



**For Immediate Release:
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**Senator Dianne Feinstein Secures Senate Committee Approval of Key
Water Supply Legislation for the Chino Basin**

Inland Empire - Today, the Senate Energy Committee convened its final business meeting and unanimously approved 53 bills, including the "Santa Ana River Water Supply enhancement Act of 2008." Senator Dianne Feinstein's legislation S. 2259, formally H.R. 831, sponsored by Congressman Gary Miller, (R-Brea) will increase the region's water supply by 200,000 acre-feet annually, as well as protect the Santa Ana River water quality and expand local desalination projects.

In her opening remarks this morning, Dianne Feinstein said, "the urban demands we have placed on our water supplies and ecosystem have resulted in significant water shortages in communities across the Nation. Water quality and quantity are in jeopardy if local, State, and Federal Governments do not support the implementation of cost-effective projects that enhance and increase potable water supplies."

The legislation authorizes up to \$26 million to increase groundwater desalination in the Chino Basin, which will provide a new fresh drinking water supply for Jurupa Community Services District, Santa Ana Mutual Water Company and the city of Norco in Riverside County, as well as the cities of Chino, Chino Hills and Ontario in San Bernardino County. "I would like to thank our partners, the Bureau of Reclamation, Chino Basin Watermaster, Western Municipal Water District, the Chino Desalter Authority, and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority for their efforts on helping to secure this funding," stated IEUA Board President Wyatt Troxel. The federal funding represents about 20 percent of the Phase 3 expansion of the Chino 1 and 2 desalters.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$10 million, also from the Bureau of Reclamation, and in cooperation with Orange County Water District, to create wetlands along the Santa Ana River providing an expanded natural treatment system to purify the River before it replenishes Orange County's groundwater supply.

“The Chino Basin Watermaster is very appreciative of Congressman Gary Miller for introducing the bill in the House and Senator Dianne Feinstein who introduced the bill in the Senate, as well as congressional delegation, Reps. Ken Calvert, John Campbell, David Dreier, Dana Rohrabacher, Ed Royce and Loretta Sanchez for supporting the efforts to expand our local water supplies,” commented Chino Basin Watermaster Chairman Ken Willis, who is also a council member for the city of Upland.

“This legislation could serve as a model for communities nationwide to help meet the challenges imposed by decreasing snow pack and precipitation and scarce potable water supplies that will be exacerbated by climate change,” added Feinstein.

IEUA’s service area includes the cities of Fontana, Chino, Chino Hills, Upland Ontario and Montclair, as well as the Cucamonga Valley and Monte Vista Water Districts, with a combined total of over 850,000 residents.

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