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STUDENT WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2020 WATER IS LIFE ART CONTEST

West Basin Board of Directors Recognizes 15 Local Student Artists for Water-Smart Artwork

CARSON, Calif. – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) announced today the winners of the 2020 Water is Life Student Art Contest. West Basin fosters student creativity and innovation throughout its service area by hosting the annual "Water is Life" art contest. Student artists inspire their communities to support water conservation as a way of life by creating thought-provoking water-smart pieces of art.

"We commend all of the local students who participated in this year's Water is Life Student Art Contest and for their commitment to water conservation," said West Basin Board President Gloria D. Gray. "We were impressed and inspired by the many creative submissions that we received from students this year."

Nearly 500 entries were received from students throughout the West Basin service area, with one grand prize winner and four honorable mentions being selected in each of the elementary, middle and high school categories.

2020 Grand Prize Winners

Elementary School Grand Prize Winner:

Rhea Mitchell, 4th Grade, Bennett Kew Elementary School, Inglewood

Middle School Grand Prize Winner:

Susan Cho, 8th Grade, Chadwick School and Seoul Arts Academy, Palos Verdes

High School Grand Prize Winner:

Alycen Kim, 10th Grade, Palos Verdes High School and Seoul Arts Academy, Palos Verdes

Honorable Mention Award Winners

- **Genesis Benitez**, 3rd Grade, 186th St. Elementary School, Gardena
- **Evan Cheung**, 3rd Grade, Playa Vista Elementary School, Los Angeles
- **Ashley Treger**, 3rd Grade, Pennekamp Elementary School, Manhattan Beach
- **Samiya Portugal**, 5th Grade, Dapplegray Elementary School, Palos Verdes
- **Skylar Urfrig**, 7th Grade, Manhattan Beach Middle School, Manhattan Beach
- **Ashley Villatoro**, 7th Grade, Will Rogers Middle School, Lawndale
- **Jolie Tsai**, 7th Grade, Culver City Middle School, Culver City
- **Cael Cross**, 8th Grade, Beulah Payne STEAM Academy, Inglewood
- **Ava Frans**, 9th Grade, Culver City High School, Culver City
- **Isabella Gonzalez**, 11th Grade, Saint Mary's Academy, Inglewood
- **Emily Zorn**, 12th Grade, Redondo Union High School, Redondo Beach
- **Leona Garber-Patel**, 12th Grade, Hawthorne High School, Hawthorne

Each winner is awarded a new Apple iPad, with Grand Prize winners additionally receiving a digital stylus pen and \$25 Apple Store gift card.

West Basin hosts the annual Water is Life contest to encourage third through 12th grade students to showcase their artistic creativity through the depiction of responsible water use in their homes, schools, and communities.

The contest is a collaborative water education program between West Basin and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). Winning artwork from West Basin's local contest will advance to Metropolitan's regional competition and may be featured in the agency's 2021 calendar.

For more information about the Water is Life Student Art Contest and the full list of awardees and artwork, please visit www.westbasin.org/waterislife.

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West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that serves nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin provides imported drinking water, recycled water, and conservation and education programs. Through its Water for Tomorrow Program, West Basin is committed to protecting, diversifying, and securing our water supply for the future while continuing a history of innovation and industry leadership. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.