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## **WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES \$550,000 TO REDUCE AREA WATER USE**

*Drought-Free Gardens, Conservation Kits Funded by Federal, State and Local Funds*

Carson, CA—Responding to the statewide drought and water supply crisis, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is implementing two new conservation programs to help residents cut their water use beginning this fall: Landscape Irrigation Controllers and Curriculum-based Conservation Kits for students.

West Basin is 1 of out of only 5 California water agencies selected for federal funding under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) *Water 2025: Preventing Crisis and Conflict in the West* and 1 of 31 grantees recently selected for State of California 2008 Urban Drought Assistance Funding. West Basin is receiving \$300,000 from USBR and \$250,000 from the State as matches to other local funding sources. These two programs are expected to begin in late September.

"West Basin's conservation programs have saved more than 5 billion gallons of water since we began implementing them in 1990," said Board President Donald L. Dear. "Our programs help residents and communities do their part to ensure we have a reliable water supply for this and future generations."

The Landscape Irrigation Controllers are part of a larger West Basin project called the "Ocean-Friendly" program. This program is focused on reducing water use in landscapes that are 1 acre or larger. The program will install more than 500 weather-based controllers in urban landscapes throughout West Basin's coastal L.A. County service area, reducing runoff by up to 70% and reducing water use by 20-50%. The controllers alone are expected to conserve—and make us less dependent on—100 million gallons of imported water every year.

In addition to USBR, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) and Surfrider Foundation (Surfrider) are partnering to make the Ocean-Friendly program possible.

The Curriculum-based Conservation Kits engage sixth grade students in student-led residential water-efficiency upgrades and monitoring. This program supports the 6<sup>th</sup> grade California State Academic Standards requirements for Science, English and Math. Based on a pilot program conducted in the City of Torrance, students will conduct home audits of their family's water and energy use and then retrofit inefficient devices. Over the next two years, West Basin and its customer agencies will distribute curriculum kits and work with 20,000 students in its service area. The program also includes retrofit devices for each student, including a high-efficiency showerhead, kitchen faucet aerator, bathroom faucet aerator, leak detection tablets, leak detection calculator, flow rate test bag, and a water temperature check card.

The Curriculum-based Conservation Kits program also includes energy efficiency upgrades and energy saving devices that may include a compact fluorescent lightbulb, Limelite night light, and a Filertone alarm. This water and energy savings program is a partnership between West Basin, Southern California Edison, and The Gas Company and also includes matching funds from Metropolitan Water District. We anticipate that this program will conserve more than 1.5 billion gallons of water and 499 million kWh of electricity over the 8-year life span of the installed devices.

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*West Basin Municipal Water District provides a safe and reliable supply of imported and recycled water to a diverse service area that includes the cities of Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, West Hollywood, portions of the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, and several unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. West Basin is committed to water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service, and environmental stewardship.*