

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BIG TUJUNGA DAM

## Big Tujunga Dam – Santa Ana Sucker Habitat Enhancement Project



### ISSUES

- Dam does not meet State's seismic and spillway capacity requirements
- State is restricting reservoir storage (75% of storage capacity unavailable for long term storage)
- Santa Ana Sucker (a Federally listed Threatened species) is located downstream

### SEISMIC REHABILITATION

- Construction project to strengthen dam and restore full reservoir operation awarded June 26, 2007
- Total project cost of \$105.7 million
- Construction duration of approximately 36 months

## SANTA ANA SUCKER WORKING GROUP



- During project development, the following agencies participated in the Santa Ana Sucker Working Group (SAS):
  - United States Forest Service
  - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
  - California Department of Fish and Game
  - Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
  - City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
  - Upper Los Angeles River Area Watermaster
- SAS agreed that a portion of the additional water conserved from the dam rehabilitation project would be used to supplement stream flows to enhance habitat
- A low flow valve was added to the project to ensure ability for releasing flows at an optimal rate to recharge downstream pools
- SAS agreed that an adaptive management approach would be used to modifying the dam operating guidelines to best benefit the Santa Ana Sucker

## **HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES**

Public Works is seeking partners to assist with funding the environmental enhancement scope of work including:

- Portion of the physical modification to the dam including low flow valve and portion of the valve house and control systems
- Efforts necessary to determine beneficial flow regime for Santa Ana Sucker
  - Conduct habitat suitability survey targeting the Santa Ana Sucker within the Tujunga Wash from Big Tujunga Dam to the Hansen Dam Reservoir
  - Develop transect monitoring program to establish baseline fish population surveys and for assessing enhancement improvement opportunities
  - Construct stream gage station in Tujunga Wash
  - Monitor flow regime and fish populations during “natural flow conditions” during 3-year dam rehabilitation project
  - Develop a dam operation plan for making flood control, water conservation, and habitat enhancement releases to benefit the Santa Ana Sucker
- Possible information kiosk overlooking dam from Big Tujunga Canyon Road
- Long term monitoring to ensure effective adaptive management approach to dam operations

