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Chino Basin Project Gets Approved for Proposition 1 Funding *Approval through the California Water Commission's Water Storage Investment Program*

Inland Empire, California – The California Water Commission, at a hearing today, voted unanimously to approve full funding for Tier 2 projects, which includes the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's (IEUA/Agency) Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Environmental Water Storage/Exchange Program (Chino Basin Project).

Funding for the program comes from Proposition 1, a state water bond approved by voters in 2014, to invest \$2.7 billion for investments in new water storage projects. Projects were evaluated, ranked, scored, and offered funding based on their ability to increase statewide resiliency under climate change and other uncertainties; technical environmental, economic and financial feasibility which have a low implementation risk; the ability to provide environmental value in alignment with the State's ecosystem and water quality priorities; and strong public benefits.

The Chino Basin Project has been approved for \$206.9 million and involves the construction of an advanced water treatment facility and distribution system that will treat and store up to 15,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water for 25 years in the Chino Basin Water Bank, creating a new local water supply. In partnership with an existing State Water Project Contractor, this water would be exchanged in blocks of up to 50,000 acre-feet per year towards ecosystem benefits north of the Delta.

"IEUA continues to take the lead in securing a reliable water supply by implementing innovative drought-resilient projects for our region which also benefit the State as a whole," stated IEUA Board President Steve Elie. "Instead of relying on external water supplies, the Chino Basin Project relies on recycled water, which is not impacted by climate change or changes in hydrology. This project provides a vision for the future of water resources throughout the region and beyond."

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 875,000 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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