



Inland Empire Utilities Agency

A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

6075 Kimball Ave, • Chino, CA 91708
P.O. Box 9020 • Chino, Hills, CA 91709
TEL (909) 993-1600 • FAX (909) 597-8875
www.ieua.org

March 5, 2009

The Honorable David Dreier
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dreier:

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is respectfully submitting the Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project for funding consideration during the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations process. The Project is located at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Chino, California, and will produce 100,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year when the project is complete. IEUA is very grateful for the support you have given this project in the past, and we look forward to working with you during the coming year.

Please find below the information your office will need to comply with the requirements of the Appropriations Committee for Fiscal Year 2010 requests. Do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any additional information, and thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY

Richard W. Atwater
Chief Executive Officer
General Manager

Proposed recipient and address of recipient:

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
6075 Kimball Avenue
Chino, CA 91708

Amount of the request:

\$5 million

Explanation of the request, including purpose, and why it is a valuable use of taxpayer funds:

Project Description: The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) requests continued funding for its Regional Water Recycling Project (new start in FY 2006). IEUA is dedicated to offering a clean, safe and drought-proof source of water in order to reduce the dependence on expensive imported water from northern California and the Colorado River. Both the Colorado River and CALFED Bay-Delta supplies are limited, making it critical that IEUA continue to increase local supplies through this recycling initiative.

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Richard W. Atwater
Chief Executive Officer
General Manager

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An average 70 percent of the Agency's water is obtained locally from the groundwater and canyon supplies, and 30 percent is purchased from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. Of the local groundwater supplies, approximately 35 percent is utilized to support agricultural use and 65 percent is utilized to support municipal and industrial uses.

The Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Project will produce 100,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year when the project is complete. The water will be used for outdoor irrigation, industrial processes and groundwater recharge to serve the needs of 800,000 current residents within San Bernardino County, California, and the needs of over 1.2 million residents within the next twenty years. The recharge aspect makes the recycled water program a critical element of the regional groundwater management program, which benefits the entire area. IEUA has been recognized as a leader in the field of recycled water, and the project has been rated as the most cost effective water recycling project in California by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

This project is urgently needed in light of the current drought gripping the west and the court-imposed reductions in imported water which has led to a mandate for Southern California to reduce its reliance on imported water supplies from northern California and the Colorado River. In response to these serious conditions, IEUA completed a 3 year business plan in the fall of 2007 which will enable the Agency to fast track construction of the Regional Water Recycling Project and connect 50,000 acre-feet of recycled water by 2011 for use by schools, parks and local governments as well as local businesses.

Overall the program represents an opportunity to drought proof the Inland Empire economy and to address long term impacts of climate change on the State's water resources. By using recycled water for outdoor irrigation and industrial processing, IEUA can stretch existing drinking water supplies for potable uses and, at the same time, ensure adequate water supplies for our economy. The California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission have also recognized the energy savings (about 50 MW) and related reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from use of local recycled water.

IEUA began planning the recycled water program in 1992 with the initiation of the Bureau of Reclamation's comprehensive recycled water feasibility study for Southern California (Secretary of the Interior Lujan). This project was fully authorized by P.L. 110-161 in 2007. After many studies were completed, construction began in 2003. A federal contribution is needed to achieve the aggressive construction schedule and deliver the new water supply to the region as quickly as possible. The goal is to have 50,000 acre-feet of water on line to customers before 2011 - within three years - and to have the full project with approximately 100,000 acre-feet of new supplies on line and completed by 2016.