E-Basin Update

A Publication of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Save Water: Come Rain or Come Shine

Serving the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, as well as Monte Vista and Cucamonga Valley Water Districts.

January 2010

IEUA Receives GFOA Budget Award

By Christina Valencia, Manager of Financial Planning
For the fifth consecutive year, the Agency's FY 2009/10 O&M Budget was awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan, and as a communication device. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by the Agency.

Rain Makes a Dent
Chino Basin Gains Water

Daily Bulletin
January 21, 2010
By Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino
Never mind the flooded streets. The drought isn't over just yet.
"This rain doesn't come close to ending it," said Ken Manning, CEO of the Chino Basin Watermaster. "We need five years like this in order to be over the drought."
The Inland Valley has received three to four inches of rain so far this week, a significant amount but not enough to compensate for the past few relatively dry winters.
But Manning said he will take whatever he can get.
"I'm absolutely elated that it's raining," he said. "When I see rain, I think of it as free water for residents of Chino Basin. It saves us from having to import the water and putting the strain on the Sacramento Delta."
The Watermaster board oversees the process of capturing the storm runoff and sinking it into the ground for future use in an area from Pomona to Fontana and from the mountains to the Santa Ana River.
For complete article visit: http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_14235757

Water Conservation Tip:
If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.

Upcoming Events

January 30: ***Water Wise Landscape Workshop***
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

February 6: ***Volunteer Work Party***
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

February 27: ***Water Wise Landscape Workshop***
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

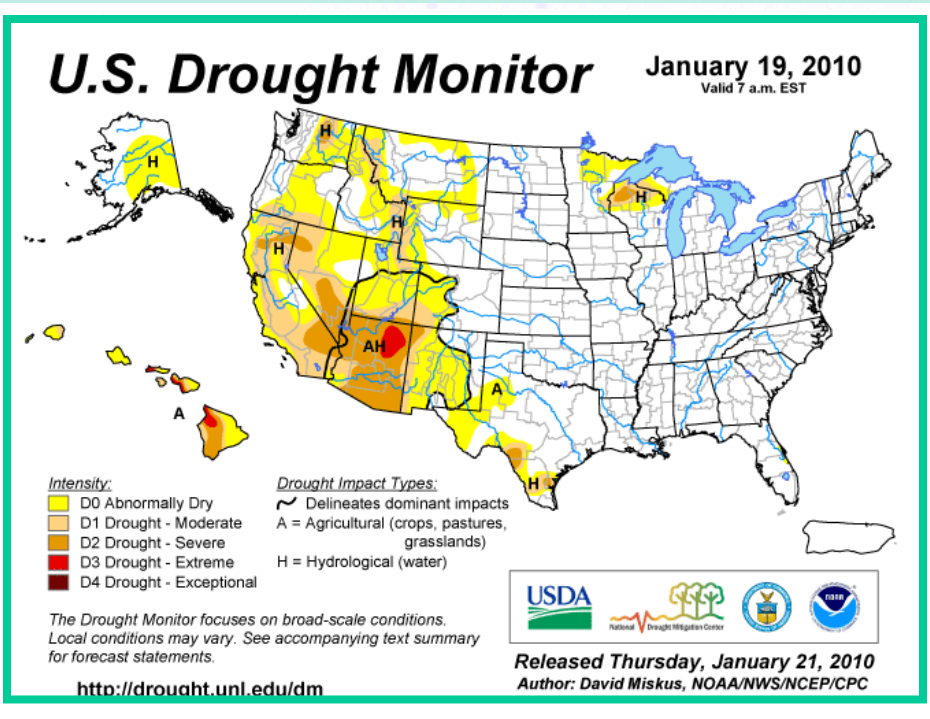
February 27: ***Garden In Every School® Workshop***
IEUA, Event Room
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

March 17: ***Landscape Alliance Board Meeting***
IEUA, Board Room
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

April 17: ***Project Learning Tree Workshop***
IEUA, Event Room
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 22: ***Earth Day***
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

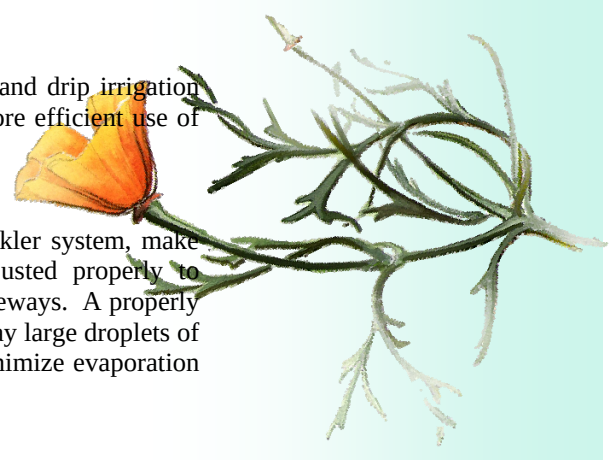
April 24: ***Water Wise Landscape Workshop***
Chino Basin Water Conservation District



Drought Summary
Until the recent round of Pacific storms began to batter the Far West late in the period, there was little reason for any improvement in the Southwest. The situation rapidly changed as the first in a series of Pacific storms hit California with heavy precipitation and severe weather Sunday into Monday. A widespread 2 to 4 inches of precipitation fell along coastal locations and on the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, with locally up to 10 inches near Mt. Shasta. Accordingly, D0 was trimmed away along parts of the Pacific Coast where the heaviest rains (5 to 10 inches) fell, namely southern Oregon and California's Humboldt and Sonoma counties. D1 was erased from a thin strip from Salinas southward to south of Los Angeles (2 to 5 inches), and the southern Sierra Nevada (1.5 to 3 inches). Both D1 and D2 were eased near Mt. Shasta and the Cascades (6 to 10 inches), while D2 was removed west of Los Angeles (southeast Kern, eastern Los Angeles, and southwest San Bernardino counties) where 2 to 6 inches of precipitation fell. The average basin snow water content in the Sierra Nevada increased from 78-91 percent of normal on January 15 to 87-105 percent of normal just 4 days later. In addition, the AH impact line was pushed eastward as the recent precipitation alleviated short-term dryness concerns. However, even with the recent heavy rains (Shasta Reservoir gained 100,000 acre-feet in 2 days), the reservoir is still almost 1 million acre-feet below average storage for this time of year, according to California's Department of Water Resources and the State Climatologist Dr. Michael Anderson. Furthermore, the heavy rains are expected to cause mudslides and flash flooding in southern California from hillsides lacking vegetation due to earlier wildfires.

Landscape Alliance

http://www.ieua.org/conservation/landscape/landscape.html



Water Conservation Tips for… Homeowners
By: Rain Bird
http://www.rainbird.com/iuow/tips/tips_homeowners.htm

Lawn Watering and Water Conservation Tips from Rain Bird Corporation that will keep your lawn, garden and wallet full of green.

Did you ever think that you could be saving water by using an irrigation system? Probably not, but if your irrigation system is correctly designed, installed and maintained, it will help minimize the amount of water you use and still keep your lawn and landscape looking healthy. Here are some practical tips to help you have a lush, green landscape.

1. Don't drown
The greatest waste of water comes from applying too much, too often -- much of the water is never absorbed. Instead of watering for one long session, water a few times for shorter periods and take 15-minute breaks in between each session. This will allow water to soak in, while minimizing runoff.

2. Watch the clock
Water between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. -- when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool. Mid-day watering tends to be less efficient because of water loss due to evaporation and windy conditions during the day. Watering in the evening isn't a good idea either because leaves can remain wet overnight -- an open invitation for fungus to grow. By watering in the morning, leaves have a chance to dry out during the day.

3. Divide by zones
Different plants need different amounts of water. Divide your yard and landscape areas into separate irrigation zones so that grass can be watered separately and more frequently than groundcovers, shrubs and trees. Both sprinkler and drip irrigation can be incorporated to achieve more efficient use of water.

4. Water only things that grow
If you have an underground sprinkler system, make sure the sprinkler heads are adjusted properly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways. A properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water instead of a fine mist to minimize evaporation and wind drift.

5. Consider dripping
When it comes to watering individual trees, flowerbeds, potted containers, or other non-grassy areas, consider applying water directly to the roots using low volume drip irrigation. This will reduce water waste through evaporation or runoff, and will prevent unwanted weeds from growing.

6. Do routine inspections
Since lawns and gardens should be watered in the early morning hours, a problem may not be discovered until it is too late. Periodically check your sprinklers to make sure everything is working properly. A clogged head or a torn line can wreak havoc on your landscape and water bill.

7. Be rain smart
Adjust your irrigation system as the seasons and weather change. Or better yet, install a shut-off device that automatically detects rain or moisture. These devices are inexpensive and enable you to take advantage of the water without having to pay for it.

For more information visit:
http://www.rainbird.com/iuow/tips/tips_homeowners.htm

NASA Data Reveal Major Groundwater Loss in California
Provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory
December 2009

PASADENA, Calif. - New space observations reveal that since October 2003, the aquifers for California's primary agricultural region -- the Central Valley -- and its major mountain water source -- the Sierra Nevadas -- have lost nearly enough water combined to fill Lake Mead, America's largest reservoir. The findings, based on data from the NASA/German Aerospace Center Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (Grace), reflect California's extended drought and increased rates of groundwater being pumped for human uses, such as irrigation.

In research being presented this week at the American Geophysical Union meeting in San Francisco, scientists from NASA and the University of California, Irvine, detailed California's groundwater changes and outlined Grace-based research on other global aquifers. The twin Grace satellites monitor tiny month-to-month changes in Earth's gravity field primarily caused by the movement of water in Earth's land, ocean, ice and atmosphere reservoirs. Grace's ability to directly 'weigh' changes in water content provides new insights into how Earth's water cycle may be changing.

Combined, California's Sacramento and San Joaquin drainage basins have shed more than 30 cubic kilometers of water since late 2003, said professor Jay Famiglietti of the University of California, Irvine. A cubic kilometer is about 264.2 billion gallons, enough to fill 400,000 Olympic-size pools. The bulk of the loss occurred in California's agricultural Central valley. The Central valley receives its irrigation from a combination of groundwater pumped from wells and surface water diverted from elsewhere.

"Grace data reveal groundwater in these basins is being pumped for irrigation at rates that are not sustainable if current trends continue," Famiglietti said. "This is leading to declining water tables, water shortages, decreasing crop sizes and continued land subsidence. The findings have major implications for the U.S. economy, as California's Central Valley is home to one sixth of all U.S. irrigated land, and the state leads the nation in agricultural production and exports."

"By providing data on large-scale groundwater depletion rates, Grace can help California water managers make informed decisions about allocating water resources," said Grace Project Scientist Michael Watkins of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif., which manages the mission for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, Washington.

Preliminary studies show most of the water loss is coming from the more southerly located San Joaquin basin, which gets less precipitation than the Sacramento River basin farther north. Initial results suggest the Sacramento River basin is losing about 2 cubic kilometers of water a year. Surface water losses account for half of this, while groundwater losses in the northern Central Valley add another 0.6 cubic kilometers annually. The San Joaquin Basin is losing 3.5 cubic kilometers a year. Of this, more than 75 percent is the result of groundwater pumping in the southern Central Valley, primarily to irrigate crops.

Famiglietti said recent California legislation decreasing the allocation of surface waters to the San Joaquin Basin is likely to further increase the region's reliance on groundwater for irrigation. "This suggests the decreasing groundwater storage trends seen by Grace will continue for the foreseeable future," he said.

The California results come just months after a team of hydrologists led by Matt Rodell of NASA's Goddard Space Flight center, Greenbelt, Md., found groundwater levels in northwest India have declined by 17.7 cubic kilometers per year over the past decade, a loss due almost entirely to pumping and consumption of groundwater by humans.

"California and India are just two of many regions around the world where Grace data are being used to study droughts, which can have devastating impacts on societies and cost the U.S. economy $6 to $8 billion annually," said Rodell. Other regions under study include Australia, the Middle East - North Africa region and the southeastern United States, where Grace clearly captured the evolution of an extended drought that ended this spring. In the Middle east—North Africa region, Rodell is leading an effort to use Grace and other data to systematically map water—and weather-related variables to help assess regional water resources. Rodell added Grace may also help predict droughts, since it can identify pre-existing conditions favorable to the start of a drought, such as a deficit of water deep below the ground.

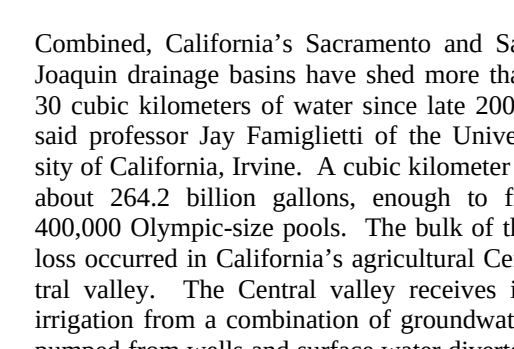
NASA is working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to incorporate Grace data into NOAA's U.S. and North American Drought Monitors, premier tools used to minimize drought impacts. The tools rely heavily on precipitation observations, but are limited by inadequate large-scale observations of soil moisture and groundwater levels. "Grace is the only satellite system that provides information on these deeper stores of water that are key indicators of long-term drought," Rodell said.

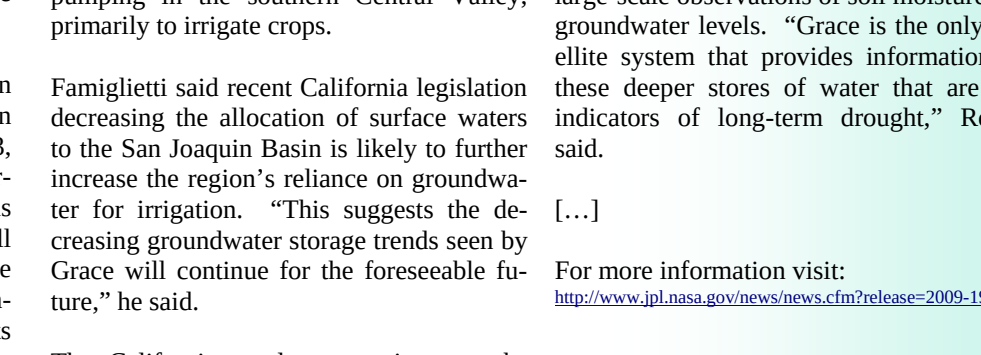
[…]

For more information visit:
http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.cfm?release=2009-194

Garden in Every School® Workshop

It is that time of year again when the winter weather begins to ease up and the flowers begin to bloom. It is an opportune time for schools to take part in the Garden in Every School® Workshop.
IEUA, in partnership with Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Master Gardeners, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Monte Vista Water District, Fontana Water Company, San Antonio Water Company, and the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, and Upland, will be holding a mandatory workshop on February 27, 2010 in order to provide an overview of the Program, educational preferences, grant writing process, past school experiences, etc.
The Garden in Every School® Program is geared to educate elementary school-age children and their families, school staff, and other community members about wise water usage through the establishment of thematic school gardens that feature drought tolerant plants and efficient irrigation methods that are coordinated with provision state-aligned curriculum materials. To date, the Garden in Every School® Program has provided a total of thirty-five gardens to elementary schools within IEUAS's service area.
For more information, contact Andrew Kanzler at 909.993.1897





A Water Wise Way to Educate