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**INLAND EMPIRE WATERKEEPER.**  
*Advocacy • Education • Research • Restoration • Enforcement*

**For Immediate Release**

December 1, 2017

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**Homelessness and Water Symposium to be held in the Lower Santa Ana Watershed**

*Water managers and homelessness services providers come together to discuss strategies in eliminating homelessness in the watershed*

Fullerton, CA--Water sector, civil servants and homelessness service providers are to convene and discuss mitigating homelessness and water management along the Santa Ana River. Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and Inland Empire Waterkeeper are partnering to host a second Homelessness and Water symposium in Orange County to foster collaboration and understanding within the watershed.

Public awareness of the state of homelessness along the Santa Ana River in Orange County has increased in due to the public outcry over encampments along the Santa Ana River, resulting in an emergency declaration which has ultimately forced individuals experiencing homelessness out of the river. The partnership between SAWPA and Waterkeeper seek to increase visibility of homelessness to the water sector in order to increase understanding as well as to foster collaboration between water agencies and homelessness service providers.

It is estimated 9,000 individuals are experiencing homelessness in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The 2017 point-in-time count approximates 480 unsheltered people are living in the riverbed, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. This discussion on strategies to create effective partnerships, as well as to strengthen existing collaborations, to end homelessness within the watershed is primary objective for this symposium.

Members from the water sector, civil servants and homelessness services providers will be in attendance the Homelessness and Water Symposium where panelist will discuss water management, county programs and state of homelessness. Stakeholders and members of the press are invited join us December 7th as we hear from expert panelists and discuss intersections between homelessness and water.

**Symposium Details – Thursday, December 7th , 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Conference Center, Fullerton Public Library, 353 W Commonwealth Ave Fullerton, CA 92832. [Registration](#) is now open.**

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### **About the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority**

The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, a joint powers authority, is comprised of five member agencies: Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Eastern Municipal Water District, Western Municipal Water District, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, and Orange County Water District. SAWPA works with planners, water experts, design and construction engineers, community members and groups, as well as other government agencies to identify water management issues and innovative solutions. It also owns and operates the Inland Empire Brine Line. The Santa Ana River Watershed encompasses 2,650 square miles and is home to about six million people.

### **About Inland Empire Waterkeeper**

Established in 2005, Inland Empire Waterkeeper is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to protect and enhance the water quality of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed through programs of advocacy, education, research, restoration and enforcement. As the only non-profit in the Inland Empire dedicated to addressing water quality issues in the Santa Ana Watershed, Waterkeeper focuses on grassroots, community-oriented projects including water sampling, habitat restoration, community clean-ups and robust educational programs, to protect waterways throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Waterkeeper uses a regional, collaborative approach to watershed management working with local, state, and federal government agencies to ensure proactive water policy for a swimmable, drinkable, fishable Santa Ana River Watershed.