



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact:

Ashley Womack

Manager of External Affairs

909.925.7205

awomack@ieua.org

IEUA RESPONDS TO COURT RULING ON CHINO BASIN PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

IEUA Remains Committed to Advancing Local Supply Reliability Program

On Behalf of General Manager, Shivaji Deshmukh:

Recently, a court ruling was issued related to the Chino Basin Program's (CBP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR). IEUA is pleased that the major technical aspects of the program were upheld and appreciative of the court denying several claims raised by the city of Ontario. The court did also require that a few areas of the CBP EIR be further examined and/or refined. In response to the ruling, on September 17, 2025, the IEUA Board of Directors authorized the Agency to file an appeal as we further evaluate the court's analysis of the EIR.

While the matter now shifts to the Court of Appeal for review, it is noteworthy that the trial court's ruling affirmed the report's findings on the key technical program elements, including the CBP's effects on local water supplies and Santa Ana River flows. This ruling reinforces that the CBP is a beneficial program for our community and has a positive impact on local supply reliability.

IEUA will continue to make the CBP a priority as it is our responsibility to ensure safe and adequate water supplies to support the continued economic growth of our region. The benefits of CBP are far-reaching, helping ensure that property owners, as well as hospitals, schools, public safety facilities, and our community will have the water needed for their health, safety, and operations for generations to come.

I find it important to correct the inaccurate statements that have been shared by the city of Ontario regarding key aspects of the program. The city's press commentary claiming that the CBP poses a risk to local water supplies is a misrepresentation unsupported by the court's ruling. In fact, the trial court's ruling states the opposite and affirms the CBP's analysis on local water supply. First, the CBP develops a new local water supply by maximizing recycled water. Currently, our region has recycled water supplies that are sent down the Santa Ana River because they are unable to be treated and used due to existing infrastructure and regulatory limitations. The CBP is a series of critical infrastructure projects designed to maximize water supply reliability while ensuring full compliance with recycled water and wastewater permit requirements. Additionally, the CBP does not export water supplies to northern California, and there will be no decrease in overall water supplies to the region. In fact, the CBP creates opportunities to continue to increase local supply development and storage in the long-term which will benefit all residents and businesses in our community.

IEUA remains steadfast in our commitment to making sound and prudent investments that serve the long-term interests of our region and ratepayers. Our commitment to responsible water management and regulatory compliance remains unwavering as we continue to pursue this vital program for our communities and the region.

For additional information on the Chino Basin Program, visit chinobasinprogram.org.

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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, San Antonio Water Company, Upland, and West Valley Water District.

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