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Inland Empire Utilities Agency Provides Tips for Fix a Leak Week

Inland Empire, California – The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is promoting Fix a Leak Week, March 16-22, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense® program. Fix a Leak Week is celebrated in March of each year as a time to remind community members to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide. That's equal to the annual household water use of more than 11 million homes. Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water or more per day. Common types of leaks found in the home include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. All are easily correctable. The following tips are provided by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency to encourage the community to fix leaks:

INDOOR TIPS:

- Leaky faucets can be fixed by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary.
- Leaky showerheads can be fixed by ensuring a tight connection using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Silent toilet leaks can be found by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank. If color appears in the bowl within 15 minutes without flushing you have a leak.
- If your toilet is leaking, the cause is often an old, faulty toilet flapper. Over time, this inexpensive rubber part decays, or minerals build up on it. It's usually best to replace the whole rubber flapper—a relatively easy, inexpensive do-it-yourself project that pays for itself in no time.
- If the toilet handle sticks in the flush position, water runs constantly. Replace or adjust the handle to avoid running.
- If the average family replaces its older, inefficient toilets with high efficient ones, it could save 13,000 gallons of water per year.

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OUTDOOR TIPS:

- An irrigation system should be checked each spring before use to make sure it was not damaged by frost or freezing.
- Check for broken sprinklers.
- Check your garden hose for leaks at its connection to the spigot. If it leaks while you run your hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.

WaterSense® is a partnership program sponsored by EPA that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense® has helped consumers save 487 billion gallons of water and \$8.9 billion in water and energy bills.

For more information on qualifying water saving rebates and water saving tips, visit www.ieua.org. Follow IEUA on Facebook and Twitter during Fix a Leak Week for water saving tips.

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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.