



2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND POLICY PRINCIPLES

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Introduction

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA/Agency) has adopted Legislative Priorities and Policy Principles to provide a foundation for a highly productive advocacy program that will effectively influence legislation, regulations, and funding in alignment with IEUA's vision, mission, and values. The IEUA External and Government Affairs Department, responsible for coordinating with all departments/units within the Agency, uses the following four principles as a basis for advocacy on legislation, regulations, and funding opportunities.

1. Principle of Water Supply Reliability and Regional Resiliency
2. Principle of Environmental and Resource Sustainability
3. Principle of Clean and Safe Drinking Water
4. Principle of Finance, Administration, and Operations



Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 (RP-5) in Chino, CA has the current capacity to treat 16.3 million gallons of wastewater per day, equivalent to just under 25 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Vision

Enhance the quality of life throughout our region by leading the way in water management and environmental stewardship.

Mission

Provide essential water and wastewater services in a regionally planned and cost-effective manner, while safeguarding public health, supporting community needs, and protecting the environment.

Values

Leading the way. Planning for the future. Collaboratively protecting the resources of the communities we serve. IEUA:

1. Integrates environmentally sustainable, ethical, safe, and fiscally responsible practices into every aspect of our business.
2. Works with integrity as one team.
3. Actively engages with the communities we serve while recognizing the region's diverse needs.
4. Stays at the forefront of the industry through education, efficiency, and innovation.

Principle of Water Supply Reliability and Regional Resiliency

Policy Goal

Maintain and protect reliability and cost-effectiveness of local and imported sources of water. Advocate for effective policies and regulations that support enhanced groundwater storage and management, brackish desalination, wastewater treatment, recycled water, stormwater capture, and conservation as effective and efficient efforts that support regional resiliency.



Water Supply and Storage

1. Support local water supply, storage, and recovery projects that ensure continued future reliability, increase local flexibility and control, and reduce reliance on imported water. Oppose efforts that constrain these opportunities.
2. Support administrative and legislative actions that promote resiliency, improve operability of IEUA and regional systems, and respond to and plan for drought conditions while maintaining the necessary environmental protections and promoting sustainability.
3. Support administrative, legislative, and funding opportunities to ensure the continued and future reliability of imported water supplies including, but not limited to, conveyance and storage projects, salinity control measures, and cleanup for contaminated resources/locations.
4. Support funding opportunities for local water supply development, salinity control measures, cleanup for contaminated resources/locations, and water quality improvement projects benefiting IEUA, IEUA customer and sewerage agencies, the Chino Basin, and the Santa Ana Watershed.
5. Support administrative and legislative actions that facilitate the adoption of practical, uniform water recycling criteria and expanded application for direct and indirect potable reuse.
6. Support funding opportunities for investments that improve water/wastewater system readiness for events that temporarily threaten safe operations and funding opportunities for system redundancies for resilience against seismic risk, cybersecurity threats, wildfires, and other long term catastrophic risks.



The Chino I Desalter processes up to 14 million gallons per day (MGD) of groundwater from the Chino Basin using reverse osmosis, ion exchange, air stripping, and granular activated carbon treatment processes.

Water-Use Efficiency and Shortage Response

1. Support a definition of "efficient use of water" that includes local hydrologic conditions, protects trees and healthy soils, and recognizes and minimizes the impacts on wastewater flows and treatment operations.
2. Support conservation actions and efforts that reduce outdoor use of potable water while protecting trees and healthy soils.
3. Support administrative and legislative actions that recognize local hydrologic conditions and local/regional efforts in meeting statutory Urban Water Use Objectives or other water-use efficiency goals.
4. Support actions that allow for and promote water resources decision-making that best optimizes the integrated use and protection of water, wastewater, and recycled water systems assets.
5. Support funding opportunities and incentive programs that promote water-use efficiency and permanent water-use restrictions including, but not limited to, drought-tolerant landscaping, tax exemptions, and technical assistance.
6. Support actions that would make water-use efficiency practices and resources more accessible to underserved communities, including but not limited to, translation services, targeted programming, and funding opportunities.



Drought-tolerant landscaping pictured at IEUA's Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park

Principle of Environmental and Resource Sustainability



Policy Goal

Promote science-based, cost-efficient, and environmentally sustainable practices that respond to climate change, ensure water resilience, and promote emissions reductions and renewable energy.

RP-4 and Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF) in Rancho Cucamonga, CA - 1 megawatt wind turbine generates 1,500 MWh per year, equivalent to powering 130 homes per year.

Energy Supply and Reliability

1. Support diverse energy supply options and oppose constraints on energy supply development and operational flexibility.
2. Support legislative and administrative actions and investments that provide rebates, funding, and incentives in on-site generation and renewable energy to reduce reliance on grid power, increase energy reliability, and reduce overall energy costs.
3. Support investments in wildfire system hardening and efforts to insulate IEUA from Public Safety Power Shutoffs.
4. Support actions that would increase the value of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) generated and sold by wastewater treatment agencies that utilize on-site renewable energy.
5. Support legislation, regulations, and administrative policies that ensure that power costs reflect the cost of energy procurement, infrastructure, and maintenance.
6. Support projects and funding for on-site generation, renewable energy resources, and peak energy management that provide direct benefits for water resource sustainability.
7. Support funding opportunities for zero-emission fleet vehicles and charging infrastructure.
8. Support legislation and administrative actions that reflect realistic implementation timelines for zero-emission vehicle fleet transitions without losing functionality for public utility operations such as purchase exemptions for traditional utility specialized-vehicles.

Composting

1. Support legislation, regulations, and funding that promote compost as a use for, but not limited to, erosion control to protect water resources, water-use efficiency, fire ravaged land remediation, and healthy soils.
2. Support administrative and legislative approaches for connecting carbon sequestration with healthy soils and the use of compost.
3. Support regulations that restrict the use of uncomposted and contaminated organics in commercial compost products.

Principle of Clean and Safe Drinking Water

Policy Goal

To preserve the delivery of safe and reliable water for all Californians in an affordable and transparent manner.

Water and Biosolids Quality

1. Support reasonable and scientifically significant administrative and legislative actions that promote and/or improve source water and biosolids quality and reasonably regulate constituents of emerging concerns that includes meaningful stakeholder input and considers factors such as feasibility, laboratory capacity, analytical methods, and implementation costs.
2. Support legislative and administrative approaches promoting “polluter pays” principles, extending responsibility for contamination to chemical manufacturers, and promoting consumer product responsibility.
3. Support legislation and regulations that safeguard passive receivers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other constituents of emerging concern from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and other regulatory actions.
4. Support actions and investments to help public water, wastewater, and biosolids systems and processes defray the costs of monitoring and/or remediation of constituents of emerging concern including but not limited to PFAS, trichloropropane (TCP), and nitrates and ensure drinking water and wastewater facilities are not held liable for the cleanup of contamination.
5. Support administrative and legislative action to identify and promote the use of salt-less water softening technology. Oppose efforts to endorse salt-based technologies.

Accessibility

1. Support alternative efforts to a sustainable approach that ensure every Californian has access to safe, clean, and reliable water.
2. Support sensible, long-term solutions that assist underrepresented communities with increased access to safe and affordable drinking water.
3. Support a definition of "Disadvantaged Communities" that represents inequalities in income, access, and environmental vulnerabilities such as CalEnviroScreen.

Public and Environmental Health

1. Support funding opportunities for critical wastewater treatment system replacement and refurbishment projects.
2. Support funding opportunities for septic-to-sewer conversion projects.
3. Support modernization for the Endangered Species Act that allows for the best available science, adaptive management, and flexible implementation to be used.
4. Support legislative and administrative actions to secure funding for public water and wastewater systems and laboratories to defray costs associated with declared federal, state, or local emergencies.
5. Support administrative and legislative actions for environmental compliance (e.g. air, water, hazardous materials, and waste) that provide for regulatory compliance flexibility, promote consistency, and reduce regulatory redundancy.
6. Support legislative and regulatory actions that protect the wastewater collection system through responsible handling and disposal of rags, wipes, fats, oils, and greases.
7. Support adaptive management for ecosystem restoration in the Bay-Delta watershed that takes into consideration evolving climate conditions, risk analyses, and best available science.

Principle of Finance, Administration, and Operations

Policy Goal

Preserve ethical and transparent principles that maintain and support fiscal responsibility, local control, employee and stakeholder engagement and retention, and diversity and accessibility.

IEUA's renewable energy portfolio includes both solar and wind power, generating enough energy to power 712 homes for one year.

Administrative Process

1. Support efforts aligned with IEUA's commitment to applying the highest standards of fiscal responsibility, integrity, ethics, and transparency in its business practices and principles.
2. Support streamlining of federal, state, regional, and local permitting; environmental review; regulatory and reporting mandates; and other duplicative, burdensome, or cumbersome processes including improving response times for minor changes to existing permits.
3. Support cooperative efforts between public agencies, regional and local permitting agencies, and regulators in the development of state and federal policies and regulatory requirements.
4. Support legislative and regulatory efforts that minimize cost impacts of new or expanded regulations and discourage measures that impose an undue burden on ratepayers.
5. Support legislative and administrative actions that provide funding or reimbursement for enhanced chemical and physical security, and/or cybersecurity for water, wastewater, biosolids, and power infrastructure and associated systems.
6. Support administrative and legislative actions and funding for research and partnerships that benefit water, recycled water, wastewater, biosolids, and energy management.

Local Control

1. Support customer agency and regional legislative positions that align with IEUA's legislative priorities and policy principles.
2. Support measures that encourage decision-making at the local level.
3. Oppose efforts to impose a public goods charge or other burdensome fees.
4. Oppose legislative and regulatory measures that impose unfunded mandates on local agencies, ensuring that any new requirements come with adequate funding to support implementation.

Financial

1. Support measures to reduce costs, risks, and burdensome administrative processes, and streamline approvals of financing for IEUA and regional projects.
2. Support reauthorization, extension, and/or expansion of federal and state funding for essential water, wastewater, and energy infrastructure.
3. Support efforts to reinstate public agency advanced bond refunding.
4. Support legislation establishing an approach that proactively validates that an agency's rate-setting process conforms with all legal requirements, minimizing uncertainty.
5. Support measures and efforts that protect local revenue sources and reserve funds and that maintain tax-exempt status for municipal debt.
6. Support the development of general obligation bonds or other funding streams that provide flexibility to local entities to leverage funds within other states, federal, or local resources.
7. Oppose policies and efforts that would jeopardize IEUA's bond rating and standing in the municipal bond market.
8. Support legislative and administrative actions to achieve tax-exempt status for water treatment chemicals and ensure access to water treatment chemicals.
9. Support actions and investments that promote prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities for emergencies to enhance IEUA and community resilience and ensure effective response and recovery.
10. Support measures that help local governments with their unfunded liability.

Education and Outreach

1. Support funding opportunities for public education and outreach that protects the wastewater collection system and treatment plants through the promotion of the responsible handling and disposal of rags, wipes, fats, oils, and greases.
2. Support funding opportunities for public education and outreach on PFAS and other constituents of emerging concern and their impact on water, wastewater, and biosolids operations, quality, and rates.

Human Resources/Employment

1. Support measures and funding opportunities that promote efforts to advance workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2. Support legislation that encourages collective bargaining.
3. Support legislation and regulations that increase local control, protect management rights, and limit additional financial burdens related to labor relations and collective bargaining that can be appropriately negotiated at the bargaining table.
4. Support funding for local government efforts to establish workforce development programs focusing on enhancing job skills, providing training, and creating pathways to employment for community members.
5. Support legislation and regulations that streamline the Workers' Compensation system and make it easier for employers, employees, and healthcare providers to navigate.
6. Support reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive, recruitment retention and affordable public services.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access, and Transparency

1. Support investments and a distribution of funding that provide a fair and equitable financing process for the public. Promote diversity in the process and equity for financially distressed and underrepresented populations.
2. Support legislation that allows for greater public access to public meetings.
3. Support measures that encourage the streamlining of processes to respond to public records requests while ensuring public agencies have recourse for overly broad, burdensome, and/or vague requests.
4. Support measures that allow for access to meaningful data which balance the cost of public resources to implement.
5. Support measures that protect and advance local governance and transparency while securing information needed to maintain public health.



Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility (CCWRF) in Chino, CA - Water is filtered to remove suspended organic solids and is disinfected using sodium hypochlorite.

Connect with us:

Alyson Piguee, Director of External and Government Affairs

Phone: (909) 247-8374

E-mail: apiguee@ieua.org

Location: 6075 Kimball Ave, Chino, CA 91708

Website: www.ieua.org



@IEUAWater