

The Santa Ana Watershed Association will develop, coordinate and implement natural resource programs which support a sustainable ecosystem and social benefits from the San Bernardino mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

Partnering Agencies

California Department of Fish and Game

Orange County Water District

Riverside County Flood Control District

Riverside County Parks and Recreation

San Bernardino County Flood Control District

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

Santa Ana Water Project Authority

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Forest Service

Santa Ana Watershed Association

San Jacinto Basin RCD
950 North Ramona Blvd. #6
San Jacinto, CA 92582
(909) 654-7733

Riverside-Corona RCD
4500 Glenwood Ave.
Riverside, CA 92501
(909) 683-7691

Inland Empire West RCD
1609 S. Grove Ave., Ste. 103
Ontario, CA 91761
(909) 987-0622

Elismore-Murietta-Anza RCD
24280 Washington Ave.
Murietta, CA 92562
(909) 677-9182

East Valley RCD
25864 K Business Center Dr.
Redlands, CA 92374
(909) 799-7407

Associate Resource Conservation Districts

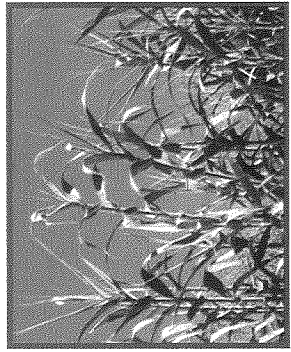
Orange County Water District
Natural Resources
10500 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 378-3200



*"Promote a healthy
Santa Ana Watershed for
both wildlife and people."*

Invasive Species

Arundo donax, also known as giant reed or giant cane, is an invasive weed that occupies nearly 10,000



acres of riparian habitat in the Santa Ana Watershed. This prolific weed crowds out native plants, resulting in loss of habitat for native species. Arundo also causes flood control and fire problems throughout the watershed.

SAWA has been actively involved in projects to remove Arundo donax from the Santa Ana Watershed. The weed is cut, then treated with an organic herbicide to prevent regrowth. A GIS database is maintained by East Valley RCD to track the success of the Arundo removal projects within the Santa Ana Watershed.

The Santa Ana Watershed is the largest coastal river system in Southern California. The watershed area is home to more than 4.5 million people and includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The Santa Ana Watershed Association is a group composed of five Resource Conservation Districts and several participating agencies. SAWA is dedicated to improving environmental quality and habitat within the watershed. Environmental concerns within the watershed include the eradication of invasive species, recovering endangered or threatened species and restoring loss of habitat. SAWA is focused on these issues to ensure a healthy Santa Ana Watershed for both wildlife and people.

Endangered Species

The Santa Ana Watershed is home to several endangered and threatened species. The least Bell's Vireo and the Willow Flycatcher are both endangered bird species. They are facing threats from the degradation of riparian habitat and increasing populations of parasitic cowbirds. Efforts toward protection of these species concentrate on cowbird trapping and eradication of Arundo and Saltcedar.



The Santa Ana Sucker is a fish that was common in streams of the Santa Ana Watershed. It is now rarely found in the watershed. Changes in the Santa Ana Sucker's habitat, especially through water diversions, stream channelizations, erosion and pollution have been the prime cause in the decline of this species.

Loss of Native Habitat

Land development has been a major factor in the depletion of native habitat within the watershed. Of special concern is the loss of riparian (streamside) habitat. A member Resource Conservation District of SAWA (Riverside-Corona) runs a native plant nursery which produces native plant species for planting within the watershed. There are thirty growing tanks used for propagation of willow and mulefat cuttings. These plant species are used by the least Bell's vireo for nesting habitat. Production currently stands at 600 to 800 cuttings per year. The Santa Ana Watershed Association is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the Santa Ana Watershed. If you are interested in any of our projects please contact Vi Slade, SAWA Chair, at (909)799-7407.