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Students Take Part in a Water Discovery Adventure to Learn About Water Conservation

***Inland Empire Utilities Agency Hosts First Water Discovery Field Trip of the 2016-17 School Year
Water Discovery Field Trip and Busing Grant Available to Entire State of California***

Chino, California – On October 19, the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) hosted its first Water Discovery Field Trip of the 2016-2017 school year at the 22-acre Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park (Park). Second grade students from Mt. Vernon Elementary School in San Bernardino were able to learn and explore through interactive activities led by Water Discovery facilitators. Taking students out of the classroom and letting them be a part of nature, students learned about water conservation and environmental stewardship while they explored the wetlands, which includes several water sources, native plants, and many types of wildlife

An important component of the field trips is participation in interactive activities. For this specific field trip, the Mt. Vernon Elementary School teachers chose Bird Bingo, where students first use binoculars to see and identify birds and waterfowl in their own habitat. Then, students visit the Education Center, tour the Wetlands Discovery Room and play an exciting game of Bird Bingo. Teachers also chose for their students to participate in the Water Cycle Bracelets activity, where participants are introduced to the water cycle and water conservation, participate in a discussion, and enjoy an activity making a bracelet that represents the water cycle journey and the various means in which water travels through different sources. These are just a few of the many activities that are available from which teachers can customize their field trips, and all activities align with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core Standards. The trip concluded with a comprehensive overview of what students learned and provided time for lunch in the Park.

“The Water Discovery Field Trip program was developed for kindergarten through twelfth grade students to reconnect them with the environment by letting them explore outside of their classrooms, promote the public understanding of the value of natural treatment wetlands, explain and show the creation of habitat for endangered/sensitive species, and provide ways to practice environmental stewardship including water-use efficiency techniques,” stated IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “Since its inception, the 22-acre Park has played host to thousands of students who take part in the Water Discovery Field Trips where they learn about the watershed, habitat, water sources, and invasive species in an outdoor learning environment.”

Due to a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, IEUA offers a Busing Mini-Grant, which allows for qualifying formal and non-formal educators, schools and organizations within the entire state of California to apply for transportation funding to and from the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park to take part in the Water Discovery Field Trip program. Field trips are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the school year and run from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. To schedule a Water Discovery Field Trip and/or tour of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park please visit www.ieua.org. or call Andrea Carruthers at 909.993.1935.

Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was partially funded by a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. The Water Discovery Field Trip and Mini Busing Grant Program is partially funded by a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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 875,000 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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