



Eileen K. Takata

Watershed Program Manager

Los Angeles District, USACE

As the Watershed Program Manager for the Los Angeles District, Eileen looks for opportunities to integrate the Corps and stakeholders to reach mutual watershed and national goals, and to further collaborative and creative processes to solve problems. She is working with the Institute for Water Resources – Conflict Resolution & Public Participation Center of Expertise (IWR CPCX) on the National Flood Risk Management’s Public Involvement Pilots to increase 2-way public engagement in risk communication. And she is working with IWR to implement a Corps-wide stakeholder process in support of HQ’s Watershed Budgeting Pilot Program. At the District, she supports the \$2 billion Santa Ana River Mainstem flood protection project. She “troubleshoots” and facilitates solutions to internal and external challenges. She was excited to join the Corps Family in 2010 as a Lead Planner, having been both a Sponsor and stakeholder on numerous Corps Feasibility Studies in many of her former lives. Occasionally she plays the Lead Planner role on local Feasibility Studies.

As a former Sponsor with Orange County Public Works, Eileen has a unique perspective on the role of the Corps in relation to local government. She was a Watershed Planner facilitating monthly stakeholder meetings while coordinating Corps Watershed Feasibility Studies. Coincidentally, Eileen worked on the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project as a Sponsor developing real estate agreements. She also spent a year as an Executive Policy Advisor for and Orange County elected official, providing policy recommendations for public works, watershed, habitat and recreation issues.

Eileen has extensive background in stakeholder meeting facilitation, watershed and strategic planning from her days as a consultant and working for multiple non-profit organizations. She is a Charter Board member of two environmental planning, policy and design non-profit organizations in southern California. Through these non-profits she has written and received over 20 grants for various watershed planning and project development efforts. Before having a family, she enjoyed brainstorming creative projects and partnerships to restore watersheds in her spare time.

Being a mother to her four-year old son Seth has taken over her life and energy. When there’s time for other things she enjoys pruning in their overgrown Garden of Eden in Riverside, CA which she shares with, Seth, husband Rick Thomas and his parents. She loves her mom’s group and other church activities, crocheting, paper crafts and playing the piano. She dreams of playing the banjo in a bluegrass band and (separately) travelling the world. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture from Virginia Tech and a Master’s degree in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona. She’s licensed to practice in the state of California, but never even bought a stamp.