



San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) was formed in 1954 as a regional agency to plan for and secure a long-range water supply for the San Bernardino Valley. It imports water into its service area through participation in the State Water Project and provides this supplemental supply to retail water agencies throughout its service area. In addition, Valley District manages local surface and groundwater resources and integrates them with its imported supplies to provide a long-term reliable supply to its constituents.

The Valley District service area covers about 353 square miles and includes a population of about 660,000. It spans the eastern two-thirds of the San Bernardino Valley, the Crafton Hills, and a portion of the Yucaipa Valley and includes the cities and communities of San Bernardino, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, Bloomington, Highland, East Highland, Mentone, Grand Terrace, and Yucaipa.

Role in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Valley District is located in the upper watershed of the Santa Ana River and manages and monitors water resources to ensure flow requirements are met in the Santa Ana River for use in the lower watershed. Since the watershed shares many of the same resources, when the upper watershed optimizes its resources it can free resources for the rest of the watershed. Valley District takes a leadership role in optimizing the resources of the upper watershed.

The SAWPA Connection

Valley District is one of the five member agencies of the Santa Ana Watershed Protection Authority (SAWPA).

Valley District has taken a leadership role within the upper watershed to optimize resources. It facilitated the development of the *Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* which includes practical water management strategies and also created a collaborative water management process through a Basin Technical Advisory Committee (BTAC). Each year, the BTAC generates a management plan and meets on a monthly basis to monitor water conditions. Valley District has also taken a leadership role in water conservation. One example is their participation in the development of the *Inland Empire Garden Friendly* program which identifies plants and outdoor products that save water with an attractive logo sticker.

Why is it important to take a regional approach to management of the watershed?

It is important to view things from a watershed level because we are all linked together and share much of the same resources from precipitation to imported water. By working together, we can optimize our collective resources to increase water supply reliability which ultimately results in economic vitality for the entire watershed. Our linkage together also allows us to assist each other in times of shortage or crisis.

The One Water One Watershed (OWOW) planning process provides an opportunity to view things from the watershed level and better understand issues and opportunities that are not as obvious when planning at the regional level.

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