

Support Conservation

Serving the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, as well as Monte Vista and Cucamonga Valley Water Districts.

May 2009

IEUA Focuses on Support from Legislation and Water Recycling Projects

By Richard Atwater, CEO/General Manager, IEUA

On Tuesday, April 28, I was asked to testify before the Subcommittee on Water and Power/Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives on the importance that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is to local water agencies for the expansion of innovative recycling and desalting technologies to reuse existing water supplies. Congress and the Obama Administration are very interested in solving our water problems by increasing the use of recycled water. I testified about our experience in building "purple pipe" projects and the National need to utilize recycled water to conserve "drinking water supplies."

The Obama Administration has made green infrastructure a high priority for creating new jobs. Water recycling and reuse project construction assistance is one of the best ways to address the current economic downturn by creating jobs immediately - and with the California drought - helping to avoid water shortages. It will help local communities that have been hit hard by the current recession, generate jobs immediately and those jobs will create projects that sustain long-term economic activity.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is grateful to the Department of the Interior for providing \$135 million to support water recycling construction projects. IEUA is 'shovel ready' to begin construction on its recycled water projects as early as this July.

IEUA and its local water agencies appreciate the support from our Federal delegation, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and House of Representatives Napolitano, Baca, Calvert, Dreier, Lewis and Miller for their continued leadership and vision that recycling and reusing water is the most significant new water supply available to address our serious water shortage problems.

Statewide the Governor and key Cabinet Members have also been key supporter of IEUA's recycled water program.

Water Conservation Tip:
It takes 330 gallons of water to irrigate a 1,000 sq. foot lawn with 1/2 inch of water. Replacing a portion of your lawn with beautiful native and California Friendly® plants will save 30-60 gallons per day per 1,000 sq. ft. depending on your climate.

Upcoming Events

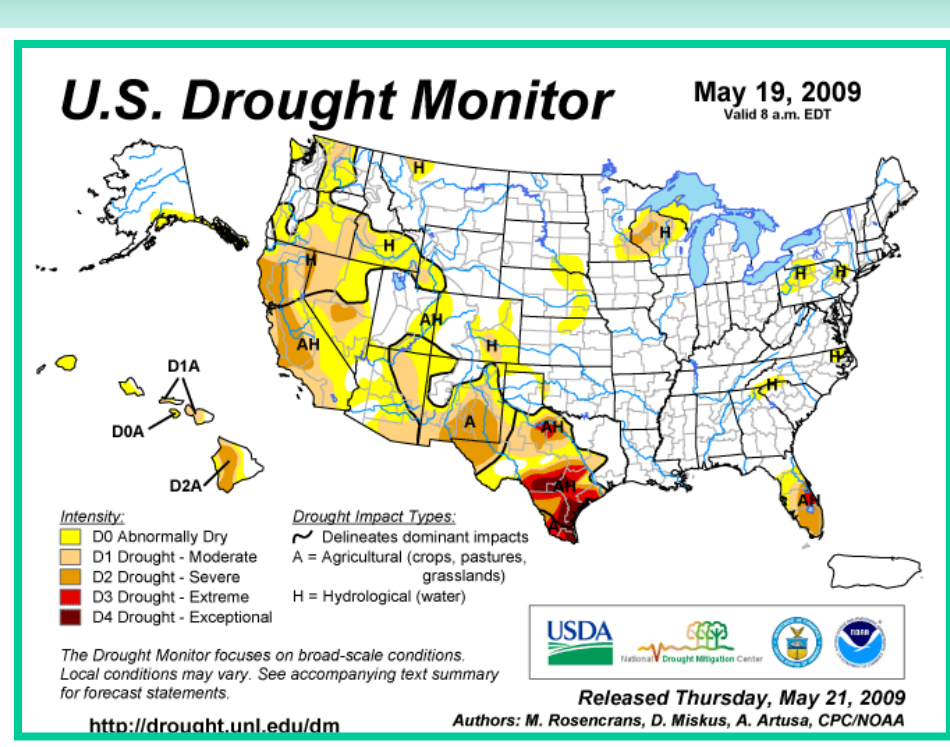
May 30: Wildfire Awareness Fair
Western Hills Park
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

June 6: Volunteer Work Party
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
8:30 am - 11:00 am

June 6: Montclair Family Fun Festival
Alma Hofman Park
11:00 am - 5:00 pm

June 20: Greenlee Nursery Landscape Workshop "Low Water Lawns and Micro Meadows"
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

June 25: Pervious Concrete Conference
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Time TBD



Drought Summary
D0 and D1 are spread across most of Southern California. D2 begins in the northern part of Southern California and continues up through northern California. The West received little if any precipitation, but since this is not unusual for this time of the year, no changes were indicated.

Landscape Alliance

Drought Tolerant Gardening: The Cheaper Landscape Alternative

By Nikki Phipps
May 2009
Gardening Know How

Do you want to protect your lawn and garden from the threat of drought? Would you prefer to have a more manageable landscape? Do you like to save money? Then you should consider implementing drought-tolerant gardening practices. This will not only wipe out the threat of losing your garden to drought but is much easier to maintain as well. Many people are wary of drought-tolerant gardening or xeriscaping because they're concerned about the cost. But with proper planning, you can incorporate a drought-tolerant landscape for very little money. In fact, it may even turn out to be a cheaper alternative than traditional landscaping.

Where should you start? Reducing the size of your lawn can benefit your landscape as well, saving you time, energy and expense. Why not take a long look at your lawn and start considering cheaper alternatives traditional turf. Did you know that there are many drought-resistant alternatives to lawn grasses? One alternative to traditional grass is clover. Clover stays green even in the driest part of summer. Clover rarely has to be mowed, but when it does, it mows well. Clover will easily fill in bare spots, it's soft to walk on, free of weeds, pest-free, and aerates the soil. You can also convert part of your lawn to ornamental grasses. These are low maintenance and grow

well in most soils. Ornamental grasses are drought-resistant as well. Another option is drought-tolerant, perennial groundcovers. These plants spread across the ground, providing full coverage, but do not grow tall, thereby, cutting out the need for mowing and other maintenance.

Drought-tolerant planting beds can be strategically located in the landscape. Drought-tolerant plants include various succulents, rock garden plantings, native shrubs and trees, wildflowers, and ornamental grasses. Choose your plants carefully for the best effect. Start by looking around your home and notice what types of plants are growing. Some of the most drought-tolerant plants also happen to be those which are native to your area. These not only look great but cost little, especially if you already have some growing on your property. Keep plant selection simple. A few varieties can make a bigger impact with less cost and effort.

Once you have selected the plants for your drought-tolerant landscape, you're ready to purchase them. However, in an attempt to stretch your dollars even more, there are some things you can do to make this possible. For instance, don't always look for the biggest plants; buy smaller ones instead. These are much less expensive than the larger plants and once the garden is established, know one will ever be the wiser. Another trick to saving money on those drought-tolerant plants is to check out home improvement and discount department stores for xeric perennials like sedums and ornamental grasses. Finally, if you have friends and neighbors, or even fam-



ily members, that garden, chances are they may have just the right plant for your drought-tolerant garden. Many of which can be easily started from cuttings. Ask them if they have an overabundance of these plants or if you can take a cutting from one. More often than not, they're happy to oblige your endeavors. You should also consider growing plants from seeds. This is one of the least expensive ways to go. Of course, the seedlings won't pop up overnight, but the savings will be worth the wait.

Creating a drought-tolerant landscape is easy and will wind up being more cost effective in the long run. You will have little maintenance chores and less watering requirements. You will also wipe out the worries associated with the threat of drought.

For more information visit:
www.gardeningknowhow.com

Upcoming Events			
	Saturday, June 20 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Greenlee Nursery Landscape Workshop "Low Water Lawns & Micro Meadows"	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Event Room
	Saturday, July 18 10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Greenlee Nursery Landscape Workshop "Maintain & Sustain"	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Event Room
	Thursday, July 23 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Landscape Alliance Sub-Committee Meeting	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Anza Room
	Thursday, August 13 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Landscape Alliance Board Meeting	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Board Room

Tim Brick: Era of Cheap Water is Over

By Timothy F. Brick
May 23, 2009
Pasadena Star News

For the first time in 18 years, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will not deliver full supplies of imported water to its 26 member agencies in our six-county service area, including the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

Our supplies are down after three below-average years of rainfall and tightening environmental restrictions for our supplies from Northern California delivered to us through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. And our costs are up primarily from coping with the problems in the Delta, such as paying to find replacement water at high market prices.

Our situation is hardly unique. Climate change and environmental challenges are driving fundamental changes to water planning throughout the arid Southwest. Overall, we will be using less water and paying more for it along the way. The era of cheap water is coming to an end.

What is achievable for Southern California, however, is a reliable, sustainable and reasonable priced water supply. This means investing now in our future, while watching closely the bottom line along the way.

The main reason for increased cost is the Delta, where we get more than half of Metro-

politan's water; our other imported source is the Colorado River. Metropolitan's job is to import these supplies and distribute them to our member agencies. Some, like the City of Chino] have groundwater supplies of their own. The goal is to plan for a future as a region and deal with times of shortage in as fair and equitable a way as possible.

The Delta, where the rivers from the western Sierra merge before heading toward San Francisco Bay, is a fragile and deteriorating ecosystem. As fish populations decrease, court ruling and new regulations have restricted the movement of water supplies that move across the Delta.

The only way to create a reliable water system in the Delta is to help restore and stabilize the ecosystem and to reduce conflicts between the movement of water supplies and the natural tidal patterns of the estuary. This will cost in the billions of dollars. Planning costs alone will exceed \$100 million. But to say no to investing in the Delta's future and that of a more reliable water supply is simply not an option. The environment and California's economy depend on it.

Metropolitan is looking more and more to local sources to create a diverse, reliable



water system. Efforts by Metropolitan and our member agencies are under way to conserve more water, including increased water recycling programs and expanding the desalination of seawater. But these programs cost money.

Metropolitan's board has deferred nearly a quarter-billion dollars in needed capital projects while reducing annual spending by more than \$70 million on initiatives that are not absolutely essential. But, of course, all ongoing projects and facilities needed to deliver safe, reliable water are fully funded.

Metropolitan doesn't tell local water districts how to charge for water. Sophisticated tiered structures exist that can save money for those who conserve. That said, for a typical Southern California consumer, water costs about 3 pennies for 10 gallons of some of the world's safest tap water. It's a bargain. So are the investments to ensure your tap never runs dry and that Southern California has a sustainable, reliable water system for today...and tomorrow.

Timothy F. Brick is chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

www.pasadenastarnews.com

Martha Davis Recognized for ACWA's 2009 Excellence in Water Leadership Award

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has awarded the Recycled Water Stakeholder's Group with its ACWA Excellence in Water Leadership Award - Building a World of Difference® for 2009. Martha Davis, Executive Manager of Policy Development, is recognized as a "key" member of the Recycled Water Stakeholder's Group.

The ACWA Excellence in Water Leadership Award recognizes individuals or groups that have made a remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement, protection or development of water resources in California. The Award was given at ACWA's 2009 Spring Conference.

WEWAC Announces Winners for PSA Contest

The Water Education Water Awareness Committee (WEWAC) held an Awards Ceremony on May 27th for all of the students who participated in the 2009 Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest. Mike Maestas from the City of Chino Hills was the Keynote Speaker. The students were responsible for developing a PSA (20 sec. or 60 sec.) focused on water conservation. There was a total of six eligible submissions. Chino Hills High School received first place, Bonita High School came in second, Nogales came in third, Claremont received Honorable Mention as well as Pomona High School which submitted two entries. The first place winner received a check for \$500.



Representative from Chino Hills High School accepting First Place

IEUA Recognizes the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA)

At the May 18th Board Meeting held at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Board President Terry Catlin presented Certificate of Appreciations to Richard Zimbel and Dolly Aguirre. The Certificates were presented to recognize SAWA's efforts and success in building an educational program for the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. Richard Zimbel accepted the Certificate on SAWA's behalf and Dolly Aguirre was recognized as the Education Coordinator for SAWA.

SAWA offers free environmental education programs taught by on-site Naturalists who specialize in focusing on water conservation and watershed issues. SAWA strives to empower students with knowledge of water preservation and motivate them to take action in school and at home.

For more information on the program, contact Dolly Aguirre at (909) 606-1933



From L to R: Lucia Diaz - IEUA, Dolly Aguirre - SAWA, Board President Terry Catlin - IEUA, Richard Zimbel - SAWA



Knowledge is Power