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Key Water Supply Legislation for the Chino Basin and Riverside County Awaits the President's Signature

Inland Empire – The Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA), the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and Western Municipal Water District (Western) are pleased to announce that on March 25 the Omnibus Public Lands Package, which included a bill sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein to increase groundwater desalination in the Chino Basin, was sent to President Obama for his signature.

The legislation, carried in the House of Representatives by Congressman Gary Miller, will fund \$26 million for the Chino Basin Desalter program, which provides a new fresh drinking water supply for the Jurupa Community Services District, Santa Ana Mutual Water Company, Western and the city of Norco in Riverside County, as well as the cities of Chino, Chino Hills and Ontario in San Bernardino County.

Another significant Inland Empire piece of the Omnibus Public Lands Package is Western's highest profile drought-proofing project in the Inland Empire, the Riverside-Corona Feeder. Sponsored by Congressman Ken Calvert and Senator Dianne Feinstein, the Riverside-Corona Feeder Water Supply Act authorizes \$26 million in federal funding for the Bureau of Reclamation to design, plan and construct this series of groundwater wells, pumps and pipelines that will comprise the conjunctive use project. "One of the biggest challenges we face as a region is securing additional sources of water as imported supplies continue to diminish. Signing of this bill will be a critical step to diversify our local water supply. We appreciate the agency partnerships it has taken to make these projects happen," said Western General Manager John V. Rossi.

"The Chino Basin Desalter Authority (CDA) is very appreciative of Congressman Gary Miller for introducing the bill in the House and Senator Dianne Feinstein for introducing the bill in the Senate, as well as congressional delegation, Senator Barbara Boxer, House of Representatives Joe Baca, Ken Calvert, David Dreier, Jerry Lewis, and Grace Napolitano for supporting the efforts to expand our local water supplies," commented CDA Chairman Glenn Duncan, who is also a council member for the city of Chino.

"This is wonderful news from D.C.," commented CDA Member Jim Bowman, who is also the mayor pro tem for the city of Ontario. "With this funding, we will be able to expand our groundwater desalination from its current 9.2 billion gallons per year to 13 billion gallons per year."

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“The CDA and IEUA would like to thank our partners, the Bureau of Reclamation, Chino Basin Watermaster, Western Municipal Water District, Metropolitan Water District, Orange County Water District, and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for their efforts on helping to secure this funding,” stated IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “This has been a great example of team effort and how regional watershed partnerships are critical to solving our southern California water problems.”

The city of Corona, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and Rancho California Water District also benefit from Wednesday’s movement of the legislation to the President’s Office as it will help fund their recycled programs.

For more information contact:

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Tedi Jackson at (951) 809-5902 or visit Western’s website at www.wmwd.org

IEUA’s service area includes the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario Upland as well as the Cucamonga Valley and Monte Vista Water Districts, with a combined total of over 850,000 residents.

The CDA serves the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, and Ontario in San Bernardino County and the city of Norco, Jurupa Community Services District, and Santa Ana River Mutual Water Company in Riverside County.

Western Municipal Water District’s 527-square mile service area includes the cities of Riverside, Corona, Norco, Murrieta, March Air Reserve Base, Rancho California Water District in Temecula, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lee Lake Water District, Box Springs Mutual Water Co., Eagle Valley Mutual Water Co., Home Gardens County Water District, Jurupa Community Services District and Rubidoux Community Services District totaling in more than 850,000 residents.

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