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INLAND VALLEY

# Daily Bulletin

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50¢ PLUS TAX

## RECYCLED WATER USE

# Alternative sought

By **Mediha Fejzagic DiMartino**  
Staff Writer

CHINO — Local authorities have come up with an alternate way to use more recycled water to reduce the region's dependency on imported water.

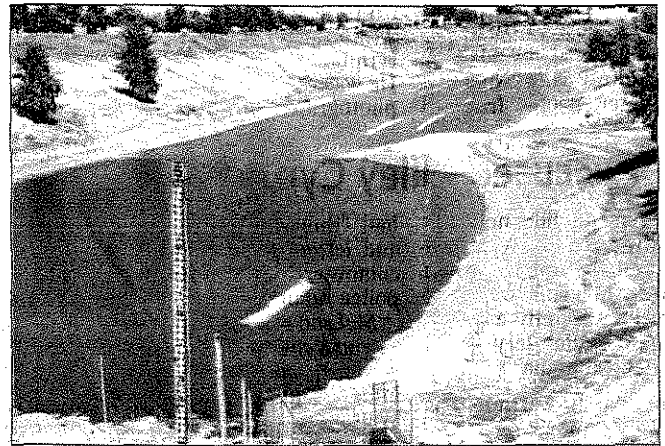
The Inland Empire Utilities Agency and Chino Basin Watermaster have asked a state board to allow them to change the formula, allowing more recycled water to be saved in west San Bernardino County.

To make sure the quality of water is not compromised, the state Department of Public Health requires local agencies to mix recycled water with storm runoff and imported water before it is allowed to be sunk into the ground for storage.

The amount of recycled water that can be saved in the region is calculated through a formula based on the last five years' rainfall.

The local agencies have asked the Regional Water Quality Control Board to allow them to use a 10-year period. This should allow more recycled water to be recovered rather than sent to the Santa Ana River and the ocean.

Since each designated time



Mediha Fejzagic Dimartino Staff Photographer

Every minute, 1,500 gallons of recycled water is pumped into Brooks Street Basin.

period has a different number of dry and wet years, the opportunity to use recycled water decreases when there is not enough rainfall to match it.

Also, during wet years, when the recharge basins fill up, the excess water cannot be captured and flows to the ocean — essentially wasting it.

“Our goal is to use as much water as possible here in San Bernardino County,” said Andy Campbell, groundwater recharge coordinator with

Inland Empire Utilities Agency.

Setting the time limit at 120 months would allow 10 percent to 20 percent more recycled water to be added to the local supply and provide much needed relief during dry years, Campbell said.

Both the Department of Public Health and regional board are supportive of the time expansion.

mediha.dimartino@inlandnewspapers.com  
(909) 483-9329