This field trip explores the Santa Ana River which has been called the worst flood hazard west of the Mississippi; but it is also the major water source of Orange County. We will begin our tour with a visit to the recently enlarged Prado Dam, a major flood control structure on the Santa Ana River and the Constructed Wetlands behind the dam. We will go on to the Groundwater Recharge Basins and Inflatable Rubber Dam in Anaheim that replenishes the underground aquifer, our major water supply source. We will conclude our field trip with a tour of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) in Fountain Valley. This joint Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District project leads the nation and is internationally acclaimed in recycling sewage water into drinking water. Have a taste!

We will learn about dams, wetlands, endangered species, groundwater recharge, seawater intrusion barrier, reverse osmosis, ocean outfalls and water quality testing and beach pollution. What are the impacts of this year’s unexpected, prolonged rainy season? Don’t take water for granted – let’s make this an enjoyable and educational trip to increase our understanding of how this precious resource is managed.

The field trip is coordinated by OLLI member Pete Saputo, a graduate of Cal State Fullerton's Hydrology Program and former member of the wastewater Management Board of the City of Riverside.

This trip usually fills up quickly, so please sign up promptly. Comfortable clothing and closed shoes are recommended. Bring a packed lunch and a drink (water is provided) as we may lunch on the bus to save time. We’ll have coolers available to keep the drinks cool. We expect to be back at ± 5:00p.m.

Sign up in the OLLI Office and please complete your liability waiver at the same time.

Please wear your OLLI identification card when on all the field trips.

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Make Check payable to: CSU FULLERTON ASC-OLLI

Members-only registration: May 15-June 5. If seats available, guests are welcome: June 6-15.

Deadline for all reservations: June 15, 2023