

Renew and Recycle

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

Santa Clarita Automatic Water Softener Ban Declared a Success IEUA to Consider Water Softener Discharge Ordinance

Inland Empire - In a presentation before the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County declared that the automatic water softener ban and removal program implemented in the area of Santa Clarita over the past two years was clearly successful. The Santa Clarita automatic water softener ban was approved by a public vote in 2008 to help reduce the amount of salt discharged to the Santa Clarita Valley Water Treatment System and released into the Santa Clara River. With the implementation of the automatic water softener ban and removal program, the chloride discharged by existing water softeners was reduced significantly. This represented a potential savings of more than \$110 million to the residents of Santa Clarita in comparison to installing expensive salt removal technologies at the sewage treatment plants. "This is very helpful information and we appreciate learning how well the water softener ban worked as IEUA and our cities consider how to deal with the salt impacts to water supplies caused by the home use of automatic water softeners in our service area," said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. "IEUA currently offers a rebate program to homeowners who want to remove their automatic water softeners. Homeowners can receive up to \$2,000 for qualifying water softeners, and the removal service by a professional plumber is free. For more information on how you can take advantage of the rebate, visit www.ieua.org," continued Catlin. "Most people don't know that automatic water softeners – the type homeowners have to buy bags of salt for – pose a major threat to our water supplies because of the huge amounts of salt they discharge into the sewage treatment system" said IEUA Board Member John L. Anderson. "It's a big water quality problem especially for places like the Chino Basin where we depend upon our groundwater and recycled water supplies to meet our water needs," said Anderson. "Just one of these home systems will use an average of 30 pounds of salt per month -- that's over 360 pounds of salt per year!" declared IEUA Secretary/Treasurer Michael Camacho. "When you multiply that much salt by thousands of households with automatic water softeners, we have a big pollution problem, especially here in the Chino Basin where 70% of our water supplies come from local sources," continued Camacho. Because of the need to protect local water supplies, every major source of salt within the Chino Basin is currently regulated with the exception of the discharge from home use of automatic water softeners. Last fall, Assembly Bill 1366 was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger to provide cities and water agencies authority to regulate discharge from home water softeners in areas where the regional water quality board has determined that there is a particular salinity problem. IEUA is considering the development of an ordinance that will encourage the use of alternative water systems that do not pollute and ban those that do. "We have been working to reduce salts and protect our water supplies in the Chino Basin for decades," said IEUA Board Member Gene Koopman. "Our cities and water agencies have invested hundreds of millions of dollars over the past ten years to protect the quality of our water. If the water becomes too salty, it is tremendously expensive to remove enough salt to make it useable – it would be 10 to 20 times more than the five bucks per bag of water softening salt that a homeowner may be paying today. That's why we are considering all options for reducing the salty discharge that comes from automatic water softeners," said Koopman. "We've already removed over 200 water softeners through the rebate program – that's keeping 72,000 pounds of salt per year, equivalent to 1,800 bags of salt out of the water supply," said IEUA Vice President Angel Santiago. "Homeowners can install alternative systems that don't discharge the salt, including the softeners that use the off-site regenerated exchange cylinders that can be traded out as needed; and the salt disposed of without harming our water supply," continued Director Santiago. "Successful automatic water softener control programs, like the ones being implemented in Santa Clarita, are really important to the long term protection of our water supplies," declared President Catlin. "We're doing our homework to develop a program that will deliver equal success for the protection of our water supplies."

Water Conservation Tip:

Water deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds. Save 20-30 gallons of water each time you water per 1,000 square feet.

Upcoming Events

June 1 and June 8: Landscape Water Management Classes for Professionals

Chino Basin Water Conservation District
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

July 17: Backyard Composting Workshop and Free Mulch Giveaway

Chino Basin Water Conservation District
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

August 12: County of San Bernardino Water Conference

Ontario Convention center

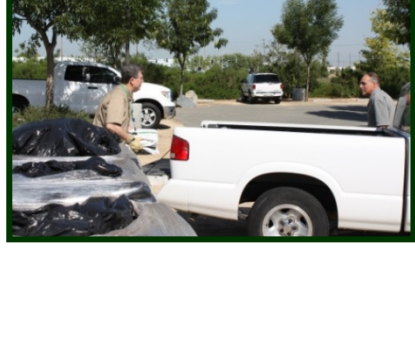
Save Our Soil



Thanks to everyone who helped celebrate International Compost Awareness Week! On May 2-8, 2010, IEUA Organics Management (IERCF) staff participated in a public and IEUA employee compost giveaway. Staff gave away over 1,000 bags of compost! Compost is great for creating healthy soil in springtime gardens and promotes healthy, green grass by providing essential nutrients while saving water. IERCA is proud to participate in the International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW) program.



Compost!...Recycling for a Greener Tomorrow



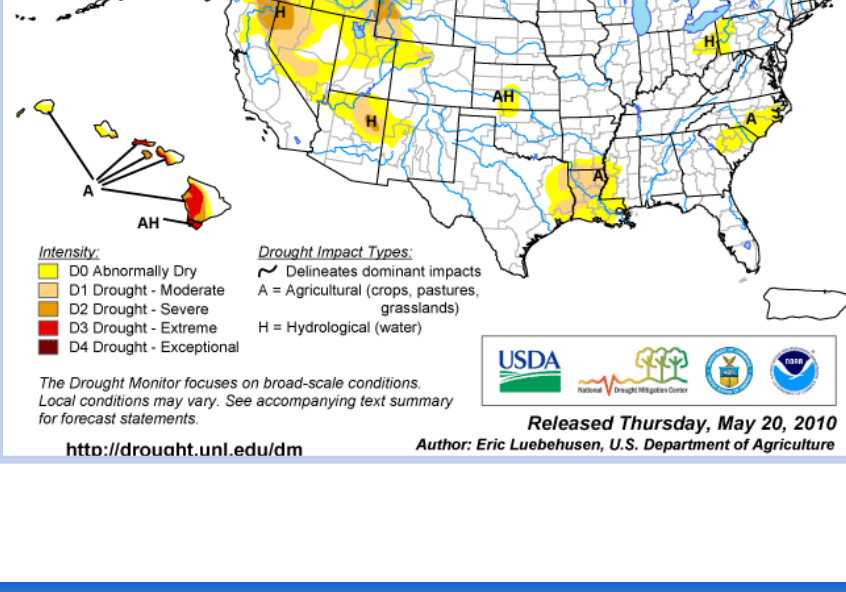
The ICAW program is "grass roots" in nature and allows a perfect opportunity to teach young and old about compost's ability to conserve water, protect groundwater and build beautiful landscapes. Each year the United States Composting Council sponsors a poster contest selecting a creative and exciting poster to represent ICAW for the year. Congratulations to Christopher J. Fee and Rose Volpe, City of Middleburg Heights Service Department, Middleburg Heights, Ohio! Their poster was chosen as the winning entry. Look for announcements next year encouraging everyone at IEUA to participate in the poster contest. There are categories for adults and kids so everyone can participate! Visit compostingcouncil.org and see all of the poster entries as well as past winners. The website also offers great tips on composting and compost uses. Have a great spring!



ICAW Winning Poster

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 18, 2010
Valid 9 a.m. EDT



Drought Summary

Minor reductions in drought coverage were made in California and southern Oregon, where updated streamflows, soil moisture, precipitation departures, and standardized precipitation indices indicated improving conditions. The same held true in southern California, southern Arizona, and southwestern New Mexico, where reassessment based on updated drought indices led to the removal of D0 in these areas.

Landscape Alliance

Western Water-wise Landscape Contest Spans 1,000 Square Miles

Contact: **Matthew Buck, Public Affairs Rep. Western MWD**
May 5, 2010

RIVERSIDE, CA – MAY 5, 2010 – A water-efficient California friendly landscape can provide beauty and benefits for Southern California residents. With the region and the state still facing serious drought conditions and water rationing, using water-wise plants for landscapes makes more sense than ever. In fact, there are a great number of California-friendly plants consumers can choose to spruce up their yards and conserve precious water resources at the same time.

Western is proud to announce its third annual Western Water-wise Landscape Contest. This year, by partnering with Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency and other local water agencies, the contest now encompasses an area of more than 1,000 square miles. "In the midst of diminishing reserves and drought conditions, it's important that our region does all it can to be water efficient," said Western General Manager John V. Rossi. "This contest demonstrates that adopting a water-wise landscape can be a win-win. Together we can save water, save money and have beautiful landscapes all at the same time."

"The notion that a water-wise landscape will greatly reduce water use as well as be visually pleasing is extremely important to portray to the community. With over 60 percent of residential water use being used outdoors, reducing outdoor irrigation is more important than ever," stated Inland Empire Utilities Agency Board President Terry Catlin.

The eastern portion of this contest includes many communities whose residents have consistently incorporated appropriate landscaping over the past several years. According to Eastern Municipal Water District's board president, Ron Sullivan, "Our customers often ask us where they can see good landscaping examples. As more of these water-wise gardens mature, we're glad to be able to refer our customers to more examples in their own neighborhoods."

Cash prizes and landscape products will be awarded to the entries presenting the most attractive and efficient use of water-wise landscaping. More information and contest rules can be found at www.westernlandscapecontest.com. The contest entry deadline is June 1, 2010. Additional ideas, exhibits, resources and information about classes can be found at Western's water conservation garden, Landscapes Southern California StyleSM, located adjacent to Western's office at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd. in Riverside.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency support im-

<http://www.ieua.org/alliance.html>

ported drinking water and recycled water, collects and treats wastewater, and provides renewable energy and compost to a 242 square-mile area in the western portion of San Bernardino County.

EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 542-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. More information can be found at EMWD's website www.emwd.org.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

DWR Increases Water Allocation

By The Department of Water Resources
Contact: **Don Strickland, Information Officer**
May 20, 2010

SACRAMENTO – Late season storms have allowed the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase its final 2010 State Water Project allocation to 45 percent of requested amounts.

"While the increase in deliveries is good news," said DWR Director Mark Cowin, "we will continue to have a water supply crisis until we improve our conveyance system, increase storage and resolve the complex environmental problems of the Delta."

State Water Project (SWP) delivery remains limited due to low reservoir storage after three dry years and restrictions on Delta pumping to protect native fish species. The 45 percent allocation, although a dramatic increase from the 5 percent originally estimated for this year, will still leave many communities, farms and businesses with limited alternative supplies.

Lake Oroville in Butte County, the SWP's principal supply reservoir, is still at only 68 percent of capacity despite major spring snowstorms. And fishery agency restrictions on Delta pumping to protect salmon, Delta smelt and other species continue to ratchet down water deliveries to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California. DWR estimates that fishery restrictions this year will reduce deliveries by 600,000 acre-feet. In 2009, DWR delivered 40 percent of the amount requested by the 29 public agencies with long-term contracts to receive SWP water. Those contractors deliver water to more than 25 million Californians and approximately 750,000 acres of irrigated farmland.

The average SWP allocation over the past 10 years is 68 percent of contractor requests.

In the interim, DWR will continue to urge all California's to conserve water this summer both indoors and outdoors. DWR is partnering with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) on the "Save Our Water" program to promote conservation statewide as a long-term behavior change. The program website is www.saveourh2o.org

Fresno Judge Lifts Delta Pumping Restrictions

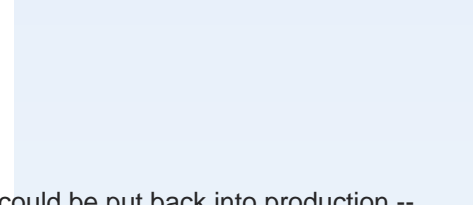
By **John Ellis**
The Fresno Bee
May 26, 2010

A federal judge in Fresno on Tuesday temporarily lifted Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta pumping restrictions designed to help endangered salmon, siding with urban and agricultural water users who said the move would not harm the fish.

The order by U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger will be in place until June 15. For west-side agriculture -- including farmers and ranchers in the Westlands Water District -- that could mean an extra 200,000 acre-feet of water, said Tom Birmingham, Westlands' general manager.

In real-world terms, he added, it will mean an additional 75,000 acres of farmland

Save Our WATER



could be put back into production -- and with it more people put to work. "I am thrilled with the ruling," he said. But in the complicated world of water law, whether the increased water deliveries actually happen is still unclear.

For complete article visit: www.fresnobee.com

Summer Campaign

Regional Message Campaign to Begin in Theatres This Summer

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Monte Vista Water District, Fontana Water Company, and the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Upland, and Ontario will be broadcasting the Save Our Water Message regionally throughout movie theatres this summer.

The movie theatre campaign will begin May 28th and run in theatres through the end of September. The ad will be placed in Harkins Theatre (Chino Hills), Movie 8 (Chino), Edwards (Ontario), and Victoria Gardens (Rancho Cucamonga).

High Schools Participate in Public Service Announcement Contest



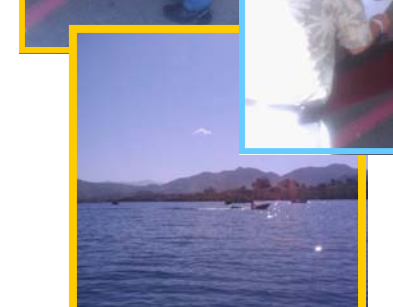
The Water Education Water Awareness Committee (WEWAC) announced the winners of the Annual Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest at an awards ceremony held Tuesday, May 18th at the Frontier Project Building. High School Students collaborate to publish a PSA that focuses on water conservation. Four teams participated in the contest from Colony High School (City of Ontario), Bonita High School (City of La Verne), and Wilson High School (City of Hacienda Heights). The first place honor went to Colony High School, second place went to Wilson High School, and third place went to Bonita High School. Joel Green from Curiosity Quest acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Ceremony. He encouraged the students to follow their dreams and not give up on their goals.

PSA Awards Ceremony at Rancho Cucamonga Frontier Project.

Pictures to the left show Joel Green from Curiosity Quest as MC, students and educators from Bonita High School and Wilson High School.

SOLAR CUP

MWD Solar Cup 2010



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California hosted its Annual Solar Cup Competition at Lake Skinner on May 14-16. Thirty-six high school teams from the southland participated in the competition. The Inland Empire Utilities Agency along with the City of Chino Hills sponsored Ayala High School with Mr. Trent Munsey being the team leader/ supervisor. The teams must build, equip and race a 16-foot solar powered boat. All teams are awarded medals to be recognized for their hard work and creativity. In addition to building and powering a solar boat, the teams must also formulate a public information campaign focusing on water conservation. The students learn a tremendous amount about solar power, renewable energy and water conservation through this competition.

City of Chino Hills Water Conservation Poster Contest

By Mike Adams, Utility Conservation Specialist, City of Chino Hills

On April 27, 2010, the City of Chino Hills Council recognized several local students whose artwork was chosen in the 10th Annual City of Chino Hills Water Conservation Poster Contest.

Each year, the contest is open to all children, Grades K through 12 attending Chino Hills elementary, junior high, and high schools. The contest encourages water awareness while students learn about our most precious natural resource. This year's theme was "Catch Those Drops, Don't Let Them Get Away."



A panel of judges comprised of City council members and employees rated each individual entry based on the following criteria: 1) message, 2) memorable, 3) visually stimulating. The winning posters from each grade level were developed into City of Chino Hills Water Conservation street signs and are currently displayed in the loop on City Center Drive. These signs will be added to the previous water conservation signs, eventually being rotated periodically to different locations throughout the City.

This year the City received 145 entries from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Innovation and Creativity