

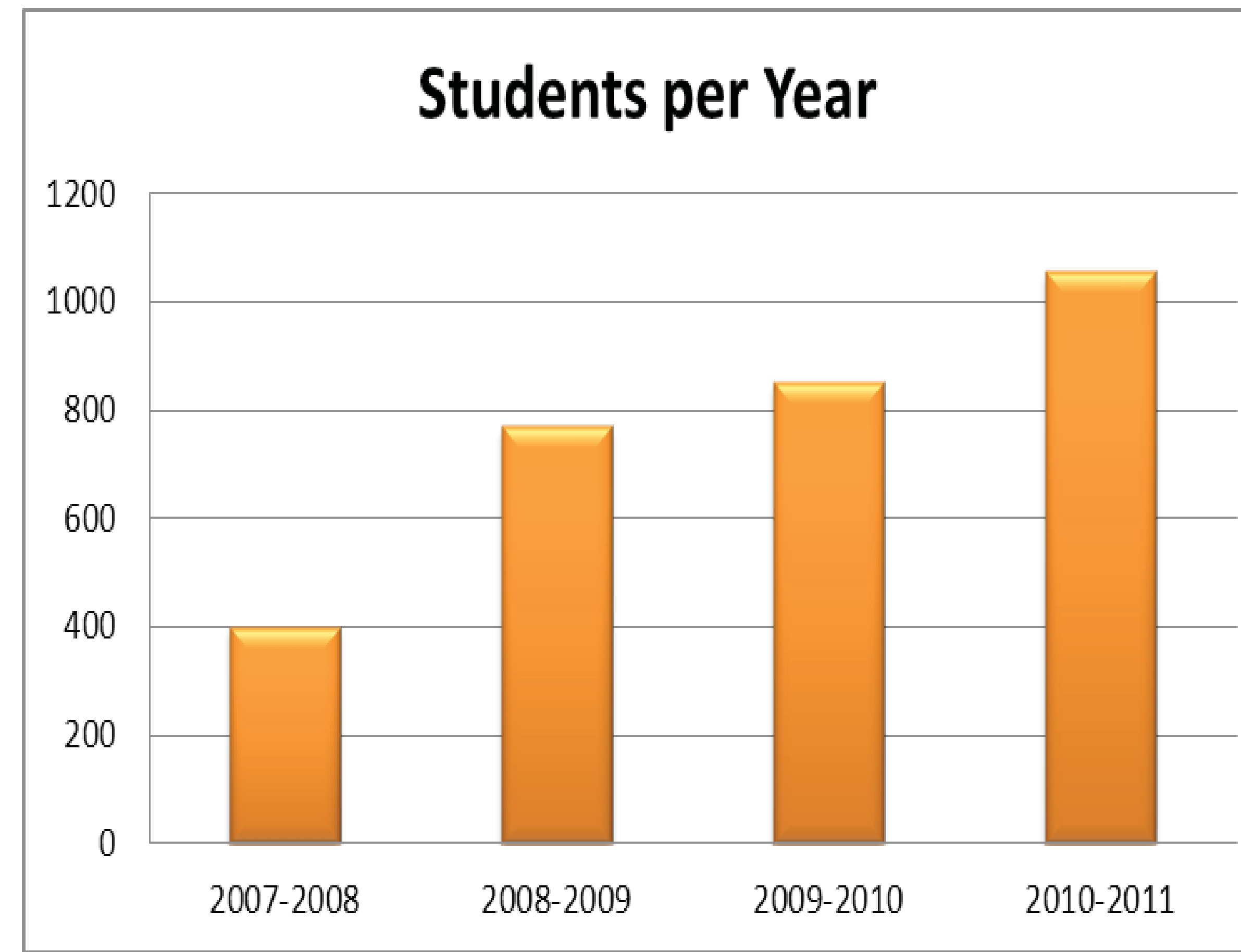
A Walk in the Park... a Wetlands Experience

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park
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The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park is located within the Southern California Chino Basin Watershed Management Area. The Park demonstrates natural water treatment, upland habitats and environmental education. The education program known as the Water Discovery Program promotes the value of natural treatment wetlands, habitat for endangered/sensitive species and environmental stewardship.



In the southwest region of San Bernardino County, the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park demonstrates natural water treatment, upland habitats and environmental education. The educational components are facilitated through interactive walking trails that have informational signage throughout, information centers, scheduled tours, the distribution of educational pamphlets and materials, and presentations provided for local/regional schools.



Building of the managed wetlands/riparian and vegetated banks has provided an environment for potential inhabitants; sensitive and endangered riparian-dependent species, including the Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and potentially 20 other species of concern in California. Local Audubon society's will benefit by having an accessible wetland/riparian habitat and an observation tower for viewing.

Grant funding has been secured through the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation for the Water Discovery Program including a bussing grant program. The additional funding allows the Agency to offer more formal and non-formal educators, schools and youth organizations the opportunity to participate in the education program. The program has reached over 3,000 students since 2008.

Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) utilizes the Water Discovery Education Program in its Educational and Outreach Activities. The program is designed to reconnect students with the environment by offering surrounding schools and community members the opportunity to participate in outdoor field trip style experiences at no cost. The program encourages observation, imagination and critical thinking skills while incorporating the California Education Standards. The education programs empower students with the knowledge of water conservation and motivate action in schools and at home.



To increase community involvement and environmental awareness, SAWA and IEUA created the Garden in Every School® (GIES) Demonstration Garden to inspire youth to take action in their communities and the environment by developing a grassroots project on their own. Student volunteers assisted in the development and completion of the garden project. Through IEUA, the GIES Program provides enrichment for local schools and the community by creating both a water conservation educational program and by installing low water use demonstration gardens throughout the Agency's service area.



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