

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.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Receives GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) announced on December 8, 2010 that the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is a recipient of the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY 2010/11 O&M Budget document. This is the sixth consecutive year the Agency has received this prestigious award which represents the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

The award represents a significant achievement by IEUA. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, IEUA had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

The Government Finance Officers Association is a nonprofit professional association serving over 17,600 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

Information provided by: Government Finance Officers Association, www.gfoa.org

Water Conservation Tip:

Check for leaks: Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.

Upcoming Events

February 2: World Wetlands Day

February 22: Plants, Planting & Container Gardening
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
5:30 pm—8:30 pm

February 26: Garden in Every School® Workshop
9:00 am—12:00 noon
IEUA, HQB Event Room

February 26: Volunteer Chino Creek Clean-Up
8:00 am—12:00 noon
Chino Creek (El Prado Road)

March 19: Vegetable Gardening & Fruit Trees
Chino Basin Water Conservation District
9:00 am—12:30 pm

March 22: World Water Day

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden Events

January 16-May 31: Season of Sales at Grow Native Nursery

Class: Tai Chi in the Garden
Intermediate: Thursdays starting January 27: 9-10 am
Beginning: Thursdays starting January 27: 10:30—11:30 am
Intermediate: Thursdays starting March 10: 9-10 am
Beginning: Thursdays starting March 10: 10:30—11:30 am

Class: Yoga in the Garden
Wednesdays starting February 2: 9:30—10:30 am

February 5: Horticulture Clinic
10 am—1 pm

February 6: Beginning Bird Walks
8-9am
First Sunday every month (Sept.-June) 8 am

February 20: Family Bird Fest
10 am—4 pm

For additional upcoming events, call (909) 625-8767 or visit www.rsabg.org

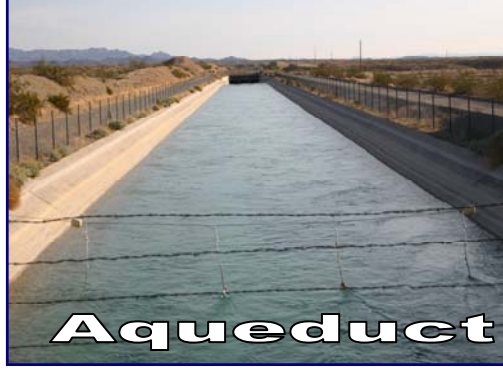
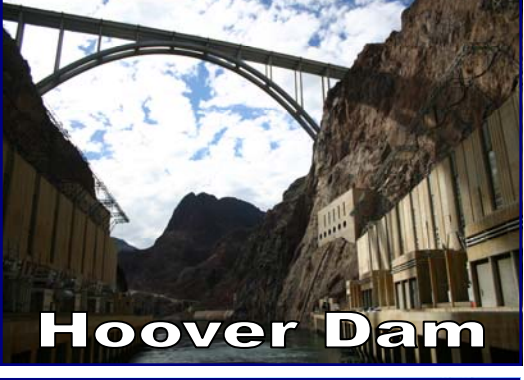
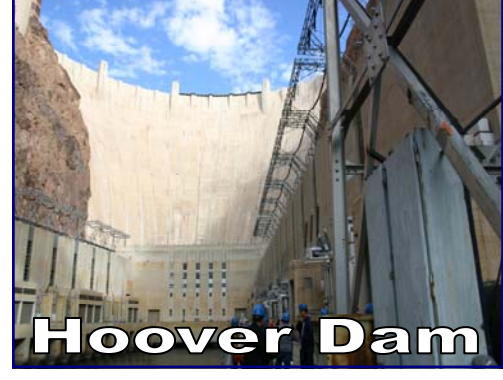
Metropolitan Water District

Inspection Trip of Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, sponsored by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Director Angel Santiago, provided an inspection trip of Hoover Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct January 7-9, 2011.

The tour group arrived at Hoover Dam located on the Nevada and Arizona border. Hoover Dam is a major source of flood control, irrigation and electrical power in the Southwest and was, for several years, the largest dam in the world.

The tour group visited Copper Basin which is a dam located in San Bernardino County west of the Colorado River from Parker, Arizona. The dam is a concrete arch dam. The reservoir's capacity is 22,000 acre-feet and has an un-gated ogee spillway. In addition, the tour group visited the Intake Pumping Plant, Gene Village (MWD Field Headquarters), the Patton Museum and "Big Map" as well as Diamond Valley Lake.



Water Peril

Press Enterprise

Editorial Opinion: January 13, 2011

http://www.pe.com/localnews/opinion/editorials/stories/PE_OpEd_Opinion_D_op_13_ed_water.51404b5.html

The recent heavy rains do not resolve the water challenges facing the state. State and local elected officials, water agencies and consumers all have roles to play in securing an ample long-term supply of water. And that task requires addressing threats to the state's primary water system, expanding water storage and making more efficient use of existing supplies.

The heavy precipitation of late December and early January was good news for a state that wrestles with drought. The state's mountain snowpack stands at nearly twice normal levels for this point in the year, the state Department of Water resources announced late last month. The mountain snow, which melts and runs off in the hot summer months, is a key source of water for California.

The water agency said the high snow levels would likely increase the deliveries available through the State Water Project, which sends water from Northern California to drier areas of the state. The agency last year projected it could supply 50 percent of the exports for 2011 requested by water providers across the state, but now says that figure will go higher.

Californians should not let that good news lull them into complacency, however. State and local government, water agencies and average residents still have much to do in ensuring sufficient water for a state with large arid regions and a growing population.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta remains in danger, for example. Water that flows through the estuary serves two-thirds of the state's population and irrigates millions of acres of farmland. Yet the delta faces threats from environmental decline and eroding levees that put future water exports at risk. The most sensible solution is a channel to send water around the delta, which would protect exports while easing environmental woes. But that idea remains a political flashpoint.

The state also needs to boost oversight of pumping from underground aquifers, which account for 30 percent of California water supplies. The Legislature took the first steps toward monitoring groundwater use in 2009. But the state cannot afford to let those with groundwater rights recklessly drain a crucial source of water.

The recent rains also highlight the need for state and local agencies to expand efforts to catch and store storm-water runoff. The state's long-range climate projections suggest that in coming decades, mountain snow will not conveniently store enough water for summer. Instead, the state will need to collect more winter rain to supply the dry months.

And California will need to boost efforts statewide to conserve, recycle and reuse enough water for the future.

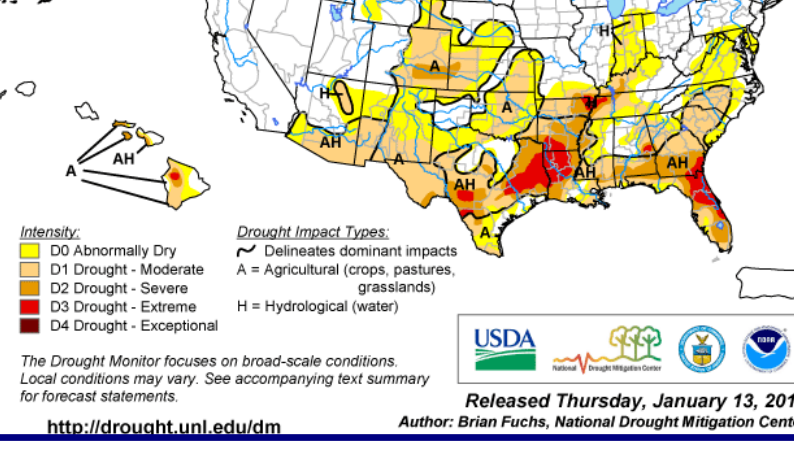
Rain and snow are always welcome in a state that suffers periodic droughts. But while big storms help, California needs a more viable long-term water policy than relying on wet winters alone.

Drought Summary

The West: As assessment of conditions in the western United States allowed for the removal of all the remaining D0 in Nevada and California. No lingering impacts were being reported in this region and precipitation values, especially since the start of the water year, allowed for the removal.

U.S. Drought Monitor January 11, 2011

Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.
Released Thursday, January 13, 2011
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center



Landscape Alliance

Life Without Lawns Faced with an uncertain water future, California water agencies are using cash to entice homeowners to remove their turfgrass lawns.

By Ron Hall, Editor-At-Large
[Landscapemgmt.net](http://www.landscapemgmt.net)
December 2010

For 30 years, and until the recent economic slowdown, California's Inland Empire (IE) was one of the fastest growing regions in the U.S. Comprised of portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, its population ballooned from 1.55 million to 4.1 million between 1980 and 2008, including a 23% increase over the last decade. While growth has slowed since 2008, its generally believed that robust growth will eventually return.

This vast, arid region of Southern California, at 27,000 square miles and approximately two-thirds the size of the state of Connecticut, is located 30 miles northeast of Los Angeles. Surrounded by rolling hills and mountains, it has just about everything one could desire in terms of a modern American lifestyle including year-round sunshine, modern infrastructure and plenty of recreational opportunities. However, with all of these aforementioned amenities, the IE lacks one major component in maintaining its enviable way of life and necessary for future growth and development. It faces an uncertain water future.

The region receives 11 in. to 15 in. of precipitation and rain annually, depending on geography, and available ground and surface water is not reliable enough to sustain its many bustling communities or allow future growth.

Most IE communities supplement the water they draw from underground aquifers or nearby streams with imported water provided by the half-century-old State Water Project that brings water south through the San Joaquin Valley Delta. This is an expensive proposition. The transportation and delivery of this water (each gallon weighs 8.3 lbs.) to the Southern California area consumes an incredible amount of energy. The State uses an estimated 19% of its available energy treating and transporting water.

The relative scarcity of regional water sources and the expense of providing outside water to this vibrant region of California will almost certainly mean the downsizing of irri-

gated lawns and more landscaping with synthetic turf and native plants. Water agencies in the IE have been experimenting with ways to entice homeowners to replace their lawns with low water using plants that will remain healthy, or with synthetic turf or hardscapes. And, for the most part, these programs have been well received and successful, especially when coupled with financial incentives. This is an increasingly common strategy by water authorities throughout the arid U.S. Southwest.

Lisa Morgan-Perales, Water Resources Analyst II, IEUA, describes a 19-month project by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) to evaluate the public's interest in replacing turfgrass with low-water-use plants and surfaces. She says the program was patterned after similar programs implemented by the Southern Nevada Water Agency and the Crescenta Valley Water District.

The IEUA is a regional wholesale water supplier and wastewater treatment provider serving eight retail water agency members—the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Upland and the Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana Water Company, Monte Vista Water District and San Antonio Water Company.

The IEUA began developing the program in the spring of 2007 and launched it in December of the same year. It ran for 19 months, concluding in July 2009. Initially the program had been budgeted with \$50,000 to convert 30 residential landscapes. A year after its initiation it received additional funding increasing the budget to \$240,620 to cover the expense of 136 residential conversions. Participants were paid \$2 a sq. ft. per conversion with a minimum of 400 sq. ft. being converted. The maximum allowable rebate per property was \$2,000 or 1,000 sq. ft. removed.

Once a member agency received an application to be included in the project from a homeowner to be a part of the program, the agency did a pre-site inspection that included photographing the site. At the conclusion of the Program, the member agencies conducted post-site inspections of the participating properties, again photographing the sites to document the changes, and sent the information to the IEUA for final review and payment to the participants.

Morgan-Perales says the project replaced in 186, 446 sq. ft. of turfgrass being replaced with low-water-use plants and approximately 28,320 sq. ft. of artificial turf and other low-



water-using surfaces and homeowners' properties. This resulted in an estimated water savings of 26 acre-feet per year. An acre foot of water is the amount of water it takes to cover an acre of flat land with a foot of water—325,851 U.S. gallons.

In assessing the project, Morgan-Perales describes how the converted properties were classified, using subjective visual criteria, into three categories:

- Models of Success, 61 properties, landscape design contains a high percentage of plant coverage or a mixture of plant and non-permeable materials
- Alternative Landscapes, 23 properties, landscape design contains a higher percentage of "other" plant (non-native plant) coverage and may contain a higher percentage of hardscape
- Made the Grade, 52 conversions, Landscape design contains a high percentage of permeable paving surfaces with minimal plant coverage

Morgan-Perales says analysis of the results of the project suggested similarly focused future turf removal projects require each applicant to submit a mandatory site plan with live plants covering a minimum percentage of the design, require that participants modify their irrigation systems and require that eligible project areas include the front yard.

Beyond that, IEUA would like to develop and circulate a "recommended plant/materials list" and increase the maximum conversion area while lowering the rebate amount, she says.

All in all, the project that ended in 2009 was positive on several fronts, she adds, including building the IEUA's recognition and strengthening customer relations between agency staff and the public.

Coming March 1st:

Free SprinklerNozzles.com
Supplies Will Be Limited!
Save Water Save Cash

Chino Valley Students Recognized for Award-Winning Water Conservation Art Posters

Two students from Chino Valley schools, Anjaly Cruz, a fifth grader at Briggs Fundamental School, and Victoria Contreras, a ninth grader at Don Lugo High School, were recently honored for their award-winning art posters by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), sponsor of an annual "Water is Life" student art contest. The students' posters were among 36 selected for exhibition from 2010 entries, representing artwork from grades K through 12, submitted by 24 water agencies in MWD's six-county service area. The winning posters were featured in a 2011 "water is Life" calendar published by MWD. The winners art was submitted by the Monte Vista Water District.

Information Provided by Mary Ann Melleby, Public Affairs Director for Monte Vista Water District



L to R: Victoria Contreras - student at Don Lugo High School, Sandra Rose - Monte Vista Water District Board President, Anjaly Cruz - student at Briggs Fundamental School

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Garden in Every School® Mandatory Workshop

A mandatory workshop will be held at IEUA for those interested in applying for the **2011/2012 GARDEN IN EVERY SCHOOL® GRANT SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2011 9:00 AM—12:00 NOON**

For information, contact Andrew Kanzler at 909.993.1897 or at akanzler@ieua.org

Chino Creek Clean-Up Volunteer Project

Approximately thirty volunteers arrived at the Chino Creek on El Prado Road on Saturday morning, January 22, 2011. The goal was to clean up as much trash as possible. Because of the recent storms and illegal dumping, a creek's beauty has been diminished by an overload of trash. The Inland Empire WaterKeeper along with IEUA is working to protect this oasis and has scheduled clean-ups throughout the year in order to preserve the beauty of the Chino Creek. For more information on volunteer clean-ups, contact Lucia Diaz at (909) 993.1631 or ldiaz@ieua.org

