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## Fitch Reaffirms East Valley Water District AA- Revenue Bonds Rating

Highland, Calif., (September 18, 2012) – Fitch Ratings has reaffirmed East Valley Water District AA- rating for \$32.5 million in refinancing revenue bonds on September 17, 2012. This financial rating serves as an indicator of District stability and a vote of confidence for both bond holders and customers. Issued in 2010, these bonds are designated to be used for capital improvement projects, including multiple water system upgrades.

“Issuing bonds is the primary way for our agency to fund needed facilities and critical system upgrades, including pipeline, while remaining fiscally responsible,” said General Manager/CEO John Mura. “We are very pleased to see that Fitch Ratings continues to view our bonds as stable, despite the difficult economic climate we are all working in.”

Credit rating agencies, like Finch Ratings, look at a variety of criteria to determine bond ratings, which serve the same purpose as an individual’s credit score. Bonds are initially given a rating when they are first issued, followed by periodic reassessments. This two year assessment highlighted four key drivers to determine East Valley Water District AA- rating including evaluating financial performance, capital needs, service area, and long-term supply.

“Moving forward with our Capital Improvement Program is an important part of our strategic effort to plan for the future while providing our customers with a safe and reliable water supply,” said Board President Matt LeVesque. “This community can look around our District and see many improvement projects at different stages of completion that will serve this area for years to come.”

Since issuing the 2010 \$32.5 bond series with an AA- rating, East Valley Water District has been working to begin construction on critical improvement projects. The first major project nearing completion is an expansion of the water treatment plant off Highland Avenue, which will not only increase the amount of groundwater that can be treated each day, but also implement new state-of-the-art treatment technology in an effort to remain in compliance with new State and Federal guidelines. The expanded treatment facility will be completed later this fall and is funded both by bond proceeds and California grant funds. A second project set to begin construction by the end of 2012 will add a one million gallon water storage tank to the service system. The storage process will also remove excess air from water lines, an issue that has been impacting homes on the east end of the District. A third high priority project set to go out for public bid in December 2012 will improve the distribution of water from low zones to higher areas by installing 30 inch water main on the south end of the District. The completion of this project provides greater operational flexibility and efficiency throughout the service area during normal and emergency situations.

EVWD provides water and sewer collection services to about 70,000 people in the cities of Highland and San Bernardino. For more information about EVWD, call (909) 889-9501 or visit [www.eastvalley.org](http://www.eastvalley.org).

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*East Valley Water District* was formed in 1954 to provide domestic water service to the unincorporated and agricultural-based communities of Highland and East Highlands. Today EVWD provides water and sewer collection services to about 70,000 people in western San Bernardino County. EVWD operates under the direction of a 5-member elected Board. The Mission of East Valley Water District is to provide its customers with a safe and reliable water supply that is delivered at a fair and cost-effective price. More information is available at [www.eastvalley.org](http://www.eastvalley.org).