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Indio Water Authority Seeks Community Input on Water Rates *Advisory Committee to Offer Feedback on Possible Rate Structure Changes*

Indio, Calif., (May 1, 2013) – In order to include community input while considering potential water rate structure changes, Indio Water Authority (IWA) has assembled a diverse group to act as a Water Rate Structure Advisory Committee. The committee will make recommendations to staff and the IWA Board of Directors regarding water rate structure options, variance policies, and community outreach methods.

“As part of our long-range financial plan Indio Water Authority is looking to transition to a new rate structure in line with industry best practices that rewards efficiency, keeps rates as low as possible, and allows for responsible management of our infrastructure and organization” says Debra Kaye, general manager of IWA. “We value input from our community and are looking to find a structure that treats customers fairly.”

Indio Water Authority reached out to its customers in search of a diverse group to help guide the decision-making process. Ads in English and Spanish were run in print and on the radio. IWA also sent information out via the city’s e-newsletter service in order to attract committee members. The group, made up of Alan Harrell, Clifton Lamb, Anthony De Alwis, Richard Friestad, Chris Meagher, Adolfo Chavez, Rosemary Mindiola and Robert Quick, met for the first time Monday morning.

The committee will meet another three or four times in the next several months. Meetings will provide information on the need for a new rate structure, different rate structure options, and what the changes could mean for ratepayers. The committee will give IWA staff and board input before the IWA board votes on a new structure.

In future meetings the committee’s tasks will include reviewing the recently conducted study on water rate structures and long-range financial plan, examining existing draft rate variance policies, and determining the best ways to inform the community. Committee findings will be reflected in recommendations to IWA board and staff.

For more information about Indio Water Authority, call (760) 391-4038 or visit www.indiowater.org.

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About Indio Water Authority

Indio Water Authority was formed in 2000 to deliver water to the City of Indio. Its mission is to provide the City’s residents, visitors and businesses with safe and reliable water, while ensuring the long-term viability of the City’s water services for its users. In 2011, the Indio Water Authority supplied 7,200 million gallons (22,167 acre-feet) of water to the 77,000 businesses and residents in its 60 square mile service area.