



For Immediate Release

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Valley District Increases Investment in its Weather Based Irrigation Controller Program

San Bernardino (September 17, 2008) – In response to the current Statewide drought conditions and Governor Schwarzenegger's call for more aggressive water conservation, the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) Board of Directors unanimously approved an expansion of their successful Weather Based Irrigation Controller (WBIC) Program to their entire service area that spans from Fontana to Yucaipa. Under the expanded program, Valley District will pay 50% of the cost for the purchase and installation of WBICs at parks within its boundaries up to a total investment of \$200,000. Over 400 controllers will be offered under the program which may be expanded even further in the future based on the interest level.

WBICs utilize daily weather data to optimize irrigation to exactly meet the needs of the turf or other vegetation. This technology has been proven to reduce water demands by up to 35% and has been widely adopted throughout parts of Southern California. Earlier this year, Valley District partnered with the City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department to retrofit ten City Parks with WBICs and install a weather station to

collect and transmit the weather data to the controllers. With the success of the current program, Valley District is looking to partner with other local agencies interested in reducing irrigation at parks and other large turf areas. The program is part of Valley District's Water Conservation Initiatives program, which includes a regional demonstration garden and a school based water conservation education program.

There are 3,100 acres of parkland within the boundaries of the District. Based on existing data, the implementation of WBIC technology at these parks could reduce water use by 2,600 acre-feet of water each year. One acre-foot of water is approximately equal to a football field filled to a depth of one foot and is enough water for 1 to 2 families for one year. Sixty to seventy percent of water use in Inland Southern California is used for outside irrigation.

"This program not only saves precious water resources, but also saves money for cities and other agencies responsible for parks. It is a win-win proposition and we look forward to partnering with other agencies to reduce water demands." stated Pat Milligan, Valley District Board President.

Valley District is responsible for ensuring that there is a reliable water supply to meet the needs of retail water agencies within its service area, both today and into the future. The WBIC program is only one of the programs being implemented by Valley District to provide a reliable water supply in times of drought or other disaster. If your agency is interested in learning more about this program, please contact the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District at 909-387-9200.

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