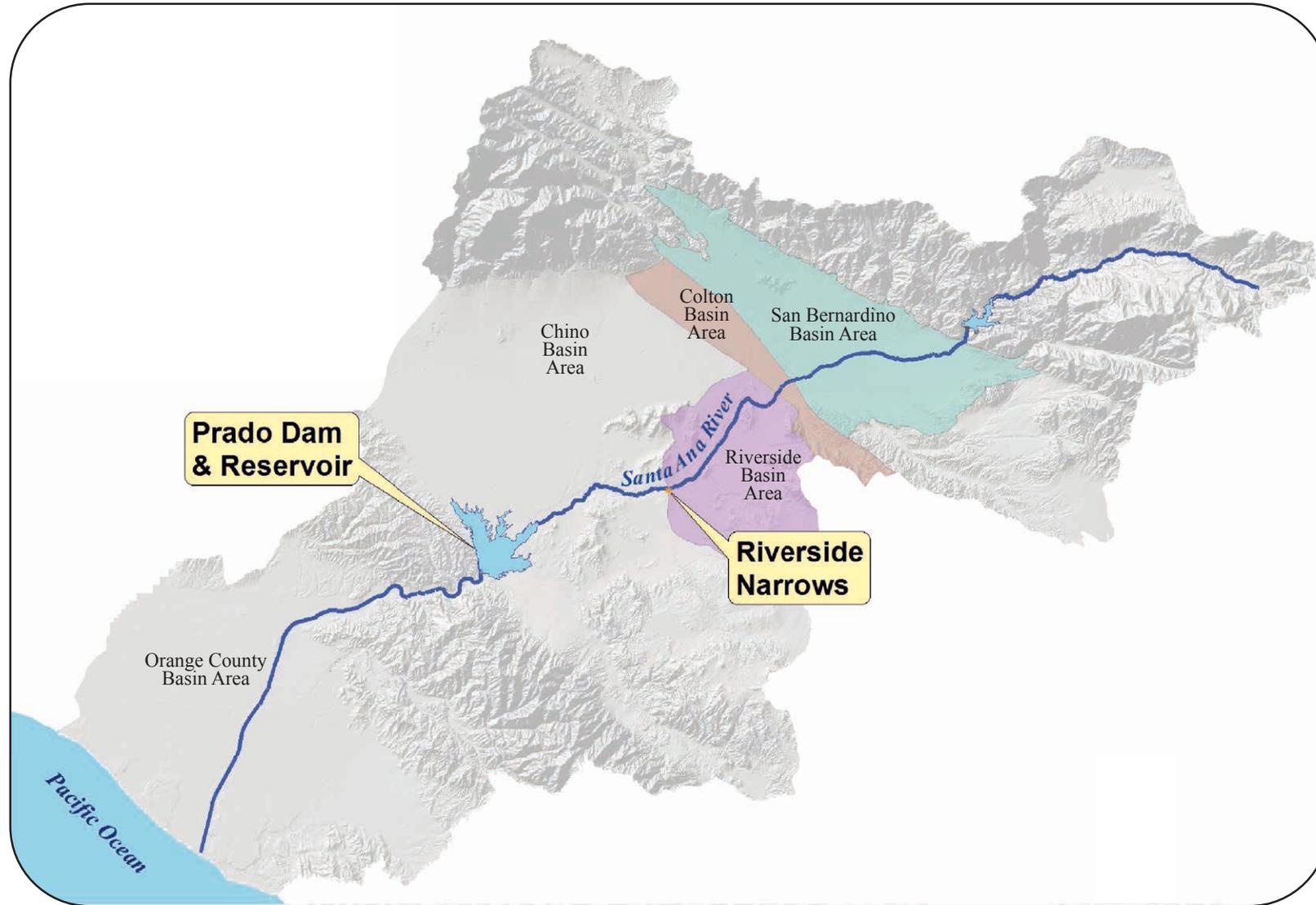
“Water is the gold of California and the Santa Ana River Watershed is the Comstock Load for the State. It is the largest drainage area and provides nearly a half-million acre-feet of water to the inhabitants within the Santa Ana River Watershed. It also possesses about a million-and-a-half acre-feet of useful storage.”

– Don Owen, former Engineer and General Manager of Orange County Water District from 1963 to 1973

What is the Santa Ana River Watershed?

The Santa Ana River Watershed is the largest watershed in Southern California with a population of more than six million in an area that covers 1,870 square miles including parts of San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, and Los Angeles counties (excluding the San Jacinto River drainage area). The Santa Ana River, the largest coastal stream in Southern California, begins in the San Bernardino Mountains at over 9,000 feet in elevation and journeys 96 miles before joining with the Pacific Ocean. It includes more than 50 tributaries. Surface water and rising groundwater comprise the flows of the Santa Ana River as it leaves the upper watershed through Prado Dam. After flowing through the Santa Ana River Canyon, the river reaches Orange County Water District's (OCWD) recharge facilities, where flows are diverted and infiltrated into the 300-square mile Orange County Groundwater Basin. Heavy storm flows exceeding OCWD's recharge capacity ultimately discharge to the ocean.





The Orange County Judgment

The Orange County Judgment guarantees a minimum amount of surface water will flow from the upper watershed down the Santa Ana River for the lower Santa Ana River Watershed, represented by the Orange County Water District (OCWD).

The Orange County lawsuit originally included over 4,000 parties. To simplify the process, it was agreed there would be four representative parties in the Orange County Judgment; Riverside County entities are represented by Western Municipal Water District (Western); San Bernardino County entities are represented by the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) and Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), formerly known as the Chino Basin Municipal Water District; Orange County entities are represented by OCWD.

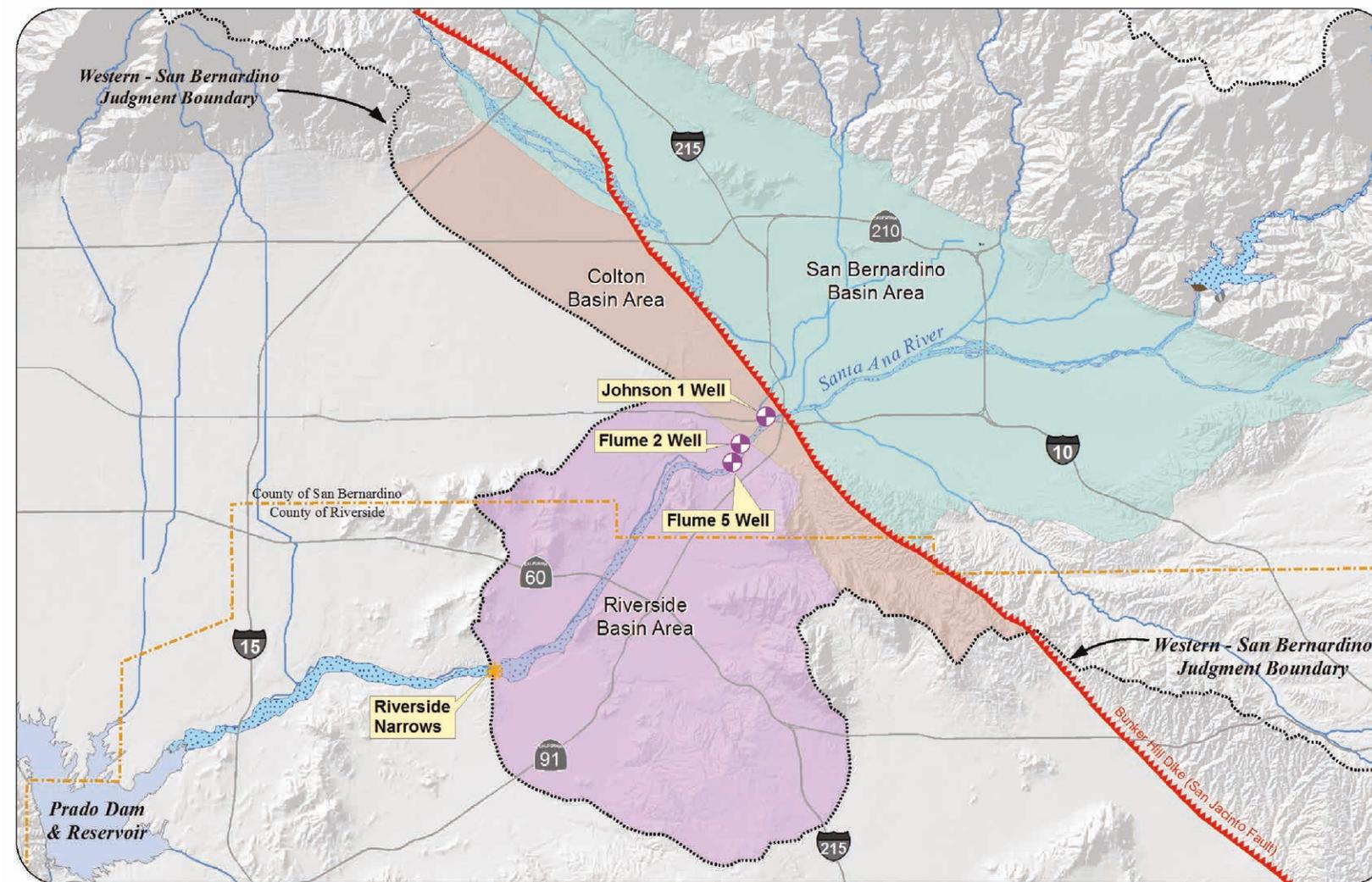
The Orange County Judgment provides water users in the Lower Basin (Orange County area) rights to receive minimum and average annual flows. Compliance is measured at Riverside Narrows and Prado Dam. Valley District is required to maintain the minimum base flows at Riverside Narrows. Western and IEUA are responsible for meeting their own minimum base flow water requirements at Prado Dam. In addition to the base flow obligations specified in the Judgment, OCWD is also entitled to all storm flows reaching Prado Dam. Water users in the Upper Basin Areas have the right to divert, pump, extract, conserve, store and use all surface water and groundwater supplies, so long as the Lower Basin receives its water flow requirements.

The Western-San Bernardino Judgment

The Western-San Bernardino Judgment laid out a framework for dividing water resources in the San Bernardino Basin Area, Colton Basin Area and Riverside Basin Area between San Bernardino County entities and Riverside County entities. The Judgment, a culmination of decades of litigation and engineering studies, provides a way to track water resources and ensure sustainability in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. The Judgment generally requires a comparison of water extractions to the limits specified. Whenever extractions exceed the specific limits provided in the Judgment, water recharge may be required to help prevent overdraft. The Judgment also sets up a process for how agencies comply with these requirements.

To help simplify the process, the Riverside County entities agreed to have Western represent them and San Bernardino County entities agreed to have Valley District represent them.

Riverside County Entities (filing suit)	San Bernardino County Entities
Western	Valley District
City of Riverside	East San Bernardino County Water District (now East Valley Water District)
The Gage Canal Company	Many other public and private water agencies
The Agua Mansa Water Company	
The Meeks and Daley Water Company	
The Riverside Highland Water Company	
The Regents of the University of California Riverside	





Who is Responsible for Enforcing the Judgments?

Each Judgment has an assigned Watermaster Committee that is responsible for administering the terms of the Judgments under the continuing jurisdiction of the court. The Santa Ana River Watermaster is a committee composed of one member from IEUA, Western, and Valley District and two members from OCWD. The Western-San Bernardino Watermaster is made up of one representative from Valley District and one representative from Western. Nominees to both committees are appointed by, and serve at, the pleasure of the court. Each Watermaster Committee submits an annual report to the court to demonstrate compliance.

The accomplishments over the last 50 years owe a great deal to the contributions made by the former and current members who have served on the two Watermaster Committees. Recognizing their importance, we list here their names and celebrate their past, present and future contributions to water supply and the environment throughout the Santa Ana River Watershed.

Former and Current Members of the Santa Ana River Watermaster Committee



Douglas D. Headrick 2012 - present
Samuel H. Fuller 2006 - 2012
Robert L. Reiter 1984 - 2006
James C. Hanson 1970 - 1984
Clinton O. Henning 1969 - 1970



Shivaji Deshmukh 2019
Halla Razak 2016 - 2018
P. Joseph Grindstaff 2012 - 2016
Thomas A. Love 2009 - 2012
Richard W. Atwater 1998 - 2009
Robb D. Quincey 1997 - 1998
William J. Carroll 1969 - 1997



Craig D. Miller 2017 - present
John V. Rossi 2003 - 2017
Donald L. Harriger 1974 - 2003
Albert A. Webb 1969 - 1974



Michael R. Markus 2009 - present
Roy L. Herndon 2009 - present
Robert C. Wagner 2008 - 2009
Craig D. Miller 2006 - 2009
Bill B. Dendy 1995 - 2008
Virginia L. Grebbien 2001 - 2006
William R. Mills, Jr. 1978 - 2001
Harvey O. Banks 1982 - 1995
Max Bookman 1969 - 1982
John M. Toups 1969 - 1978

Former and Current Members of the Western-San Bernardino Watermaster Committee



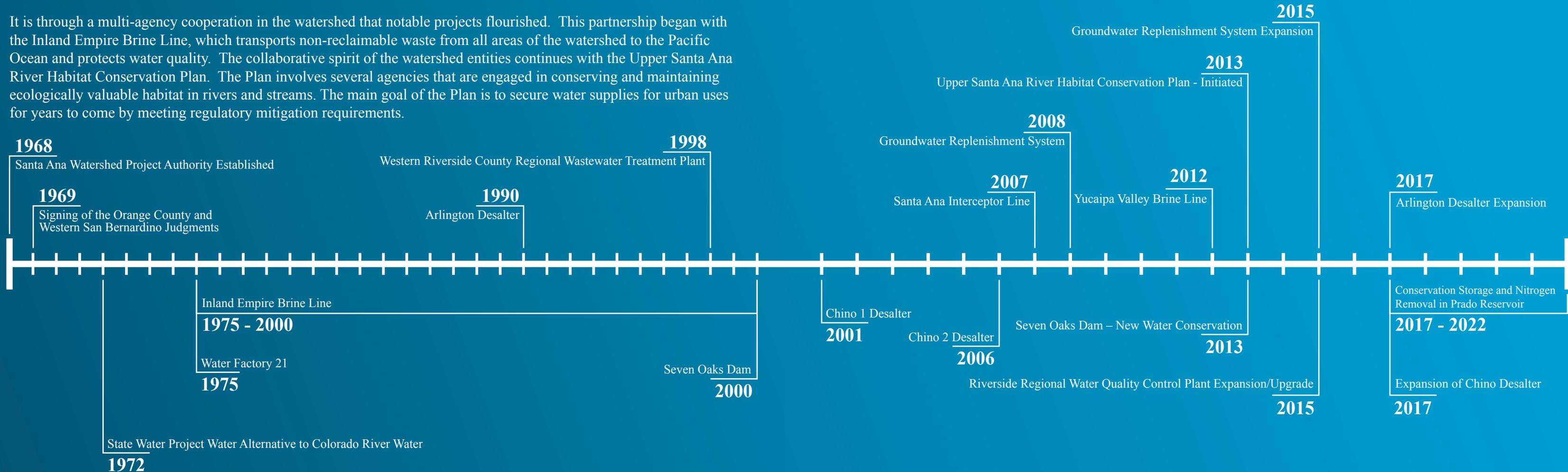
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From Conflict to Cooperation and Collaboration

It is through a multi-agency cooperation in the watershed that notable projects flourished. This partnership began with the Inland Empire Brine Line, which transports non-reclaimable waste from all areas of the watershed to the Pacific Ocean and protects water quality. The collaborative spirit of the watershed entities continues with the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan. The Plan involves several agencies that are engaged in conserving and maintaining ecologically valuable habitat in rivers and streams. The main goal of the Plan is to secure water supplies for urban uses for years to come by meeting regulatory mitigation requirements.





The Next 50 Years

The Settlement allows for future changes in hydrology, agency actions and governance. The original engineers, attorneys, water professionals, and other stakeholders anticipated potential future changes and, thus, prepared a document that could be amended. This flexibility has allowed the Settlement to maintain peace over the last 50 years as well as planning for peace and cooperation for the next 50 years.

When reflecting back to the time immediately following the settlements, Gordon K. Anderson, former Chief of Planning, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, stated, “After nearly a decade in court and a short cooling-off period, it is not too surprising to find that the four large water districts began exploring ways to avoid a recurrence of what they’d been through. Discussions of legal matters drifted to projects of mutual interest and it soon became clear that there was common interest in managing the salt balance problem as well as water supplies.”



Image Appendix

Page 2	Santa Ana River Watermaster gathers with Judge John McMurray to sign the 1969 Settlement
Page 3	The Santa Ana River at Prado Dam, facing Southwest
Page 6	The Santa Ana River water diverted into groundwater recharge basins in Anaheim, circa 1970s
Page 7	Orange County Water District Board of Directors meeting, circa late 1960s
Page 10	The Santa Ana River upper watershed, with natural growth along its banks
Page 11	Map indicating locations where Watermaster measures river flows for the 1969 Settlement
Page 14	Map indicating groundwater basin areas in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed
Page 15	2019 Watermaster reviewing annual hydrographs
Page 21	Southern Santa Ana River
Page 23	The Santa Ana River with bursted banks as a result of a historic flood event 1938, facing West
Page 24	Santa Ana River Watermaster and other community figures gather with Judge John McMurray to sign the 1969 Settlement



