



# SALT MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET

[www.ieua.org/watersoftener.html](http://www.ieua.org/watersoftener.html)

**CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES**—groundwater, stormwater and recycled water—is essential to the future economic health of our community as Southern California’s water shortages are expected to continue for many years.

**RECYCLED WATER IS OUR MOST SUSTAINABLE AND DROUGHT-PROOF SUPPLY** and it is rigorously treated so that it meets and exceeds stringent state and federal regulatory standards. More than 500 sites including cities, parks, schools, farms and businesses are using recycled water in our community.

**SALT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT TO OUR GROUNDWATER AND RECYCLED WATER SUPPLIES.** To protect the quality of our water, regulatory agencies have set strict limits for the amount of salt allowed in recycled water and the water used to replenish groundwater basins.

**OUR CITIES AND WATER AGENCIES HAVE INVESTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS** over the past forty years to keep salt out of the regional sewer system. The biggest remaining challenge for our area is salt discharge from automatic water softeners used in homes—the type to which you add salt. **An estimated 18,000 households use automatic water softeners in our community, discharging more than 3,000 tons of salt every year.**

**IF THE SALT DISCHARGE FROM AUTOMATIC WATER SOFTENERS IS NOT CONTROLLED NOW**, we will face two expensive options that could cost residents over \$400 million: construct additional treatment systems for the regional water system or increase our dependence on expensive unreliable imported water supplies.

**IEUA OFFERS REBATES UP TO \$2,000** (plus free plumbing service) for the voluntary removal of automatic water softeners. To date, residents have removed more than 250 automatic water softeners, preventing nearly 45 tons of salt per year from entering the regional sewer system.

**A REGIONAL TASK FORCE COMPRISED OF CITY AND WATER AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES** has been created to identify the best way to control salt discharges resulting from home use of automatic water softeners. They will make recommendations in early 2011.

**FUTURE ACTIONS MAY INCLUDE** local regulations that would prohibit the installation of automatic water softeners in newly constructed homes or a broader restriction on any new installation of automatic water softeners. **Automatic water softeners that are currently installed in homes will not be impacted by the restrictions.**

## YOU CAN STILL HAVE YOUR WATER SOFTENER ... JUST WITHOUT THE SALT!



Commonly used water softeners require bags of salt to be added, and discharge about one pound of salt per day into the regional sewer system.



Controlling salt is vital to protecting local water supplies of the Inland Empire. One way to protect these water supplies is to use water softeners that do not release salt into the regional sewer system.