



Inland Empire Utilities Agency  
A MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

# SALT MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET

[www.ieua.org/watersoftener.html](http://www.ieua.org/watersoftener.html)

**CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL WATER SUPPLIES**—groundwater, stormwater and recycled water—is essential to the future economic health of our community as Southern California’s water shortages are expected to continue for many years.

**RECYCLED WATER IS OUR MOST SUSTAINABLE AND DROUGHT-PROOF SUPPLY** and it is rigorously treated so that it meets and exceeds stringent state and federal regulatory standards. More than 500 sites including cities, parks, schools, farms and businesses are using recycled water in our community.

**SALT IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT CONSTRAINT TO OUR GROUNDWATER AND RECYCLED WATER SUPPLIES.** To protect the quality of our water, regulatory agencies have set strict limits for the amount of salt allowed in recycled water and the water used to replenish groundwater basins.

**OUR CITIES AND WATER AGENCIES HAVE INVESTED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS** over the past forty years to keep salt out of the regional sewer system. The biggest remaining challenge for our area is salt discharge from self-regenerating water softeners used in homes—the type to which you add salt. **An estimated 18,000 households use self-regenerating water softeners in our community, discharging more than 3,000 tons of salt every year.**

**IF THE SALT DISCHARGE FROM SELF-REGENERATING WATER SOFTENERS IS NOT CONTROLLED NOW**, we will face two expensive options that could cost residents over \$400 million: construct additional treatment systems for the regional water system or increase our dependence on expensive unreliable imported water supplies.

**IEUA OFFERS REBATES UP TO \$2,000** (plus free plumbing service) for the voluntary removal of self-regenerating water softeners. To date, residents have removed more than 420 self-regenerating water softeners, preventing over 71 tons of salt per year from entering the regional sewer system.

**On July 20, 2011, the IEUA Board of Directors, following a unanimous recommendation from the Regional Technical and Policy Committees, passed an ordinance to prohibit the future installation of self-regenerating water softeners in the IEUA service area.** Portable exchange tank service is still acceptable. Self-regenerating water softeners that are currently installed in homes would not be impacted by the new ordinance.

## YOU CAN STILL HAVE YOUR WATER SOFTENER ... JUST WITHOUT THE SALT!



Commonly used water softeners require bags of salt to be added, and discharge about one pound of salt per day into the regional sewer system.



Controlling salt is vital to protecting local water supplies of the Inland Empire. One way to protect these water supplies is to use water softeners that do not release salt into the regional sewer system.