

**Responses to the Draft Report
Inland Empire Utilities Agency**

Attachment 7b

April 2, 2015

Kathleen Rollings-McDonald
Executive Officer
Local Area Formation Commission for San Bernardino County
215 North D Street, Suite 204
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Dear Kathleen,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft LAFCO Service Review for Water Conservation in the Valley Region. We appreciate the efforts of you and your staff to ensure good governance in San Bernardino County and look forward to working with your organization moving forward.

There were a couple items of note in the draft report that we would like to clarify:

Page 32 – Watermaster Approval of IEUA Recharge Application

Under Article X of Chino Basin Watermaster Rules and Regulations, IEUA applied for and received approval from Chino Basin Watermaster in 2002 to recharge up to 30,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water in the Chino Basin consistent with the elements of the 1999 Optimum Basin Management Plan, the Peace Agreement to the Chino Basin Judgment, and the 2001 Chino Basin Recharge Master Plan.

Page 37 – IEUA and city of Upland Agreement for Recharge Using Upland Basin

In 2005, the city of Upland, IEUA and Chino Basin Watermaster entered into an agreement that IEUA and Chino Basin Watermaster could utilize the capacity of Upland Basin not used for flood control for groundwater recharge. IEUA and Watermaster contributed \$750,000 towards construction of Upland Basin and received a minimum recharge pool volume of 200 acre-feet. With this funding contribution, Upland assured IEUA and Watermaster that the facility would be used to the maximum practical extent for groundwater recharge. Maintenance costs due to recharge activities would be the responsibility of IEUA and Chino Basin Watermaster.

Page 38 – Groundwater Recharge Coordinating Committee

There is an operations manual from 2006, but the committee is not “in the process of developing individualized operating plans for each of the recharge basins.”

Page 61 – Rebates

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and IEUA do not offer rebates on pre-rinse spray nozzles. There used to be a rebate on pre-rinse spray valves, but a rebate no longer exists. Also, there is no mention of IEUA’s locally implemented residential rebate programs, including the Landscape Turf Removal Program and the Landscape Retrofit Program.

Page 61 – Chino Creek Wetlands and Education Park

IEUA has not partnered with the Santa Ana Watershed Association to operate the 22-acre Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park since June 2014, when IEUA assumed all responsibilities for the wetlands and park.

Page 62 – Chino Basin Water Conservation District Education Programs

In the first paragraph, it mentions CBWCD's education programs. The unfortunate consequence is CBWCD opening its Center in 2014 duplicated some of IEUA's extensive education programs, which have been an integral part of the community since 2008.

- ✓ **22-Acre Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park Water Discovery Program:** The Program is designed to reconnect students with the environment by offering surrounding schools as well as community members the opportunity to participate in an outdoor field trip style experience at no cost. *There have been a total of 212 field trips with 10,890 students since the inception of the program.* In addition to the field trips, 7,266 community members and 4,384 students have taken part in IEUA's annual Earth Day celebration since 2007.
- ✓ **Garden in Every School® Program:** During FY 2013-14, 21 schools from the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Rancho Cucamonga that participated in a Project WET and a Garden in Every School® Workshop hosted by IEUA. The workshop's participants were then eligible for a \$1,000 mini-grant to assist in the upkeep of their pre-existing gardens. IEUA contracted with the Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) to assist in evaluating the workshop participant's existing gardens and to offer recommendations. The Garden in Every School® Program is managed by IEUA. Each participating school is awarded a garden grant valued up to a maximum of \$4,500 in contract labor, irrigation hardware, plants, workshops, and education materials relating to the garden. To date, IEUA has implemented water-wise gardens in 51 schools.
- ✓ **Solar Cup:** Solar Cup is a seven-month program created through MWD that begins in the fall, in which high school teams totaling about 800 students build and race solar-powered boats at Lake Skinner, in Temecula Valley, learning about conservation of natural resources, electrical and mechanical engineering, problem solving and much more. IEUA sponsors up to three high school teams per year. Sponsorship includes funding, communication support, boat building participation, team packets, etc.
- ✓ **School Assembly Program:** IEUA sponsors the National Theater for Children. This assembly program is offered for FREE to all schools within IEUA's service area, and since 2004 more than 260,000 students in IEUA's service area have seen this production. The program focuses on water supply issues and water saving tips. Each student received a workbook and each teacher receives a working teacher guide.
- ✓ **STEM:** IEUA and the Board of Directors support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs created from schools within IEUA's service area. Board contributions are offered to schools that partake in certain activities that are within the STEM sphere of influence (i.e. water testing, pollution detection, robotics, etc.).

- ✓ **IE Garden Friendly:** The program was developed by Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District. The program has expanded to other parts of California and as far as Texas. The program makes it easy to spot outdoor water efficient irrigation products, plants and landscape material by looking for the bright and colorful Inland Empire Garden Friendly sticker. Now in its fourth year, the program is a public-private partnership open to all landscape retailers. The events take place in the spring and fall at various locations throughout the region. The partnership between Home Depot and the agencies has proved to be successful with the increasing number of returning and new customers attending the events.

Page 63 – 3rd bullet point

There is a typo here, but it should be noted that this item was completed in July 2014.

Page 65 – City of Upland

The City does not pay for the landscape classes – the classes are paid entirely by IEUA as part of its annual regional conservation program.

Page 80 – OPEB Payments

On May 21, 2014, the IEUA Board approved the establishment of a trust account with the California Employee Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT). To date, a total of \$6.8 million has been paid into the trust account which eliminated the accrued liability reported in the Agency's financial report for fiscal year ending 2013/14. The Board letter and minutes from the meeting approving this change are attached.

Page 93 – Posting of Annual Compensation

IEUA has long been in compliance with the employee salary reporting requirements, with current salaries available on the Agency website through the Human Resources department link. There is also a link to the State Controller's website to provide access to the Board of Directors' salary information, with 2013 salary data, the most current available by the State. The link to this information is www.ieua.org/governance/transparency.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit our recommended additions and changes. If you need further clarification or have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY



P. Joseph Grindstaff
General Manager