

**For Immediate Release:
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**Inland Empire Landmark Water Supply Program
Named “Outstanding Project of the Year”
By the American Society of Civil Engineers, Los Angeles Section**

Inland Empire – On Saturday, October 2nd, the landmark Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Project will receive the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)’s top honor of “2004 Outstanding Government Civil Engineering Project of the Year” from its Los Angeles Section. This prestigious honor will be shared by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Chino Basin Watermaster, San Bernardino County Flood Control District, and the Chino Basin Water Conservation District.

“The Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Project is truly a major event in the history of the Chino Basin,” said IEUA Board Director Wyatt Troxel. “This landmark water supply program will enhance the region’s ability to recharge our groundwater basin with over 100,000 acre-feet of new water supplies annually. This enough water to supply the needs of over 60,000 families,” Troxel said.

“We are honored to be recognized for our partnership’s success in developing innovative, cost effective projects that will significantly increase our region’s ability to meet future drought needs for the growing population of the Basin,” continued Terry Catlin, IEUA’s Board Vice-President who also serves as a Chino Basin Watermaster board member. “We share this honor with the Chino Basin Watermaster, the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, and the Water Conservation District that are our partners in developing this important project,” Catlin said.

The purpose of the \$40 million Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Project is to expand and improve existing facilities within the Chino Basin in order to enhance their ability to recharge water into the groundwater basin. Sixteen recharge basins will be refurbished and three new facilities will be constructed under the program.

“This is a complex and challenging project,” stated IEUA’s General Manager Richard Atwater. “The overwhelming cooperation and partnership of all the agencies involved to implement a total of 19 groundwater recharge projects in less than five years is something that we are all very proud of.”

The Chino Basin Groundwater Project was designed by Tettemer and Associates, a Division of the Keith Companies. Black and Veatch Consulting Engineers are assisting with the construction management for the recharge basins. The integrated project is on schedule to be fully operational by March 30, 2005.

Funding for the project is being provided through a state-local partnership. IEUA received a \$19 million grant in California’s Proposition 13 Water Bonds through the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA). The remaining costs of the project are being financed through local revenue bonds.

“Expanding the capacity of the Chino Basin to recharge water is a major component of the Chino Basin Optimum Basin Management Plan (OBMP) and is vital to the implementation of the historic 2000 Chino Basin Peace Agreement,” said Ken Manning, Chief Executive Officer for the Chino Basin Watermaster. “The Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Project will have the capacity to recharge storm water, imported water from Northern California and high quality recycled water into the Chino Basin groundwater aquifer,” Manning continued. “The project will provide significant water quality benefits in addition to improving the reliability of local water supplies.”

The Chino Basin is the largest groundwater basin within Southern California, holding more than 5 million acre-feet of water. For the 700,000 people served within IEUA’s service area, water from the groundwater basin supplies about 70% of the water needs.

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency serves the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Upland and the Cucamonga Valley Water District and Monte Vista Water District.

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******Press Alert******

***The dedication of the award-winning
Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Project
will be held on October 15th at 10:00 a.m.***

***This event will be held at the Turner Recharge Basin
located on the corner of 4th Street and Archibald in Ontario.***

For more information, please contact Sondra Elrod at 909-993-1747.