



# Thinking in Terms of Tomorrow

2009/2010  
Annual Report

## Inland Empire Utilities Agency

*“We need to think about tomorrow today.”*

Terry Catlin, Board President





The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) was formed in 1950 to supply supplemental imported water to the Chino Basin. Today, the Agency is involved in recycled water distribution; compost; renewable power generation from solar, wind, and methane gas energy recovery; water conservation; and water desalination.



**Inland Empire Utilities Agency Focuses on Sustainable Practices**

“Sustainability is a top priority at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency,” said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “Generally, most wastewater utilities view themselves as primarily in the business of treating and disposing of waste from wastewater plants. Instead, IEUA views its business as manufacturing three products: producing high quality recycled water to help drought-proof our service area; converting biosolids into high quality compost to ensure healthy soils; and renewable energy through methane gas, solar, and wind generation facilities,” continued Catlin.

**Developing and Expanding Recycled Water is a Key Part of IEUA’s Mission**

IEUA’s four wastewater facilities currently produce approximately 60 million gallons of recycled water each day that can be used for a variety of non drinking applications including irrigation, industrial use, and replenishing local ground water aquifers. The Inland Empire Regional Recycled Water Project is an aggressive program to expand delivery of high quality recycled water to guarantee that the Chino Basin is protected from future droughts and other water shortages. The current drought conditions have generated considerable interest throughout California in constructing recycled water (purple pipe) systems. According to IEUA Vice-President Angel Santiago, who represents the Agency on the Metropolitan Water District’s Board of Directors, water recycling is more important than ever. “MWD is calling for a second year of water supply reductions making the use of recycled water even more important,” declared Santiago. “By investing in recycled water to reduce our demand on expensive imported water, IEUA and its local water agencies are not only saving money, we are helping to drought-proof our region. The use of recycled water is the ultimate water conservation program.”

“Recycled water is the only new significant water supply we have,” explains IEUA Board Member John L. Anderson. Over the past few years, IEUA and its local water providers have invested in new water infrastructure, including a 75-mile recycled water pipeline distribution

system that delivers recycled water from its wastewater recycling plants to its customers. “Every month we connect new parks, golf courses, and schools to recycled water. We now have more than 500 recycled water connections in our service area. In February 2010, the Cintas Corporation became one of the newest commercial companies to receive recycled water,” added Anderson. Cintas provides uniform and facility service (floor mats, shop towels, terry towels, and hygiene products) rental programs to customers from Chino Valley to Indio, as well as from Corona to Barstow.

**The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is Committed to Creating a Better Environment**

A key component in this endeavor is the Agency’s Energy Management Strategy. The plan is to implement renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and biogas allowing IEUA to generate 100% of the power it needs from renewable sources by 2020.



In 2008, IEUA installed 3.5 megawatts of solar power at its water recycling facilities and the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility. The 3.5 megawatts of solar energy, enough to power approximately 2,800 homes, saves the Agency hundreds of thousands of dollars a year on energy costs.

IEUA recently approved installing 1 megawatt of wind energy at one of its water recycling plants. “It was determined that our northern water recycling plant has sustainable wind to drive a wind turbine for electricity to power that plant,” said IEUA Board Member Gene Koopman.

“The venture will provide an annual savings of over \$100,000 in electricity costs,” said Koopman. IEUA’s newest project is its food waste - biogas electric power generation project. IEUA expects the first phase of the facility to be online in 2011. The facility is expected to produce approximately 3 megawatts of electricity. “Not only are we creating renewable energy by recycling food waste into energy, we will also be cutting down on waste that is sent to our landfills,” commented Koopman.



IEUA has partnered with private companies to implement these renewable energy projects which have minimized its capital investment while achieving electrical cost savings. “Although cost savings are an important reason to install solar, wind, and biogas; especially, during these difficult economic times, it is not the only reason IEUA has invested in these projects,” said Board President Catlin. “They are proven green technologies. They are 100% renewable.”

Additionally IEUA is the first public agency in the nation to build its headquarters to the highest “platinum” standard under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. “The headquarters is extremely energy efficient — using less than 20 percent of the electricity of a normal office building of similar size,” added Catlin.

IEUA partnered with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to construct the first of its kind, a state-of-the-art enclosed compost



manufacturing facility. “Recycling biosolids into a high quality compost product, in a fully enclosed local facility, is the best approach to overcoming the challenges of biosolids management. It also represents a less expensive and more reliable solution to disposal of our region’s organic material rather than costly, long distance trucking; therefore saving taxpayers’ money,” commented IEUA Secretary/Treasurer Michael Camacho. “This spring, the facility received a national award for excellence from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers,” continued Camacho.

**Managing the Chino Groundwater Basin**

The Chino Basin residents depend on groundwater wells for about 65% of their drinking water needs. IEUA, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Chino Basin Watermaster, and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District are working together to enhance our local water supplies by improving the percolation and recharge into our aquifers, ensuring there is emergency storage, by increasing our ability to recharge storm water, local recycled water and imported water into the Chino Groundwater Basin. “Over the past year we have been able to recharge our basins with over 10,000 acre feet of “new” water - water that would have previously been lost to the Pacific Ocean,” stated Camacho. One acre foot of water is enough water for two average families in and around the home for one year. “Another innovative project, The Chino Basin Desalination Program provides 25 million gallons per day of high quality drinking water - enough water to serve the needs of about 50,000 residents,” added Camacho.

The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park, which opened to the public in 2007, provides a hands-on opportunity for the community to experience the importance of constructed wetlands in the protection of our watershed. The Park improves water quality, flood control, habitat restoration, recreation, water conservation and public education. The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) is the Agency’s partner for park tours and education programs.

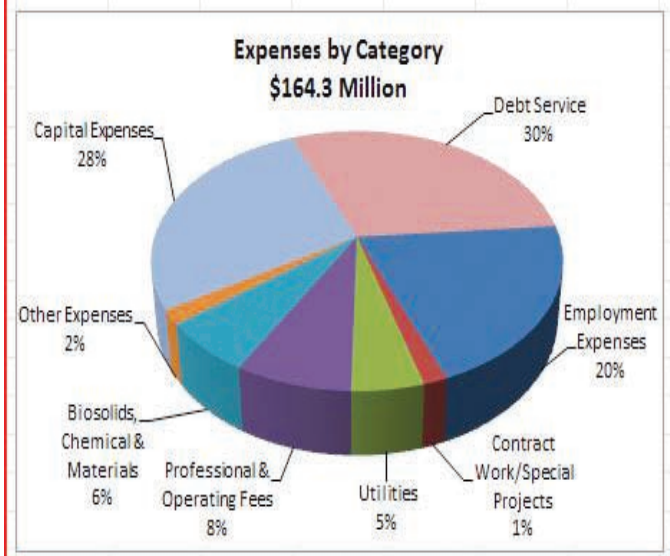
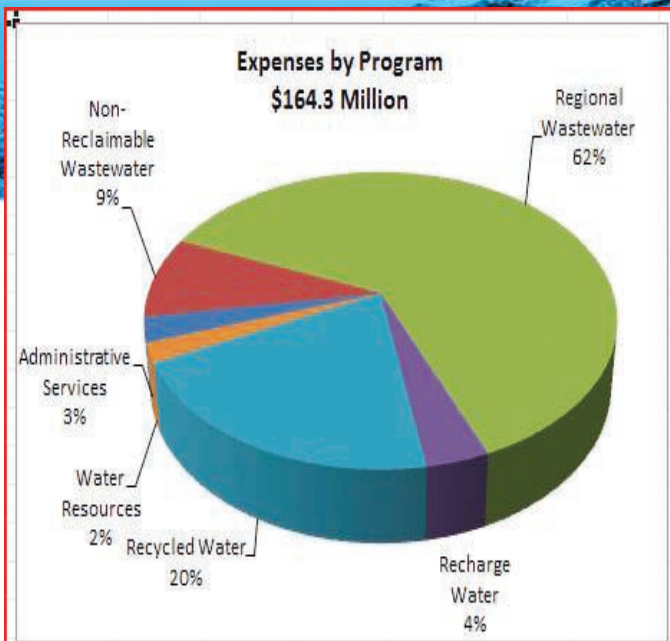
Since 2005, IEUA has reached over 19,000 students with its award winning Garden in Every School® program. The purpose of the Garden in Every School® program is to educate the school family and community about wise-water usage through a garden landscape, featuring drought-tolerant plants and efficient irrigation methods.

In partnership with our cities, community groups, schools and other water agencies, IEUA will continue to ensure that our communities will have high quality, reliable local water supplies with very competitive water and sewer rates.

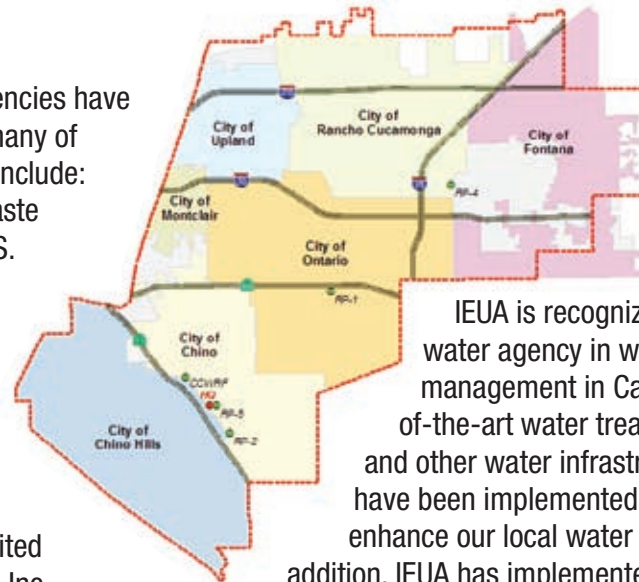


**Inland Empire Utilities Agency 60 Years of Excellence in Water Resources and Quality Management.**





State and Federal agencies have financially assisted in many of IEUA's projects. These include: California Integrated Waste Management Board, U.S. Department of Energy, CEC Pier grant, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Energy Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Western United Resource Development, Inc., California Public Utilities Commission through Southern California Gas Company Self Generation Incentive Program, California Solar Initiative Southern California Edison, State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Department Of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Department of Water Resources, and WaterReuse Foundation.



IEUA is recognized as a premier water agency in watershed management in California. State-of-the-art water treatment facilities and other water infrastructure projects have been implemented in order to enhance our local water supplies. In addition, IEUA has implemented a 20-year plan to keep water and sewer rates low. This is being done through innovative and cooperative infrastructure investments with utilities and cities within the Chino Basin watershed; therefore preserving our local water resources for our children through the end of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



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