



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 28, 2022

Contact:

Stephanie Chancellor
Acting Communications Officer
909.925.7910

schancellor@ieua.org

**Inland Empire Utilities Agency Elevates Water Shortage Contingency Plan
Due to Severe and Persistent Drought**

INLAND EMPIRE, CA – The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) Board of Directors (Board) took important action at the December 21, 2022 IEUA Board Meeting to extend the declaration of a Water Shortage Emergency Condition and elevate the Agency’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan to a Level 6. These actions were taken in response to the ongoing, severe drought currently being experienced across the State of California, the Department of Water Resources announcing an initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation of only 5% of requested supplies for 2023, and action taken by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to extend the imported water allocation to IEUA and the other SWP-Dependent areas. The SWP-Dependent areas, including IEUA, rely on MWD and the SWP for imported water supplies. With an initial SWP allocation of only 5% of requested supplies, the region will be experiencing additional reductions in the availability of imported water supplies compared to 2022 which was already a challenging year.

With water supplies in Lake Mead and Lake Powell at record lows and the State heading into a fourth consecutive year classified as dry and critically dry, IEUA’s implementation of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan Level 6 is intended to urge all retail agencies within the IEUA service area to reduce imported water usage by a minimum of 50%. Additionally, IEUA will continue to support these retail agencies in the implementation of their water use efficiency programs and will work to further educate the community on the importance of conservation and the use of precious local supplies as imported supplies remain scarce.

“IEUA has been working closely with MWD and our retail agencies to assess and understand our imported water supply constraints for the next year and how that will impact our region,” stated IEUA Board President Steve Elie. “Given the severity of the current drought and future challenges with our water supply in California, it is critically important that we come together to develop local solutions, such as increasing the capacity and ability to develop recycled water. As a leader in water recycling, IEUA is planning and looking forward to the implementation of the Chino Basin Program (CBP) which will develop new, advanced treated recycled water supplies designed to further enhance local water supply reliability.”

###

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) is an innovative, forward-thinking Agency serving 242-square miles in western San Bernardino County. The Agency is committed to supporting the needs of its service area and safeguarding public health through its significant investments in developing a diversified water supply portfolio, developing reliable municipal/industrial wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner. IEUA’s mission ensures long-term success for the region and its customer agencies which include Chino, Chino Hills, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana, Fontana Water Company, Montclair, Monte Vista Water District, Ontario, and Upland.