



COORDINATING LAND USE AND WATER

San Bernardino County Water Conference

August 22, 2014

COUNTYWIDE VISION WATER ELEMENT GROUP

Since January 2012, leaders representing public and private water agencies, regulators, planners, education, and business have been working together to develop a long-range plan to ensure water sustainability for San Bernardino County's future. This effort by the Countywide Vision Water Element Group marked the first time that San Bernardino County endeavored to address its water needs in a comprehensive, collaborative environment that incorporated multiple watersheds.

The Countywide Vision Water Element Group has produced:

- A countywide water inventory that revealed the County has enough water to supply residents, business, and agricultural needs through 2035, if there is a commitment from the whole community to invest in capital projects and programs to store new water supplies, protect current water supplies, and increase water conservation efforts.
- A countywide inventory of water conservation programs.
- A map that identified land recommended for protection for future local water recharge projects.

COLLABORATIVE LAND USE AND WATER PLANNING

During the past year, the leaders of the Water Element Group have met with County and city managers and County and city planning directors to discuss how they can work together to ensure there is a sufficient, sustainable water supply to accommodate expected population and economic growth.

They are improving their common understanding of current water resource realities, such as identifying gaps in infrastructure needed to move water to residents and businesses throughout the county. And, they are aiming to make the county more business friendly by preparing to collaborate regionally on the upcoming 2015 Urban Water Management Plans to ensure they are more closely linked to County and city general plans.



GREAT EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION

YUCAIPA DETENTION BASIN PROJECTS

When the City of Yucaipa began to conceptually design the Oak Glen and Wildwood Creek detention basins to improve flood protection and address stormwater quality in the city, officials also saw an opportunity to improve the sustainability of the groundwater basin through active and passive recharge. The City sought input from the flood control district, water agencies and resource conservation district to complete balanced designs for the two projects that provide multiple benefits. Both basins were constructed with diversified funding from City accounts, federal and state grants and contributions from the flood control district, water agencies, resource conservation district and developers.



2010 SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY REGIONAL URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and the retail water agencies within its service area were able to successfully combine the efficiencies of a regional urban water management plan with the flexibility of an individualized plan. The first chapters of the *2010 San Bernardino Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan* are not unlike many other regional urban water management plans, providing an overview of regional water supplies and demands. What makes this plan unique, is that there is no “one size fits all” approach to achieving state mandated water use reductions for the region. Instead, each participating water agency was given the freedom, through its own chapter in the plan, to provide its personalized approach toward meeting its water conservation targets. This innovative approach to urban water management planning was praised by both the California Department of Water Resources and the participating water agencies.