

Education: An active approach to conservation

Serving the Cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland, as well as Monte Vista and Cucamonga Valley Water Districts.

January 2009

Water Conservation Tip:
Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.



Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park

A Day at the Park
Fun for the whole family!
Wednesday, February 25, 2009
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Featuring Educational Booths, Scavenger Hunt, Giveaways, and Activities for the whole family!



The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park integrates a beautiful ecological setting with educational opportunities for children and adults alike.

The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park was developed by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency under a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board

IEUA Swearing-In Ceremony

On January 7, 2009, two Directors were seated on the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Board: Director Terry Catlin and Director Michael Camacho.

Election Outcomes: Terry Catlin was elected to serve as IEUA Board President. Angel Santiago was elected to serve as IEUA Board Vice President. Michael Camacho was elected to serve as IEUA Board Secretary/Treasurer.



From L to R: Michael Camacho—IEUA Secretary/Treasurer, Terry Catlin—IEUA Board President, April Woodruff—Board Secretary

Landscape Alliance

<http://www.ieua.org/conservation/landscape/landscape.html>

The Secrets to Perfect Compost

Article by Jim McCausland
Sunset Magazine
January 2009

Healthy gardens start with healthy soil. And there's no better ingredient than compost, whether you till it into beds or use it as mulch.

Ned Conwell is up to his elbows in the stuff, both as a farmer and as a teacher. He uses as much as he can make at Blue House Farm, a produce and flower farm he co-owns in Pescadero, California, and he also teaches composting at the Regenerative Design Institute, located up the coast in Bolinas.

"Once it's in the soil, compost increases fertility; adds both micro-and macronutrients; buffers pH; and improves soil structure," Conwell says. Below is his foolproof method for making compost.

COMPOST DOS AND DONT'S

Do Compost

Nearly any plant material, including the following:

Brown Matter

Dried leaves, hay, straw, sawdust, wood chips, and shrub and tree prunings. Ned Conwell collects his brown matter, but you can also use straw from a feed store. He puts branches and anything thorny in a separate slow-roast pile in the corner, where it breaks down over a much longer period of time. To hasten composting, chop or mow prunings into pieces 2 inches or smaller.

Green Matter

Green weeds, fruit and vegetable scraps, cover-crop remains, and fresh grass clippings. Also coffee grounds, tea bags, and uncomposted manure from cows, goats, horses or poultry. Pine needles take longer to break down, while compounds in black walnut and eucalyptus leaves can inhibit growth in other plants; compost those greens only if you combine them with lots of other vegetative waste.

Don't Compost

Animal products (bones, meat scraps, dairy products); plants with fungal diseases such as fire blight or verticillium; or seedy or rhizomatous weeds like purslane, Bermuda grass, or bindweed.

Do Turn the Pile Often



After the first two temperature-based turns, the more often you turn your pile, the quicker it will break down the compost.

Do Heat it Up

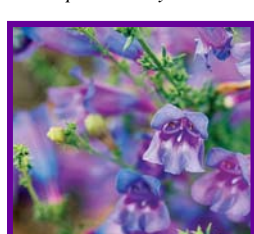
The smaller the pieces, the faster they'll compost. (Run the lawn mower over big, leathery leaves before adding them to the pile.) To check the pile's temperature, Conwell uses a 20-inch long compost thermometer, available at some nurseries.

For more articles visit:

<http://www.sunset.com/>

Great Natives

Pictures provided by Sunset Magazine



Penstemon



Sticky Monkey Flower



Common Snowberry



Native Fence (Octotillo)



Wild Lilac



Desert Beard Tongue



Orange Flower



Beach Aster



Salvia

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 5 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Water Site Awareness Tour of Best Management Practices	Rancho Cucamonga: Planning Commissioners and Key Staff
Thursday, February 12 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Landscape Alliance Board Meeting	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Thursday, February 26 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Technical Committee Meeting	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Anza Room
Friday, February 27 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Greenlee Landscape Workshop Save Water & Money in the Landscape - Professionals	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Event Room
Saturday, February 28 10:00 a.m. - noon	Greenlee Landscape Workshop Save Water & Money in the Landscape - Homeowners	Inland Empire Utilities Agency Event Room

Drought-proofing the Inland Empire

By: Karen E. Weber
Daily Bulletin
Inauguration Section 2009
January 21, 2009

Protecting the community from drought has become a primary mission of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA), which serves about 850,000 residents in western San Bernardino County.

Water—imported and recycled—is a key part of IEUA's agenda for 2009

From its headquarters in Chino, IEUA covers 242-square miles serving the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario and Upland in addition to the Cucamonga Valley and Monte Vista Water Districts and the Water Facilities Authority.

[...]

"From its wastewater treatment plants, IEUA produces three products: recycled water, compost, and renewable energy from methane and solar," said Terry Catlin, president of the IEUA Board of Directors. He has been on the board for 12 years.

[...]

"The agency is going in the right direction, and we need to continue to improve our groundwater management, water recycling and water conservation," Camacho [Michael Camacho: Secretary/Treasurer] of the IEUA Board of Directors said. "My goal as a board member is to keep the rates a slow as possible and provide the highest quality of water available."

Catlin said as a member of the Metropolitan Water District, IEUA is able to deliver imported drinking water supplies to the retail water

agencies in its service area. But these supplies saw cutbacks in the past year.

"Our main source of imported water comes from northern California through the State Water project and this water has been reduced by about 30 percent by a judge's ruling. Supplies of imported water are becoming less reliable as the statewide water crisis continues," Catlin said.

"As water supplies shrink and the population increases, water conservation becomes even more important and we have to give the public some options to help them reduce their water usage," Camacho said.

According to Catlin, one way to enhance conservation is by promoting water-efficient appliances and drought-tolerant landscaping. Education is also crucial, particularly programs that teach water awareness to children. IEUA supports one program that helps develop gardens at schools. The Garden in Every School® Program makes the most efficient use of water and has accompanying classroom lessons on water issues and other conservation topics.

[...]

Making improvements to groundwater systems helps Southern California increase the potable water supply.

"We've been making improvements to the recharge basins," Catlin said. "We've spent \$40 million—half from outside funding—to

improve these basins."

Improvements will help the basins capture more stormwater runoff and increase the use of recycled water to recharge the Chino basin Groundwater Aquifer.

[...]

It's an expensive proposition going through existing neighborhoods and laying new pipes with proper separation between irrigation and potable water pipes.

According to Catlin, IEUA just received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Water Resources that can be used to install more pipes and retrofit irrigation systems at school district facilities, city parks, cemeteries and such.

Catlin said IEUA is halfway through a three-year plan to triple the amount of recycled water used and is about halfway to its goal—right on schedule.

"We want to get up to 50,000 acre-feet of recycled water used," he said.

But the economy could hurt their advance.

"Hopefully the state is able to work out its budget problems. They could take away some of our property tax revenue. That could affect us by \$30 million a year," Camacho said.

This could mean cutbacks but Catlin promised that IEUA will do its best to maintain services with the least impact on its ratepayers.

For complete article, visit:

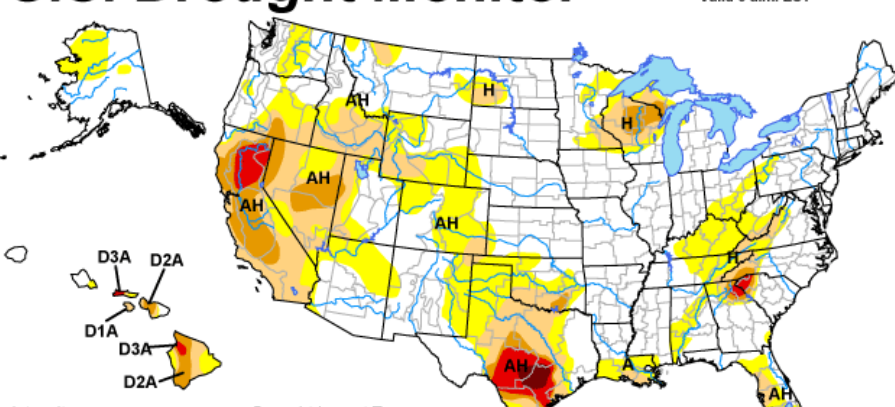
<http://www.dailybulletin.com/>



Water Supply Alert

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 20, 2009
Valid 8 a.m. EST



Drought Summary

Dry weather with minimal rain continues to persist throughout California. Drought ranges throughout California from abnormally dry to severe drought with extreme drought in a large portion of northern California. The largest portion of California rests on moderate to severe drought.



Check Presentation MWD California Friendly® Model Home Program

IEUA Board of Directors

Terry Catlin

Division 1: Upland/Montclair

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Division 2: Ontario

John Anderson

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Division 4: Fontana

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Division 5: Rancho Cucamonga

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Peter Altuchow (Pardee Homes), Terry Catlin, IEUA Board President

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, and the Inland Empire Utilities Agency sponsors a California Friendly® Model Home Program that offers financial incentives for builders to incorporate California friendly® water saving features into new Southern California homes.

The Candlewood community, developed by Pardee Homes, is a recent example of the integration of California friendly® features to create environmentally friendly homes. IEUA presented an incentive check to Pardee homes for their environmentally friendly efforts.

California Friendly® Preserves Water Resources

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