

URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER



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Agency In Focus: IEUA

Top of Mind

By Shivaji Deshmukh, P.E., General Manager, Inland Empire Utilities Agency

Inland Empire Utilities Agency Making Strides in Ensuring Water Reliability Now and for the Future Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 Expansion Project Will Increase Treatment Capacity to Support Growth

Leading the way. Planning for the future. Ensuring a high quality, reliable water supply. Protecting the environment. These important goals are a core component of the Inland Empire Utilities Agency's (IEUA) mission and vision and demonstrate its steadfast commitment to the region it serves.

One such project that supports these objectives is the Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 Expansion Project (RP-5 Project); a project that encompasses innovation and is critical to addressing water supply reliability and expected regional growth. ... (see page two for more)



San Gabriel Watershed Project

San Gabriel River Watershed Project to Reduce River Discharge in Support of Increased Recycled Water Reuse

By Jodie Lanza, Los Angeles County Sanitation District & Tom Barnes, Environmental Science Associates



As the number of recycled water projects in Southern California increases, local streams receive less surface water because the treated water is increasingly diverted to meet recycled water demands. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have expressed concerns that reduced flows in Southern California streams and rivers may adversely affect the aquatic and riparian ecosystems that have grown to rely on these discharges to survive. These stream corridors often represent the last stronghold for native wildlife in our urbanized region, even if the discharges are not natural water sources.

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) worked closely with CDFW and USFWS to conduct an evaluation of the San Gabriel and to develop a solution that protects riparian resources in the river while at the same time supporting the recycled water objectives of the region. The Districts will incrementally reduce surface water discharges of recycled water from five water reclamation plants (WRPs) within the San Gabriel River watershed, including from the San Jose Creek WRP, the Pomona WRP, the Whittier Narrows WRP, the Los Coyotes WRP, and the Long Beach WRP. ... (see page two for more)

Agency In Focus: IEUA (continued)

(from page one) ... Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 5 (RP-5) currently treats liquids only and has a capacity of 16.3 million gallons per day (mgd).

The RP-5 Project will expand the liquids treatment capacity to 22.5 mgd.

It will also include critical infrastructure to allow for the buildout of RP-5 to ultimately treat an average flow of 30 mgd, with a peak flow capacity of 60 mgd.

The RP-5 Project will also include the construction of a new solids handling facility, allowing for the decommissioning of Regional Water Recycling Plant No. 2, which will fall within the Prado Dam's floodplain once the spillway height is raised.

The RP-5 Project will meet and exceed current regulatory requirements, utilize energy efficient equipment and continue to provide high quality recycled water to the service area.

IEUA has continued to leverage Federal and State partnerships to help fund critical infrastructure projects using grants and low-interest loans to help keep wastewater rates as low as possible; the RP-5 Project is no exception. ... (see page three for more)

Does Your Agency Have News Or Articles To Share?

UWI would like to extend the opportunity to those water agencies who have news to share.

If your agency has news items they would like profiled in UWI's monthly newsletter, please contact Ane Deister at (530) 863-0750.

Please note that all submissions are subject to editing (length, images, etc.) and placement within the newsletter.

San Gabriel Watershed Project (continued)

(from page one) ... These WRPs have historically discharged into the San Gabriel River or its tributaries: San Jose Creek or Coyote Creek. The diverted water will supply recycled water programs implemented by other agencies including the Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling (ARC) constructed by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD). The Districts also worked closely with CDFW and USFWS to develop an Adaptive Management Plan to ensure that affected ecosystems are maintained to at least their existing conditions. The Districts will monitor the health of the river corridor and assist in managing periodic discharges to sustain the ecosystem.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approved the reduced discharges in 2020 under California Water Code §1211, which requires that any diversion of wastewater discharges consider the effects to beneficial uses, including effects to ecosystems. The collaborative effort between the Districts and the wildlife agencies produced a protective management structure that provides protection of natural resources while at the same time enabling the implementation of additional water supply for the region.



UWI: Fun Facts

How many years has UWI been advocating on water issues? The Urban Water Institute, Inc. was incorporated as a nonprofit public education organization in the State of California in 1993.

What does UWI do? The Urban Water Institute, Inc's mission is to provide non-partisan information of timely and pertinent interest to the water resource industry, including public agencies and private firms, with particular emphasis on water economics, management and resource policies as they affect the environment, consumers and the general economy.

Who leads UWI? The Institute is governed by a volunteer board of directors drawn from hands-on policy makers, elected officials and industry leaders who are active in the water resources industry.

Can anyone become a member? Yes! For more information about UWI, membership levels, dues and other materials, please visit UrbanWater.com or call Ane Deister at (530) 863-0750 or Stacy Davis at (949) 679-9676. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Agency In Focus: IEUA (continued)

(from page two) ... IEUA received \$196.4 million, with an interest rate of 1.36 percent, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, as well as a \$101 million Clean Water State Revolving Fund low-interest loan from the State Water Resources Control Board.

IEUA's Board of Directors have led the Agency with a vision of innovation to meet the needs of the region in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. Their leadership has enabled the Agency to move forward with this essential project to enhance and preserve the quality of life across IEUA's service area.



Images of the IEUA Project.