

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION

Date: December 9, 2016

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies and Interested Parties

Subject: NOP Comment Period Extension

Project: Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program

Lead Agency: Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Extended Review Period: October 28, 2016 through December 31, 2016

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is acting as the lead agency in preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP). SARCCUP is a watershed-scale collaborative program designed to improve the Santa Ana River watershed's water supply resiliency and reliability by increasing available dry-year yield (DYY) from local groundwater basins. SARCCUP also would conserve water, promote water use-efficiency, conduct invasive weed removal, and improve habitat for the Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*), a native, federally-threatened fish species. Five regional water agencies in the Santa Ana River watershed have partnered to develop this program under broad oversight by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority: IEUA, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), Orange County Water District (OCWD), San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD), and Western Municipal Water District (WMWD).

IEUA has received a request to extend the comment period of the Notice of Preparation (NOP). In response to this request, IEUA is granting an extension of the comment period through Friday December 30, 2016.

In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the NOP and provide comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The PEIR will be used by IEUA and the Responsible Agencies when considering approval of SARCCUP.

We request that comments be received no later than Friday, December 30, 2016. Please send your comments to the address shown below. Please include a return address or email address and contact name with your comments.

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