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East Valley Water District First to Receive Grant *Award assists with implementation of budget based rate billing program*

Highland, Calif., (July 28, 2015) – East Valley Water District (District) is the first water agency to receive a grant award to assist with the implementation of a budget based rate billing program. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) awarded the District with \$337,000 through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Grant Program funded by Proposition 84.

“East Valley Water District is pleased to serve as an example for other water districts exploring a budget based rate structure,” said James Morales, Jr., District Chairman of the Board. “Our extensive outreach effort allowed us the opportunity to increase the dialogue we have with our customers on a regular basis.”

The District’s new rate structure, effective June 1, 2015, is designed to consider the water needs of each customer, and to allow the lowest cost water to be utilized for essential use indoors. Water budgets take a variety of factors into account, treating all customers fairly while also encouraging conservation.

“Our Board of Directors took great strides and initiative in moving forward with this industry best practice,” said John Mura, General Manager/CEO. “Budget based rates are designed to look at each customer’s unique water needs while showing them their potential for increased efficiency. We are experiencing positive customer response to the conservation messaging inherent in the new rate structure and have seen a decrease in water consumption.”

SAWPA is the regional agency administrator for the Proposition 84 IRWM Grant Program for the Santa Ana River Watershed. The Grant Program is designed to encourage integrated regional strategies for management of water resources and provides funding for implementation projects that support integrated water management.

For more information about budget based rates, visit our website at eastvalley.org/rates.

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East Valley Water District is a California Special District that provides water and wastewater services to 101,733 residents within the City of Highland and portions of both the City and County of San Bernardino. For more information please visit the District’s website at www.eastvalley.org.