



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Inland Empire Utilities Agency Celebrates August as Water Quality Month  
and Promotes Water Softener Rebate Program**

**Inland Empire, California-** The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) celebrates Water Quality Month during the month of August. Water Quality Month emphasizes the importance of protecting water resources locally and globally through education and awareness. In North America, 46% of lakes and 40% of rivers are polluted and considered unsafe for swimming, fishing and aquatic life. Consequently, 80% of water pollution stems from domestic sewage, such as throwing garbage into open bodies of water or simply on the ground.

IEUA will be educating the community through social media, by providing resources and facts throughout the month explaining how to maintain a healthy water supply. The Agency will also be promoting the Water Softener Rebate program through various social media platforms. Residential self-regenerating water softeners, the kind that use rock salt or potassium chloride pellets, pose a serious water quality threat for our communities. IEUA's program encourages the removal of these self-regenerating water softeners, provides rebates up to \$2,000 and offers free professional water softener removal service.

"Water Quality Month serves as a reminder to the community about the many ways we can sustain a healthy water supply," said IEUA Board President Steve Elie. "The Water Softener Rebate program enables homeowners to improve regional water quality and allows them to save money in the process."

IEUA recommends following these important tips:

- Sweep your driveway rather than using a hose.
- When possible, avoid using pesticides or chemical fertilizers.
- Dispose of used motor oil properly.
- Pick up after your pet.
- When cooking with fats oils and greases (FOG), remember to dispose of it appropriately. Find your nearest Household Hazardous Waste Center by visiting [www.sbcountystormwater.org/hhwc-locations](http://www.sbcountystormwater.org/hhwc-locations).
- Do not dispose of unused or unwanted drugs down the drain. For more information on proper disposal of unwanted drugs and medications, please visit [www.nodrugsdowndrain.org](http://www.nodrugsdowndrain.org).

For more information about the Water Softener Rebate program, visit [www.ieua.org/watersoftenerrebate](http://www.ieua.org/watersoftenerrebate)

*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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