

Watershed & Coastal Resources Division  
Regulatory and Development Management Department

## Watershed & Water Quality Funding



Mary Anne Skorpanich  
County of Orange

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## Topics

- ❖ Watershed Management Areas
- ❖ State of State Bond Funding: the IRWMP World
- ❖ Current Planning and Grant Writing Activities

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## Watershed Management Areas

- ❖ Countywide Water Quality Strategic Plan
- ❖ County, city managers, and later special district general managers
- ❖ Several years under development

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### Current Approach: Accomplishments

- ❖ NPDES Permit Compliance
  - ◆ Few Enforcement Actions
  - ◆ Regional Boards are generally pleased with regional water quality efforts
- ❖ Fewer Beach Postings
- ❖ Higher Levels of Awareness
  - ◆ Public education is a significant investment and an increasingly key part of our program

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### Current Approach: Challenges

- ❖ Various agencies and non-governmental organizations play roles in trying to improve water quality throughout Orange County
- ❖ Municipalities are under special permits, which are pushing us to invent water quality "solutions" as we go, with limited experience and only preliminary data

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### Current Approach: Challenges

- ❖ Millions of dollars are being spent on this approach
- ❖ Unclear as to what is working and what impact our efforts have on the entire system
- ❖ We need an integrated approach and the ability to regionally prioritize

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## Regional Water Quality Vision

- ❖ Project and water quality approach prioritization
- ❖ Stakeholder buy-in
- ❖ Improved water quality and reduced beach postings
- ❖ Sensible and appropriate water quality standards
- ❖ Efficient and coordinated BMP implementation (including water conservation)
- ❖ Stable, dedicated funding source(s)

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## Regional Water Quality Vision

- ❖ Trust and concurrence of the Regional Boards
- ❖ Watershed-scale
- ❖ Implementation of measures for which that is most appropriate
- ❖ Governance structure that people trust and don't see as just more bureaucracy
- ❖ Building these concepts into future permit renewals
- ❖ Regional approach (in partnership with State) to proving up BMP technology

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## How to Govern

- ❖ Three Watershed Management Areas
- ❖ Regional, collaborative governance for each WMA
- ❖ Roles for Elected Officials, agency staff, & public
- ❖ Regionally funded slate of activities
- ❖ System-wide prioritization
- ❖ Fiscal accountability & equity

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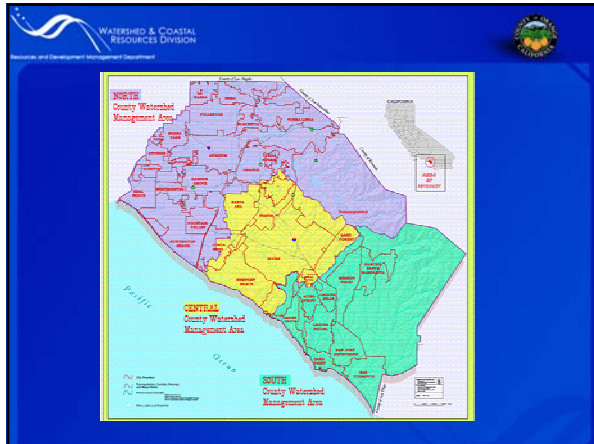
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**The State of State Bond Funds**

- ❖ Lots of grants to award = lots of grant contracts to select, execute, & manage
- ❖ Project-by-project granting may not address large scale issues
- ❖ Decision making in Sacramento may not reflect regional priorities

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**Integrated Regional Water Management Plans**

- ❖ Regions:
  - ◆ define their own boundaries
  - ◆ decide their own governance
  - ◆ determine their own priorities
  - ◆ design their own solutions
- ❖ State:
  - ◆ defines criteria for plans
  - ◆ manages one 'block grant' to a region for multiple agencies, multiple projects

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**Santa Ana River Watershed Project Authority**

- ❖ Plans completed in 2003 and 2005
  - ◆ FoHBP participated
- ❖ Prop 50 - Round I = \$25M for SAWPA member agencies
- ❖ Current plan update "One Water One Watershed"

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**South Orange County WMA**

- ❖ Plan completed May 2006
- ❖ 150 ranked projects
- ❖ Prop 50 - Round I announced Jan. 2007
- ❖ \$25M matching funds for 7 high priority projects

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**Central Orange County WMA**

- ❖ Plan completed August 2007
- ❖ 26 priority A projects; 11 priority B projects
- ❖ Applied for \$10M matching funds for 13 high priority projects
- ❖ Prop 50 - Round II announced Nov. 2007
- ❖ Update underway for Prop. 84 funding

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## North Orange County WMA

- ❖ Planning initiated May 2006
- ❖ Stakeholder meetings continuing
- ❖ Targeting Prop. 84 grant funds in 2008

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## Measure M Extension

- ❖ Two percent of sales tax proceeds for water quality projects in Orange County
- ❖ Based on Watershed Management Area plans
- ❖ Eligible jurisdictions

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The seal of Orange County, California, is circular with a black border. Inside the border, the words "COUNTY OF ORANGE" are written in white at the top and "CALIFORNIA" at the bottom. The center of the seal depicts a landscape with green hills, a blue sky, and several orange fruits hanging from a tree.

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