

## 5.12 Government Alliance



### Introduction

The One Water One Watershed (OWOW) Government Alliance Pillar (Pillar) was established under the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's (SAWPA) update of their Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, also known as the OWOW 2.0 Plan.

From May 2011 through June 2013, the Pillar met 14 times. Collectively, it had 29 active participants from 10 Federal agencies, two Tribal Nations, eight State agencies, and four local government agencies which are listed below.

#### **Federal Agencies**

- Department of the Defense
  - Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of the Interior
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Bureau of Reclamation
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - U.S. Geological Survey
  - National Park Service
- Department of Commerce
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - Natural Resources and Conservation Service
  - Rural Development
  - U.S. Forest Service

#### **Tribal Nations**

- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribe
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Tribe

#### **State Agencies**

- Natural Resources Agency
- Department of Water Resources
- State Parks
- Department of Public Health
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

#### **Local Government Agencies**

- Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
- Riverside County Emergency Services
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

It's noteworthy to also point out that the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency both requested ongoing information updates on the Pillar's activities; meeting notes and notices were provided to those designated agency representatives.

In the beginning of the OWOW 2.0 water resource planning process, the Pillar met for a brainstorming session. SAWPA staff provided planning guidance, while group discussions focused on regional and integrated projects and programs concepts that could benefit the watershed as a whole. The Pillar also forged potential long-term alliances, and addressed each agency's involvement in existing or planned programs throughout the watershed. Proposed projects and programs that resulted from past proposals submitted by watershed stakeholders were also addressed.

Two key goals of this Pillar are: 1) leverage watershed information and potential resources from governmental agencies and seek out synergistic opportunities; and 2) consider large-scale ideas for implementation.

As part of the Government Partnerships Pillar planning process, a *Resource Guide* (**Appendix H**) was developed that lists contact information for governmental agencies within and outside the watershed that support the OWOW efforts. It provides a compilation of all the governmental organization contacts with ties to the Watershed including Federal, Tribal, and State agencies, and the local water agencies from the three counties within the Watershed's boundary. The Guide also contains key resources from documents like the *California Climate Adaptation Strategy* and the *California Water Plan Update*; tools for users like the *Water Energy Relationship Report and Water Equivalents Table*; key websites; applicable Federal and State laws for the water sector; and an A-to-Z list of key terms, acronyms and concepts. The *Resource Guide* contains valuable information that the Pillar members hope that SAWPA and its member agencies and stakeholders will find useful in promoting collaboration with agencies on future regional integrated projects and programs.

Luna Leopold, an early pioneer of water science, proclaimed: "The health of our waters is the principal measure how we live on the land." The Pillar hopes that the *Resource Guide's* useful information is measured by its frequent use and will ensure that periodic updates are conducted to help maintain its value.

## A Pillar's Path to Success

Every plan and the supporting processes to help enhance or refine a strategy must connect with its key components. But identifying these components can be challenging. This Pillar's path to develop a "planned" approach for OWOW 2.0 process success began with a simple seven step outline (**Table 5.12-1**) to document all the steps necessary for an "integrated planning" blueprint.

**Table 5.12-1 Seven Step Outline for Integrated Planning**

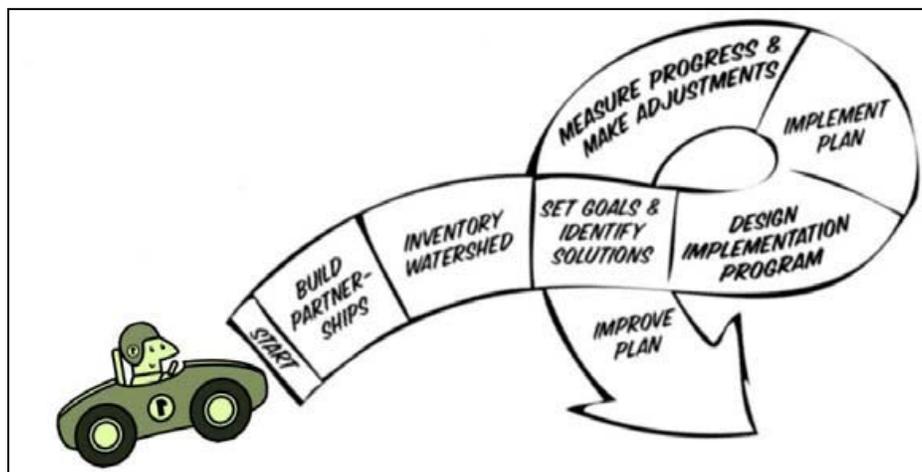
1	Build Partnerships
2	Characterize the Watershed
3	Set Goals and Identify Solutions
4	Design an Implementation Program
5	Develop Watershed Plan Outline
6	Implement the Watershed Plan
7	Measure Progress and Make Adjustments

Through Pillar meetings, relationships were built and partnerships were formed as the participants shared critical information and developed collaborative ideas. Over time, a new outline was created which reflected the increasing sophistication of the process.

### The Road Less Traveled

A roadmap metaphor (**Figure 5.12-1**) helped the Pillar further address the planning process and approach, and reflected both short and long-term Pillar goals to complement OWOW 2.0 goals. It also helped the Pillar reach consensus about the priorities of Pillar members, and recognized that a mechanism was needed to help forecast proposed projects for development. The roadmap, as a framework, helped the Pillar plan and coordinate information on the development of a proposed project or activity.

**Figure 5.12-1 Pillar Roadmap**



### OWOW 1.0 Phase...and Beyond

The Government Partnerships Pillar was established in 2011 as part of SAWPA’s initial OWOW planning effort. It was formed based on a desire to forge improved working relationships among the various

governmental agencies in the watershed, and support interaction among watershed stakeholders and governmental agencies as new integrated projects and programs were advanced.

The two Pillar co-leads were selected from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. Several additional Federal, Tribal, State, and Local governmental agency representatives helped forge several key alliances to foster collaboration within the watershed. The multi-agency engagement in this Pillar's activities helped pave the way to enhance communications among the agencies and close any coordination gaps that may have existed.

Today, the OWOW 2.0 vision is for a sustainable watershed that is drought-proof, salt-balanced, and supports economic and environmental viability. SAWPA and its member agencies and stakeholders will be able to achieve that mission with continued coordination and communication with the various Federal, Tribal, State, and local government agencies that support and/or regulate planning and proposed project development in the watershed. Long-term collaboration among the many participating agencies, new synergies, and multi-beneficial projects must be developed to help maintain the Watershed's sustainability, now and into the future.

## Key Pillar Success Stories

### Fourteen meetings over two years

#### *Nine 'Themed' Presentations:*

- EPA's Web-based Watershed Planning Tools
- Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network
- Riverside County's Water & Dam Emergency Response and Army Corps of Engineers Dam Emergency Management Program Overview
- Caltrans Planning
- Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning
- Riparian Habitat Joint Venture
- Forest First
- EPA Climate Change Indicators

#### *Seven 'Big Ideas' Brainstormed:*

- Group Purchasing: leveraging member agencies' buying power for supplies and services
- Energy Savings: engaging member agencies in collaborative partnerships to reduce carbon footprints and save energy
- Site/Facility Security: sharing security expertise among the member agencies to protect personnel, equipment and facilities
- Climate Change/Adaptation: exploring improved joint agency planning through adaptive development and implementation strategies

- Water Conservation: collaborating and partnering among member agencies and other entities to save water through outreach and education
- Sustainability: promoting the goals of OWOW through member agencies promoting wise use of water and energy
- Right-of-Way Dual-Use: working with Caltrans and local governments to use land right-of-ways to collect and store more water in the watershed

#### *Four Video Reviews:*

- **Watershed** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mcHrzOImoY> – a James Redford production that explores creating a water ethic in the West
- **Last Call at the Oasis** - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLE3i92LkQk> – a Jessica Yu production that addresses our world’s growing water crisis
- **Climate change video series** - <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/video.cfm> – a California Department of Water Resources series that addresses planning and adapting to effects of climate change
- **The Next Frontier: Engineering the Golden Age of Green** - <http://www.thenextfrontiermovie.com/> – an award-winning documentary that addresses the use of fossil fuels and their impacts on our growing greenhouse gas emissions and possible mitigation strategies

## **Next Steps for the Pillar**

The Government Alliance Pillar will continue to ensure that Federal and State agencies effectively partner in the management of water and other resources within the watershed, and consider other Pillar’s perspectives in their support of OWOW 2.0 goals and objectives. The Pillar will:

- Periodically publish updates of the *Resource Guide* and post them on SAWPA’s website
- Conduct an email blast to continue contact with Pillar members
- Encourage active networking with SAWPA’s planning team
- Ensure reminders are sent out well in advance of proposed future meetings

The Pillar should continue to meet at a minimum annually and preferably bi-annually. There are many dynamic regulatory and governmental activities in the watershed, so the need to continue and maintain vital program and activity communication is critical. To maintain these lines of communication, the Pillar will:

- Periodically develop agendas and host Pillar meetings to keep lines of communication open and relationships strong
- Leverage the *Resource Guide’s* agency contacts, and assure that steps are taken to keep all information current

- Continue coordination with various governmental agencies, as appropriate, for all proposed projects, initiatives, and integrated water and related resources activities to help identify necessary environmental compliance requirements and or potential areas of conflict

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Other Government Contacts are included in Resource Guide shown in the [Appendix H](#).