

# IEUA MONTHLY WATER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011 (REPORTING FEBRUARY 2011 DATA)

## Highlights

- **DWR Announces Results of Third Snow Survey** - On March 1, the Department of Water Resources announced the snowpack is 124% of normal. (Page 1)
- **DWR Installs “Bubble-Barriers” in the Delta** - Underwater strobe lights and electronic sounds to deter Chinook salmon from traveling towards export pumps. (Page 1)
- **MWD Considers Lifting a Two-Year Imported Water Allocation** - MWD reservoirs are almost full but water use efficiency practices must continue. (Page 1)

## Water Supply & Drought Update

On March 1, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) hydrologists confirmed that water content in California’s mountain snowpack is well above average. Manual and electronic readings indicate that statewide, water content is 124% of normal for the date, and 109% of the April 1 seasonal average. The readings were boosted by recent storms that made up for a dry January and early February. “We appear to be on a good water supply track as we move toward summer’s peak demand period,” said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “Once again, however, we must emphasize that conservation should always be a priority in California.” DWR estimates it will be able to deliver 60% of requested State Water Project (SWP) water this year. The estimate will be adjusted as hydrologic and regulatory conditions continue to develop.

In February, the DWR installed a “bubble-barrier” with hopes that these underwater strobe lights and offensive electronic sounds contained within a curtain of bubbles will keep migrating salmon on the straight-and-narrow in the Delta. The “bubble barrier” is intended to deter ocean-bound Chinook salmon from leaving the main channel of the Sacramento River near Walnut Grove to take a risky detour into Georgiana Slough. Georgiana Slough leads young salmon through the predator-infested waters of the interior Delta toward huge state and federal water export pumps. Studies indicate that 65% of the young salmon that enter Georgiana Slough don’t survive. Many are eaten by striped bass or other predators, and some are lost to pumping operations of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in the southern Delta. The barrier structure will be installed deep enough to allow at least 9-feet of clearance for boaters on average low tides. The barrier will utilize Bio-Acoustic Fish Fence (BAFF) technology, combining acoustics and a strobe-lit sheet of bubbles to create an underwater wall of light and sound at frequencies that repel young salmon. This is the same technology DWR has used at the Old River in the south Delta in 2009 and 2010 where it was proven effective in deterring salmon.



## MWD’S Water Supply Allocation Plan

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) is considering lifting the Water Supply Allocation Plan (WSAP) two months early. A 10% cut on imported water supplies has been in effect for the last two years. Due to this year’s excellent snowpack, MWD believes that they have stored enough water in their reservoirs and can lift the WSAP. However, continuing conservation and water use efficiency practices is essential for long-term reliability.

# IEUA Water Supply Programs

## Imported Water Deliveries

For fiscal year 2010-11, IEUA and its member agencies have purchased approximately 37,260 AF. Compared with last year during this same time period, IEUA and its member agencies had purchases of 42,496 AF. This puts IEUA and its member agencies approximately 34% below the Water Supply Allocation they were given by Metropolitan Water District.

## Dry Year Yield (DYY) Program

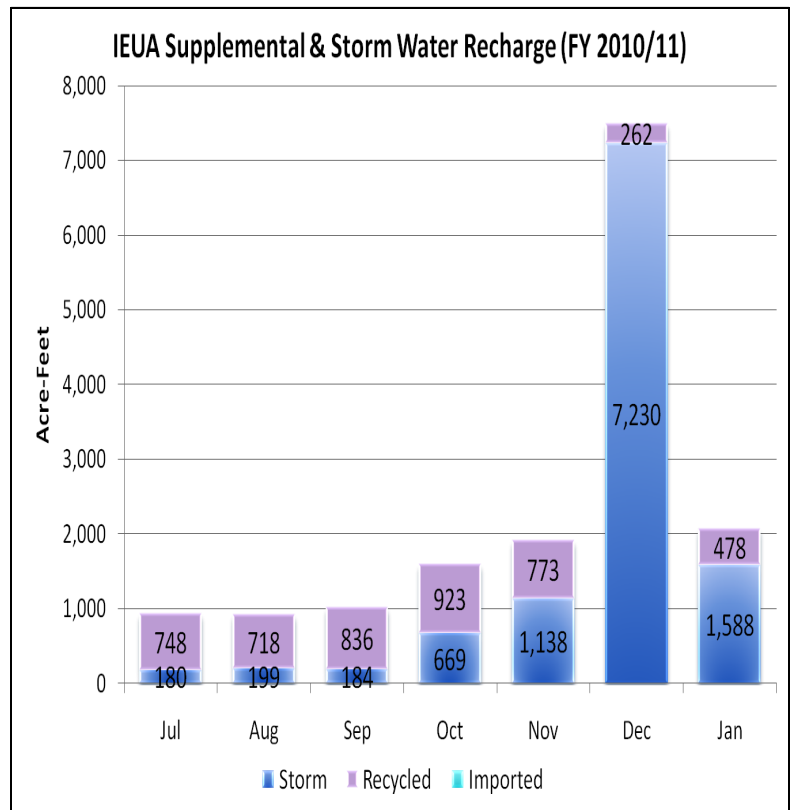
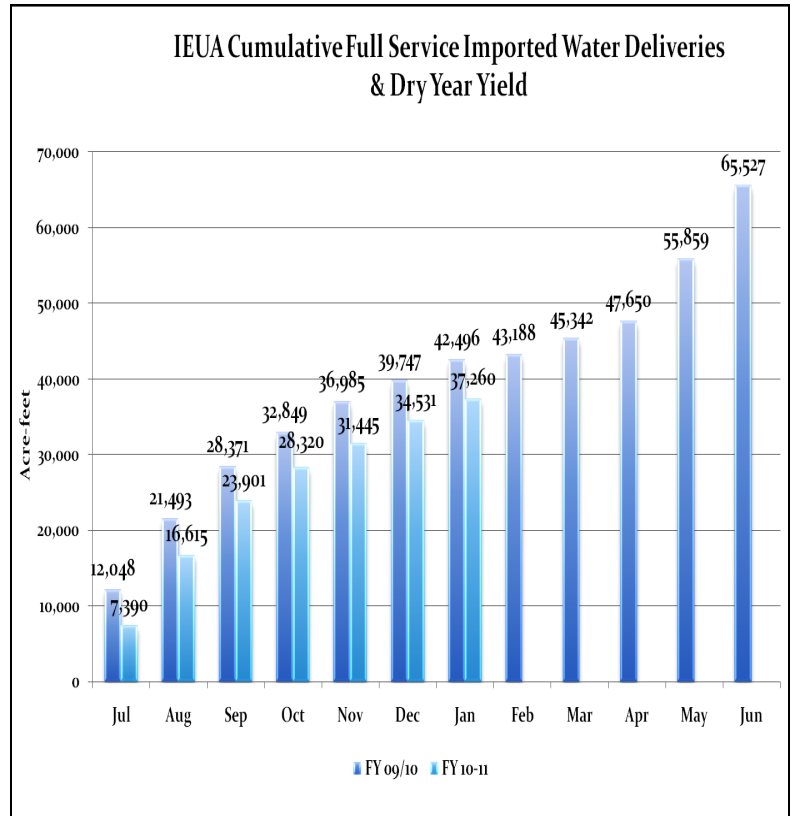
MWD has made a third consecutive call on the DYY Program. This call is considered to be a partial call because there is only 17,200 AF left in the storage account. The remaining water in the storage account will be split amongst the DYY participants based on a pre-defined “pro-rata” methodology. To date, DYY participants have certified approximately 16,261 AF (of which 4,700 AF will receive additional ion-exchange treatment credit from MWD).

## Chino Desalter Authority (CDA)

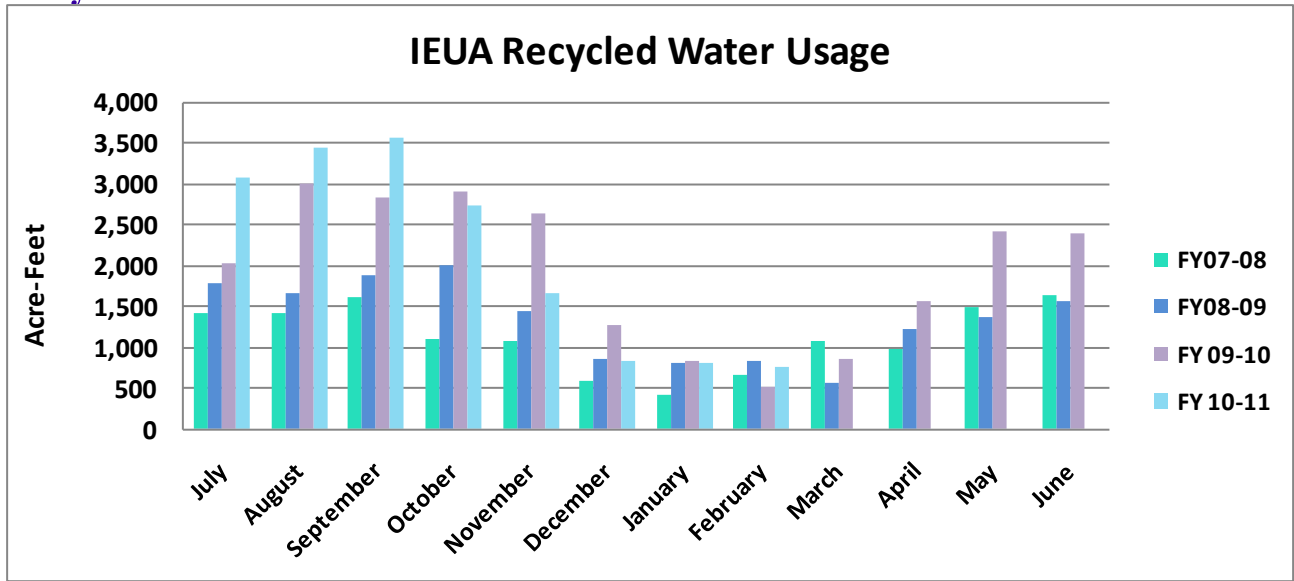
For the month of February, the two desalters produced 1,806 AF of water (of which 941 AF was delivered to IEUA retail agencies). The contracted entitlement is 24,600 AFY (but actual production is 25,000 to 26,000 AFY) and is scheduled for expansion to produce approximately 40,000 AFY by 2014, with the implementation of CDA Phase III.

## Groundwater Recharge Program

In January, 2,066 AF of water was recharged into the Chino Basin. Of that 478 AF was recycled water and 1,588 AF was stormwater.



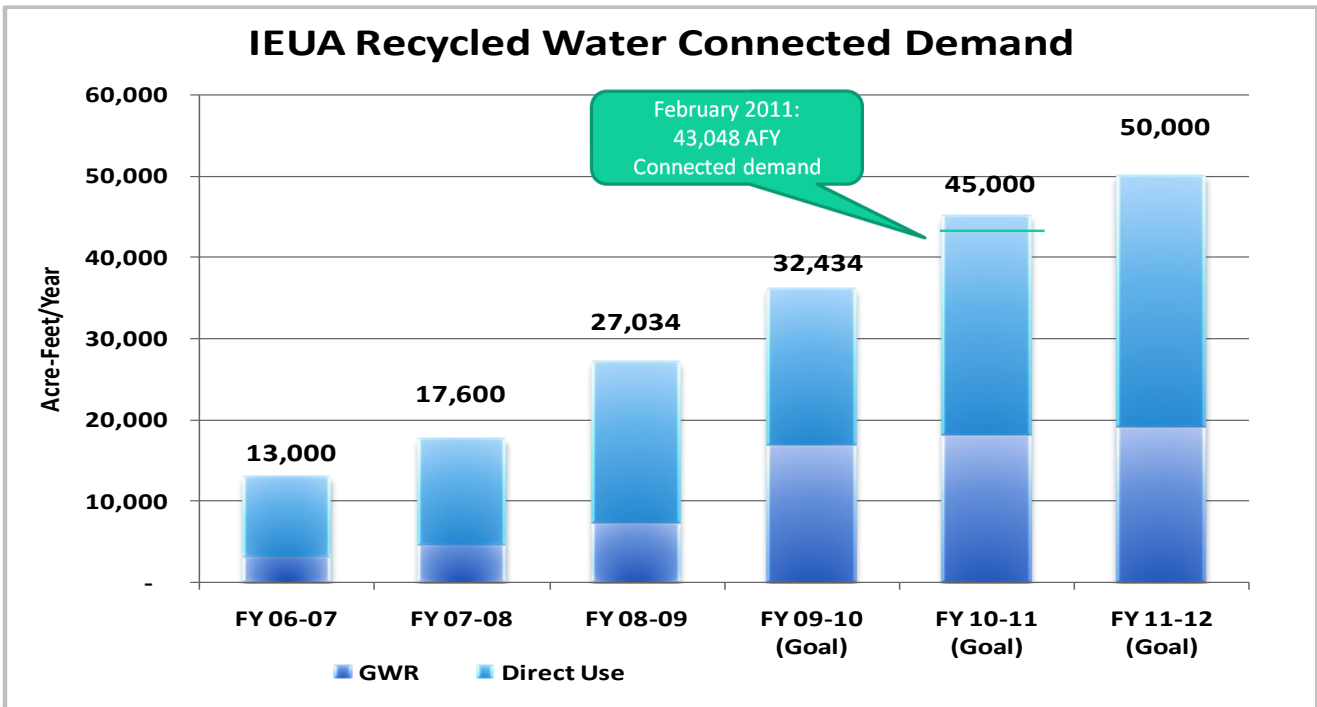
# Recycled Water News



**Recycled Water Usage:  
February 2011 Estimates**

Recharge: 300 AF  
 Direct Sales: 300 AF  
 Total Usage: 600 AF

# IEUA Connected Recycled Water Demand



## Conservation Program News

### **MWD Conservation Programs—Rebates**

Approximately 66% of MWD's FY 2010/11 \$19.1 Conservation Programs budget has been committed to date. The regional commercial program has expended approximately 70% of the modified \$4.0 million annual budget, while the regional residential program has expended 75% of the reallocated annual budget of \$6.0 million. During the month of February, \$1.3 million was transferred from the Agriculture Conservation Program to the Member Agency Administered Program increasing that budget from \$5.5 million to \$6.8. The Ag Program remains with a \$700,000 budget.

### **FY 2010/11 Regional Landscape Evaluation and Audit Program (LEAP)**

Launched in August 2010 and administered by the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, a total of 72 landscape audits have been completed to date (February 28th), constituting a potential water savings of 52 AFY, if all recommendations are implemented. Of the completed audits, 42 were single family sites and 30 were commercial sites with a total landscaped area 39.75 acres.

### **IEUA Regional Residential Landscape Retrofit Program**

During the month of February, staff prepared a grant application that was submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation on February 17 requesting \$100,000 for next year's program. The cooperative program between IEUA and Three Valleys Municipal Water district conducted vendor interviews on February 24 with two of the respondents who were shortlisted out of the seven proposals received through the RFP process. Valley Soil, Inc. was selected to administer the program and a program launch meeting is scheduled for March 15 at Three Valleys Municipal Water District. Program activity is set to begin on April 1.

### **Freesprinklernozzles.com Program**

This program launched on March 1 with customers logging onto the online application as early as 12:30 am to begin the process. Two vouchers had already been redeemed at participating retailers that same morning. Marketing is ongoing with ad placement in the Daily Bulletin the weekend prior to the program launch and the Sunday following the program launch. CVWD is also planning on placing ads as well. Other participating agencies have distributed bill insets, website banners, flyers, newsletter articles, cable channels, etc. throughout the region.

### **2011 Water Use Efficiency Legislative Proposals:**

**AB 19 (Fong) Submeters**—Building Standards: water meters: multiunit structures Water purveyor to adopt submeter policy. Intent is to charge tenant for water based on usage.

**AB 83 (Jeffries) Recycled Water**—CEQA exemption for recycled water pipeline less than 8 miles long within paved street, highway, right-of-way.

**AB 275 (Solorio) Rainwater Capture Act 2011**—Defines rainwater capture, allows for installation of rainwater capture systems, eligible for both outdoor and limited indoor use

**CA Building Standards Commission**—WUE expertise needed on CA Building Standards Commission for the development of new building and plumbing code standards. Legislation would require expert to be added to BSC committee.

**San Diego County Water Authority**—Reintroducing legislation preventing HOAs from prohibiting the installation of synthetic turf, but allowing HOA's to set quality standards