

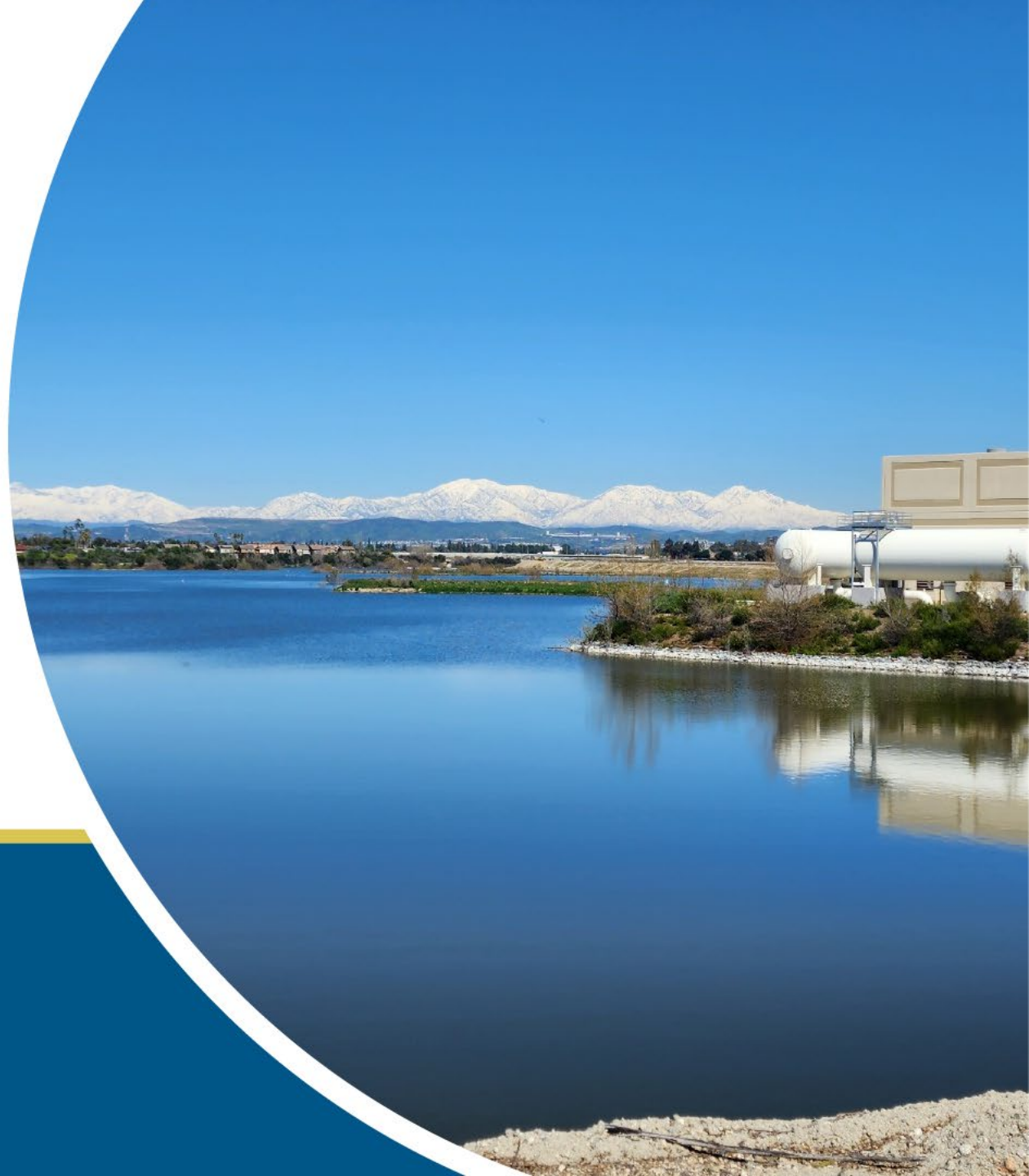


Managed Aquifer Recharge in South Coast Region

*Building on Mature Systems to be Recharge
Ready*

Adam Hutchinson, P.G., C.H.G
Recharge Planning Manager

California Water Commission
September 16, 2026



MAR is a mature practice in the South Coast Region*

- Coachella Valley Water District
- EMWD
- IEUA / Chino Basin
- LA County Public Works
- LADWP
- Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
- Mojave Water Agency
- OCWD
- San Geronio Pass/Beaumont
- SBVMWD
- Six Basins Watermaster
- United Water Conservation District
- WMWD
- WRD

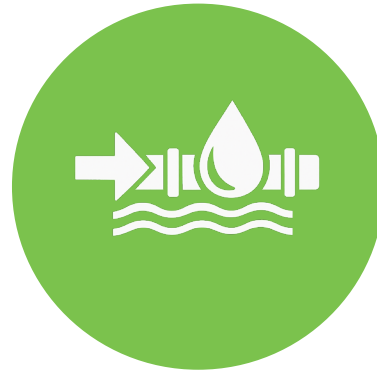
*List of agencies is not comprehensive.



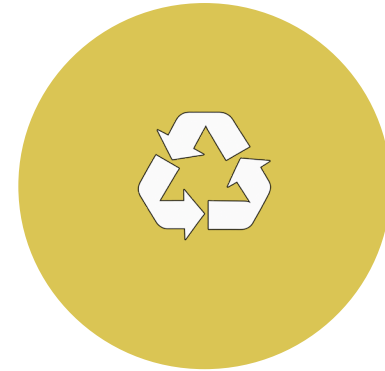
Multi-Source Recharge is a South Coast Strength



**Stormwater
& Flood Flows**



**Imported
Water**

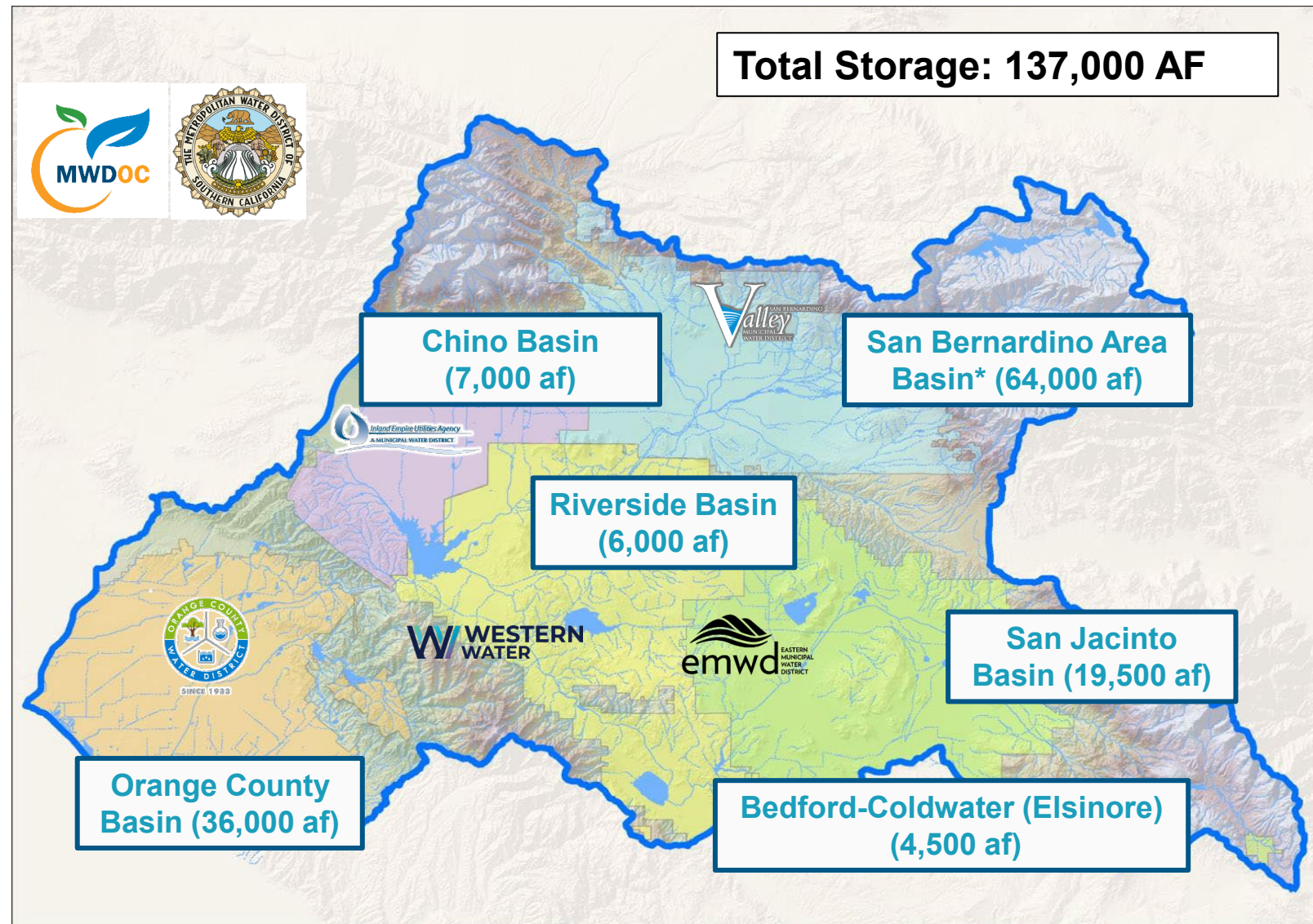


**Recycled
Water**

The Next Opportunity: Watershed-Scale MAR

Example:

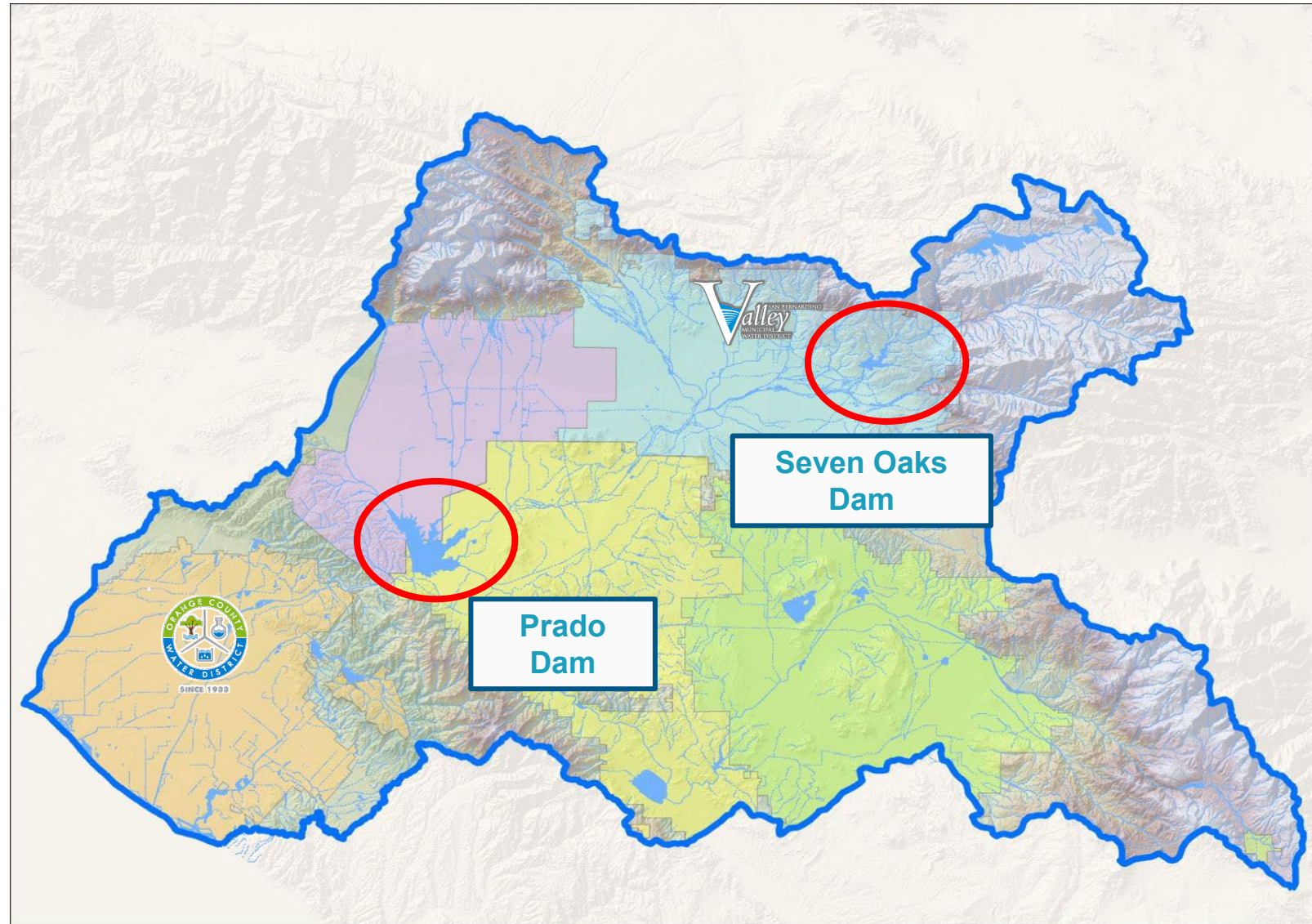
- **Santa Ana River Watershed Conjunctive Use Program**
- Watershed agencies set aside groundwater storage
- Storage used for banking water in wet years for use during dry years
- Existing and new MAR facilities constructed to bank water



The Next Opportunity: Watershed-Scale FIRO

Example:

- **Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO)**
- Seven Oaks and Prado Dams on Santa Ana River
- Temporarily store stormwater for recharge
- Maintain flood-risk management objectives
- Enhance water supply and habitat



Be “Recharge Ready” Before the Wet Year

- Wet-year opportunities are episodic and difficult to predict
- Prepare during the dry years
- Have everything in place:

**Permitting
& CEQA**

**Infrastructure &
Capacity**

**Environmental
Compliance**

**Operations &
Maintenance**

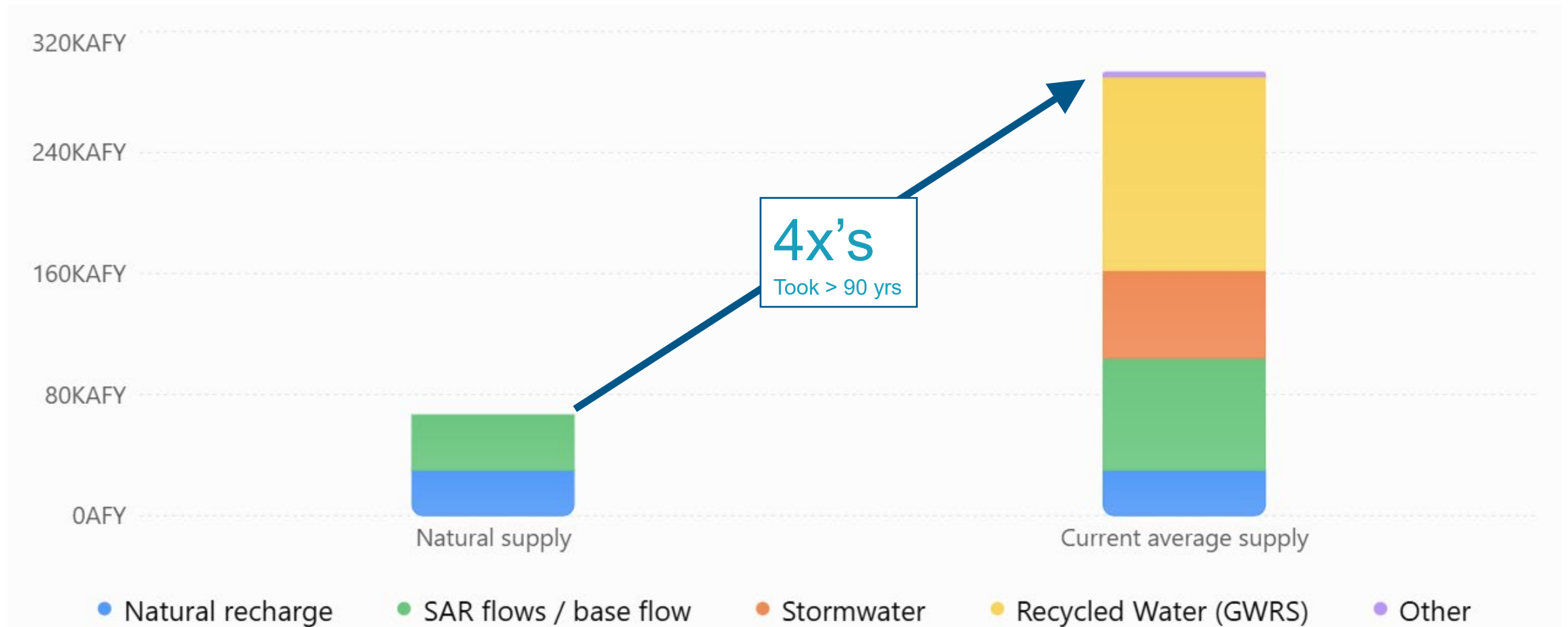
**Water Rights
& Accounting**

Funding

Interagency Agreements



MAR increased the sustainable yield of the Orange County Basin more than 4x's



Natural supply: 66,500 AFY • Current average supply: 293,000 AFY

*We can't control when the water comes,
but we can control whether we're ready to capture it.*



Thank You!

Adam Hutchinson, P.G., C.H.G
Recharge Planning Manager
Orange County Water District
ahutchinson@ocwd.com



Stay informed

ocwd.com
(714) 378-3200

18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

@OCWaterDistrict
[f](#) [i](#) [in](#) [@](#) [d](#) [X](#) [v](#)