

# Water Conservation at Prado Dam

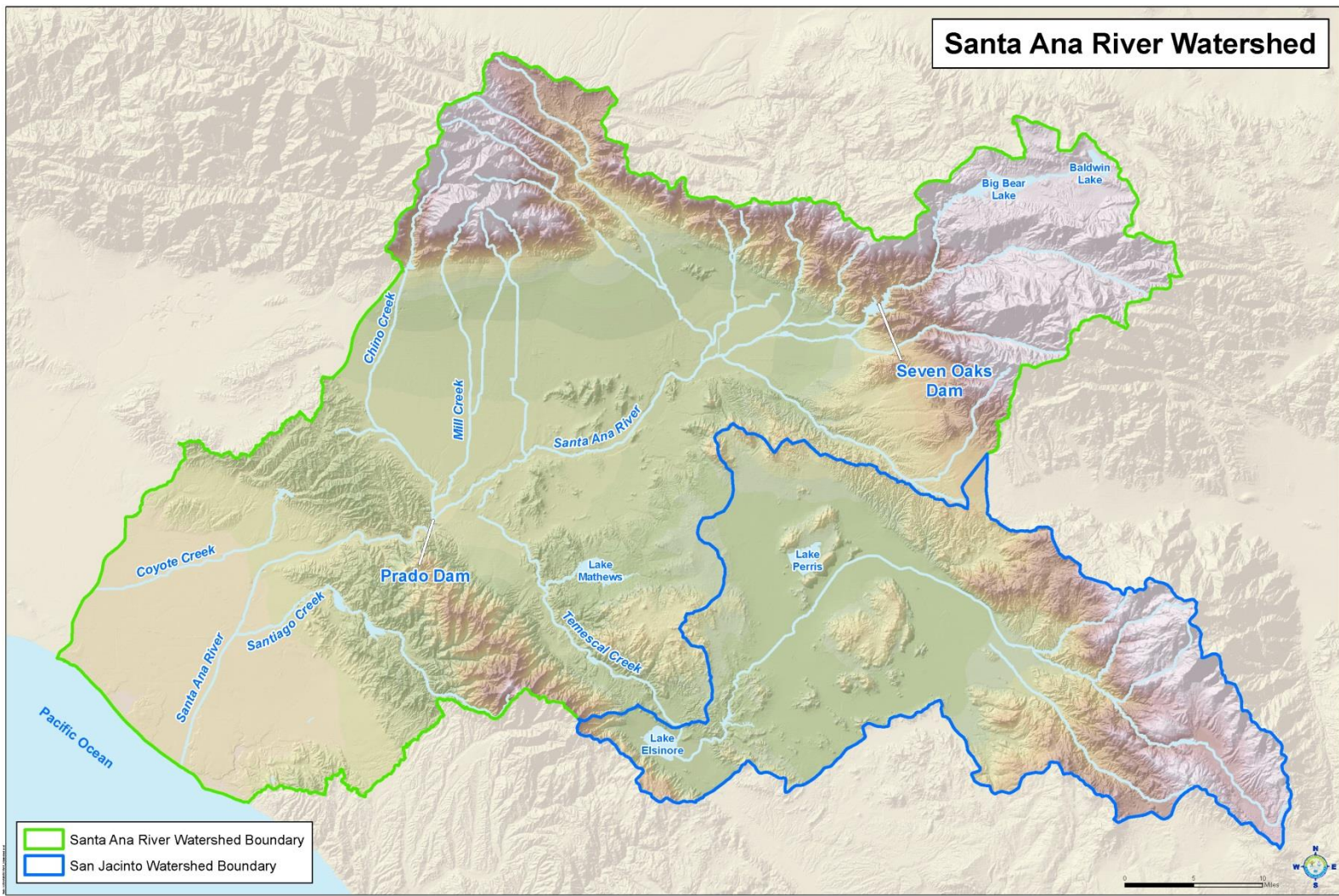
## Seasonal Forecasting Workshop


May 17, 2017



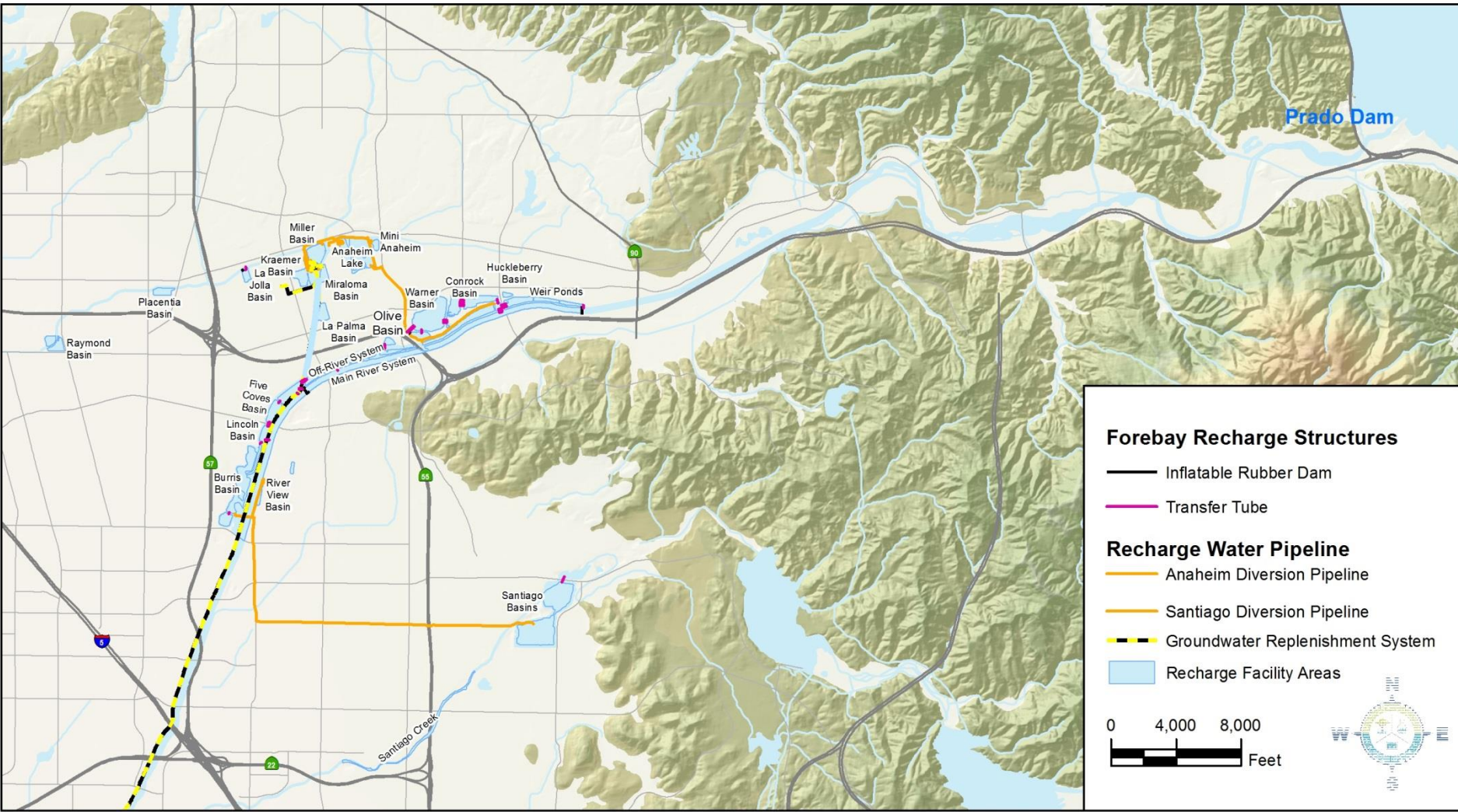
Photo  
courtesy of  
Chris Jones,  
USACE  
(1-17-2017)

# Santa Ana River Watershed





-  Santa Ana River Watershed Boundary
-  San Jacinto Watershed Boundary









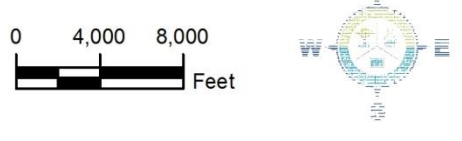
**Forebay Recharge Structures**

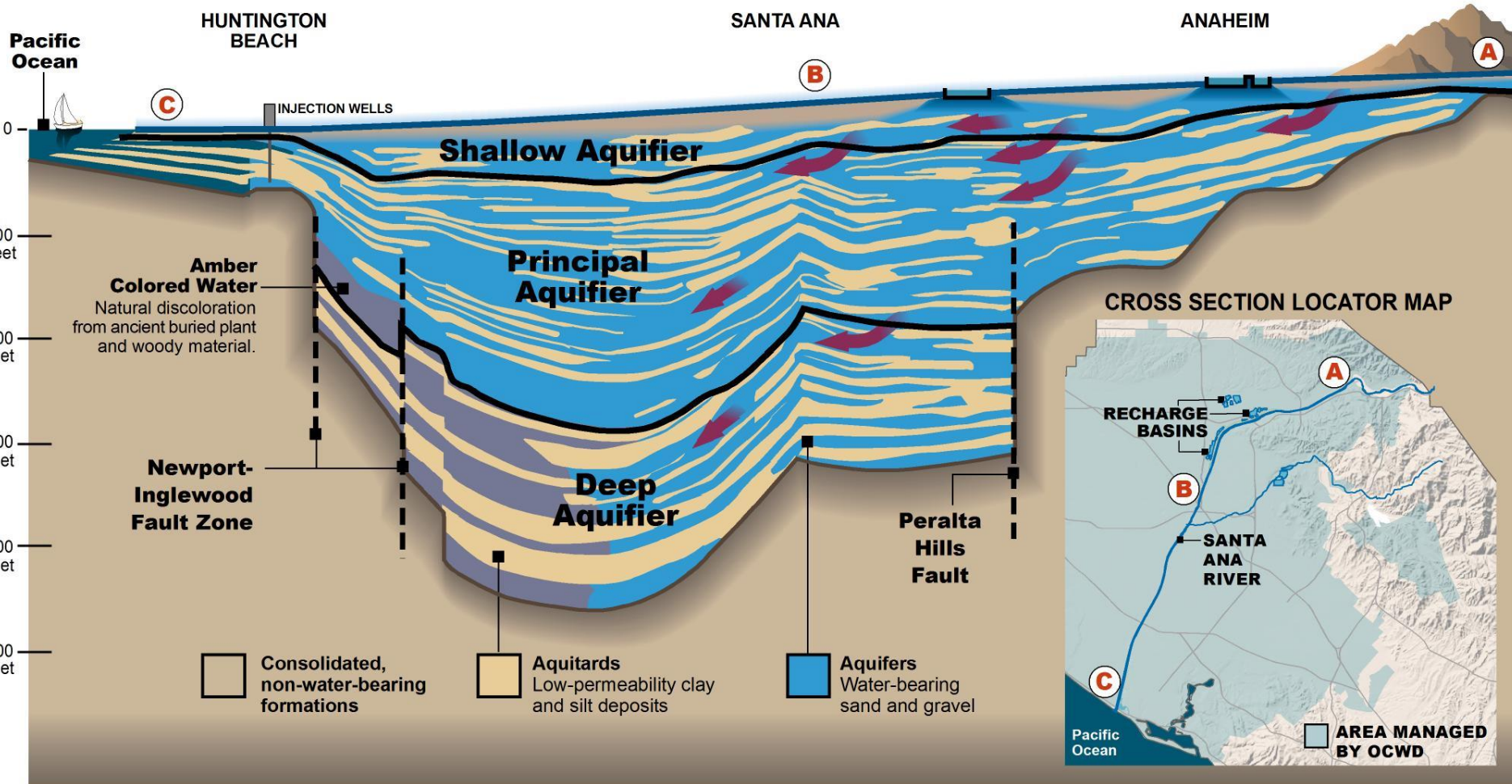
-  Inflatable Rubber Dam
-  Transfer Tube

**Recharge Water Pipeline**

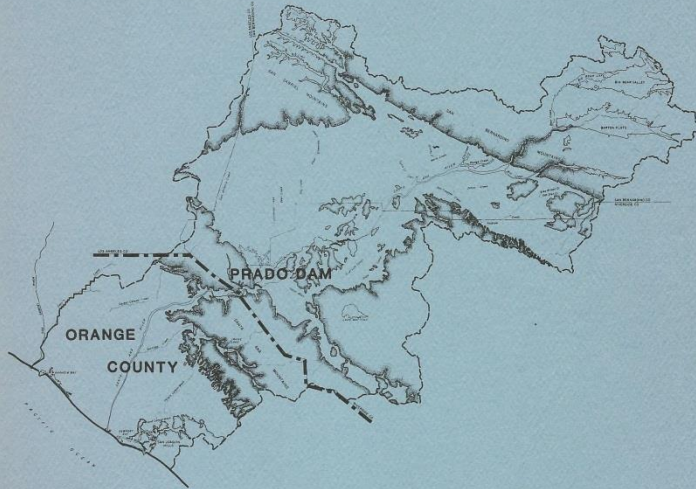
-  Anaheim Diversion Pipeline
-  Santiago Diversion Pipeline
-  Groundwater Replenishment System
-  Recharge Facility Areas

0 4,000 8,000 Feet





# PRADO DAM WATER CONSERVATION STUDY



Prepared For  
**Orange County Water District**

**Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.**

October 1985



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Los Angeles District

Prado Dam Water  
Conservation Study



## RECONNAISSANCE REPORT FOR THE OPERATION OF PRADO DAM FOR WATER CONSERVATION

DRAFT REPORT AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
OCTOBER 1990

Santa Ana River Basin, CA

RECEIVED

NOV 5 1990

CITY OF ORANGE  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS



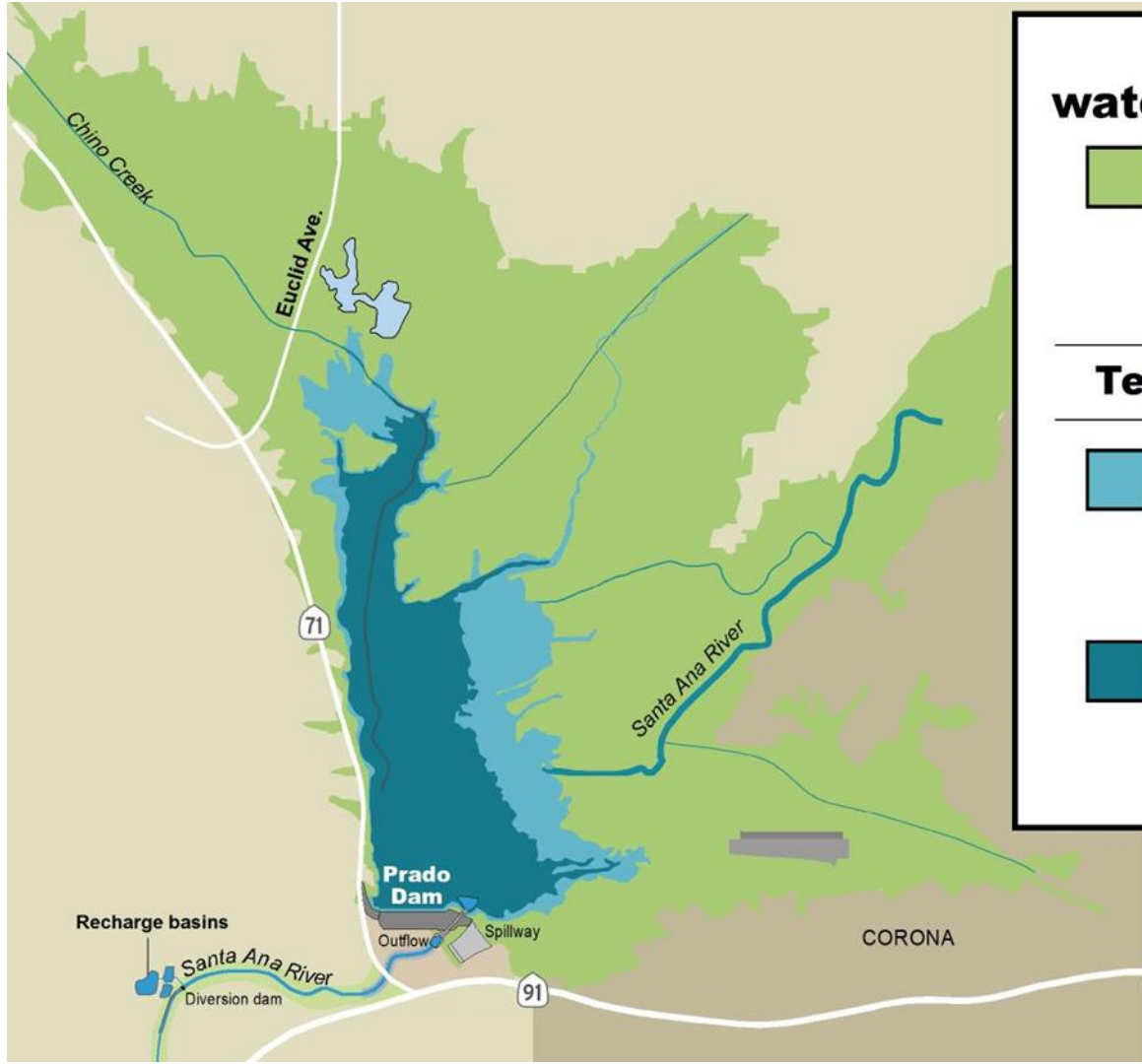
# Summary of Prado Water Conservation through Time

| Year   | Flood Season | Non-Flood Season |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| 1969 revision to reservoir regulation schedule |              | 490 ft           |
| 1990 update to water control manual            |              | 494 ft           |
| 1993 MOA                                       | 494 ft       | 505 ft           |
| 2006 MOA                                       | 498 ft       | 505 ft           |



# Summary of Current Water Conservation Program

- Stormwater capture to elevation 498 feet  
October through February
- To elevation 505 feet March through August
- Release of captured stormwater from Prado Dam at rate that can be recharged downstream by OCWD (350-500 cfs)
- Does not impact flood risk management function of dam



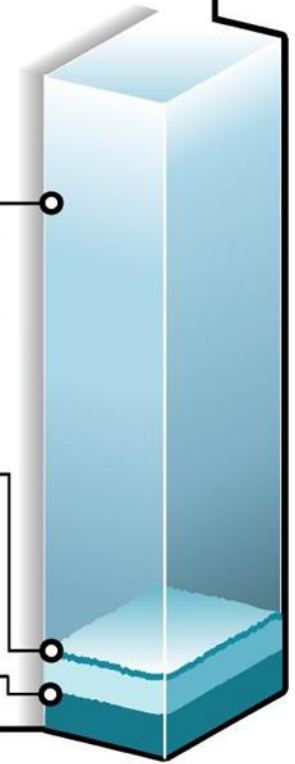
## Prado Dam water conservation

**Total flood control capacity**  
 Elevation: 542 feet  
 Storage volume: 170,000 acre-feet

### Temporary storage

**Non-storm season**  
 Elevation: 505 feet  
 Storage volume: 20,000 acre-feet

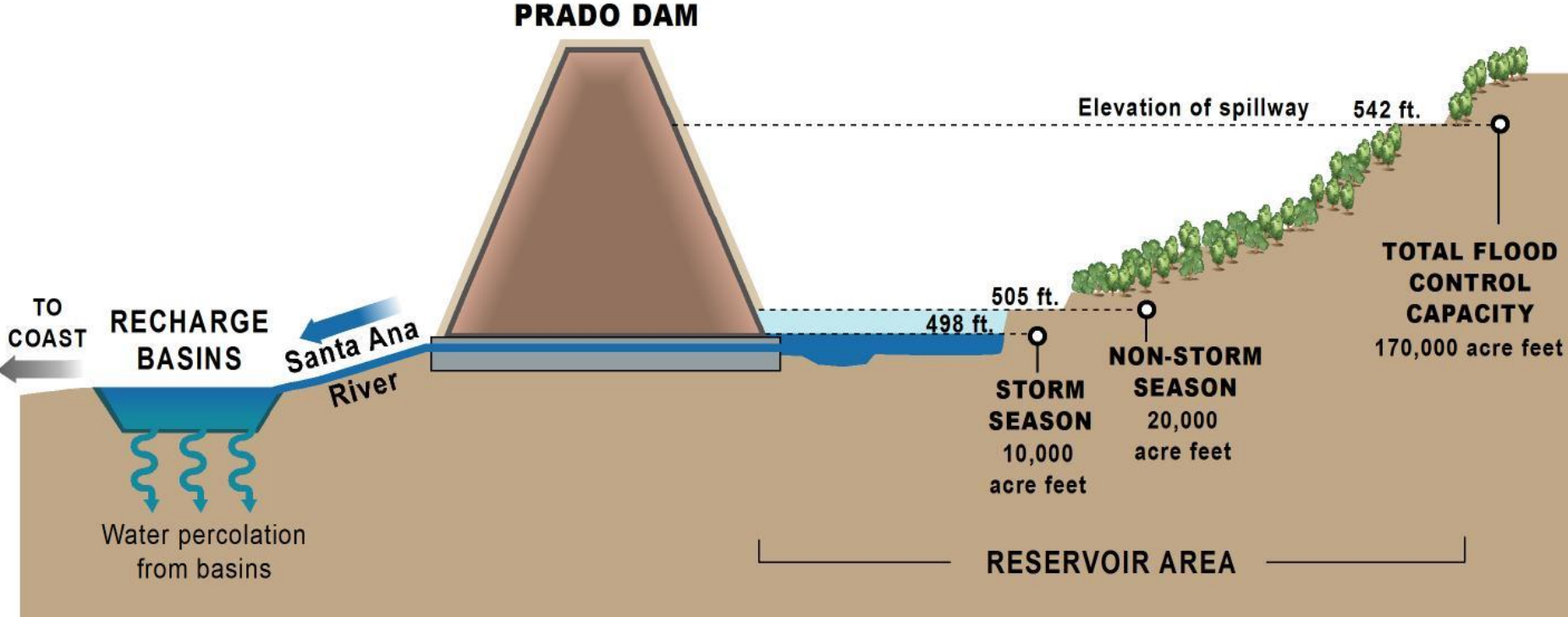
**Storm season**  
 Elevation: 498 feet  
 Storage volume: 10,000 acre-feet

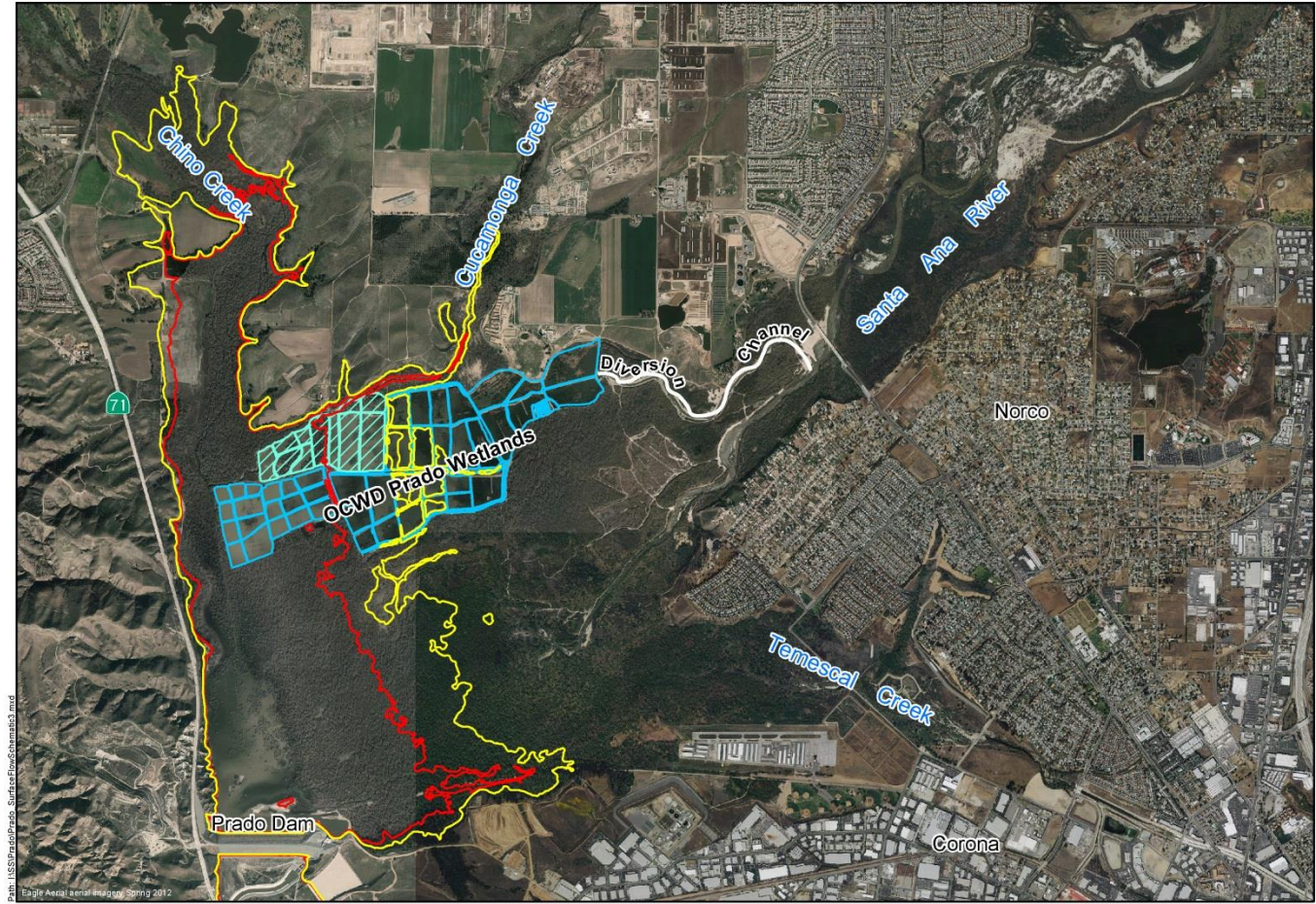




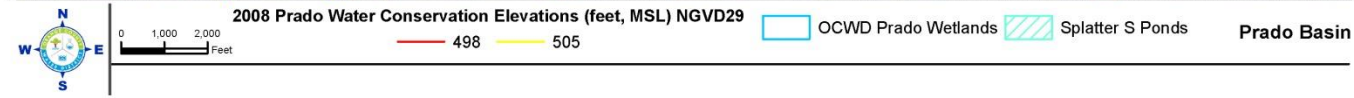
# WATER CONSERVATION ELEVATIONS

ABOVE SEA LEVEL





Data: USGS Prado Wetlands, Santa Ana River, Corona, CA  
 Eagle Aerial Aerial Imagery Spring 2012

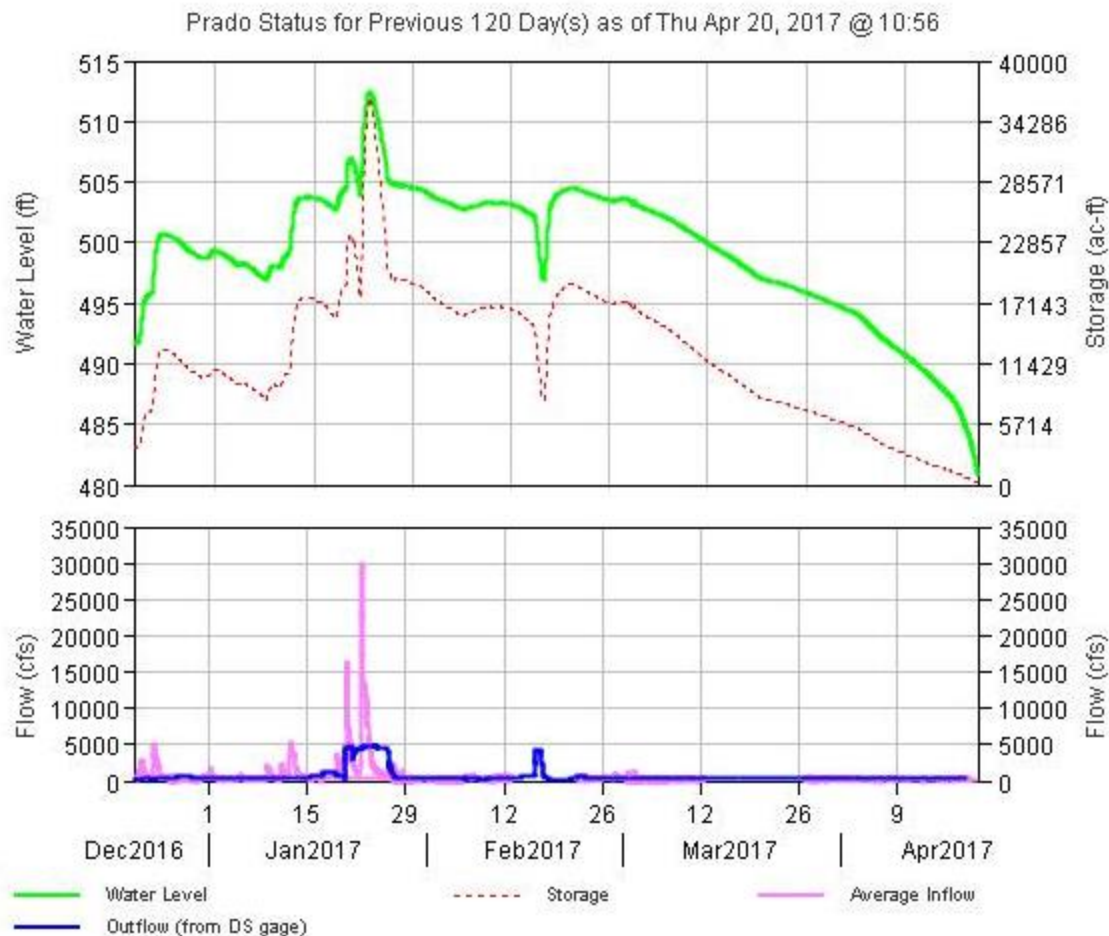




# Efforts to Increase Stormwater Capture at Prado

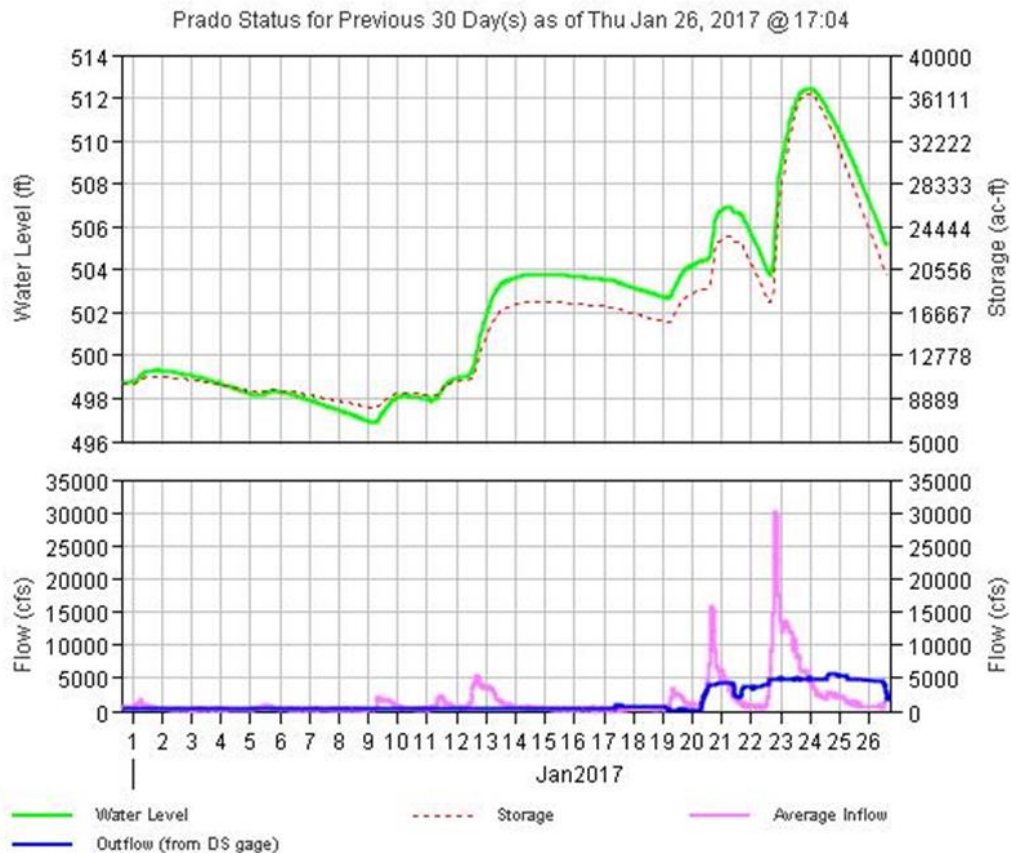
- Seeking stormwater capture to elevation 505 feet in flood season
- Permanent change to 505 feet year-round being evaluated in Prado Basin Feasibility Study being conducted by Corps with OCWD as local sponsor
- Temporary deviation to 505 feet approved this flood season
- Seeking to implement temporary deviation for 5-year period to serve as a bridge until Feasibility Study is completed & DSAC rating is raised after SAR Mainstem is completed

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Source: USACE, 2017

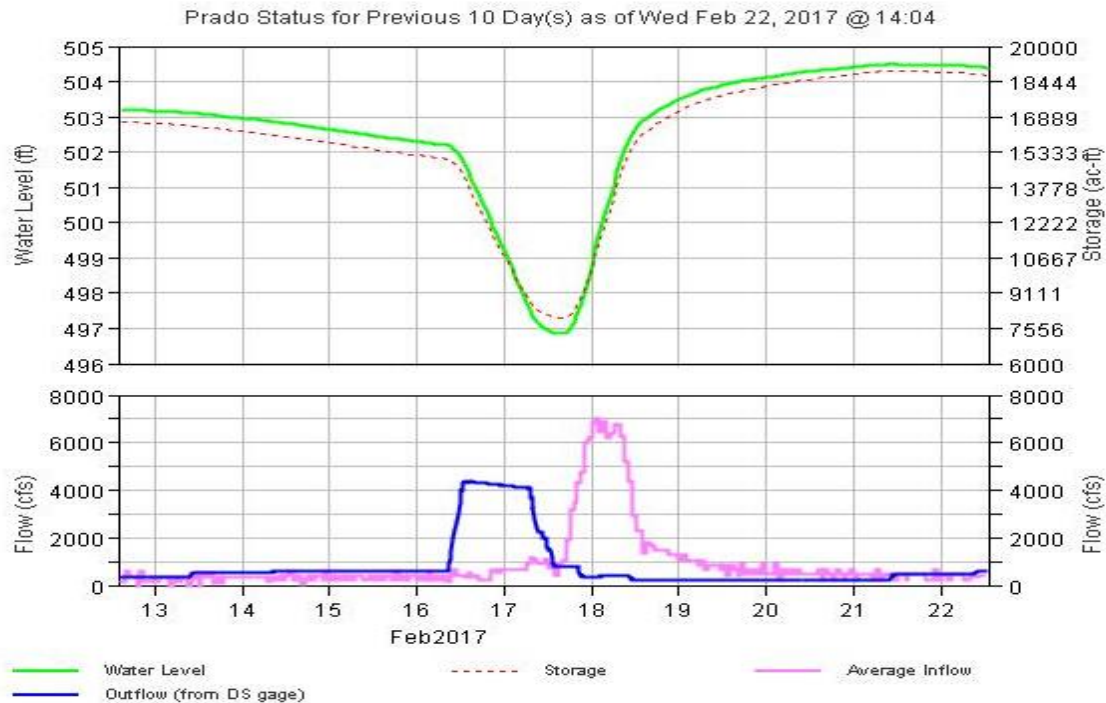
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Area Forecast Discussion  
National Weather Service San Diego CA  
257 PM PST Wed Feb 15 2017

...High Impact Pacific Storm to Affect Southern California  
Friday-Saturday...

.SYNOPSIS..

After a tranquil weather period continuing through Thursday, all eyes turn to a major, high impact Pacific storm system which will affect Southern California Friday through Saturday. This storm will be significant, bringing heavy rainfall capable of producing flash flooding, damaging winds, and heavy high mountain snowfall to Southern California. The storm will exit the area late Saturday with dry weather returning Sunday through Monday. Additional lighter precipitation is possible by the middle part of next week.

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.DISCUSSION...FOR EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA INCLUDING ORANGE...  
SAN DIEGO...WESTERN RIVERSIDE AND SOUTHWESTERN SAN BERNARDINO  
COUNTIES...

Highlights...

- . Significant Wind Storm Possible Friday Afternoon-Night
- . Widespread Rain Moving In Late Friday, Flash Flooding Possible
- . Heavy High Mountain Snowfall

All eyes are on a high impact Pacific storm system to affect Southern California Friday-Saturday as the strong jet stream dives south to our latitude, bringing heavy rainfall capable of producing flash flooding, damaging winds, and heavy high mountain snowfall.

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**National Weather Service San Diego CA**  
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A **moisture** band ahead of the low (Atmospheric River/AR) will funnel into Southern California by late Friday. This along with anonymously strong low level wind fields will result in excellent transport of **moisture** into the area (Integrated Water Vapor Transport/IVT fields showing a 1 in 5+ year return interval). This leads to not only a heavy rainfall concern, but also a significant concern for damaging winds.

The latest model trends have shown a disparity in **storm**/rainfall timing with the greatest model difference being the 12Z **NAM** and its related NAM-based **WRF** run, showing the **trough** becoming negatively tilted and as such slowing down the **storm** and delaying the onset of precip across Southern California. However, **GFS** and **ECMWF** continue to show at least reasonable run-to-run consistency, so the forecast continues to be weighted in this direction. **GFS** has slowed by a few hours, so the **ECMWF** is fastest.

Current assessment has the most likely rain timing moving into Orange County and SW SBD/Riverside during the afternoon on Friday and taking its time to reach San Diego, but is expected to do so by Friday evening. If the **storm** speeds up, it could begin earlier and likewise a slower movement would delay precip onset.

Ahead of the storm, models are in agreement in showing a strengthening **low level jet** with H85 winds increasing to around 50 kt. **NAM** showing 60 kt low level winds. This wind energy will move across the area as the **storm** moves southeast. Greatest high wind impact looks to be Friday afternoon through Friday evening...but again this will depend on the **storm** timing. However, confidence is higher that damaging winds will occur. As this **low level jet** moves across the area, Southerly winds will strengthen with sustained winds possibly reaching around 30 mph along the coast. Southerly strong wind gusts of 50-60 mph will be possible area wide, capable of downing trees, creating travel trouble with debris or downed trees on roadways, and dangerous cross winds to high profile vehicles, especially on east-west oriented roadways. This could be a significant wind **storm** for the area. A further southward placement of the low would lessen the wind potential. This is possible, so will be monitoring model trends, but at this time confidence is high enough that a **High Wind Watch** was issued for the entire area (Winter **Storm Watch** for the mountains - with high winds there along with heavy snowfall above 6000 ft.)

Rainfall amounts from the previous forecast remain fairly unchanged. 2-4 inches are forecast for Orange County with around 5 inches for the Santa Ana Mountains. The Inland Empire is forecast to receive 2-3 inches. Coastal mountain slopes of the San Bernardino County mountains will likely see the highest totals with the southerly, moist upslope where >5" inches is possible...especially the San Gabriel coastal slopes where it looks like the **moisture**/AR plume



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