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6 ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of State Water Resources Control) Application No. 31174
Board Hearing on Water Rights Applications)
31165 and 31370 of San Bernardino Valley)
Municipal Water District and Western) DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CARL R.
Municipal Water District of Riverside County;) NELSON, ON BEHALF OF
Application 31174 of Orange County Water) ORANGE COUNTY WATER
District; Application 31369 of Chino Basin) DISTRICT FOR WATER RIGHTS
Watermaster; Application 31371 of San) APPLICATION 31174
Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District;)
and Application 31372 and Waste Water) Date: May 2, 2007
Change Petition WW-0045 of the City of) Time: 9:00 a.m.
Riverside.) Location: Cal EPA Building
) Coastal Hearing Room
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DECLARATION OF CARL R. NELSON

I, Carl R. Nelson, declare and state as follows:

BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS.

1. I am the former director of the Orange County Department of Public Works and a former engineer for the Orange County Flood Control District (“OCFCD”). I now serve as a civil engineering consultant. I make this declaration as my direct testimony for the State Water Resources Control Board Hearing to Consider Water Right Application 31174 of Orange County Water District (“OCWD”). This Declaration is Exhibit OCWD 2-

1. The information contained in this declaration is based upon my personal knowledge and information gained through my involvement with the Santa Ana River through 47 years of employment with the OCFCD, the Orange County Department of Public Works, and the Orange County Sanitation District. The intent of this Declaration is to explain the highly modified nature and characteristics of the Santa Ana River as a result of flood control engineering by OCFCD, upstream flood control districts, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“Corps”) based on my experience.

2. Beginning in 1960, I was employed by OCFCD as a staff engineer for 14 years, then ascending to a 14 year period as Orange County’s Director of Public Works. As OCFCD’s Planning Division Engineer, early in the days of flood control work on the Santa Ana River, in 1964 I co-authored a report entitled “An Investigation of Flood Control and Water Conservation Deficiencies. Within Orange County, California.” That publication led to a February 10, 1965 public hearing by the Corps’ regarding a “Review of the Santa Ana River Basin and Orange County, California,” a federal flood control project first authorized by Congress in 1936. At that hearing I presented the OCFCD request for federal construction funds for the Santa Ana River and other countywide needs. From that time forward, I was the principal OCFCD liaison with the Corps and upriver counties until 1989. During that time, I had increasing levels of responsibility, including supervising Santa Ana River maintenance operations, and coordinating with the Corps’ on Prado Dam flood

1 control discharges. In that capacity I directed the design of Santa Ana River improvements
2 from the mouth of Santa Ana Canyon to the ocean, and met regularly with Corps engineers
3 as they prepared the 1975 "Review Report on the Santa Ana River". From 1977 to 1989, I
4 also represented the Orange County Board of Supervisors in hearings before the California
5 Water Commission and Congressional Committees regarding the Santa Ana River
6 Mainstem Project.¹

7 3. In order to perform my function at OCFCD I became a serious student of the
8 Santa Ana River's modern history as summarized below. I have personally worked with
9 staff and management of the OCFCD, the Corps, and OCWD to construct this history,
10 either as an employee or as a consultant, from 1962 to the present time.

11 4. A resume of my education and experience is Exhibit OCWD 2-2.

12 INTRODUCTION TO AGENCIES INVOLVED IN FLOOD CONTROL.

13 5. The availability of water from the Santa Ana River has played a key role in
14 the development of Southern California, in particular Orange County. But, along with the
15 water's benefits, comes a significant threat of flood. That threat has been controlled by the
16 cooperative actions of OCFCD and the Corps with the incidental benefit of improving
17 water conservation through cooperation with the OCWD.

18 6. Orange County Flood Control District. The flood of 1916 led the State
19 Legislature, in 1927, to create the Orange County Flood Control District with the authority
20 and power to issue bonds and levy taxes for the purposes of protecting property by the
21 control and conservation of flood and storm waters. Planning was undertaken for a
22 countrywide program of flood control improvements. Since formation, OCFCD's largest
23 concern has been with the Santa Ana River's infrequent, but devastating floods across the
24 coastal plain where no incised watercourse existed.

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26

27 ¹ Among the Mainstem Project's key features are the Seven Oaks Dam, Prado Dam and the
28 Lower Santa Ana River reconstruction.

1 7. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Coping with the national peacetime
2 emergency of the depression, the Congress of the United States named the U.S. Army's
3 Corps of Engineers as the organization responsible for a nationwide flood control effort.
4 Prior to that time, the work of the Corps had been primarily military construction and
5 coastal harbors improvements. In 1936, Congress authorized the "Santa Ana River Basin
6 and Orange County, California" project, which included most of the program previously
7 planned by OCFCD. The federal legislation established a strict hierarchy for justification
8 of Congressional project funding. To qualify, a project would need a local sponsor (such as
9 OCFCD) capable of providing the land, easements, rights of way and relocations
10 ("LERDS") necessary for construction. Before qualifying, a Corps study would be required
11 to show that a project's benefits would exceed the estimated costs of flood damages.
12 Qualifying projects could be considered for inclusion in the annual budget to be approved
13 by Congress. The Corps' Santa Ana River studies were greatly accelerated by the Great
14 Flood of 1938, and Congress acted quickly to appropriate funds for construction of Prado
15 Dam. The Dam, located east of the Orange/Riverside County boundary, was completed in
16 1941 and is further described below.

17 SANTA ANA RIVER WATERSHED CLIMATOLOGY.

18 8. Paramount to understanding the nature of the Santa Ana River is the
19 climatology of the watershed. The Santa Ana River is the largest Southern California
20 stream south of the Santa Clara River. Rising on the ridges of the San Gabriel and San
21 Bernardino Mountains to the northeast, the Chino Hills to the west and the Santa Ana
22 Mountains to the east, the upper Santa Ana River Watershed of 1,490 square miles
23 converges at the head of Santa Ana Canyon before entering Orange County. Historically,
24 the river meandered for approximately 11 miles through this narrow canyon before
25 emerging upon a broad alluvial plain (or "wash") and then, only during exceptionally
26 intense storm periods continuing another 24 miles to an ocean entry at Newport Beach.
27 Exhibit OCWD 2-3 is a Watershed Map of the Santa Ana River prepared by the Corps.

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1 9. The climate of Southern California is semi-arid with widely varying rainfall
2 amounts, annually averaging as much as 30-40 inches or more in the mountains above
3 5,000 feet and as little as 10-12 inches at coastal locations. Seldom is there an “average”
4 rainfall year. More commonly, there are a series of dry years followed by a year of
5 exceptional winter storms causing flood damages to unwary occupants of the River
6 floodplain. A constant of Southern California climate is the fact that drought is an every
7 year occurrence. Long-term records show that little or no rainfall occurs between May and
8 October.

9 BRIEF HISTORY OF USAGE OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER.

10 10. In 1857, Surveyor George Hansen laid out a tract of 1165 acres within
11 Rancho San Juan y Cajon de Santa Ana for the original “Anaheim Colony”. The Los
12 Angeles Vineyard Society purchased the land along with a right of way for a ditch and
13 rights to enough water from the River for irrigation of the tract. The Anaheim Water
14 Company was incorporated in 1859, and was the first duly organized irrigation company in
15 the State of California. On January 9, 1884 the Anaheim Union Water Company
16 (“AUWCO”) was incorporated for the purpose of consolidating the Anaheim Water
17 Company with several other ditch companies to finance improvements to the original canal
18 system and perfect water rights for service to an expanded area of water service. Exhibit
19 OCWD 2-4 is a map showing Santa Ana River Irrigation Systems in approximately 1857-
20 89, an excerpt from the WPA’s Orange County History project, which I obtained from First
21 American Title Company. Exhibit OCWD 2-5 is a photograph of the AUWCO diversion
22 site in the 1890s, which I obtained via internet from the Anaheim Public Library.

23 11. In about 1870-71, along the south side of the river, several entrepreneurs
24 acquired land from the former Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana and improved the former
25 rancho ditches. In 1873 they formed the Semi-Tropic Water Company which was later
26 incorporated into the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company. Exhibit OCWD 2-6 is a
27 photograph showing the Santa Ana Valley Headgate, which is a personal photograph I took
28

1 on a vocational outing in 1965. Similarly, Exhibit OCWD 2-7 is a photograph I took on the
2 same outing, showing Anaheim Union's diversion site. Exhibits OCWD 2-6 and OCWD 2-
3 7 illustrate the small dry weather flow available prior to the Corp's 1969 closure of the
4 formerly ungated openings of Prado Dam.

5 12. With increasing quantities of water needed to expand their irrigation service
6 areas and to reduce water losses by infiltration, by the late 1870s, Anaheim Union and
7 Santa Ana Valley had extended their respective diversion headworks upstream into Santa
8 Ana Canyon and began lining their ditches with concrete. By about 1877 the base flow of
9 the river in Santa Ana Canyon had been so depleted by upstream appropriations and
10 downstream competing interests that the companies were embroiled in legal arguments over
11 water. These disputes culminated in a formal agreement in 1899 that the two companies
12 would share equally in the available flow of water. Their further litigation against water
13 users in Riverside and San Bernardino counties extended well into the twentieth century.

14 13. During the summer months irrigation needs exceeded supply in the Santa
15 Ana Canyon. In contrast, large winter floods (for example in 1862 and 1884) occasionally
16 devastated the companies' diversion works requiring their reconstruction before the ensuing
17 irrigation season. Nonetheless, the area prospered and in 1889 the County of Orange was
18 de-annexed from Los Angeles County, and a separate county government was formed. By
19 1900, census records show the population of the new County had reached almost 20,000
20 persons.

21 KEY EVENTS IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER.

22 14. The Santa Ana River historically has been plagued with periodic intense
23 storm events. In the past 150 years since the founding of the Anaheim colony, rainfall and
24 runoff records show only 15 years when exceptionally large flood flows occurred on the
25 lower Santa Ana River in Orange County; i.e., 1862, 1884, 1907, 1916, 1927, 1938, 1969,
26 1978, 1980, 1983, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1998 and 2005. These data are graphically depicted in
27 Exhibit OCWD 2-8, which is a copy of a chart I obtained from the Orange County's annual
28

1 Hydrologic Data Report. What follows is a discussion of some of the key flood control
2 events which shaped the Santa Ana River watershed as it is today.

3 15. Simplistically, there are two significant variables affecting the peak flow of
4 runoff during winter storms. The first is the seasonal cycle of rainfall intensity and
5 duration. The second is the porosity of the watershed surface. Although farming once
6 prevailed across the valley floor of western Riverside and San Bernardino, the area is
7 rapidly urbanizing. For example, since 1961, the populations of Riverside and San
8 Bernardino counties combined have grown from 800,000 to more than 3,500,000. Hence, it
9 is no surprise when reviewing the 150 year list of flood years above to see the following
10 comparisons:

- 11 • In the first 100 years from 1857 to 1957 there were 5 significant flood years.
- 12 • In the latter 50 years there were 10 significant flood years.

13 16. Formation of the Orange County Flood Control District. In 1916 the Santa
14 Ana River faced an extreme flood event, which produced a peak flow of 45,000 cubic feet
15 per second, ravaging the farmlands, railroads (Exhibit OCWD 2-9) and the small towns of
16 Santa Ana, Orange and Anaheim. The significant damages and loss of life resulting from
17 the flood stimulated the County Board of Supervisors to employ the prominent Civil
18 Engineer, J.B. Lippincott to investigate the means for controlling floods and conserving
19 water to reduce overdraft of the underground water table. Lippincott recommended
20 construction of a flood control and water conservation dam on the Santa Ana River at the
21 farming community of Rincon (commonly known as Prado) east of Santa Ana Canyon.
22 The Lippincott report also recommended acquisition of 1,000 acres of wash lands in the
23 Anaheim area for spreading waters released from the dam at controlled rates to replenish
24 the underground basin of central Orange County.

25 17. The State Legislature responded to the Lippincott report by forming the
26 Orange County Flood Control District in 1927. The district's boundaries are co-terminus
27 with the county's boundaries, and the County Board of Supervisors is ex-officio the board
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1 of directors of the Flood Control District. The OCFCD's legislative mandate gives it these
2 powers:

3 "To provide for the control of the flood and storm waters of said district, and
4 the flood and storm waters of streams that have their source outside of said
5 district, but which streams and the flood waters thereof, flow into said
6 district and to conserve such waters for beneficial and useful purposes by
7 spreading, storing, retaining and causing to percolate into the soil within said
8 district, or without said district, such waters, or to save or conserve in any
9 manner all or any of such waters and protect from damage from such flood
10 or storm waters, the harbors, waterways, public highways and the property in
11 such district."

12 18. Between roughly 1929 and 1933, OCFCD undertook various attempts to
13 finance flood control and water conservation projects, including a dam and reservoir on the
14 Santa Ana River within Santa Ana Canyon.

15 19. Formation of the Orange County Water District. In 1933, faced with
16 shrinking base flow in the Santa Ana River due to upriver diversions, ever lower water
17 tables due to basin overdraft and increasing costs of groundwater pumping, the State
18 Legislature formed OCWD. OCWD's legislative charter includes management and
19 protection of the underground basin, and conservation and reclamation of surface waters for
20 groundwater replenishment. OCWD's early efforts were concentrated on litigation to limit
21 over-prescription of water rights by upriver diversions. OCWD supported the OCFCD's
22 pursuit of Prado Dam construction in order to reduce peak discharges and release of post-
23 flood storage at rates practicable of conservation in Anaheim area spreading grounds.

24 20. The Federal Program of 1936. The Federal Flood Control Act of June 22,
25 1936 authorized a program entitled the "Santa Ana River Basin (and Orange County),
26 California" Project which included the list of projects formerly proposed by OCFCD in
27 1929 which were rejected by voters. The program would be implemented by the Corps, but
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1 required local participation by acquiring land, easements, and rights of way for reservoirs.
2 In 1937 voters approved the issuance of \$2,500,000 in bonds for local participation, and the
3 Corps began preliminary engineering studies that would be returned to Congress for
4 consideration of federal appropriations for construction.

5 21. The "Flood of the Century". Before the Corps' engineering reports
6 (pursuant to the 1936 Federal Flood Control Act) could be completed, on March 2, 1938, an
7 intense winter storm covering Southern California climaxed with a devastating flood peak
8 of 100,000 cubic feet per second passing through Santa Ana Canyon and then spreading
9 across central Orange County from Orange to Seal Beach. Municipal and private property
10 damages were estimated in the millions, 45 lives were lost and most regional highways,
11 bridges and rail transportation facilities were destroyed. Exhibit OCWD 2-10 is a
12 photograph of the 1938 Flood, showing the River's breakout across the orange groves of
13 Anaheim and Orange downstream from Olive-Orange Road (now Lincoln Avenue), which I
14 obtained from the OCFCD Library.

15 22. The severity of the 1938 flood damages accelerated the Corps' work. By
16 1939 its "Survey Report for the Santa Ana River" was completed and Congress
17 appropriated the funds necessary for the design and construction of Prado Dam. Reservoir
18 lands were acquired, the farming community of Rincon was eliminated, and the Santa Fe
19 Railroad was relocated out of the reservoir area. Prado Dam was completed in 1941, along
20 with smaller flood control dams on Brea Creek and Fullerton Creek to the west of Santa
21 Ana Canyon. Exhibit OCWD 2-11 is a photograph of Prado Dam taken in the 1980s during
22 the Corps' planning for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project described below.

23 23. Prado Dam significantly reduced the damaging effects of subsequent
24 downstream flood flows. Then, following World War II, Orange County experienced great
25 urban growth. Local flooding in 1952 led the Orange County Grand Jury to recommend a
26 major plan of flood control which was then prepared by the OCFCD to cope with urban
27 growth.

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1 24. The 1956 Flood Control Bond Program. In 1956, voters approved financing
2 for the construction of 70 projects that would provide a countywide network of projects
3 providing flood protection for the impending urbanization of the county. For example,
4 bond funds were used for levee improvements to the lower Santa Ana River Channel as
5 shown in Exhibit OCWD 2-12, for containment of controlled releases from Prado Dam and
6 downstream tributaries. Other examples include Carbon Canyon Diversion Channel,
7 Carbon Creek, San Diego Creek and San Juan Creek. Exhibit 2-13 shows Villa Park Dam
8 on Santiago Creek, which reduces peak flow to the Santa Ana River and was constructed
9 with bond funds without waiting for federal assistance.

10 25. By 1962 most of the bond projects had been completed. OCFCD requested
11 Congress to authorize a restudy of the 1936 Santa Ana River Basin to determine if
12 additional flood control improvements might be eligible for federal funding. In 1964 a
13 report entitled “An Investigation of Flood Control and Water Conservation Deficiencies in
14 Orange County, California”, which I co-authored, was submitted to OCFCD’s Board of
15 Supervisors indicating a need for additional funding to keep pace with the unanticipated
16 rate of development and population growth.

17 26. Revenues from the rapidly growing property tax base enabled the OCFCD to
18 improve the sand-bottom Santa Ana River channel with revetted levees in critically
19 vulnerable locations from Imperial Highway to the ocean. Exhibit OCWD 2-14 is an aerial
20 view showing the dual channelization constructed as a joint project of OCFCD and OCWD
21 in the same location as the 1938 flood scene depicted in Exhibit OCWD 2-10. Several new
22 highway bridges were constructed. Concurrently OCWD acquired off-channel basins in the
23 Anaheim forebay area, increasing its diversion capacity. Exhibit OCWD 2-15 is a 1993
24 aerial view of OCWD’s water spreading operations on the dual channel and off-channel
25 basins. During dry fall seasons the riverbed from Imperial Highway to Ball Road is also
26 used for groundwater replenishment with imported water purchased (when available) from
27 the Metropolitan Water District.

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1 27. Prado Dam Operations. The Prado Dam and reservoir was designed in 1940
2 for incoming peak flow of 190,000 cubic feet per second with a 4-day volume of 275,000
3 acre-feet. At the time, it was thought this would control a flood having a recurrence
4 interval of 200 years. To achieve this control, the gates were designed for a controlled
5 release of 9,300 cubic feet per second. Presumably this would minimize flood damages en
6 route through Santa Ana Canyon and across the alluvial plain to the ocean.

7 28. To avoid interference with upper and lower water rights holders, the dam
8 was designed with two ungated openings whereby floodwaters temporarily detained in the
9 reservoir during flood would freely empty during the receding hydrograph. The practical
10 effect was that the maximum discharge from Prado Dam from 1941 until 1969 never
11 exceeded 2,000 cubic feet per second through the ungated openings. In 1969 there were
12 two large volume storms each of which raised reservoir water levels to unprecedented
13 elevations which require gated releases from the dam, in addition to the ungated flow
14 described above. However, when the discharge rate reached 5,000 cubic feet per second,
15 erosion damages began to occur to downstream agricultural operations and private water
16 facilities in Santa Ana Canyon above Imperial Highway. Downstream from Imperial, the
17 facilities of OCFCD and OCWD also experienced damaging erosion. Although the
18 predetermined gate schedule of the Corps should have required opening to the maximum of
19 9,300 cubic feet per second, coordination with OCFCD and OCWD, and favorable weather
20 forecasts, enabled the Corps to moderate the gate settings and allow abnormally high water
21 levels to accumulate in the reservoir while minimizing downstream damages.

22 29. Reservoir drawdown extended well into the dry season with extraordinary
23 benefits to OCWD's groundwater replenishment program. Also, in 1969, the long-time
24 litigation between OCWD and upriver water interests was settled, and a watermaster was
25 appointed, thus guaranteeing a minimum base flow passing Prado Dam annually. This
26 enabled the Corps and OCFCD to agree to close Prado's ungated opening. The closure has
27 much improved use of the Prado's debris pool for post-flood water conservation storage.

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1 Now, written agreements between the Corps and OCWD have established the coordination
2 of gated releases so as to correlate with management of spreading grounds infiltration
3 capacity.

4 30. Until 2005, the Corps continued to operate Prado Dam so as to limit gated
5 discharges to 5,000 cubic feet per second while the channel to the ocean was under
6 reconstruction as part of the Santa Ana Mainstem Project, described below. In January
7 2005, however, the Corps' reconstruction of Prado Dam embankment created a situation
8 compounded by another exceptional storm event. During this event, rather than letting the
9 reservoir water rise even higher than in 1969, it was necessary to release the maximum
10 design rate of nearly 10,000 cubic feet per second. Although this disrupted construction at
11 Prado Dam it caused no damage to the recently completed channel from Weir Canyon to
12 the ocean. However, once again, utilities and highways in Santa Ana Canyon habitat area
13 were threatened with damaging erosion.

14 31. The Santa Ana River Mainstem Project. As a consequence of the large flood
15 damage experiences of 1969, the Corps re-examined the hydrology of Prado Dam and the
16 rate of tributary watershed urbanization. By 1971, Corps studies recognized that Prado
17 Dam was not providing Orange County with flood protection from extreme events. By that
18 time, Orange County's population had reached more than a million persons in the Santa
19 Ana River floodplain. A 100 year storm event would result in uncontrolled spillway flow
20 from the dam, perhaps more devastating than the "Flood of the Century" in 1938. By the
21 time the Corps' Survey Report was submitted to Congress in 1975, the River was deemed
22 the worst flood threat in the United States west of the Mississippi. The recommended
23 solution was named the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project.

24 32. The three-county project includes the following features: Seven Oaks Dam
25 at the base of the San Bernardino mountains (OCWD Exhibit 2-16), and San Timoteo
26 Creek in San Bernardino County; raising Prado Dam to increase flood storage;
27 reconstruction of outlet gates for larger discharge; the Oak Street Drain in Riverside
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1 County; preservation of 1500 acres of natural habitat in Santa Ana Canyon; Channelization
2 of Santiago Creek; and reconstruction of the entire Santa Ana River Channel (Exhibit
3 OCWD 2-17) for increased capacity from Weir Canyon Road to the ocean in Orange
4 County. A lynch-pin in the federal approval process is the three-county Local Cooperation
5 Agreement signed by the Counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino with the Corps
6 of Engineers. The Mainstem Project was approved by Congress in 1988 and appropriations
7 were commenced in 1989.

8 33. The Santa Ana River Mainstem Project is nearing completion. The upper
9 Santa Ana River floodplain in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties receives protection
10 from the recently completed Seven Oaks Dam. When Prado Dam construction is
11 completed, the threat of uncontrolled spillway discharge will be mitigated and the
12 maximum design discharge will be limited to 30,000 cubic feet per second. However, the
13 habitat conservation area within Santa Ana Canyon remains subject to erosive flows from
14 Prado Dam, and the Corps and OCFCD are planning embankment revetment to protect the
15 Riverside Freeway and realignment of the Santa Ana River Interceptor Sewer Line. The
16 lower Santa Ana River Channel improvements (Exhibit OCWD 2-18) through Orange
17 County have been completed with a carrying capacity of up to 50,000 cubic feet per second,
18 including the Prado discharge and local tributaries. Agreements are in place for optimizing
19 conservation of post-storm discharges from the debris pool at Prado Dam. Flood channel
20 improvements and rubber dams (Exhibit OCWD 2-19) are in place affording capacity for
21 increased diversion to off-channel basins by OCWD.

22 34. When completed in 2008, the new Prado Dam reservoir will have storage
23 capacity for approximately 360,000 acre-feet. The Corps and OCWD have a written
24 agreement for a conservation pool affording post-flood releases of water at rates equaling
25 spreading ground infiltration capacity. The lower Santa Ana River Channel reconstruction
26 has been completed (OCWD Exhibit 2-20) to safely convey discharge up to 50,000 cubic
27 feet per second to the ocean, including tributaries downstream from Prado. Ultimately, the
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1 Santa Ana Mainstem project will ensure that Orange County's flood protection is restored
2 to the 200 year protection level anticipated in 1941.

3 INCIDENTAL TO FLOOD CONTROL, WATER CONSERVATION HAS BEEN
4 IMPROVED.

5 35. As mentioned above, rights to the base flow of the river in Santa Ana
6 Canyon were adjudicated in 1884 with the two companies, Anaheim Union and Santa Ana
7 Valley, each entitled to half the available flow. Nonetheless, satisfying their expanded
8 areas of service required some off-channel storage of winter runoff, and further
9 augmentation with groundwater pumping. At their zenith, the two companies served an
10 area of approximately 32,000 acres, solely for agricultural irrigation. Paralleling urban
11 growth and the need for flood control facilities, the demands for irrigation water in the
12 1950s declined and municipal water and sewer services superceded agricultural water use.
13 OCWD acquired the two companies' Santa Ana River pre-1914 and permitted entitlements
14 and the water is now utilized for groundwater replenishment, as shown in Exhibit OCWD
15 2-15.

16 36. The Corps and OCWD, by written agreements, have resolved environmental
17 issues and established a cooperative basis for integrating Prado's debris pool with
18 springtime storage and release of water for groundwater replenishment.

19 37. The coordinated operations at Prado Dam, described above, have enhanced
20 storm runoff conservation opportunities, enabling OCWD to significantly expand its water
21 spreading operations during the past 50 years.

22 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION.

23 38. Over the past 70 years of progressive flood control modifications, the Santa
24 Ana River has changed from a natural, meandering, flood-prone alluvial wash to a well-
25 regulated but generally non-natural river. The primary projects, from the headwaters to the
26 Pacific Ocean are:

- 27 • Seven Oaks Dam in the San Bernardino Mountains;

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