

RWA Programs



July 9, 2026

The goals of the Regional (Water) Authority are to:

- Assist, where appropriate, in the voluntary consolidation of the services provided by existing industry/trade associations and water utility support groups within the Regional Authority.
- Develop and provide subscription-based (i.e., that are paid for by participating Members) support services, projects and programs of mutual interest for Members, or groups of Members, and certain other subscribers.
- Facilitate discussion of and action on matters of regional priority and interest.
- Coordinate and implement regional water master planning, grant-funding acquisition, and related planning efforts.
- Provide a unified voice to advocate and respond to legislative, regulatory and policy matters of importance to the region's water supply.

The guiding principles of the Regional Authority shall be:

- To operate without exercising governing or regulatory authority over Members.
- To operate without competing with Members for the development, treatment or delivery of water supplies.
- To ensure that the positive traditions and essential functions of SMWA, SAWWA, SMART and ARBCA (if the Regional Authority provides the same types of services that those associations currently provide) be continued.
- To operate in a manner that allows each Member to retain its ability to make business and policy decisions.

Core and Subscription Projects and Programs

Core – all the members

- Advocacy – Legislative, Regulatory, other
- Communications
- Other special functions (GM meetings, Water Quality Committee, etc.)

Subscription – a portion of the members

- Water Use Efficiency
- Common Interests Management Services (CIMS and BOSS)
- Water Bank
- Grants (ARTESIAN, Prop 84, Prop 1, Prop 68, Urban Drought)
- **Future: Healthy Rivers and Landscapes**

- 2017 Water Use Efficiency Legislation
- 2021 Multibenefit (State Budget)
- 2023 SB 659
- 2024 Proposition 4
- 2026 AB 2026 – Fingers Crossed
- Defending the HRL funding (\$55 Million)
- Asked by members of the Legislature to testify several times



Water Use Efficiency

- *Award Winning Program (Over and Over)*
- Program for customer outreach
- Technical Assistance
- New Focus on the Conservation Regulations
- School Education
- Grant acquisition
- Common messaging during droughts, and a spokes person for the media



Water Bank

- The Water Bank is a system of groundwater wells, pumps and pipelines that allow local water providers to pump out and refill under groundwater reserves to serve local customers
 - A reservoir the Region controls
- Developing a set of self-imposed rules around credited recharge and recovery



Common Interests Management Services

A program that enables the agencies that have surface water entitlements or rely on surface water entitlements to maintain their ability to divert or obtain surface water.

Focus on the State and Federal regulation of surface water and the operations of the State and Federal projects.



Grants

- IRWM and (now) Watershed Resilience
- \$180 Million
- Grant advocacy
- Planning
- Processing



Thank you!

