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Inland Empire Utilities Agency Recognizes July as Smart Irrigation Month

Inland Empire, California—The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) recognizes July as Smart Irrigation Month. The Irrigation Association® started this public outreach campaign in 2005 to educate the public about the importance of using water efficiently outdoors through simple practices and innovative technologies.

While IEUA offers programs and education throughout the year, July presents a great opportunity to increase awareness and encourage our communities to be aware of their water use during the warm summer months. July is traditionally the month when residential water use is at its highest in order to irrigate lawns, gardens and landscapes in the region.

Over 65 percent of our region’s residential water use is used to irrigate landscaping. Homeowners typically overwater lawns and landscapes by up to 30 percent. Existing irrigation systems may be tuned-up for more efficiency, thus reducing run off and eliminating waste. By selecting and planting climate appropriate materials, watering efficiently, and maintaining and upgrading automated irrigation systems, residents may see a decrease in water use.

“We need to increase our water saving efforts as we enter the long hot summer months,” said Terry Catlin, IEUA Board President. “Smart Irrigation Month is a great reminder to the community to check sprinkler systems, water efficiently, and eliminate waste.”

IEUA recommends following these important tips:

- Water only as needed.
- Water when the sun is down, winds are calm, and temperatures are cool to reduce the chances of evaporation.
- Detect and repair all leaks.
- Install high efficiency sprinkler nozzles (rebate available), drip irrigation, or moisture sensor systems on irrigation systems.
- Consider replacing your existing irrigation controller with a Smart Controller: Smart Controllers save water by automatically adjusting to changes in the weather and the needs of your landscape. Smart Controllers account for plant types, soil conditions, location, climate and other landscape conditions.

Residents should also comply with their city drought ordinances that include restrictions on watering schedules and water waste.

For more efficient irrigation tips, rebates, and resources visit www.ieua.org.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency covers 242-square miles, distributes imported water, provides industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services to more than 830,000 people through its member agencies which include Chino, Chino Hills, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana, Fontana Water Company, Montclair, Monte Vista Water District, Ontario, and Upland.

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