



## **General Meeting**

### **Quarterly Agency Meeting**

**September 25, 2008**

**Meeting Location:**

**4500 Glenwood Drive #F**

**Riverside, CA 92501**

**10:00 A.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. INTRODUCTIONS**
- III. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Approval of General Minutes from August 28, 2008
- IV. CORRESPONDENCE**  
Letter from Colonel Thomas Magnes, USACE
- V. PARTNERING AGENCY REPORTS**  
Kerwin Russell – Santa Ana River & Orange County Weed Management Area (SAROCWMA)  
This is an opportunity for partnering agencies to discuss projects in cooperation and/or interest to the meeting attendees.
- VI. SAWA PROJECT REPORTS**
  - a. Hayley Lovan – USACE
  - b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD
  - c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD
  - d. Mandy Parkes – Inland Empire RCD
  - e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD
  - f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD
  - g. Tim Romo – SAWA
  - h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA Education Program
  - i. Ken Kietzer - DPR
- VII. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT**
  - a. Adam Malisch / Matt Talluto – MSHCP Biologist
  - b. Sue Hoffman – Lead Biologist
- VIII. BIOLOGIST PRESENTATION**
  - a. Allyson Beckman – SAWA Biologist  
Published Breeding Bird Survey Results
- IX. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**
- X. NEXT MEETING** - October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008
- XI. ADJOURN**

Please post 72 hours before meeting



**August 28, 2008  
General Meeting**

**DRAFT**

**Meeting Location:  
4500 Glenwood Drive #F  
Riverside, CA 92501  
10:00 A.M.**

**XII. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Zembal called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM.

**XIII. INTRODUCTIONS**

Attendees: Gayle Holyoak - SJBRCD; Hayley Lovan – USACE; Jennifer Ares – IERCD; Mandy Parkes; Dick Zembal – OCWD; Bonnie Nash – OCWD; Vicki Long – EMARCD; Diana Ruiz – RCRC; Kerwin Russell – RCRC; Samantha Dempster – SAWA; Dolly Aguirre – SAWA; Sue Hoffman – SAWA; David McMichael – OCWD; Matt Talluto - MSHCP; Henry Armijo – SAWA; Terry Reeser – SAWA; Nicole Peltier – SAWA; Jill Coumoutso – SAWA; Brett Mills – SAWA; Melody Aimar – SAWA; Allyson Beckman – SAWA; and Jennette Corbitt – SAWA  
Absent: Tim Romo – SAWA & Ken Kietzer – DPR

**XIV. REVIEW, AMEND AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Director Long moved to approve the July 24<sup>th</sup> minutes. Director Lovan seconded and the motion was passed with no objections.

**XV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairperson Zembal announced that three new mitigation projects came in yesterday for Initial invasive removal and ongoing monitoring/restoration, totaling approximately \$200K.

Letter addressed to Colonel Thomas Magness – USACE, was sent expressing SAWA’s interest in monitoring wildlife populations in the Santa Ana Marsh for the Corps. Director Lovan reported there was positive feedback from their legal counsel. Although there are laws put into place to limit activity, there are also particular laws and methods that are set up for accepting these projects which allow for it, so the Corps needs to make sure they are following the proper protocol. Director Lovan informed the board that their legal counsel requested to know how soon SAWA would need to get into the Marsh to begin monitoring. Chairperson Zembal informed her that the sooner SAWA is able to get into the Marsh to do the initial removal the more successful

it will be. He explained that SAWA will first have to get all of the plant biomass off of there, disturb the soil and bring out a pump to water, allowing things to grow and then spray it. This would have to be done a couple of times before broadcasting some seeds from the Huntington Beach Colony sites in an attempt to get some coastal strand for some vegetation growing. Chairperson Zembal questioned whether it could be put under the existing Scope of work? Since they are no longer under contract with Aspen or any other contract, the Corps has to do modifications to get things done; however, Director Lovan believes they can make it work.

## **XVI. PROJECT REPORTS**

### **a. Hayley Lovan – USACE**

The old tower will be coming done in the next few months. She reported that water is being diverted and coming through the new tower.

USACE Trailer park embankment will be awarded before the end of the fiscal year, which is September.

The Corps is continuing to investigate perennial stream restoration opportunities - they met with the native fish and wildlife group.

SAWA will be getting a response to the letter sent, which will basically be a generic response thanking SAWA and that the Corps will be keeping SAWA in mind. However, Director Lovan suggested it will get SAWA on the radar to manage the Marsh and the Corps will continue to be in contact.

### **b. Diana Ruiz – Riverside-Corona RCD**

#### **SAWA Joint Projects**

- The RCRCD continues to monitor the SAWA mitigation for Clark Management in Springbrook Wash. The project should be completed in 2009.
- The RCRCD has received requests from the City of Riverside to provide funding for *arundo* removal.
- A clump of *arundo* was found in the La Sierra Creek right above Lake Knolls Dr.
- The RCRCD has received funding for native fish and amphibian restoration work in their Lee Lake Conservation Easement and would like to reimburse SAWA for the use of the biological tech to assist on the project for the next five years.
- The RCRCD has worked with SAWA staff on the Santa Ana Sucker recovery program and on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 165

suckers were relocated from the mainstem of the Santa Ana River at Riverside Drive to the Native Fish stream.

- On August 11<sup>th</sup> RCRC and the SAWA biological tech relocated 50 Speckled Dace from Cajon to the Native Fish stream.
- RCRC, OCWD staff and the biological tech have relocated speckled dace and arroyo chub from Indian Creek on the Soboba Indian Reservation the past few months and are holding them for CDFG and Forest Service.

### ***Watershed Education and Outreach***

Resource Educator Erin Snyder is coordinating the planning of the Santa Ana River Watershed Cleanup, which is scheduled for October 18, 2008, 8:30 am at the Auburndale Road crossing of Temescal Wash (near Lincoln Ave., Corona). Plans for lunch, t-shirts, publicity, equipment and coordination were finalized. The major sponsor of the event is the *Only Rain Down the Storm Drain* Program of the Cities and County of Riverside. Sponsorship packages were sent to potential supporters.

#### **Sponsors to date:**

Santa Ana Watershed Association  
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority  
City of Corona Department of Water and Power  
Riverside County Waste Management  
Trails 4 All  
Western Riverside Council of Governments  
Western Municipal Water District  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District.

For more information, please contact Erin at (951) 683-7691 ext. 207 or [snyder@rcrcd.com](mailto:snyder@rcrcd.com).

#### **Other Riverside County Cleanup Events**

Oct. 4, 8am-Noon, Santa Ana River Watershed Cleanup at Riverside County Flood control and Water Conservation District Market St. and the Santa Ana River, contact Jenny Anderson, Keep Riverside Clean and Beautiful, 951-683-7100, [janderson@riverside-chamber.com](mailto:janderson@riverside-chamber.com)

Oct. 4 9am-Noon, Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, Arlington Ave. Riverside

Oct. 11, 10-Noon, San Timeteo Canyon Rd. at bridge, Redlands, contact Sherli Leonard, Redlands Land Conservancy, (909) 389-7810, sleonard@keyway.net

Oct. 18, 8am-noon, Chino Creek Cleanup/San Bernardino County, contact Mandy Parkes, Inland Empire Resource Conservation District, 909-799-7401 Ext. 106, info@iercd.org

Oct. 25, 8:30-11:30, Salt Creek Channel Cleanup, Hemet, contact Sandy Kasper, Diamond Valley Middle School, 951 927-1427, slkasper1@hotmail.com.

Oct. 25, 9-noon, Lake Perris State Recreation Area, Moreno Beach, Lot #11 & #12, contact Ranger Kelly Elliot, 951-940-5660.

The RCRC Resource Educator visited 35 classrooms to present hands-on programs for 736 students during August, 2008. *Only Rain Down the Storm Drain* educational materials, including watershed posters and activity booklets, were left with the teachers to reinforce students' learning.

- c. Vicki Long – Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza RCD  
Still working on mapping and identification of streams and water courses, and the running model is getting closer to having it done.

Recently signed a contract with Trout Unlimited in which they will be monitoring ponds within the upper watershed of San Mateo. They are trying to help stop fish release from people who like to put bass and catfish, etc. in the ponds and then when the rain comes it washes into the native creek resulting in the fish eating the steelhead. They are hoping to stop the fish release with identification and education.

Additionally, they are currently hoping to grow baby steelhead fish in conjunction with San Diego State University. Director Long reported that there are currently no fish in the stream right now because there is not enough fish to repopulate the stream, but feels it is getting better.

She reported they went out for a grant for a watershed counsel, but they don't have high hopes because of the large number that applied for it.

Eventually, they would like to do some clean up in their area. Director Ares suggested that Director Long get in contact with Jim Myers from Trails to use as a good resource for her clean up.

d. Jennifer Ares – Inland Empire RCD

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> Cleanup

Director Ares reported that IERCD is gearing up for the fall to do some removal to meet mitigation requirements. For example, the Army Corps - Reach 3B, was construction that happened in San Timoteo Creek that has specific requirements in that mitigation field. One of the requirements is to remove all natives in San Timoteo and the sub-watershed. IERCD has removed arundo and castro bean but there are still a few other species out there, in which they are doing the Tree of Heaven in the fall to meet that requirement.

Additionally, the Riverside Parks mitigation bank changed a little bit and from that there is more mitigation for arundo removal. IERCD will be coordinating with Ron Baxter to get that particular mitigation piece removal, also known as the Mission arundo removal. Director Ares explained to Director Ruiz that this removal is done with earmarked funds that are coordinated along with RCRC, and hopefully when the funds run out SAWA will take over the spraying. She will get Director Ruiz more information on that mitigation and send her the map that James completed. Chairperson Zembal requested to see a map that shows for example, the golf course project – the continuation of prop 13, the remaining mitigation projects from the RCD's and what's left of Riverside County Bank that could be falling through the cracks – more of a gap map. Director Ares reported that James was working on that last week to figure out where the shift in the Bank was and she will send him a copy.

Finally, Director Ares introduced Many Parkes as her alternate representative from IERCD to the SAWA Board.

e. Gayle Holyoak – San Jacinto RCD

Just returned from vacation four days ago, which she and her husband had a wonderful trip and is happy to return to work. Bruce gave her an update on the San Jacinto Watershed Integrated, Regional Dairy Management Plan, a grant that SAWA is supporting (see attached).

Gayle shared that her son is working on becoming a Fish & Game Warden and is currently in the process of testing which looks quite favorable.

f. Bonnie Nash – OCWD

OCWD is currently spending most of their time on maintenance areas, including 5500 mule fat at Spatters S and

3200 at HWY 71, which is almost their 10,000 for the year. They are busy weeding, watering twice a week, spraying, cleaning and monitoring. Sue sent cowbird assistants, Giovanni, Andrew & Scott to help Dave and Tallula with the watering.

Dave is busy at the Anaheim facility trying to help restore the native stream and help get fish in. He has been tearing out exotic stuff and putting in some natives. The Chub pond at Prado continues to be a dilemma, so they are working on research but having problems with Fish & Game.

She reported that the 50 Mino traps OCWD ordered were in and they plan to use the cowbird assistants to trap out exotics in the ponds. Currently, they are working on a plan of what to do once they have trapped them.

Prado Burn contract expires in October and she needs to know what SAWA would like to do, either extends it out to Washburn or perhaps Tim's crew can handle it even though it is a large area. However, the good news is that it was recently sprayed.

Director Nash reported that there were two ospreys sitting on the platform yesterday despite that typically they aren't seen this time of year. Dave passed around some pictures showing the osprey.

Chairperson Zembal reported that the Prado Chino Creek Wetland project plans to utilize money diverted to invasive control and planting along the Chino & Mill Creek. Since the money is close to two million dollars and needs to be spent accordingly, they are trying to figure out what OCWD should be taking on in order to get permission to get on board. He actually feels that it would be best to go after an extension of the grant.

g. Tim Romo – SAWA

Absent – Director Nash reported that his crew sprayed 500 youth sprouts at HWY 71 and is hoping to keep going once a week until it is finished. Jennette announced that Tim hired a new crew member, Arcenio and started training him last week.

h. Dolly Aguirre – SAWA Education Program

The education staff participated in the Lytle Creek Car Show for the Lytle is Vital project. In a joint booth with IERCD, SAWA offered Storm Water Pollution presentations as well as other

project information. SAWA also participated in Vermont School's Parent University by assisting in the after-school student program. SAWA will continue to work with IERCD for the Parent University program until May 2009.

Staff facilitated a Water Discovery training day at the Chino Creek Park. All activity stations were reviewed and a training guide is available. An inventory of materials will be done next month.

One tour was completed and one tour cancelled this month. Unfortunately, one field trip was also cancelled due to unsigned consent forms.

Staff is continuing to develop the education program and is considering new projects for 2009. Ideas for a Migratory Bird Festival at the Chino Creek Wetlands are underway.

Together with IEUA, SAWA is coordinating a Watershed Restoration Program. The program will follow an existing model from the Upper San Gabriel Water District. A kick-off information event is tentatively planned for October 18<sup>th</sup> following IERCD's clean up event at Chino Creek.

The GAG committee met on August 12<sup>th</sup> in Redlands. SAWA will apply collaboratively with IEUA for the Habitat Conservation Fund provided by CA Dept of Parks and Rec. The programs outlined in the RFP will be specific to the park.

During this month's SEEC meeting, the committee has agreed to create a Regional Environmental Education committee. The first meeting is set for September 25<sup>th</sup> following the SAWA Agency meeting. These meetings are open to any RCD and will provide opportunities to report on current education programs and share resources. SAWA's Education Plan will also be discussed. If you are interested in attending, please contact Diana of RCRCD.

Water Discovery is starting its marketing plan next month. Letters will be sent to principals who will distribute request forms to their teachers. Trader Joe's and Albertsons have donated reusable shopping bags for the teacher packets. Packets will include requested information on programs and education materials. The school contact list is completed and available. Currently, they are only marketing towards the elementary school age. Dolly shared that she directs the older students to Prado Wetlands because she feels it is a more

comprehensive tour, thus more age appropriate for high school and AP students.

The Book Drive has ended and the books will be ordered next week. If you have sponsored a book and would like to add a dedication, please email me. Otherwise the bookplates will read the donor's name. Thank you to everyone who donated!

- i. Ken Kietzer – DPR  
Absent

## **XVII. SAWA / MSHCP BIOLOGIST REPORT**

- a. Matt Talluto – MSHCP Biologist  
Still have some surveys going on, but most of their stuff is winding down for the year. Currently, they are putting more photo stations in, but haven't decided where they should put them, suggestions are welcome.

The SKR trapping is still ongoing. They completed the distribution portion and SKR trapping for density which results are proving to be difficult to get.

The plant surveys have finished up and for the most part the plant crew is done for the season.

They started the herps terrestrial survey, resulting in 11 granite night lizards.

Also MSHCP is doing surveys in the mountains, concentrating on the mountain king snakes and rubber boas in the San Jacinto Mountains and the Anzo Narrows area.

The pond turtle project is currently in a holding pattern because they are trying to get permission to continue tracking pond turtles in the Cleveland National Forest in Cajalico Creek.

The Delhi Sands Fly surveys just finished and results showed there is evidence of reproduction.

Finally, as for the birds, the Passerine nest searching is done and they are currently still organizing the data. They had good results in which they found CAGN, LBVI, YBCH & YWAR and are currently in the process of prepping a survey for several other marsh birds for this winter and hoping to finish up the breeding season by next year. The birders are going to spend some time looking for cactus wren habitat, in which Nick and Melody will be working together.

b. Sue Hoffman – SAWA Lead Biologist

1. The vireo season is finishing up. Biologists are spending a little time out in the field to document vireo departure dates but mainly we are working up vireo and cowbird data and report writing. A bio meeting was held 8/13/08 and we discussed vireo report assignments. We also discussed a safety item on poison oak and how urushiol works. The current recommendation is to flush with cold water and use alcohol swabs to clean off the affected area. Winter projects were on the agenda but we ran out of time and we have scheduled another meeting for 9/9.
2. The Least Tern season is over and we are analyzing data. The Huntington Beach Least Tern Colony had 454 nests. Nesting success based on known successful hatchings and probable hatchings was 60.5%. Chicks seen numbered 344 and chicks from probable hatches add another 112 chicks for a total of 456 chicks. Depredation rate was 15.6%. 18.9% of the nests were abandoned before expected hatching.
3. Current winter projects include the continuing herp study at Lake Perris. We have just scheduled the next three months of raptor surveys; we are surveying three sites, Cajon, San Timoteo, and San Jacinto two times a month; we begin in September. The seasonal field assistants are helping out with these projects as well as the habitat restoration and aquatic projects at Prado and the nursery. Melody continues to work with the Cactus Wren group and is ground-truthing historical sites of cactus wren habitat. Winter bird surveys start 12/15.
4. We monitored the Arundo and tamarisk spraying at the Anzo project.
5. We are looking for a woolly-star mitigation site for the Inland Empire RCD's project. We are investigating Featherly Park, Lower Aliso, and the main stem at the Rubidoux Nature Center and near Colton. Another possibility is the site in the river at Norco where the one plant established itself.
6. We attended the MSHCP meeting near Idyllwild and a meeting at Coal Canyon sponsored by State Parks. Ken Kietzer has asked us if we would be interested in a doing a camera study at Coal Canyon to investigate the Coal Canyon wildlife corridor. The project would be funded and we are developing the project which will be submitted to the Board.
7. We are preparing our Breeding Bird Surveys for 2005 and 2006 for submission to the Institute of Bird

Populations. Our 2003 and 2004 surveys have been published and are available @ <http://birdpop.net/pubs/birdpopv8.php>.

8. We took Tim Romo to the Santa Ana Marsh Least Tern Island to see what weed management activity would be needed to develop it into a functioning breeding site.
9. People are taking vacations.

#### **XVIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Update from Brett Mills – brought in BHOC traps for maintenance during the off season. He attended First Aid and CPR training. Also, he is still working on the suckers, conducting daily routine maintenance as well as working with Tim doing Invasive Species Removal and he plans to continue out at Indian Creek once things have settled down after the shootings.

Chairperson Zembal announced that earlier the Board approved Brett Mills to work full-time for SAWA, thus changing his supervision to the Executive Director (interim will be Sue).

Chairperson Zembal noted that anyone interested in helping with the river walk should save Oct 1<sup>st</sup> & Oct 9<sup>th</sup> as dates for participation. The river walk is in response to the 2003 floods. Participation helps in getting the GPS readings of exact locations of transects across the rivers, as well as looking at water depth to see where the sucker habitat has moved. They would like to have people participate in groups of two. Director Lovan asked if there was a report generated last year. Kerwin will try to find it and send it to her. Chairperson Zembal has a hard copy of the PowerPoint that was completed showing the results which he can send to her as well. The river is surveyed at approximately every 400 meters. They still need to program the locations into the GPS units. For the most part, it should be a fun day to help out and get wet in doing so!

Brett inquired into the status of ordering SAWA business cards. Jennette informed him that she is currently working on that project. Due to the difficulty of finding the location of the Chino Office building, Jennette would like to put a map on the back of the business cards. Director Ares suggested Jennette get a map from James to use. Dolly informed her that she had a map and could have James review it and scale it down if need be. Terry Reeser volunteered to investigate finding an address for the Chino Creek Park verses using the IEUA address.

Additionally, Brett requested an update on where the board stood on hiring an Executive Director? Chairperson Zembal informed everyone that they have had several excellent applicants and

have conducted interviews, but the board hasn't found the ideal candidate as yet. Currently, they are planning to re-advertise and hope to get a new pull of applicants. Also, the board plans to reassess the scope and narrow the job duties, such as having Tim manage the contracts, allowing the new Executive Director to provide the oversight.

Director Ruiz reported that SAWA did allocate \$10,000 in the budget towards the Weed management program.

**XIX. NEXT MEETING** - September 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 (Quarterly Agency Meeting) Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to Jennette at 909-799-7407 x105 or [Jennette@sawatershed.org](mailto:Jennette@sawatershed.org).

**XX. ADJOURN**  
The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 A.M.

Please post 72 hours before meeting

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 532711  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

August 21, 2008

Asset Management Division  
Planning Division

Mr. Richard Zembal  
Santa Ana Watershed Association  
25864-K Business Center Drive  
Redlands, California 92374

Dear Mr. Zembal,

Thank you for your letter of July 18, 2008, proposing that the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) manage and monitor the Santa Ana River Marsh property. We appreciate SAWA's interest in the marsh, and we agree that the marsh needs a qualified and capable manager to ensure it functions as intended.

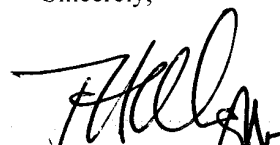
We are very interested in finding a creative and viable solution to the operation and maintenance of these mitigation and enhancement areas. The property must be managed in accordance with the terms of the Local Cooperation Agreement, the General Design Memoranda, Environmental Impact Statement, and the Biological Opinion for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. As you know, my staff is currently developing the habitat management plan for the area. The development of the habitat management plan provides the opportunity for our organization and the resource agencies to identify the appropriate manager for the marsh.

I have directed my staff to create a team to review your proposal and provide me with an evaluation of your proposal and the relevant constraints and opportunities related to the area. We have received inquiries from several entities regarding marsh management, and as we develop the habitat management plan, we will develop appropriate criteria for any potential marsh management entity. We would be happy to meet with SAWA and other groups interested in management of marsh in the near future.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter or other Corps of Engineers business, please feel free to contact me at (213) 452-3961, or your staff may contact my Chief of Asset Management, Ms. Theresa Kaplan, at (213) 452-3118, and my Chief of Environmental Resources Branch, Ms. Jodi Clifford, at (213) 452-3844, or Project Biologist, Hayley Lovan, at (213) 452-3863.

*Thanks for your  
interest. We are on  
it! We will find the  
"win-win!"*  
THM

Sincerely,

  
Thomas H. Magness  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer

Enclosure