



For Immediate Release:  
October 27, 2009

**Chino Basin Allowed to Increase Recycled Water Recharge  
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Adopts New Revised Permit Amendment**

On October 23, 2009, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board unanimously approved a new permit with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and Chino Basin Watermaster for the recharge formula for replenishment of recycled water. The current permit had a five year blending formula with Metropolitan Water District's imported water supplies (from the State Water Project) and local storm water. The new permit uses a 10-year averaging formula.

As a result of the ongoing statewide drought, the California Department of Public Health and the State Water Resources Control Board worked collaboratively to develop the State Recycled Water Policy adopted in March 2009. State Water Resources Control Board Member Frances Spivy-Weber stated "the Board recognizes that recycled water is a significant part of solving the water shortage problems facing the State and is very supportive of expanding the use of recycled water for recharging groundwater basins like the Chino Groundwater Basin."

The availability of blend sources over the past four years has been below normal due to the current drought cycle. The region is currently in its fourth consecutive year of below average rainfall and does not currently have surplus imported water available for groundwater recharge. The last above average rainfall year was the 2004-2005 water year. Additionally climate change and environmental issues have contributed to reduced water availability in southern California. Consequently the ability to continue to recharge recycled water was greatly curtailed in a time when the governor has declared a state of water emergency.

"The science and the water quality monitoring documents confirm that the use of recycled water in the Santa Ana River watershed has been successfully implemented for decades, and supports the expanded use in the Chino Basin to reduce the need to purchase expensive imported water from the Delta," said Spivy-Weber.

“IEUA appreciates the decision of the regulators to adopt this permit amendment which helps us further the water supply needs for our retail agencies in these uncertain times, stated IEUA Board President Terry Catlin.

"As Chair of the Chino Basin Watermaster I am very proud of the decision of the Regional Board," commented Upland City Council Member Ken Willis. "As a former member of the State Water Resources Control Board I am also a strong advocate for increasing the use of recycled water throughout California and am very proud of our ability to fully utilize all the recycled water produced by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's treatment plants located in the Chino Basin," added Willis.

"I'd also like to thank the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board for their quick action to allow increased recharge of recycled water. With the drought and 10% water use restrictions throughout the communities of the Chino Basin this decision will help drought-proof our communities for the future and avoid purchasing expensive imported water," added Kathy Tiegs Chair of the Regional Sewage Committee and Vice President of the Cucamonga Valley Water District.

- Recycled water recharge in the Chino Basin is permitted under a Regional Board permit adopted in 2005 (the Ely Basin permit was issued in 1998).
- The thirteen permitted sites are flood control and water conservation basin located in Montclair, Upland, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Fontana.
- Recharge with recycled water recharge has now resumed at sites that were limited.
- As part of its recycled water master plan, IEUA plans on recharging up to 20,000 acre feet or about one-third of all recycled water available from its reclamation plants.

#####

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is a municipal water district that supplies the imported water needs for the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Upland, Montclair, Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga.

The Chino Basin Watermaster is a consensus-based organization facilitating development and utilization of the Chino Groundwater Basin. The Watermaster consists of various entities pumping water from the Basin including cities, water districts, water companies, agricultural, commercial, and other private concerns. The Chino Basin Watermaster's mission is to manage the Chino Groundwater Basin in the most beneficial manner and to equitably administer and enforce the provisions of the Chino Basin Watermaster Judgment.

