



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 21, 2015

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**The Inland Empire Utilities Agency Receives \$5 million
for Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Project**

Inland Empire, California – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced yesterday that the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) will be receiving a \$5 million grant from the Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse program, which is the U.S. Department of the Interior’s sustainable water initiative.

IEUA, in association with the Chino Basin Desalter Authority, will use the grant to help fund the Chino Desalter Phase 3 Expansion of the Lower Chino Dairy Area Desalination and Reclamation Project. The budget for the Phase 3 Expansion is \$60 million and is expected to be completed by March 2016. The project is expected to create 10,600 acre feet per year of additional drinkable water – one acre foot serves the annual needs of two California families with four family members – which will no longer need to be imported into the area from the State Water Project.

Congressman Pete Aguilar (CA-31) spearheaded the effort to gather support from the Agency’s entire congressional delegation, with all five members signing a letter to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation urging the agency to “give the application full and fair consideration.”

“As California faces increasing challenges from this historic drought, we need to be more thoughtful about how we use and conserve our water. This project will help protect our region’s groundwater supply and will reduce our reliance on imported water. I’m pleased to have worked to help make this important project successful,” said Congressman Aguilar.

“With this award, IEUA has received \$12 million in WaterSMART Title XVI grant funding since 2012 and moves forward with the Agency’s objective of creating drought resilience in the Chino Basin,” said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “IEUA would like to thank our representatives in Congress – Pete Aguilar, Judy Chu (CA-27), Paul Cook (CA-8), Ed Royce (CA-39), and Norma Torres (CA-35) – for their tremendous assistance and support for this project, which will improve both the quality of groundwater and surface water in the Basin.”

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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