



Inland Empire Utilities Agency
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

2025



GRANTS AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT



@IEUAWater

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.

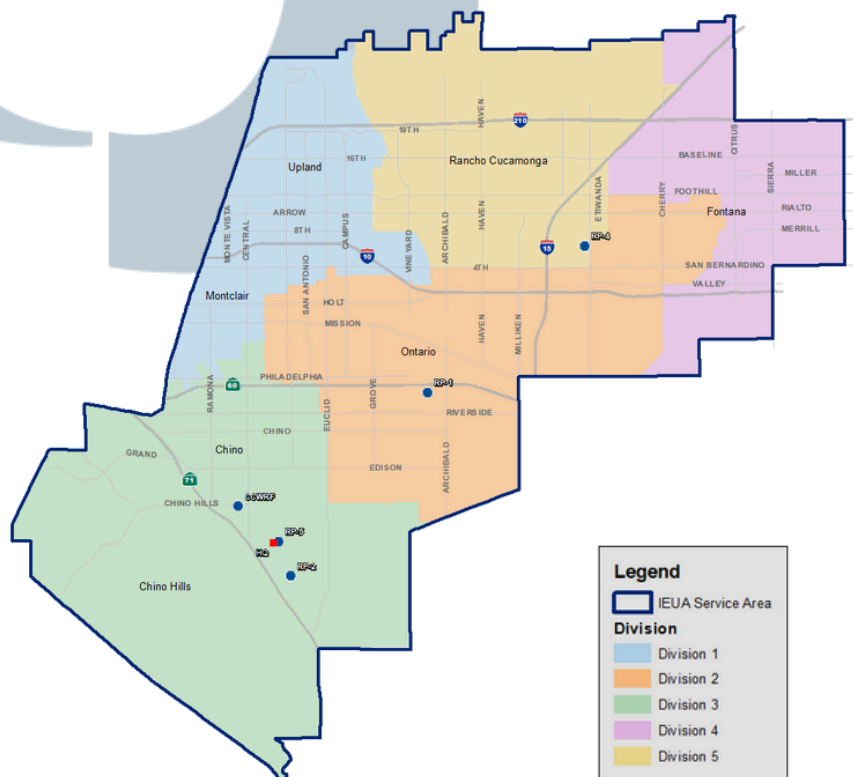
Values

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

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

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Division 2
Paul Hofer - Director
Division 3
Steven J. Elie - Secretary/Treasurer*
Division 4
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*Effective January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. FEDERAL PROGRAM

Legislative Report & Positions 05

Grant and Loan Activity 11

II. STATE PROGRAM

Legislative Report & Positions 13

Grant and Loan Activity 20

III. LOCAL PROGRAM

Grant Activity 22

IV. ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT

Advocacy Events 24

FEDERAL



CONGRESS

2025 began with the start of the 119th Congress, in which Republicans found themselves in the majority in both the House and the Senate. IEUA had a new Member of its congressional delegation, as Senator Adam Schiff was sworn in as California's junior Senator.

As has been the case for several years now, Congress began the new calendar year with some unfinished business from 2024: the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) appropriations bills. The federal government was still being funded by a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that ran until March 14th. Unfortunately, Congress was unable to agree on any of the FY25 appropriations bills and was forced to pass a year-long CR. Its passage meant the entire federal government was funded through September 30, 2025 at FY24 funding levels. Additionally, the year-long CR meant no funding for Community Project Requests (formerly known as earmarks) would be provided, including the \$1.1058 million that Rep. Norma Torres included in the House Interior and the Environment (INT) Appropriations bill for the Chino Basin Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility.

As soon as Congress finished work on the CR, it immediately began its work on the FY26 funding bills. IEUA submitted several requests to its Congressional delegation for consideration, which resulted in the following two projects included in the House or Senate INT appropriations bill:

- \$1.092 million for the Chino Basin Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility (secured by Rep. Norma Torres in the House FY26 INT appropriations bill)
- \$1.18 million for the Cybersecurity Project (secured by Sen. Adam Schiff in the Senate FY26 INT appropriations bill)

Outside of the annual appropriations bills, Congress spent much of the year working on a budget reconciliation package. This package, which later was renamed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), included provisions on a wide range of topics including taxes, health care, defense, and homeland security. President Trump signed the bill into law on July 4th, and was the first major legislative accomplishment of his second term.

Over the past year, we also saw the reintroduction of several bills of importance to IEUA, including:

- Water Conservation Tax Rebate Act
- Removing Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act
- Water Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act
- Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act
- Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act

With much of Congress's attention focused on OBBBA, no further progress was made on the FY26 appropriations bills. As a result, Congress was still unable to pass any of the FY26 appropriations bills or a short-term CR, and the federal government shutdown on October 1st. Unfortunately, it took Congress a record 43 days to pass a new short-term CR to end the shutdown which keeps the federal government open and funded through January 30, 2026. This CR gives Congress more time to finish the remaining appropriations bills.

At the close of 2025, Congress was still working on a second FY26 minibus appropriations package that is composed of five spending bills, including the Interior and the Environment bill. While the text of the package has not yet been released, it is expected that both of IEUA's requests above will be included.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

On January 20th, Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term as President. Since then, President Trump has chosen to govern largely through the signing of Executive Orders. He signed more than 210 Executive Orders in 2025, compared to the 220 Executive Orders he signed during the entirety of his first term. The topic of these Executive Orders has been wide-ranging, including issues such as immigration, federal funding and grants, federal hiring, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Additionally, President Trump created the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). While not an official federal agency, DOGE played a large role in the early months of the Trump Administration, with DOGE staff being placed at many federal agencies. These staff were involved in decision-making activities related to federal funding and federal employees. In recent months, the role of DOGE within federal agencies has been reduced since the departure of Elon Musk.

In early April, the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it would cancel the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and not issue funding to awarded projects. This unexpected action caused frustration and pushback on Capitol Hill from Members on both sides of the aisle. Throughout the course of the year, IEUA worked with its Congressional delegation, as well as additional impacted Members of Congress to advocate for the program's reinstatement.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) elevated two budgetary terms—impoundment and rescission—into more frequent use in Washington, D.C. Impoundment occurs when the Executive Branch withholds or delays funds that Congress has directed it to spend. The Constitution provides Congress with the power of the purse, and federal agencies are required to administer funds in accordance with enacted appropriations. During the early months of President Trump's second term, OMB undertook several efforts to impound appropriated funds. Many of these actions were challenged in court and determined to be inconsistent with the requirements of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Following these legal challenges, the Administration shifted its approach by submitting a formal rescission package to Congress. The Impoundment Control Act provides a mechanism through which an Administration may request congressional approval to rescind or withhold funding; however, such rescissions can only take effect if Congress passes legislation authorizing them. This past summer, OMB transmitted a rescission proposal totaling approximately \$9 billion, identifying funding the Administration viewed as no longer necessary. Congress approved the measure, and as a result, additional rescission proposals are anticipated in the months ahead.

Looking forward, the federal policy and funding environment remains fluid and, in many respects, unsettled, marked by uncertainty and transition. Ongoing litigation, unresolved questions surrounding the scope of executive authority, and the continued schism in Congress preventing the annual appropriations process's completion are likely to remain major influences in federal funding, program administration, and policy direction in the months ahead. As these issues continue to be addressed through legislative and judicial challenges, noting that the former will be heavily influenced by political discourse surrounding the 2026 elections, the operating environment for federal agencies and funding recipients is expected to remain dynamic, with outcomes that may not be fully settled in the near term.

IEUA POSITIONS ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Bill Number	Author(s)	Bill Title	IEUA Bill Impact	Adopted IEUA Position	Status
H.R. 1267	Perez (D)	The Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Shields water and wastewater agencies from liability under CERCLA for PFAS contamination, provided their handling and disposal complies with all applicable laws.	Support	Active
S. 857 & H.R. 1871	Curtis (R) Huffman (D)	The Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act	Exempts rebates for water conservation, stormwater management, and wastewater efficiency measures from federal income tax, expanding parity with existing energy-related exclusions.	Support	Active
S. 1092 & H.R. 2269	Merkley (D) Collins (R) McClain (R) Mullin (D)	Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act	Requires clear “Do Not Flush” labeling on disposable wipes to reduce blockages and protect wastewater infrastructure from improper disposal.	Support	Active, Second Chamber
H.R. 2656	Torres (D) Valadao (R)	Removing Nitrate and Arsenic in Drinking Water Act	Establishes a federal grant program to fund nitrate and arsenic reduction projects in drinking water systems, prioritizing disadvantaged communities and facilities serving vulnerable populations.	Support	Active
S. 2014 & H.R. 2766	Cornyn (R) Fallon (R)	Special District Fairness and Accessibility Act	Codifies a definition of “Special Districts” such that they are recognized as local governments for the purpose of qualifying for federal funding opportunities.	Support	Active
H.R. 6204	Lee (D) Ciscomani (R)	Large-Scale Water Recycling Authorization Act	Extends authorization of the Bureau of Reclamation’s Large-Scale Water Recycling Program through 2031.	Support	Active

GRANT / LOAN ACTIVITY

PENDING FEDERAL GRANT AWARDS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Anticipated Award Amount
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	USBR Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects	Montclair Basin Improvements Project	\$1,389,147
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	WaterSMART Large-Scale Water Recycling Projects (Round 2)	Advanced Treatment of Recycled Water to Enhance Chino Basin Resiliency	\$10,856,662

ACTIVE FEDERAL GRANTS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Award Amount
Department of Energy (DOE) via ENERGYWERX	Industrial Training & Assessment Centers (ITAC)	Ammonia Based Aeration Controllers (ABAC) Carbon Canyon Water Recycling Facility	\$39,479
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	WaterSMART Water Recycling and Desalination Planning	Chino Basin Advanced Treated Recycled Water, Storage, and Production	\$2,843,353

ACTIVE FEDERAL GRANTS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Award Amount
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)	WaterSMART Drought Resiliency	Wineville and Jurupa Basins Pumping and Conveyance System Project	\$750,000

ACTIVE FEDERAL LOANS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Loan Amount
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)	RP-5 Expansion Project	\$196,436,445
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)	Regional Wastewater Improvements Project	\$120,000,000

STATE



The first year of the 2025-26 Legislative Session unfolded against a difficult fiscal backdrop, with state leaders working to close an estimated \$18-\$36 billion structural deficit. Although the Legislature adopted a budget by the constitutional deadline, the scale of the deficit required continuing negotiations and decisions that extended through the summer and into the end-of-session period in mid-September. Those budget dynamics were not merely procedural, as they shaped how quickly programs could be implemented, whether agencies would have sufficient capacity to deliver them, and which water priorities advanced in statute versus being deferred to future action.

A central feature of 2025 policy discussions was implementation of Proposition 4, which was a \$10 billion bond approved by voters in November 2024. Early in the year, the Administration released a multi-year framework for deploying bond funds, including water-related allocations. As the budget debate progressed, stakeholders monitored not only the total amounts proposed for water categories, such as recycling, groundwater cleanup, conservation, and resilience, but also the degree to which bond proceeds were being used to offset General Fund reductions. That “backfill” approach drew sharp concern within the water community because it risked reducing the additive benefit voters expected from a bond program. Proposition 4 decisions were not finalized in the initial June budget package, but instead were negotiated later and ultimately adopted toward the close of session, including funding directed to water-related purposes. Even then, the year’s budget story underscored that appropriation is only the first step: implementation timelines were expected to be influenced by administrative requirements and staffing capacity at state agencies responsible for rolling out new programs and processing awards.

The Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) remained one of the most significant and closely watched issues for long-term water reliability, but 2025 ultimately demonstrated the limits of what could be achieved legislatively in a deficit-driven year. During the May Revision and ensuing budget discussions, the Governor signaled interest in pursuing a budget trailer bill concept intended to reduce litigation delay and streamline aspects of DCP delivery, including expedited judicial review for CEQA challenges. However, that proposal did not materialize, as it was not introduced in the Legislature, and therefore did not advance through the formal trailer bill process. Even without a legislative vehicle,

the topic drove substantial policy attention and stakeholder activity throughout the summer, reflecting the enduring centrality of Delta conveyance and infrastructure delivery to statewide water reliability debates.

Water supply conditions and Delta operations provided the practical context for why the DCP debate remained so consequential. Hydrologic conditions improved during the spring, prompting an increase in State Water Project allocations. Yet statewide conditions did not fully translate into south-of-Delta storage benefits. Through late spring and early summer, limited Delta pumping constrained the State's ability to move water into San Luis Reservoir when runoff was available. By June, snowpack had melted earlier than normal and was effectively depleted, leaving fewer opportunities to capture water later in the season. San Luis returned to near-normal levels by late summer, but storage could have been substantially higher absent operational constraints, which has direct implications for regional reliability planning and drought preparedness.

Operational risk management also rose in prominence in 2025 with the State's response to invasive golden mussels. After detection of the species in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in late 2024, California launched a multi-agency Golden Mussel Response Framework focused on containment, prevention of its continued spread, and infrastructure protection. Measures taken included expanded boat inspection and decontamination efforts and public education initiatives to support prevention at boating facilities. In the budget arena, stakeholders successfully pursued a trailer bill strategy aimed at curbing further spread through the water distribution system, which is an issue with potentially significant consequences for conveyance infrastructure, treatment operations, and maintenance costs.

Water quality policy in 2025 remained dominated by PFAS, both in legislation and in regulatory action. Multiple measures sought to address PFAS at the source, including proposals to restrict intentionally added PFAS in consumer products and to establish a broader mitigation framework. The Legislature ultimately passed a high-profile PFAS source control measure (SB 682), which would have phased in restrictions across major product categories. However, the Governor vetoed the bill, reflecting the political sensitivity and stakeholder conflict surrounding broad product restrictions, particularly with regard to cookware.

Despite the friction around PFAS legislation, 2025 produced meaningful progress on recycled water policy and program alignment. A key measure, SB 31, advanced without recorded opposition and was signed by the Governor. The legislation updated elements of recycled water regulation, including issues tied to Title 22 and the way regional boards treat certain recycled water discharge scenarios, which are intended to improve regulatory clarity and support implementation. Funding alignment remained part of the story as well. The State Water Resources Control Board released its Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan, including changes relevant to large-scale recycled water funding. In combination, these actions reflected incremental but important movement toward regulatory modernization and financing pathways that can better support major recycled water investments.

Several developments outside core water policy also carried operational implications for public agencies. CARB's Advanced Clean Fleets requirements continued to generate concern regarding feasibility for specialty vehicles essential to water and wastewater operations, including vacuum trucks and other mission-critical assets. Stakeholders from across the state, including IEUA, formally advocated for exemptions and implementation flexibility at a September hearing. Separately, appellate court decisions involving tiered water rates under Proposition 218 heightened attention on the legal defensibility of tiered rate structures and underscored the need for robust, service-specific cost justification where tiers impose higher charges for higher use.

The year also closed with notable leadership changes in Sacramento. The Senate selected a new President pro Tempore, with Senator Monique Limon assuming the role on November 15. Her leadership and committee structure decisions will shape priorities and policy pathways in the coming year.

In the end, 2025 was defined less by sweeping statutory expansion than by the realities of governing under fiscal constraint while navigating high-stakes questions of water reliability, infrastructure delivery, and public health regulation. Budget negotiations shaped the pace of Proposition 4 implementation and the State's capacity to administer programs. The Delta Conveyance Project advanced through legal and administrative steps even as the anticipated trailer bill approach did not reach the Legislature. PFAS pressures continued to rise through regulatory tightening, even as broad source control legislation failed at

the Governor's desk, and targeted policy outcomes, particularly on recycled water, demonstrated that pragmatic regulatory improvements remain achievable even in a crowded and contentious policy environment.

As the Legislature prepares to reconvene for the second year of the 2025-26 Session, many of the dynamics that defined 2025 are poised to carry forward, although now within the added constraints of a midterm election looming overhead. With members increasingly attentive to political risk and messaging, 2026 is likely to favor implementation decisions, targeted measures, and administrative actions over sweeping, controversial policy shifts. Budget pressure will remain a central driver, shaping not only the pace of Proposition 4 rollout, but also the State's ability to execute on permitting and oversight responsibilities. At the same time, unresolved reliability questions tied to Delta operations and the Delta Conveyance Project will continue to command attention, particularly as legal challenges persist. Water quality priorities, including PFAS, are also expected to remain active, with continued tightening of regulatory thresholds and program expectations even as broader legislative approaches face heightened political scrutiny. In this context, 2026 will likely be defined by how effectively the State converts funding decisions and regulatory direction into durable, on-the-ground outcomes for water and wastewater systems while navigating the practical realities of state leaders attempting to navigate a budget-challenged Capitol in an election year.

IEUA POSITIONS ON ASSEMBLY BILLS

Bill Number	Author	Bill Title	IEUA Bill Impact	Adopted IEUA Position	Status
AB 259	Rubio (D)	Local Agencies: Teleconferences	Allows IEUA to continue using flexible teleconference rules for board meetings through 2030.	Support	2-Year Bill (Language Included in SB 707)
AB 339	Ortega (D)	Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice Requirements	Would require IEUA to give unions 45 days notice before hiring outside contractors.	Oppose	Signed into Law
AB 514	Petrie-Norris (D)	Water: Emergency Water Supplies	Encourages the development and use of backup water supplies during droughts or unexpected service disruptions.	Support	Inactive
AB 523	Irwin (D)	Metropolitan Water Districts: Proxy Vote Authorizations	Allows MWD member agencies with only one representative - such as IEUA - to assign a proxy vote for board meetings.	Support	Signed into Law
AB 532	Ransom (D)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Would allow IEUA retail member agencies to offer rate assistance to low-income and other financially vulnerable ratepayers.	Support	Inactive
AB 580	Wallis (R)	Surface Mining: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Extends special rules allowing the Metropolitan Water District to oversee and manage its own mining reclamation plans across Southern California until 2051.	Support	Signed into Law
AB 794	Gabriel (D)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: Emergency Regulations	Requires the State Water Board to adopt emergency PFAS drinking water regulations by the end of 2026, aligning with federal rules but allowing stricter monitoring.	Oppose Unless Amended	2-Year Bill
AB 810	Irwin (D)	Local Government: Internet Websites and Email Addresses	Requires IEUA to switch its public website and employee email addresses to a ".gov" domain by January 1, 2029.	Oppose	2-Year Bill

IEUA POSITIONS ON SENATE BILLS

Bill Number	Author	Bill Title	IEUA Bill Impact	Adopted IEUA Position	Status
SB 31	McNerney (D)	Water Quality: Water Recycling Facilities: State Policy	Enhances California's drought resiliency by enabling the expansion of recycled water use.	Support	Signed into Law
SB 72	Caballero (D)	The California Water Plan: Long-Term Supply Targets	Updates the California Water Plan to set long-term supply targets, improve regional planning, and elevate local agency input - supporting efforts by wholesale providers like IEUA to build water resilience.	Support	Signed into Law
SB 86	McNerney (D)	California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority Act: Sales and Use Tax Exclusion	Extends California's sales and use tax exclusion program.	Support	Signed into Law
SB 350	Durazo (D)	Water Rate Assistance Program	Requires all water and wastewater systems to enroll eligible customers in a State-run bill credit program administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.	Oppose Unless Amended	Inactive
SB 394	Allen (D)	Water Theft: Hydrants	Increases penalties for unauthorized hydrant use, helping water agencies deter theft, protect infrastructure, and reduce costs to ratepayers.	Support	Signed into Law
SB 445	Wiener (D)	High-Speed Rail: Third-Party Permits and Approvals: Regulations	Creates a framework for High-Speed Rail project coordination that limits IEUA's authority over infrastructure, permitting, and dispute resolution if project alignments intersect agency facilities.	Oppose	2-Year Bill
SB 496	Hurtado (D)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: Appeals Advisory Committee: Exemptions	Grants IEUA a more clear exemption pathway under the Advanced Clean Fleets rule and creates an appeals process for denied requests.	Support	Inactive
SB 601	Allen (D)	Water: Waste Discharge	Expands State water quality authority including new mandates, penalties, and enabling citizen lawsuits that could significantly increase regulatory burdens for agencies like IEUA.	Oppose	2-Year Bill
SB 682	Allen (D)	Environmental Health: Product Safety: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	Phases out the sale of most consumer products with intentionally added PFAS starting in 2027, reducing environmental contamination and protecting drinking water resources IEUA relies on.	Support	Vetoed

GRANT / LOAN ACTIVITY

ACTIVE STATE GRANT AWARDS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Grant Award
California Water Commission (CWC)	Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Early Funding	Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program (Chino Basin Program)	\$10,763,270
Department of Water Resources (DWR)	The Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program	Turnkey Turf Transformation Program	\$8,474,500
California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)	Habitat Conservation Fund	Discover the Environment and Water (DEW) Program	\$200,000
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Proposition 1	Groundwater Quality Grant: Chino Basin Improvement and Groundwater Clean-up Project	\$13,202,513
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Proposition 68	Chino Basin Improvement and Groundwater Clean-up Operations and Maintenance Project	\$2,731,228
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Proposition 1 Stormwater	Stormwater Grant: Wineville Basin, Jurupa Basin, RP-3 Basin Improvements and Pumping and Conveyance System Project	\$9,803,381

ACTIVE STATE LOANS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Loan Amount
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	Regional Water Recycling Plant (RP)-5 Expansion Project	\$101,530,000
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	Recharge Master Plan Update - Wineville, Jurupa, RP-3	\$15,367,428
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	Montclair Basin Improvement Project	\$2,062,000

ACTIVE STATE TAX CREDITS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Tax Credit Amount
California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA)	Sales and Use Tax Exclusion Program	RP-5 Expansion Project	\$6,000,000

LOCAL



GRANT / LOAN ACTIVITY

NEW LOCAL GRANT AWARDS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Grant Award
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)	Stormwater for Recharge Use Pilot Program	Montclair Basin Improvements	\$1,824,970
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)	Future Supply Actions	Chino Basin Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility	\$401,500
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)	Future Supply Actions	Identifying and Removing PFAS Used in Well Drilling	\$298,500

ACTIVE LOCAL GRANT AWARDS

Funding Agency	Funding Program	IEUA Project/Program	Grant Award
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)	Stormwater for Recharge Use Pilot Program	Montclair Basin Improvements	\$1,824,970
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)	Proposition 1 Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Program	Joint IEUA-JCSD Regional Water Recycling Program	\$2,617,970
Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)	Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management	Santa Ana River Conservation & Conjunctive Use Program (SARCCUP)	\$367,968

ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT



CALIFORNIA CAPITOL ADVOCACY



Over the course of the year, IEUA leadership conducted legislative trips to Sacramento to meet with members of the Agency's State legislative delegation and their staff to discuss key issues affecting IEUA's programs, operations, and long-term infrastructure priorities. These meetings provided an opportunity to share current policy and budget considerations, reinforce IEUA's priorities, and strengthen ongoing relationships with State decision-makers. Leadership also conducted targeted visits to specifically advocate for the importance of advancing the Delta Conveyance Project, emphasizing the need for long-term Statewide water reliability, supply resilience, and regulatory certainty to support Southern California's water future.



ADVANCING THE CHINO BASIN PROGRAM



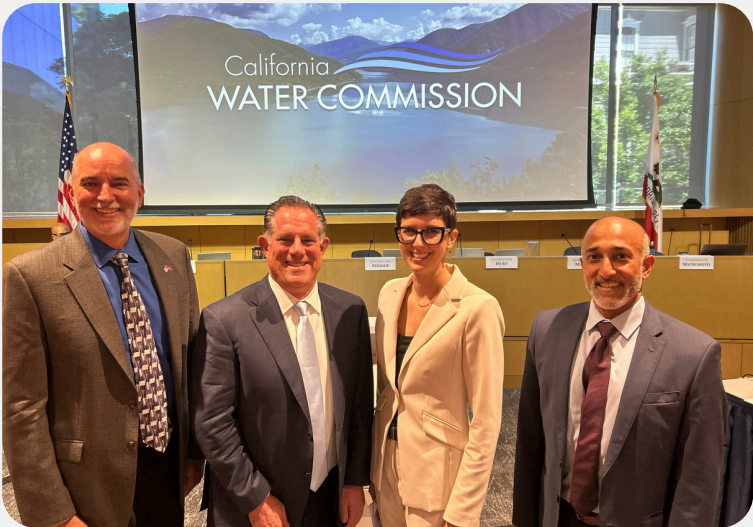
On May 21, IEUA leadership provided a public update on the Chino Basin Program (CBP) at the California Water Commission’s monthly meeting, highlighting progress on one of the State’s most forward-looking water supply projects. As a conjunctive use initiative, the CBP will store up to 15,000 acre-feet of purified water underground for future use, bolstering water supply reliability, enhancing environmental flows, and supporting emergency response capabilities across Southern California.

Conditionally funded in part by the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) through Proposition 1 and the recently passed Proposition 4, the CBP is designed to deliver public benefits such as improved local supply reliability, water quality, ecosystem support through pulse flows on the Feather River, and drought preparedness. IEUA’s presentation to the Commission included updates on permitting milestones, funding partnerships, and the timeline for achieving final WSIP awards.

IEUA’s leadership, represented by Director Steve Elie, General Manager Shivaji Deshmukh, and CBP Program Manager Elizabeth Hurst, and joined by President Randall Reed of the Cucamonga Valley Water District Board of Directors underscored the Agency’s commitment to innovation, collaboration, and delivering measurable benefits to the region. The Commission will use this update to inform future decisions about inflationary adjustments to WSIP project awards.



Item 11 - WSIP: Chino Basin Program



WASHINGTON D.C. ADVOCACY

In June, IEUA had the privilege of meeting with Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Congressman Pete Aguilar, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congresswoman Young Kim, and staff representing Congresswoman Torres during our visit to Washington, D.C. The Agency shared updates on key initiatives, projects, and priorities and is grateful for the continued support of our delegation in safeguarding a reliable and sustainable water supply for our community today and for generations to come.



CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS LEGISLATIVE STAFF TOUR



On April 8th, IEUA and the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) co-hosted a legislative staff tour with Cucamonga Valley Water District, the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, and Monte Vista Water District, welcoming representatives of our legislative delegation for an on-site overview of our wastewater treatment facilities and composting facility. The tour highlighted how wastewater is collected, treated, and safely returned to the environment, as well as the infrastructure, regulatory requirements, and operational expertise required to maintain reliable service to the communities we serve.



IEUA QUARTERLY POLICY POPUP: THE WATER TABLE

In October, IEUA launched The Water Table, a quarterly pop-up event cycling through the IEUA service area. The first event was focused on exploring the latest legislative and regulatory developments shaping the water sector.



The panel, including Beth Olhasso (West Coast Advisors), Laura Morgan-Kessler (Carpi & Clay), and Kyle Packham (CSDA) provided a comprehensive update on the work being undertaken throughout 2025 at the state, federal, and local levels, and forecasting what they see as the pressing issues facing both the water sector and legislators in the coming year.



DELEGATION VISITS IEUA



IEUA was honored to host California State Senator Susan Rubio and her staff for strategic dialogues with Director Steven Elie and IEUA leadership on advancing local water reliability for the communities we serve. Meetings were also held with staff from Assemblymember Rodriguez's office.



Discussions largely centered on the Chino Basin Program, a landmark initiative designed to enhance regional sustainability and secure long-term water resilience. Hosting IEUA's delegation locally underscores the importance of collaborative leadership in addressing California's water challenges, and especially the particular needs of the Inland Empire community.



As we conclude this 2025 Grants and Government Affairs Report, we reflect on a year of continued policy activity and evolving priorities at both the State and Federal levels, many of which will carry forward into 2026. Throughout the year, IEUA maintained an active presence in legislative and regulatory forums, strengthening relationships with decision-makers, and advancing the Agency's priorities through timely coordination, advocacy, and engagement. While the policy landscape remains dynamic, IEUA is well-positioned to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities by continuing to work collaboratively with our partners to secure resources, maintain regulatory certainty, and support the long-term reliability and resilience of the region's water and wastewater systems.



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