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## **THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY SUPPORTS *NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN***

**Chino Hills, CA** – On August 25, 2011, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) participated in a *Drug Take Back* event hosted by San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt and the Chino Hills Police Department. This event aimed to draw awareness toward the abuse of unused prescription medications and the problems that follow the improper disposal of such medications.

Supervisor Ovitt took the initiative and funded a “drug take back drop box” that has been installed at the Chino Hills Police Department, in an attempt to have an ongoing program that would allow for the proper disposal of unused prescription medications.

“The *Drug Take Back* program is a positive initiative that focuses on alleviating the potential impacts that improper disposal of medications can have on the environment. The improper disposal of unused, unwanted and/or expired pharmaceuticals can lead to these medications entering the sewer system, ultimately ending up in our wastewater treatment plants. This, results in negative effects on the water supply,” stated Steven J. Elie, IEUA Board Member, representing the cities of Chino and Chino Hills.

IEUA initiated its “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign in 2007, which focuses on the proper disposal of medications. “With the installment of the ‘drug take back drop box’, the community now has a place to safely dispose of their medications with very little impact on the environment,” stated Director Elie.

*For more information on the “No Drugs Down the Drain” campaign, visit [www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org](http://www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org).*

*The Inland Empire Utilities Agency strives to enhance the quality of life in the Inland Empire by providing optimum water resources management for the area’s customers while promoting conservation and environmental protection. 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 850,000 people. The Agency’s service area includes the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, as well as the Cucamonga Valley Water District and the Monte Vista Water District.*