

INLAND EMPIRE

Resource Conservation District

Annual Report 2013-2014



MISSION To promote the understanding that the quality of the environment determines the quality of life.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The seven-member IERCD board of directors has been guiding the preservation, restoration, and education and outreach work performed within the District's nearly 1,300 square mile service area for over 70 years. This past reporting period has marked some of the most innovative and comprehensive conservation work performed by the District since its origins; highlights of 2013-14 have included 574 acres of new and ongoing wildland management, completion of seven water conservation demonstration gardens and conceptualization of two field trip programs, and a complete overhaul of the IERCD's classroom education programs. Much of this work has occurred

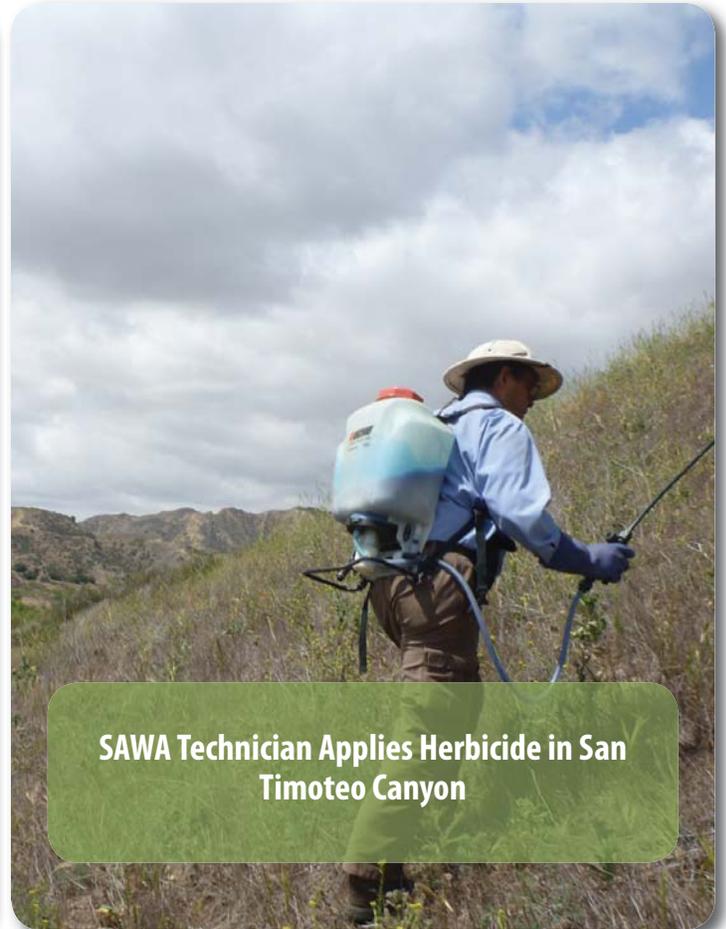
as a result of the development of new and continuation of existing partnerships with federal agencies, cities, non-profits, and regulatory entities within IERCD's district boundaries, with key partners including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Riverside Land Conservancy. These relationships, in addition to an enhanced staff roster and retention of long-term consultant support, have resulted in a workload for 2014-15 expected to exceed that completed in the current reporting year.

Aside from the traditional tasks performed by the IERCD, the District has also played a significant role in the development of statewide performance standards

for California RCDs. The IERCD is part of a network of 99 statewide resource conservation districts, all of whom perform a variety of project work within individual boundaries; however, as per the intention of the original formation of these entities, each also provides a very specific suite of services corresponding to local community needs. While districts will continue to perform project work suited to the demographics within local areas, all will now be required to meet a standardized list of requirements governing RCD service scope and performance criteria. The projected benefits of this work include a better overall product provided by districts for the benefit of both local and statewide communities and associated resource needs.



Native Garden Installation at McKinley Elementary School, Redlands



SAWA Technician Applies Herbicide in San Timoteo Canyon

LAND CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION: MITIGATION PROGRAM AND GENERAL INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

As an approved mitigation facilitation entity, the IERCD works with federal, state, county, and private non-profit agencies in the facilitation of projects to remediate development-related impacts to area natural resources. The projects overseen by the District have a variety of conservation, enhancement, and restoration goals, and include an in-development In-Lieu Fee Mitigation program. Highlights of the IERCD's mitigation program are further detailed in the following sections.

Goose Creek Golf Course

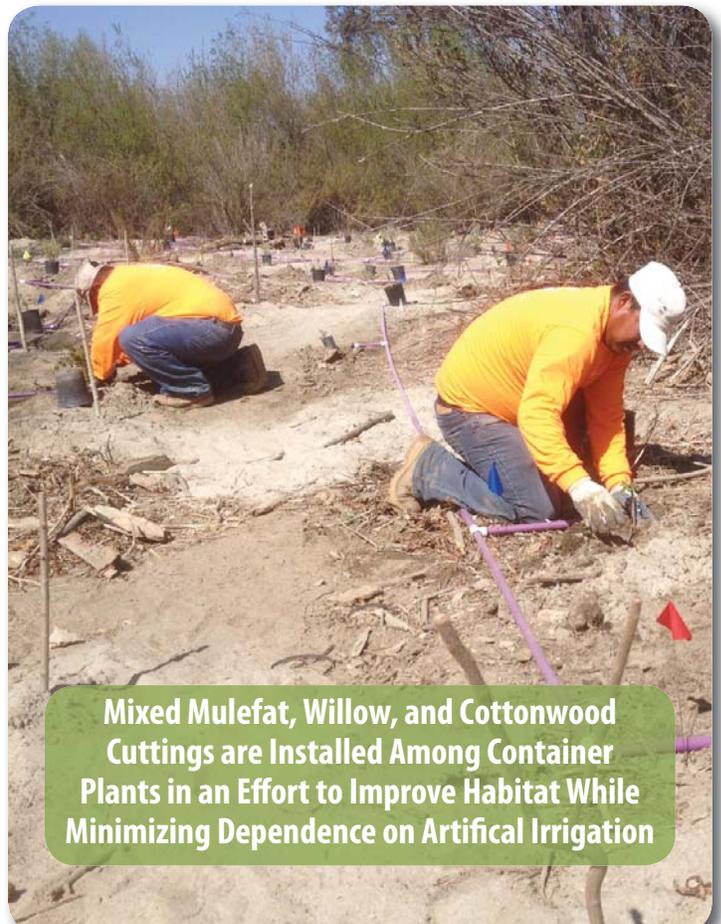
One of the IERCD's most active projects, the Goose Creek Golf Course (GCGC) project site involves the execution of restoration and enhancement responsibilities within a 45 acre property adjacent to the Santa Ana River in the City of Jurupa Valley and County of Riverside. Preparation for eventual enhancement and restoration work began on the site in 2012 with performance of tasks related to groundwater level monitoring and vegetation surveying. Further preparations involved implementation of large-scale removal of invasive species and refuse from the property, in addition to experimental plots of mixed willow, cottonwood, and mulefat pole cuttings sourced on-site and cut to a length enabling contact with groundwater once augured into place. At the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year, the cutting test areas demonstrated over 90% survival across all species and site invasives were under increased control as a result of removal efforts.

Execution of restoration activities on a larger scale began on this site in the 2013-14 reporting period. This consisted primarily of ongoing site invasives and refuse control in combination with installation of both container stock and pole cuttings at a density of an average of 880 plants per acre for a total of 4,936 total plants. The 2,398 container plants are supported through installation and operation of an irrigation system using recycled water, while the 2,538 cuttings have been placed deep enough to rely on groundwater.

The site has an ongoing monitoring protocol designed to generate data revealing the degree to which the site is successful in supporting restored areas, consisting of a combination of vegetation plots and transects, and wildlife monitoring. Monitoring in 2013-14 has revealed initial site success; continuation of this trend will result in agency sign-off in 2017 and application of methods to other area sites within which IERCD project monies are being directed.

Reach 3B Mitigation – San Timoteo Canyon

This project has been part of the IERCD's mitigation program since 2004, and involves a combination of preservation and wildland rehabilitation work performed in cooperation with District partner agency the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) throughout the San Timoteo Canyon 126 square mile watershed. Management activities through 2013 included sensitive species monitoring and protection, extermination of invasive wildlife, control of new and formerly treated populations of non-native vegetation, public outreach and education, removal of trash and discouragement of illegal activities



Mixed Mulefat, Willow, and Cottonwood Cuttings are Installed Among Container Plants in an Effort to Improve Habitat While Minimizing Dependence on Artificial Irrigation

detrimental to habitat health, and photo documentation of all efforts, among others. Direct measured benefits from the ten years of Reach 3B project implementation includes an increase of 101 territories of the federally listed least Bell's vireo, control of over 424 acres of noxious invasive species, and removal of 2,079 of the non-

native brown-headed cowbird from the watershed.

In the 2013-2014 reporting period, active restoration was added to the existing suite of management activities; this involved installation of two acres of container stock and non-irrigated pole cuttings in the place of invasive vegetation.

Preparation work for an additional two acres of restoration was also performed, with implementation scheduled for the winter of 2014-15. Ongoing monitoring of the sites has been designed to correlate plant palette and maintenance activities with measured wildlife benefit, for application in future area restoration projects.

IERCD Mitigation Program: Conservation			
Project	Location	Mitigation Type	Size (A)
Big Bear Pebble Plain	Big Bear	Open Space Preservation	12
Centex Sycamore Heights	Chino Hills	Open Space Preservation	25
Chino-Bickmore Property	Chino	Open Space Preservation	6.18
Etiwanda Freeway Center	Rancho Cucamonga	Open Space Preservation	3.75
Goose Creek	Jurupa Valley	Open Space Preservation	45
Joseph Nicholas Homes	Redlands	Created Habitat Preservation	6
KB Homes	Rancho Cucamonga	Open Space Preservation	3
ProLogis Logistics	Coopers Creek/Beaumont	Created Habitat Preservation	8.45
Prologis Ontario	Etiwanda Channel	Created Habitat Preservation	4
Total:			113.38
IERCD Mitigation Program: Enhancement and Restoration/New and Maintained Former Removal Areas			
Project	Location	Mitigation Type	Size (A)
13th Street Sports Park	Yucaipa	Restoration	0.57
Alabama Street Culvert	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	0.11
Chino Hills - Custom Home	Chino	Restoration	0.7
ESRI	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	2.96
Highpointe	San Timoteo Canyon	Enhancement	1.04
Nevada Business Park	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	0.003
ProLogis - Offsite Project	Jurupa Valley	Enhancement	0.55
Reach 3B	San Timoteo Canyon	Enhancement	424.38
Reach 3B	San Timoteo Canyon	Restoration	10
RCFCD - Day Creek Stage 6, Phase 2	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	2
RCFCD - Day Creek Stage 6, Phase 3	Jurupa Valley	Enhancement	2.1
Rialto Channel	Devil's Canyon	Enhancement	3.3
Riverside Flume Pipeline	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	1
San Sevaine	Devil's Canyon	Enhancement	8.95
SCE - El Casco	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	0.42
SoCal Gas - Smith Creek	Banning	Restoration	0.4
Wilson Creek Turnout	Banning	Enhancement	0.46
YVWD - San Tim Outfall	Jurupa Valley	Restoration	0.005
Total:			458.95

WATER CONSERVATION

The 2013-14 reporting period saw California enter its third year of historically significant drought conditions which, when combined with a rising population and corresponding increase in demand for water, underscored the very serious need to conserve. The IERCD has historically supported local and regional water conservation efforts through initial removal and ongoing control of a variety of high-water using non-native species. In addition to this critical non-native species control work, the IERCD also provides an ever-expanding suite of conservation education programming, both funded by the District and through a variety of water provider partner agencies. This outreach is designed to maximize provision of conservation information to a broad spectrum of District service-area residents through varied programming ranging from classroom presentations to installation of native plant demonstration gardens.

The following section details 2013-14 reporting period

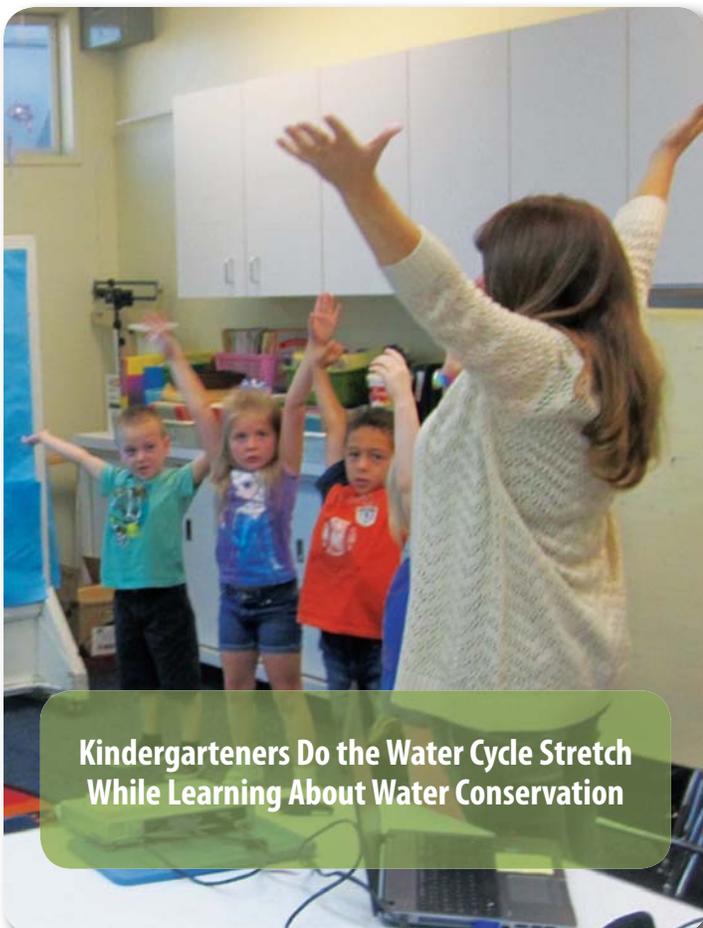
projects and programs, designed and implemented by the IERCD to address the urgent need for water conservation.

Youth Programs/Events

One of the longest elements of IERCD's water conservation education work has been performance of free, standards-correlated classroom programming throughout its service area.

Primarily funded by a variety of water provider partners, these programs provide an overview of age-appropriate content including local sources of potable water, current drought conditions, and conservation strategies. Participating students are engaged through use of 3-D watershed models demonstrating impacts of water use and conservation, and through planting locally collected climate-appropriate native wildflowers to take home. IERCD educators use Prezi online software, games, comprehension quizzes, and pre/post-program content to ensure maximum content retention.

In addition to programs, IERCD educational staff also attend multiple water conservation-focused



Kindergarteners Do the Water Cycle Stretch While Learning About Water Conservation



Water Conservation Outreach Presentation in Partnership with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, Smiley Library, Redlands

public outreach events throughout each reporting year. Events attended in 2013-14 are included in the following outreach matrix documenting direct resident outreach for this element of IERCD’s water conservation education programming.

Adult Programs

In the last fiscal year the IERCD continued its partnership with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) to offer water conservation outreach programs to local community groups. Eleven presentations were given to groups including the Redlands Kiwanis Club and Colton Rotary Club, and focused on educating attendees on need for water use reduction coupled with specific incentive opportunities available in individual provider service areas. The District’s presentation focuses primarily on increasing efficiency of outdoor water usage as it comprises 2/3 of the typical household water budget; methods recommended include use of “smart” irrigation systems, altering watering event length and occurrence, and transitioning from a traditional sod-based landscape to one consisting primarily of drought-tolerant species. All attendees are given resources for implementation of program

recommendations, and the success of these programs has led to an increase in total presentations and geographic range for performance in the next reporting period.

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency Field Trips

This reporting period marked the first year of IERCD’s partnership with the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), a provider partner located in Beaumont. Elements of this partnership included performance of youth programs as well as development of a pilot field trip program for area students, designed to showcase SGPWA’s onsite drought-tolerant demonstration garden. The SGPWA hoped to both educate students as well as draw attention to its garden, designed to offer area residents climate-appropriate alternatives to sod landscapes. Two trips were facilitated for 135 students and adult participants; components included instruction on the water cycle, water auditing to document individual use, and a scavenger hunt highlighting unique climate-related adaptations of garden plants. The field trips were a success and provided the students with an opportunity to learn about water conservation outside of the typical classroom setting.

Water Conservation Related Outreach Events		
Event	Location	Residents Reached
Upland Family Day	Magnolia Park	75
National Public Lands Day	Mary Vagle Nature Center, Fontana	200
Smiley Library Family Day	Redlands	200
Landscape and Water Conservation Fair	Chino Basin Water Conservation District	150
Redlands Conservancy Trails at 10 Kids Day	San Timoteo Canyon, Redlands	30
Bird Festival	Chino Wetlands Park	150
Flights of Fancy	San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands	25
Sustainability Festival	University of Redlands	125
Earth Day	Frontier Project, Rancho Cucamonga	200
Earth Day	Victoria Gardens, Rancho Cucamonga	100
Earth Day	Gilman Ranch, Banning	100
Colton Earth Day	Veterans Park	125
Healthy Upland Kick Off Event	Magnolia Park	100
Earth Day	Chino Wetlands Park	75
Arbor Day	Mary Vagle Nature Center, Fontana	225
Totals		1530

Water Conservation Demonstration Gardens

Since 2012, the IERCD has operated a mini-grant program which provides funding for establishment of new or enhancement of existing native plant demonstration gardens throughout the District's service area. Interested teachers are chosen through an application process to determine interest and ability to maintain the garden long-term. Once selected, teachers, students, and IERCD staff collaborate on garden design and installation. The IERCD's water conservation classroom programs are performed in association with garden installation to ensure participating student comprehension of significance of water savings and wildlife benefit of native plants. Once completed, the gardens become outdoor classrooms capable of enhancing lessons in a variety of subjects.

Three gardens were completed in 2013-14, including Rancho Cucamonga High School, Arroyo Valley High School, and Bryn Mawr Elementary school. The garden directly impacted the 85 student participants

and adult mentors who participated, and indirectly impacted the full faculty and student body on selected campuses. The IERCD will continue to provide support for ongoing garden success through assistance in implementation of a maintenance plan designed by the District as part of the garden installation process.

Water Conservation Statistics



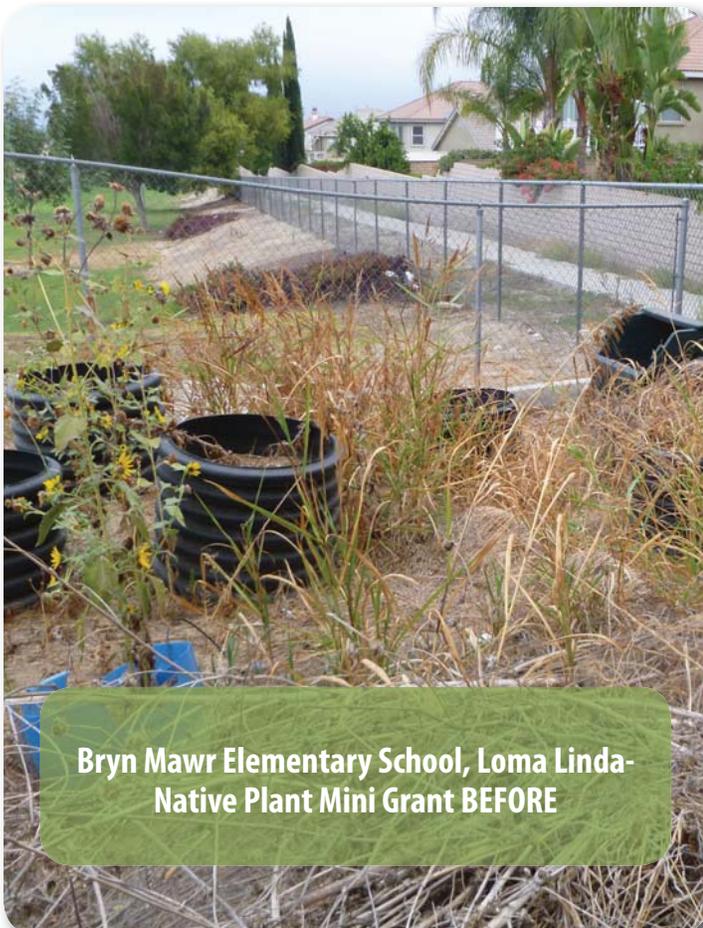
5,280 Students in 176 Classrooms
135 Students at 2 Fieldtrips



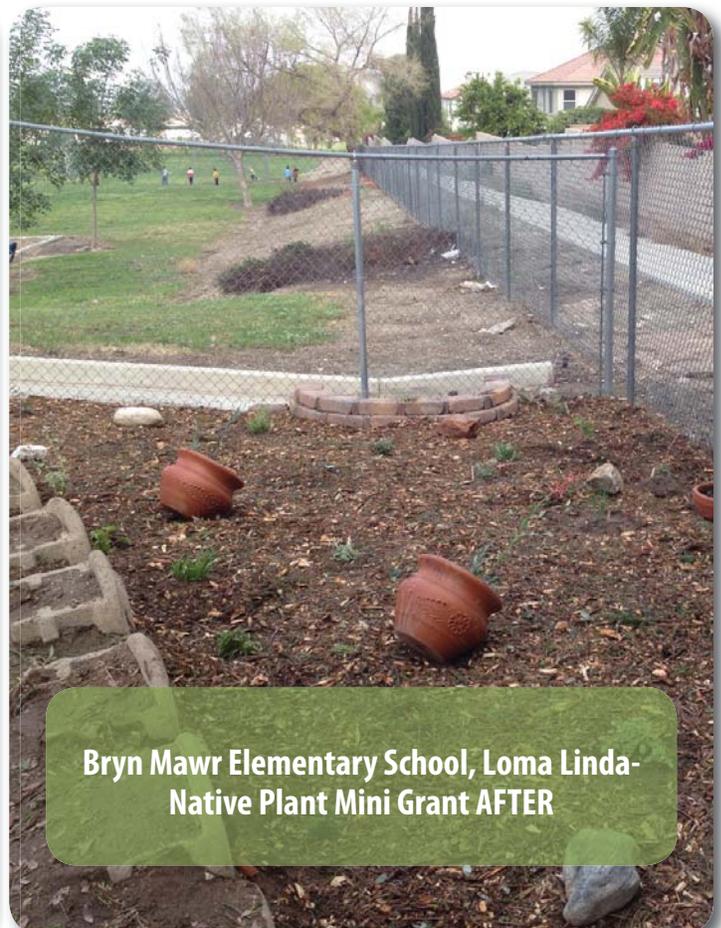
85 Students with 3 Gardens
390 Adults at 11 Workshops



1,530 Residents at 15 Outreach Events



**Bryn Mawr Elementary School, Loma Linda-
Native Plant Mini Grant BEFORE**



**Bryn Mawr Elementary School, Loma Linda-
Native Plant Mini Grant AFTER**

GENERAL EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Youth Programs

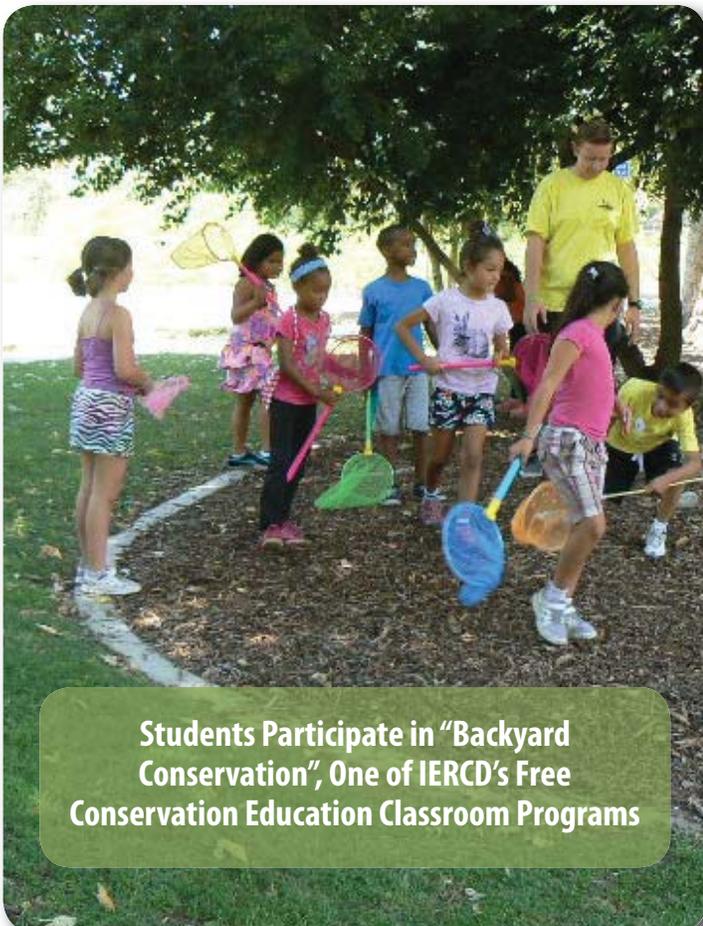
The performance of free, standards-correlated conservation-themed classroom presentations is one of the longest-standing elements of IERCD's education and public outreach programming. In this reporting period, IERCD education staff continued program performance but also completed an overhaul of all classroom presentations for compliance with updated standards and conformance to expectations of today's students. Trainings with teachers, research on current trends in education, and efforts to reduce disposable materials used in classroom presentations all contributed to the updated, efficient, interactive approach to programming. The District also added an additional education assistant and increased time spent on outreach to broaden geographic and age distribution of IERCD programs. The overhaul of previous IERCD program methodology has resulted in a product appreciated by teachers, engaging to students, and more efficiently performed and

managed than any previous reporting year. These programs are tracked and reported separately from water conservation presentations. The total non-water programming performed in 2013-14 included 283 presentations to 8,490 students.

Education Programs Conducted in 2013-14		
Program Topic	Programs Performed	Residents Reached
Wonders of Wetlands	33	990
Toil of Soil	40	1200
Stormwater Pollution	43	1290
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	55	1650
Growing Native	44	1320
Energy Conservation	28	840
Backyard Conservation	40	1200
Totals	283	8490

Speak-Off

On September 28th, the IERCD hosted the Speak-Off competition, an annual event inviting high school students to address a rotating conservation topic and



Students Participate in "Backyard Conservation", One of IERCD's Free Conservation Education Classroom Programs



Rancho Cucamonga City Councilwoman Diane Williams Poses with Two 2013 Speak-Off Contestants

held at a different venue each year. The 2013 topic asked students to discuss how the development of alternative energy would impact natural resources, and drew an unprecedented 19 contestants from campuses within IERCD's service area joined by parents, faculty, and contest judges. Nathalie Du from Rancho Cucamonga High School took first place, and advanced to the regional and finally statewide competition where she finished second. In keeping with tradition, the IERCD plans to host a 2014 local Speak-Off contest, due to the resulting increase in awareness brought to participants via creation and delivery of a speech on topical conservation issues.

National Public Lands Day

For the fifth year in a row, the IERCD partnered with the Mary Vagle Nature Center in Fontana to put on an annual celebration of National Public Lands Day. Designed to increase awareness, use, and stewardship of public lands, this September event has resulted in collaborations between the District and the Center ranging from removal of sod and replacement with native species, to creation of "floating islands" to improve water quality in Mary Vagle's pond. This year, volunteers replaced turf with native plants in four planters, removed cattails from the pond and performed general clean up duties around the Center. In the afternoon, the general public joined volunteers for an environmental fair featuring educational and activity booths from area special districts and non-profit groups, to further communicate the day's conservation message.

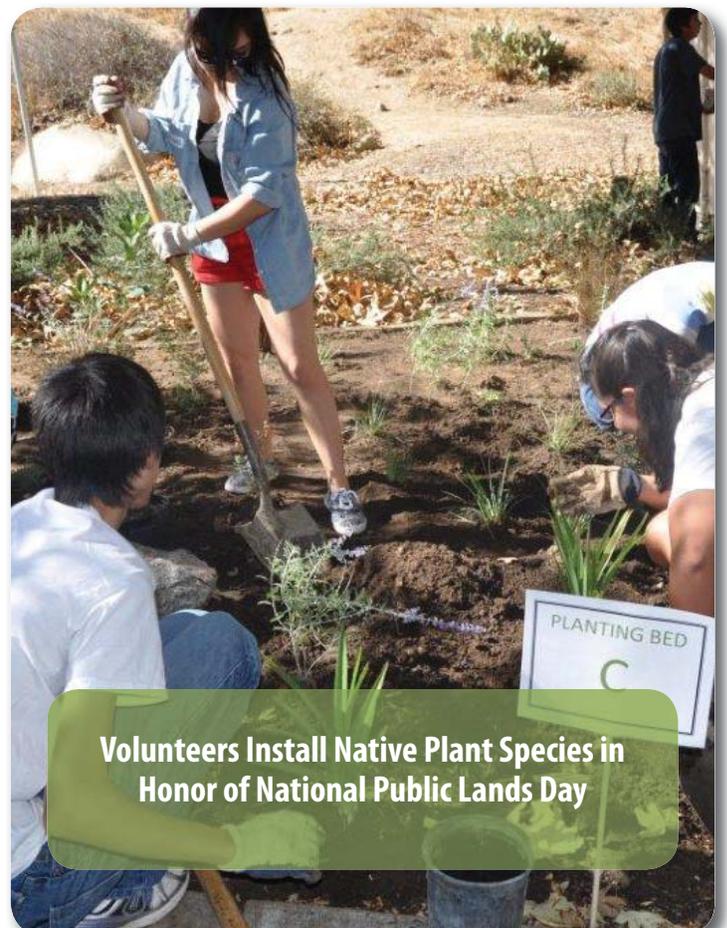
The Joys of Going Native – Plant Workshop

The IERCD partnered with the Redlands Sustainability Network and native plant nursery Wild California to put on this free workshop for area residents. Held at the historic Mitten Building in Redlands, the workshop was attended by over 65 participants and featured an instructional talk by nursery owner Ben White, followed by consultation and sale of a variety of climate-appropriate native plants and seeds. All participants received a full-color free sod removal and native plant replacement booklet, in addition to information and give-aways from multiple local conservation entities. The communication of methods for increasing incorporation of native species in residential landscaping is becoming more

essential to encourage outdoor conservation of water in the dry inland empire.

North Etiwanda Preserve Clean-Up

The North Etiwanda Preserve is a 1,700-A conserved property, originally serving as mitigation for the extension of a local freeway and now existing as a hybrid refuge for sensitive species and passive recreational location for area residents. The remote location of the Preserve leaves it incredibly vulnerable to illegal dumping, making regular volunteer-based removal of trash essential for ongoing site function. In this reporting period, the IERCD participated with agencies led by San Bernardino County 2nd District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, and including the Cucamonga Valley Water District, the Rancho Cucamonga Fire District, and the Forest Service in coordinating a large clean-up effort on the property. Over 100 volunteers registered to participate, representing groups from UPS, Circle K International, and the California Conservations Corps. Tasks performed included removal of extensive trash and debris on the Preserve, eradication of populations of



Volunteers Install Native Plant Species in Honor of National Public Lands Day

the invasive mustard plant (*Brassica nigra*), in addition to trail restoration and graffiti removal.

Other General Outreach Events	
Event Name	Residents Reached
Speak-Off	35
Bird Festival	150
Native Plant Workshop	65
Earth Day at Frontier Project	200
NEP Cleanup	100
Totals	550

Habitat Conservation Fund Grant

In 2010, the IERCD worked with the County of San Bernardino to secure grant funding for multiple tasks designed to increase educational opportunities at the North Etiwanda Preserve, an over 1,700-A conserved property in the hills above the City of Rancho Cucamonga. The NEP contains a 3.25-mile loop through its property, populated with signage identifying biological and cultural resources on site

and containing vestiges of referenced residents such as historic water conveyance structures and remnants of survival shelters. For its part in the grant, the IERCD has developed an educational program for area students in grades kindergarten through twelve, involving pre-trip activities and vocabulary in addition to a docent-led hike around the property highlighting unique vegetation and wildlife. All programs have been established in cooperation with current federal and state education standards and have been performed for students in a variety of grades and geographic locations. Trip scheduling has been assisted by the performance of outreach to area schools in addition to provision of free busing to the site.

In the 2013-14 reporting period, the IERCD facilitated 11 trips for students in third through eleventh grades, representing schools from cities including Bloomington, Colton, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa, among others. In total, 640 educators and students received free NEP trips, nearly all of which expressed enthusiasm for returning in the next school year. As of the end of the reporting period, more than 60 trips from campuses in over ten cities had been requested.

Sempra Energy Grant

In 2008, the IERCD worked with partner agency the Santa Ana Watershed Association to submit a grant application to secure funds from Sempra for the performance of environmental education programs in an extremely disadvantaged portion of the IERCD service area. A total of \$25,000 was awarded for this work, and has been used to fund these programs which provide environmental education services in school aftercare programs otherwise unequipped to offer them to students. In the 2013-14 reporting period, the District hired a bilingual education staff member to be able to offer this aftercare programming in both English and Spanish to better serve the target population. Outreach, program performance, and follow-up content sent to participating schools has all gone up in 2013-14 and is projected to continue increasing in 2014-15.



Students Participating in the NEP Field Trip Program at the Pre-Hike Station Demonstrating Factors in Native Plant Health

INLAND EMPIRE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2013-14 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,478,774
Due from Other Governments	15,828
Interest Receivable	2,428
Taxes Receivable	18,988
Other Receivables	82,833
Prepaid Expense	13,762
Restricted Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,820,915
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	1,441,630
Total Assets	9,875,158

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	18,146
Deposits	88,719
Accrued Payroll	1,405
Compensated Absences payable	19,712
Total Liabilities	127,982

NET POSITION

Invested in Capital Assets	1,441,630
Restricted for Mitigation Projects	2,820,915
Unrestricted	5,484,631
Total Net Assets	\$9,747,176

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$433,598
Services and Supplies	577,619
Depreciation	8,835
Total Program Expenses	1,020,052

PROGRAM REVENUES

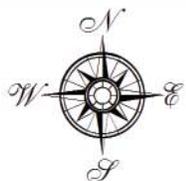
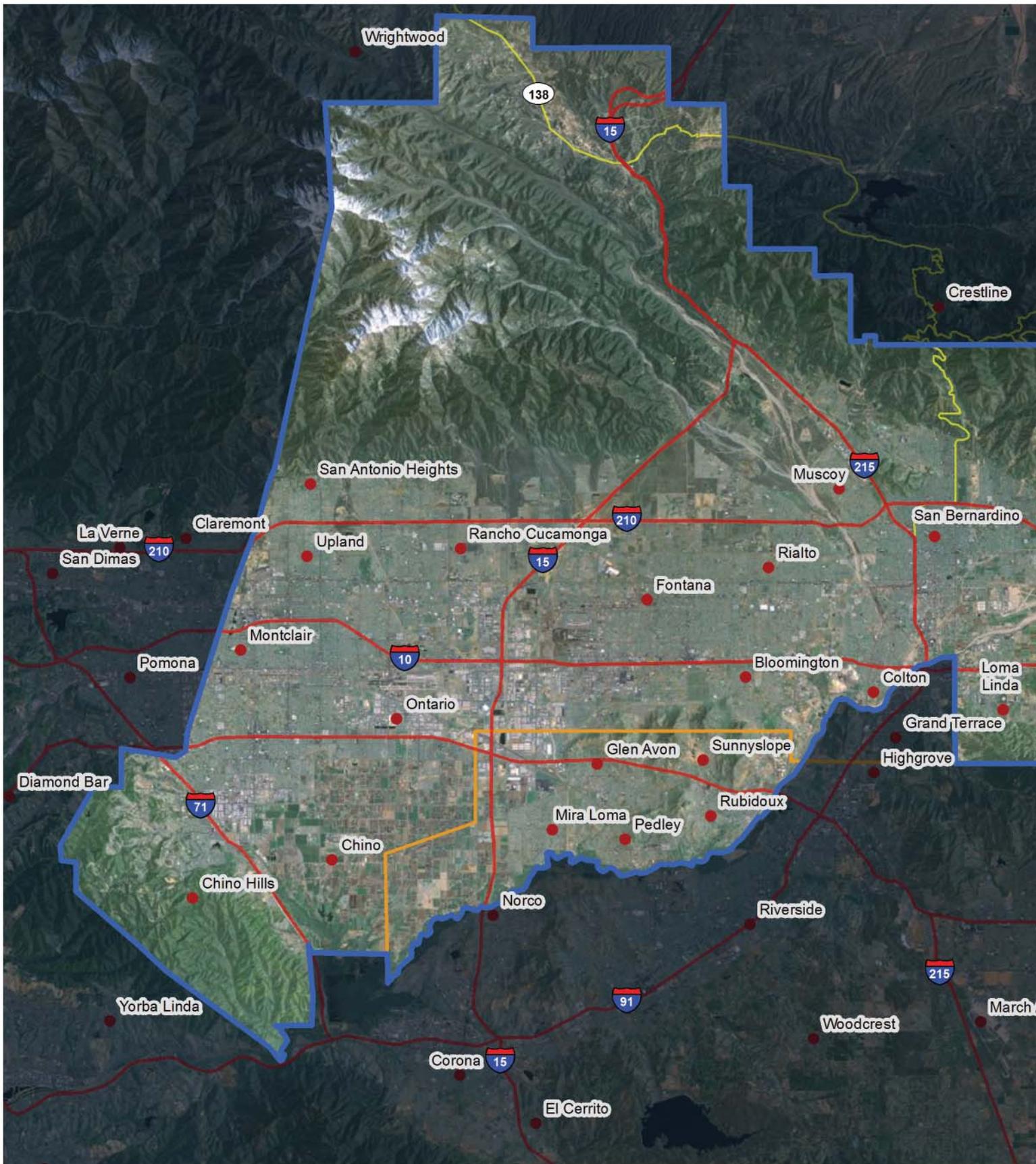
SAWA Projects	112,983
Mitigation Funds	284,649
Capital Contributions	722,975
Reimbursable Grant Revenue	9,133
Total Program Revenues	1,129,740
Net Program Revenue	109,688

GENERAL REVENUES

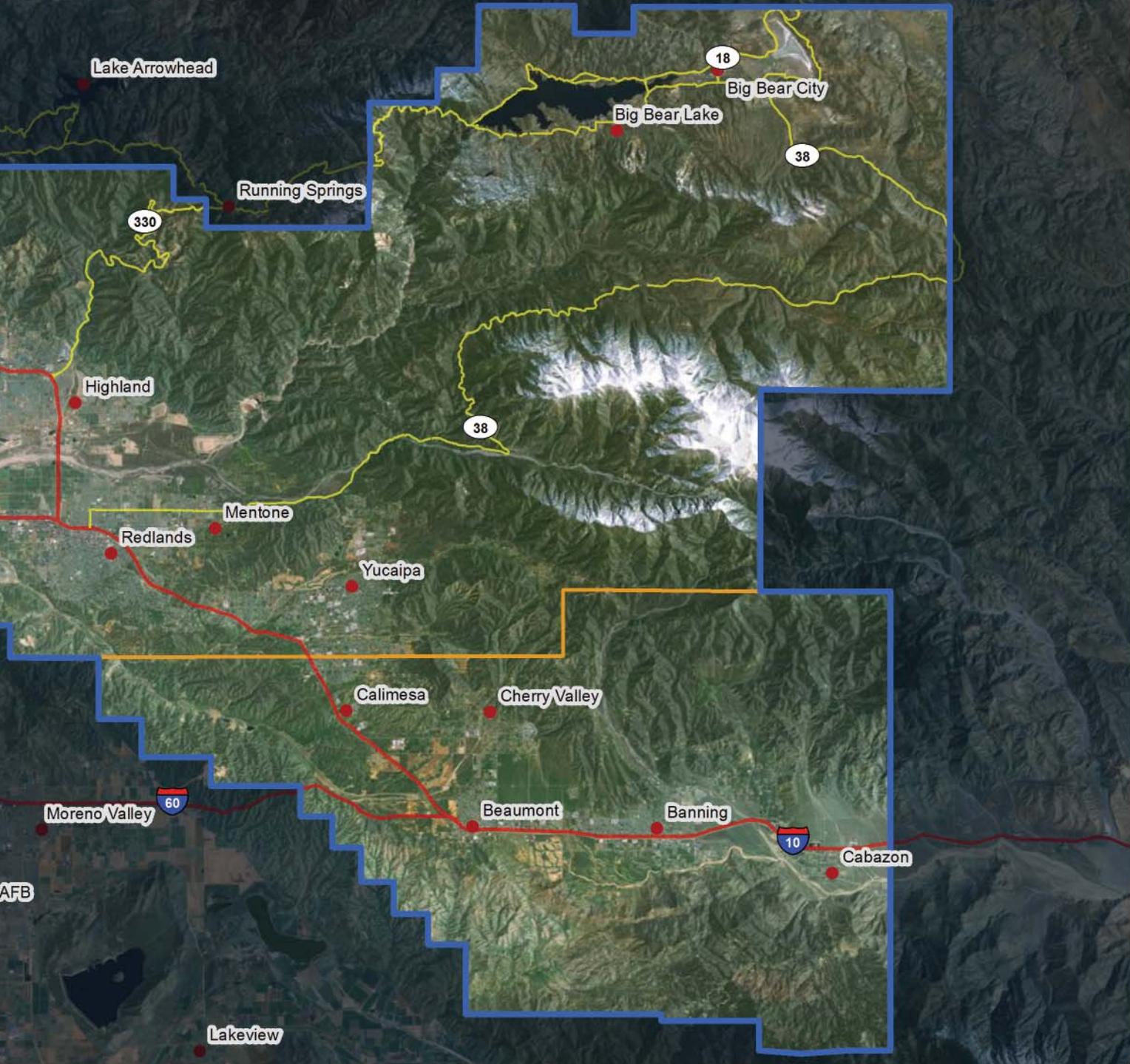
Property Taxes	1,101,179
Investment Earnings	23,315
Other	100,630
Total General Revenues	1,225,124
Change in Net Position	1,334,812
Net Position- Beginning	8,412,364
Net Assets- Ending	\$9,747,176

*These numbers are derived from audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2014 and are not a complete presentation in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A complete audited financial statement is available upon request.





DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP



-  Cities
-  Inland Empire Resource Conservation District Boundary
-  San Bernardino-Riverside County Line

I N L A N D E M P I R E



R E S O U R C E

C O N S E R V A T I O N D I S T R I C T

Additional Information is available by request or online at:

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