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Inland Empire Utilities Agency and its Partnering Agencies Receive \$3 Million Dollars for the Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Well Field and Pipeline Project

Chino, California – The Bureau of Reclamation recently announced that the Inland Empire Utilities Agency will receive a \$3 million grant from the 2014 WaterSmart: Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program for the Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Well Field and Pipeline Project. The grant will be used to fund project design and construction costs for the Lower Chino Dairy Area Well Field and Pipeline Project, which is a component of the Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination Demonstration and Reclamation Project authorized by Congress in 2009.

The project will remove high quantities of minerals, salts and other unwanted constituents from the groundwater in the Chino Basin. One immediate concern this project will help to address is the South Archibald Plume. The plume is located south of the Ontario Airport and contains trichloroethylene (TCE) an industrial solvent commonly used in the 50's and 60's.

When completed, the Chino Desalination Project will increase groundwater pumping from the lower Chino Basin to 40,000 acre feet per year. This project will also improve water quality in the region's aquifer and prevent poor quality groundwater from migrating into the Santa Ana River where it would negatively impact the water quality of downstream users.

"Federal funding was especially critical for this project because our Congressional authorization will expire in five years. We are committed to bringing the project to completion as quickly as possible so that our region can begin to benefit," stated Terry Catlin, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, board president. "Protecting our limited supplies and reducing our region's dependence on imported water are critical goals, especially given the ongoing drought in California."

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency covers 242-square miles, distributes imported water, provides industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, and other related utility services to more than 830,000 people through its member agencies which include Chino, Chino Hills, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Fontana, Fontana Water Company, Montclair, Monte Vista Water District, Ontario, and Upland.

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