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Contact:

Kathy Besser
Manager of External Affairs
909.993.1638
kbesser@ieua.org

**Inland Empire Utilities Agency Receives Top
Engineering Achievement Award
2014 Santa Ana River Basin Engineering Achievement Award**

Inland Empire, CA - The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) is proud to announce that the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF) was recognized by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) for the Santa Ana River Basin Engineering Achievement Award. This award is achieved by those organizations/projects that demonstrate improvement in health and safety, problem prevention/solution, environmental benefit, cost effectiveness, conservation of resources, and reliability/efficiency.

The CWEA program seeks to recognize outstanding achievements within the wastewater field, improve the professional status of all personnel working in the wastewater industry and related fields, and stimulate public awareness of the importance of wastewater treatment to public health and the water environment.

IERCF is operated by a joint powers agreement between the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSDLAC), making up the Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA). Established in 2002, the IERCA operates the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility located in Rancho Cucamonga. The IERCF utilizes one of the world's largest biofilters and is fully compliant with South Coast Air Quality Management Districts' stringent air standards. The facility's urban location also saves thousands of miles of truck traffic and keeps the organics local for beneficial reuse. The compost creates healthy soils creating beautiful landscapes and saving water.

"We are very proud of our composting project and thrilled to be recognized for this award," stated Gene Koopman, IERCA board vice chairman and IEUA director. "This project takes over 200,000 wet tons of waste and turns it into valuable compost that is used locally saving precious water and creating beautiful landscapes. It also saves thousands of miles of truck traffic while utilizing clean energy."

Founded in 1927, CWEA is a not-for-profit association of 9,000-plus professionals in the wastewater industry. CWEA trains and certifies wastewater professionals, disseminates technical information, and promotes sound policies to benefit society through protection and enhancement of our water environment. Each of CWEA's 17 Awards are given at the Local Section level; recipients then advance to the State competition.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
www.ieua.org

6075 Kimball Avenue, Chino, California 91708
909.993.1600

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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