



**For Immediate Release:
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Inland Empire- The Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority (IERCA) has been awarded the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) *2011 Gold Composting Systems Excellence Award*.

IERCA was presented with the Excellence Award at SWANA's WASTECON 2011 held in Nashville, Tennessee. SWANA's Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management. Programs must demonstrate that they are fiscally and environmentally responsible through their compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

"We are truly honored with this award. This recognizes the wisdom and foresight of both agency's boards and staff and their commitment to providing a cost effective and environmentally friendly solution for their agency's biosolids recycling needs now and for the future." stated Jon Blickenstaff, IERCA Chairman.

The IERCA was created as a public entity in 2002 by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (SDLAC). The IERCA constructed the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility in Rancho Cucamonga, CA which began operations in 2007. The facility is the largest enclosed composting facility in the U.S. which processes 200,000 wet tons of waste products into high-quality compost each year. "The compost is used locally improving soil quality and conserving water," stated IERCA Board Member Angel Santiago. "The facility also includes numerous environmental control features allowing it to meet and exceed stringent local air quality regulations further benefiting the surrounding community," Santiago continued.

"All of your staff should be proud of these successful efforts in achieving the highest level of excellence in solid waste management. This is no small accomplishment given the excellent quality of this year's nominations and the challenges faced by many of the programs and operations in the solid waste industry." stated Jenny Dalzell, Division and Conference Programs Manager for SWANA. SWANA has been a leading professional organization in the solid waste field for nearly 50 years and serves over 7,000 members.

For more information visit IERCA's website at www.ierca.org.

