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## **Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority Receives Engineering Achievement Award**

**Rancho Cucamonga, California** – The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) was recently awarded the California Water Environment Association’s (CWEA) Santa Ana River Basin Section Engineering Achievement Award for the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility’s (IERCF) Conveyor Project.

This award recognizes exceptional CWEA members and California wastewater professionals, facilities and agencies. The program seeks to honor 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.

The IERCA initiated an ambitious engineering project to improve the safety and efficiency of the material handling in the nation’s largest fully enclosed composting facility, IERCF. The project modified and expanded the facility’s conveyance system, substantially reducing heavy equipment traffic. The modification allowed the facility to reduce operating hours with no impacts to the tons of material processed.

“The IERCA is honored to receive this award. We continue to reach our goals by showing excellence and leadership in composting. This award is representative of this effort and highlights the 10 years of commitment on behalf of our team of employees and Board members,” said Jon Blickenstaff, IERCA Board Chairperson.

“The IERCA Conveyor Project is a shining example of how a project can enhance safety, reduce cost, utilize conservation and efficiency; and benefit the total environment,” stated Jasmin A. Hall, IERCA Vice Chairperson. “I congratulate the IERCA team for their dedication to efficiency and safety.”

*The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) is a joint project between the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Established in 2002, the IERCA operates the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility (IERCF) located in Rancho Cucamonga. The IERCF is the nation’s largest indoor composting facility. 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. 6,224 roof-mounted solar panels provide 1 megawatt of clean energy to help power the facility.*

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