



For Immediate Release:
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WEST BASIN AND CITY OF CARSON BUILD NEW WATER SAVING GARDEN *Local Citizens and Elected Leaders Get ‘Hands-On’ Installing Native Plants and Shrubs*

CARSON, Calif. — Local citizen volunteers, City of Carson Mayor Jim Dear and West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith will get “hands-on” installing ocean friendly plants and shrubs at the Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center (Community Center) this Friday. The new garden will save up to 80 percent of the water formally required to maintain prior landscaping and will feature ocean friendly plants that require less water and thrive in our local climate.

“Ocean Friendly Gardens demonstrate the best way to use water for outdoor landscaping not just in the South Bay but in all of Southern California,” said West Basin Director Ron Smith. “This new garden demonstrates how Ocean Friendly Gardens save water, money and landscape maintenance costs while providing beautiful outdoor spaces. I congratulate Mayor Dear and Councilwoman Davis-Holmes, representatives on the Community/Senior Center ad hoc committee, on their vision to build a demonstration garden at the Community Center as part of the upcoming renovation,” he said.

The day’s conservation efforts will kick-off with a FREE hands-on workshop on sustainable gardening techniques to build and create Ocean Friendly Gardens. The workshop is being offered to local residents at 10 a.m. and includes the course, gardening gloves, on-site planting and lunch. Work has been underway with the removal of water-wasting turf from the Community Center and installation of drip irrigation and bioswales. Friday’s class participants will install drought tolerant plants in coordination with West Basin, the City of Carson, G3LA, the Surfrider Foundation and Cal Water, a local water retailer who helped fund the garden.

At 11 a.m., contributing agencies and partners will kick-off the planting with an official groundbreaking in the new garden. Following the groundbreaking, local leaders will dig-in to native landscaping by installing plants alongside local residents to complete the new water efficient Ocean Friendly Demonstration Garden at the Carson Community Center.

The coordinated efforts of the Ocean Friendly partnership helps to create gardens that restore the natural California landscape and uses water more efficiently than turf landscaping. West Basin will complete 11 Ocean Friendly Gardens in its service area by the end of 2014, including gardens in Hermosa Beach and the City of Hawthorne in the upcoming months. The Ocean Friendly Garden program is provided under West Basin’s Water Reliability 2020 Program which aims to reduce dependence on imported water in half by the year 2020 by doubling water recycling, doubling conservation and adding a small amount of desalinated ocean-water to West Basin’s water supply portfolio.

The Ocean Friendly Garden program helps West Basin work toward its conservation goals and increase water use efficiency by reducing the amount of water used outdoors (the top water wasting practice in residential communities). The garden is located at the newly renovated Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center for residents and visitors to enjoy. This garden was fully funded by the Department of Water Resources, California Water Service Company and the Metropolitan Water District.

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West Basin Municipal Water District is a wholesale water district that serves nearly a million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas throughout its 185-square mile service area. West Basin is reducing its dependence on imported water through the Water Reliability 2020 program that will double conservation, double recycled water production and add desalted ocean-water to our portfolio by the year 2020. Partnering with community organizations, businesses and other public agencies keeps West Basin lean and strengthens its programs. www.westbasin.org