

INLAND EMPIRE WATERKEEPER®

Advocacy • Education • Restoration • Enforcement • Research



ANNUAL REPORT 2009



**INLAND EMPIRE
WATERKEEPER's** *vision*

is to achieve a sustainable watershed free of pollution and a community of motivated water stewards.

Our *mission* is to protect and enhance the water quality of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed through programs of:

Advocacy

Education

Research

Restoration

Enforcement

Dear Friend,

The Inland Empire Waterkeeper would like to invite you to get to know us better and thank those of you who have supported us during these past four years. Our focus is on water issues; we are working to improve the water quality of our lakes, streams, and waterways and to participate as a stakeholder in finding solutions that will ensure a sustainable and reliable drinking water supply.



Waterkeeper actively works with the general public and collaborates with local government and various agencies in the Inland Empire to enhance our waterways. Many of our waterways are currently degraded and are very limited in recreational benefits for residents. Waterkeeper's goal is to improve these waterways for both wildlife habitat and the people of the Inland Empire.

Waterkeeper is engaged in numerous programs such as improving the water quality of the Temescal Wash with the ultimate goal of making parts of the wash both accessible and user friendly to residents. We have been engaged in water monitoring to assess the water quality of many creeks throughout the Inland Empire. All of our laboratory data is used by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop methods of improving the water quality of these waterways. We have a growing education program that teaches students about water and how they can help improve our watersheds.

Waterkeeper is currently conducting a program to clean up trash and debris from several miles of the Chino Creek. We are always looking for community volunteers who want to work with us and make a difference in our local communities.

We hope that you will take the time to get to know us and learn what we are trying to accomplish throughout the Inland Empire. To be successful, though, we need your help.

Thank you for your support.



THE 2009 WATERKEEPER TEAM

STAFF

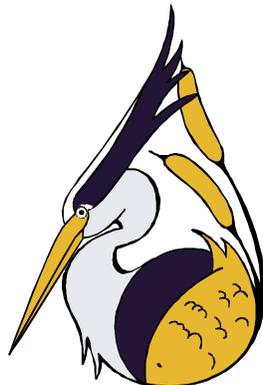
Garry Brown, Executive Director
Autumn DeWoody, Programs Director
Rachael Hamilton, Project Manager
Eric Emerson, Field Technician

ADVISORY BOARD

Will Harris, Chairman
Bill Flores, Jr.
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EXPLORING TEMESCAL CREEK



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!

A total of 385 hours and 3,500 driving miles were donated by local volunteers to the Temescal Creek field work efforts. According to State law estimates, that amounts to over **\$8,000** in donated time!

Great Egrets (as seen in the photo to the left) and numerous other bird species were regularly spotted along Temescal Creek as Waterkeeper explored this crucial wildlife corridor. Funded by the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, Preserving Wild California grant program, the *Southland Open Space & Forest Preservation Initiative* entailed on-the-ground efforts to walk the length of Temescal Creek while collecting data on plant life, wildlife, terrain, dumping sites, access points and parcel data.

Situated within the valley between the Santa Ana Mountains of Cleveland National Forest and the foothills of the Gavilan Plateau, Temescal Creek flows from the south at Lake Elsinore to the Santa Ana River in Corona near the I-15/SR-91 interchange. Sections of the creek flow year-round and provide an essential wildlife and open space corridor amidst rushing freeways and sprawling development. Unfortunately, the Creek has been subject to years of neglect and illegal dumping. The valley is also under immense pressure to develop homes, businesses, and roadways that could, if not properly planned, sever any remaining open space linkages and destroy what natural beauty is left in the creek landscape.

Waterkeeper staff, including new Project Manager, Rachael Hamilton, and volunteers successfully documented features of the Creek; data collection resulted in an increased knowledge base regarding the current threats and issues that face Temescal Creek. Mapping of the area, complete with our findings, will be published in early 2010; providing a powerful tool for understanding Temescal Creek's role in linking wildland areas.

Waterkeeper also worked toward uniting stakeholders and residents around the issues of preserving Temescal Creek, with a focus on involving the increasing Hispanic/Latino community in Temescal Valley. With an improved understanding of the threats and issues at hand, together with strengthening community involvement and partnerships, Waterkeeper concludes 2009 with eager ambitions to accomplish the remaining steps of the project in 2010. The next phases will be to compile the results from our data collection, complete mapping work with our hired sub-contractor, and continue to galvanize support from the local community in support of preserving these last remaining open spaces.



Overlooking Temescal Creek

PUBLIC POLICY

Local transportation projects were one of many public policy facets on which Waterkeeper stayed abreast; focusing particularly on the Irvine-Corona Expressway Tunnel and the Mid-County Parkway. The Irvine-Corona Expressway Tunnel was proposed as a 12-mile underground route through the mountains of Cleveland National Forest, connecting the I-15 in Corona to the SR-241/SR-133 in Irvine. With a price tag of \$10 billion dollars and a construction time of at least 15 years, the tunnel project would create irreversible air, water, and noise pollution throughout the watershed. Even with environmental, safety and cost factors aside, studies show the tunnel will never accommodate the pace of traffic congestion and growth. Waterkeeper raised awareness on the issue through our local community forum and by drafting “action letters” stating opposition to the tunnel. Feasibility studies are currently being conducted; results are to be announced summer 2010.

In addition to the tunnel, the Mid-County Parkway (MCP) was also of concern to Waterkeeper. The MCP was proposed as a 32-mile, 6-lane freeway from the SR-79 in Perris to the I-15 at Cajalco Road. Blazing a freeway through the Gavilan Hills Plateau and the Lake Mathews community, the MCP would bisect one of the last vestiges of wildlands in southwest Riverside County and impact multiple conservation areas home to many threatened and endangered species. By collaborating with local community groups, Waterkeeper was successful in contributing to Riverside County Transportation Commission’s decision on July 8th to abandon the western half of the proposed roadway. Waterkeeper is currently still attending all public meetings and providing input in regards to the newly revised plan in order to ensure the least environmentally-harmful option possible.

In an age of overcrowding and horrendous traffic, residents of Orange County and the Inland Empire need a viable and long term approach to the transportation dilemma. Waterkeeper thinks there are two key factors in alternative and forward-thinking attitudes: bring the jobs to where the workers live, and more rapid transit, including light rail between inland Empire and Orange County.



Typical view on Inland Empire congested freeways

Waterkeeper staff attended meetings of the following groups to advocate on behalf of the watershed:

- Middle Santa Ana River pathogen TMDL task force
- Stormwater quality standards task force
- San Jacinto Watershed Council
- Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District
- Santa Ana Watershed Association
- SR-91, I-15, and Mid-County Parkway Freeway expansion projects
- Santa Ana Sucker Conservation Team
- Lake Elsinore San Jacinto Watershed Authority
- Riverside County Water Symposium
- Riverside County Water Task Force
- Preserve The Plateau

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Waterkeeper believes that education is the essential foundation to our overall mission and watershed protection efforts; thus, the ***River KATS: Kid Activism Together with Science*** program was created in 2006. The fundamental goal of River KATS is to introduce local high school students to watershed and ecological concepts with in-class presentations and hands-on field trips **at zero cost to the participating schools**. Waterkeeper has recognized the necessity of educating our teenagers on local water quality and environmental issues in order to assure a healthy tomorrow. The purpose of the River KATS program is to, (1) give preference to the most underserved high schools in the watershed, (2) bring the local watershed and pertinent water quality concepts into the classroom, and (3) take the students into the field for hands-on tours, clean-ups, restoration projects and water sampling. To provide the best possible facilities, equipment, and hands-on experiences, Waterkeeper has cultivated partnerships with public agencies and other non-profits for our various field and in-class activities. We will continue to collaborate with the Santa Ana Watershed Association, Western Municipal Water District, California Department of Fish and Game, and Orange County Water District.



Students at Wastewater Treatment Facility



Student planting natives at wetland

From its inception in 2006, the River KATS program has sponsored 25 classes, reaching approximately 750 local high school students from Riverside and San Bernardino Counties including Corona, Rubidoux, Patriot, Centennial, Ramona, Summit and Norco High Schools. Waterkeeper received a generous \$15,000 grant from Bank of America, enabling River KATS funding for the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 school year. For the 2009-2010 school year, Waterkeeper scheduled nine field trips to venues throughout the Inland Empire. With an increasing number of interested teachers, our goal is to meet the demand and fund 19 additional programs for the entire 2010-2011 term, reaching a total of 44 classes and approximately 1,320 students. The average cost per field trip experience is \$555. Waterkeeper depends on gifts and grants to keep the program running.

Possible field trip options include:

- Prado Wetlands
- Riverside or Corona wastewater treatment plant
- San Jacinto Wildlife Area
- Santa Ana River water sampling
- Eastern Municipal Water District's Sam Jacinto Wetlands
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park
- UCR Botanic Gardens
- Western Municipal Water District's water conservation garden
- Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

VISIT THE
PROJECT WEB
PAGE FOR THE
LATEST FINDINGS
BY GOING TO
OUR HOME PAGE,
THEN CLICK ON:

- > What We Do
 - > Projects
 - > Upper SAR Water Quality

Undertaking our most ambitious sampling project to date, Waterkeeper continued the 14-month *Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Water Quality Assessment* Project throughout 2009. Contracted by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board from July 2008 through June 30, 2010, Waterkeeper collected weekly samples from ten sites in three creeks in the San Bernardino and Cherry Valley area. Four sites on San Timoteo Creek, two sites on City Creek and four sites on Warm/Twin Creek were monitored weekly for *E.coli* bacteria indicators, flow rate, temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, habitat changes, and physical observations (color, odor, clarity). Nine times during the study we collected additional samples for analysis by E. S. Babcock & Sons Environmental Laboratories. They analyzed samples for metals, nutrients, TSS, hardness, COD, PCBs, and pesticides.

A Monitoring Plan, Project Evaluation and Assessment Plan, and Quality Assurance Project Plan were completed and approved by Board staff. Status reports each with its own QA/QC report and a final report containing analyses will be delivered early 2010. The contract will supply the Board and staff with fresh, invaluable data where none existed before to assist in future decisions regarding impairment designations.



Warm/Twin Creek



City Creek



San Timoteo Creek

CLEANING UP CHINO & MILL CREEK

In Waterkeeper's most recent project, we are addressing unsightly scenes of debris, common among the banks of Chino and Mill Creek. Serving the community of Chino, Waterkeeper is currently under contract with Inland Empire Utilities Agency from October 2009 to March 1, 2011 for our **Chino Watershed Debris Removal and Habitat Restoration Project**. Funded through the California Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Waterkeeper will survey, remove and inventory debris from approximately three miles of targeted portions of Mill Creek and Chino Creek. Our aim is to improve water and habitat quality in both streams for the benefit of endangered species, the public and downstream water consumers.



Mill Creek embedded with debris

As water flow occurs year-round, trash generally collects in low-hanging trees and brush along the creek banks, with heavy items lying on the channel bed. Armed with fishing chest-waders, inflatable boats, trash-bins and gloves, Waterkeeper staff and community volunteers will tackle the challenge of cleaning up these local waterways over the next 14 months. Once collected, the waste will be inventoried and characterized to determine what type of trash is most common. Waterkeeper will then attempt to trace the origin upstream in

order to target source control strategies. For example, if plastic bags are identified as a major source, outreach to local stores to develop programs to reduce this source will be initiated.

The project was kicked off in October 2009 with a volunteer cleanup event at Mill Creek. Survey teams began work in December to gain reconnaissance for future debris removal efforts. By utilizing local volunteer groups to remove the trash, Waterkeeper staff aims to engage the community in becoming caretakers of their local water resources.

Programs Director, Autumn DeWoody and Project Manager, Rachael Hamilton commence project with cleanup event



Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State Water Resources Control Board, nor does mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use. (Gov. Code, § 7550, 40 CFR § 31.20.)

OUTREACH IN THE LOCAL COMMUNIT

EARTH DAY!

Waterkeeper participated at four local Earth Day events including: Dos Lagos in Corona, Chino Creek Wetlands in Chino, the Emerald Jubilee in Redlands, and Southern California Edison's celebration in Rosemead.

Why? To spread our message and provide an opportunity to sign petitions, learn about water quality, and join the cause. We provide a watershed diorama to teach children about the hydrologic cycle and the impact of water pollution – “we’re all downstream.”



Demonstrating a watershed diorama

WALK THE RIVER!

Have you ever spent an entire morning walking down the Santa Ana River? Waterkeeper participates every year in the “Riverwalk Habitat Assessment” led by the Santa Ana Watershed Association to get up close and personal with our mighty river. This effort is completely volunteer-driven by participants from local cities, nonprofits, government agencies and scientists. The project goal is to document habitat conditions (sandy or rocky river bottom) for the federally threatened Santa Ana Sucker fish. Knowing how the river bottom changes over space and time helps scientists estimate habitat improvement or loss and relate that to Sucker survival.

Advocacy in Local Projects

Waterkeeper receives requests to provide comments on several local development projects every month. In 2009, we actively voiced our opinion on the following key projects:

- The Villages of Lakeview; master plan community by Lewis Operating Corp. in Lakeview
- Mid-County Parkway; freeway from Perris to Corona by Riverside County Transportation Commission
- Riverside County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit renewal
- San Bernardino County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit renewal
- Soboba Reservation; proposed fee-to-trust Casino/Hotel Project
- Amendments to AB 1570
- Proposed 2008 Integrated Report/303(d) List of Impaired Waters in the Santa Ana Region
- City of Riverside's Tequesquite Park proposal

INVESTIGATIONS & ENFORCEMENT

Urban runoff is a major cause of water pollution in the rivers, lakes, and streams of the Inland Empire. Urban runoff occurs when water flows over or through land, carrying with it all the pollutants it picks up along the way. Our enforcement efforts focus on reducing the amount of water, nutrients, sediment, chemicals, oils and grease, trash and bacteria entering our waterways, thus keeping our surrounding watershed clean and healthy for human and wildlife residents alike.

In spring 2009, Waterkeeper settled with six industrial dischargers located in the City of Corona for violating their pretreatment permits with excessive discharges of heavy metals and other toxics that were illegally authorized by the City. Settlements required dischargers to either comply with their existing pretreatment permit, or stop their discharges altogether, and all defendants had to pay penalties into a supplemental environmental project (SEP) to repair damages done to the watershed.



Point of illegal discharge from scrap yard

In addition, Waterkeeper filed three Notices of Intent to Litigate against three metal scrapyards in Bloomington, Fontana and Ontario for violations of the federal Clean Water Act in the summer of 2009. While one lawsuit was settled, the remaining two are ongoing into 2010. Executive Director Garry Brown proposed collaborating with the leaders of the scrap yard industry in lieu of future lawsuits. Discussions carried forth into 2010.

Unlike other environmental organizations, Waterkeeper does not keep any of the settlement monies. We donate the money for supplemental environmental projects that benefit water-quality projects in our communities.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY WATERKEEPER TO DATE:

- 1. Lake Elsinore Wetland Restoration and Rearing Pond Construction- \$25,000:** *to establish more stands of emergent aquatic vegetation in the back basin of Lake Elsinore that will provide structure and habitat value for a variety of aquatic species*
- 2. Baldwin Lake/Shay Creek Restoration Project - \$25,000:** *to complete the first stage of a plan to remedy habitat loss of the endangered unarmored three-spined stickleback fish.*
- 3. Santa Ana River Recreation Map - \$50,000:** *for the development of a wall map containing the many recreational opportunities located adjacent to the Santa Ana River.*
- 4. Temescal Creek Native Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program - \$140,000:** *to expand Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District's project to augment native fish populations into the Lee Lake Conservation Easement area of Temescal Creek.*
- 5. Orange County/Inland Empire Public Interest Green Fund held at the OC Community Foundation - \$30,000:** *a fund for nonprofit organizations to hire experts when needed to protect watershed resources.*

Waterkeeper's 1st Fundraiser



Waterkeeper hosted our 1st official fundraiser on October 30th at the Dos Lagos Golf Course! We raised over **\$3,500** for our *River KATS: Kid Activism Together with Science* high school watershed education program. The raised funds translated to six field trips and will sustain the program through 2010.

Thank you to our speakers: Garry Brown, Will Harris, Araceli Anguiano and keynote speaker Mr. Gil Navarro of the San Bernardino County Board of Education.

Thank you to our sponsors listed to the right; without their donation of treasure we would not have come close to reaching the goal.

Thank you to the following individuals and companies who donated, without whom we would not be successful:

RA Sushi; TAPS Fish House; Melissa Joy Manning, Inc.; Hangar 24 Craft Brewery; Peace Please; Van Buren Drive-In Theater; Home Details by Diane; 1,000 Words Photography; Barnes & Noble; Water UP; American Eagle Winery and Wine Bar at Canyon Crest; Inland Empire Brewing Co.; Galleano Winery; SE Corporation & the Dos Lagos Golf Course; Hanks Media Services; KVCR TV; Academy of Creative Technologies at Canyon Springs High School; Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District; McGrath's Catering; and Sant Khalsa.



Thank you also to our group of volunteers for donating their time and talents to be sure the event was successful!

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!!



Bank of America



4Granite, Inc.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As a non-profit organization, Waterkeeper depends upon grants and support from the local community in order to continue our efforts. Community volunteers played an essential role in 2009 by assisting Waterkeeper staff with the Temescal Creek field work, and the Chino Watershed Project. In addition to grants, individual donors also helped support Waterkeeper's projects and daily operations.



Volunteers surveying Temescal Creek

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF 2009

Kevin Ott, Patrick Unrein, Melissa Gruner, James Camarillo, Rolando Magana, Kwan Ihn, Joe Kovac, George Gachuhi, Steve Chi, Trisha DiPaola, Lenka Kendall, Linda Dilday, Jeff Grimm, Ken Cast, Ryan Todd, Barry Todd

2009 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Jean Tanner, Don Miller, and Rick Frickmann.

GOALS FOR 2010

- Work with local scrapyards to establish effective industry standards
- Monitor development and transportation projects in the Inland Empire that may detrimentally impact the Santa Ana Watershed.
- Increase our membership levels throughout the Inland Empire.
- Host a 2nd annual fundraiser.
- Continue researching major donors and building business relationships within the watershed.
- Publish an Inland Empire Waterkeeper magazine.
- Expand our education program to reach new schools.
- Complete the *Southland Open Space and Forest Preservation Initiative* and *The Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Water Quality Assessment*

In 2009,
WATERKEEPER
applied for the
following grants,
totaling **\$810,000**:

- The Community Foundation of Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
- Southern California Edison
- Shell U.S.
- Union Bank of California
- Mazda Foundation
- Cornell Douglas Foundation
- StEPP Foundation
- Tom's of Maine
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation
- Coca-Cola Foundation
- Sempra
- 319(h)
- Redwood Creek Wines

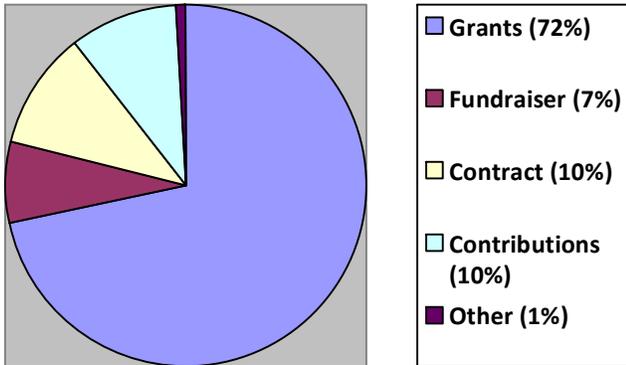
Waterkeeper
received **\$215,000**
in grants and
contracts in 2009.

INLAND EMPIRE WATERKEEPER FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 12/31/2009

ACTUAL 2009	
Tax ID #33-0847892	
REVENUE	
Foundation grants	\$80,000
Contract project	\$11,709.76
Fundraiser	\$8,041
Contributions/Dues	\$10,928.60
Other income (in-kind, interest, reimbursements, etc.)	\$906.35
TOTAL REVENUE	\$111,585.71
PROGRAM EXPENSES	
Administrative/Operating	\$5,814.12
Fundraising/Development	\$6,094.01
Program Services	\$113,670.70
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$125,578.83
NET PROGRAMS, ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT	(\$13,993.12)

**Inland Empire Waterkeeper is a chapter of Orange County Coastkeeper.*

Total Revenue 2009



Expenses 2009

