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Contact:

Kathy Besser

Manager of External Affairs

909.993.1638

kbesser@ieua.org

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Recognizes July as Smart Irrigation Month

Inland Empire, California- The Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) recognizes July as Smart Irrigation Month. The Irrigation Association® started this public outreach campaign in 2005 to educate the public about the importance of using water efficiently outdoors through simple practices and innovative technologies.

July is traditionally the month when outdoor residential water use is at its highest due to increasing temperatures. As California enters its fourth year of severe drought, July is also the perfect time to learn more about how changes to irrigation schedules can help meet new water restrictions.

Over 65 percent of our region's residential water use is used to irrigate landscaping, with homeowners typically overwatering lawns and landscapes by up to 30 percent. Existing irrigation systems may be tuned-up for more efficiency, thus reducing run off and eliminating waste. By selecting and planting climate appropriate materials, watering efficiently and maintaining and upgrading automated irrigation systems, residents can do their part in saving this valuable resource.

"We need to increase our water-saving efforts as we enter the long, hot summer months," said Terry Catlin, IEUA Board President. "Smart Irrigation Month is a great reminder to the community to check sprinkler systems, water efficiently and eliminate waste."

IEUA recommends following these important tips:

- Water only as needed and follow your local water provider's watering restrictions.
- Water when the sun is down, winds are calm and temperatures are cool to reduce the chances of evaporation.
- Detect and repair all leaks.
- Install high efficiency sprinkler nozzles, drip irrigation or a weather-based Smart Controller that can provide the appropriate watering schedule and adjust for changes in the weather. Rebates for the sprinkler nozzles and irrigation controllers can be found at SoCalWaterSmart.com.

For more tips to help conserve and use water efficiently, rebates and resources visit www.ieua.org.

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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