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Contact:

**June 29, 2015**  
Medha Paliwal, Public Information Specialist  
310-660-6236 | [MedhaP@westbasin.org](mailto:MedhaP@westbasin.org)

**WEST BASIN UNVEILS OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN AT GARDENA'S ROWLEY PARK**  
*Drought-tolerant landscaping saves up to 80% of drinking water during drought*

**GARDENA, Calif.** – [West Basin Municipal Water District](#) (West Basin) directors Donald L. Dear and Gloria D. Gray joined officials from the city of Gardena and community partners from Golden State Water Company and Surfrider Foundation during a ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil West Basin's newest [Ocean Friendly Garden](#) (OFG) on June 29 at Rowley Park in Gardena. The 2,094-square-foot sustainable garden features drought-tolerant plants that thrive in dry climates and will conserve up to 80 percent of drinking water during this drought.

"As we head into summer and further into the most severe drought in recorded history, now is really the time to get serious about water use," said Donald L. Dear, West Basin director who represents the city of Gardena. "With the Governor's call for a 25 percent reduction statewide in potable water use, and 12 percent specifically for Gardena, these gardens are a prime example of how we all can do our part during this drought by converting part of our lawns to native gardens."

Installed with the help of Gardena residents, the water-saving garden at Rowley Park is designed to capture 1,166 gallons of rainwater per rain event by infiltrating it into the groundwater basin instead of allowing it to leave the landscape as runoff into the ocean. This garden project also showcases drought-tolerant techniques that encourage residents to implement into their own landscapes at home.

"We are proud to unveil the first water-saving garden located at a city facility," said Mitch Lansdell, Gardena city manager who spoke during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We hope that our residents and other community organizations take this drought-tolerant landscape concept and incorporate it into their homes and facilities to increase water conservation efforts."

Gardena resident of 29 years, Michelle Jelks, who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony and helped install the plants in February stated, "I think it's beautiful. I want to do this to my own yard."

The OFG program is part of West Basin's overall water reliability efforts, which aims to reduce dependence on imported water by doubling water recycling, doubling water conservation efforts and adding ocean-water desalination to a local, diverse water supply.

To date, West Basin has completed 11 of its 16 Ocean Friendly Demonstration Gardens throughout its 185-square mile service area. The garden located at Rowley Park was funded by

the City of Gardena, the California Department of Water Resources, Golden State Water Company, and the Water Replenishment District, and built in partnership with G3 Green Gardens Group, South Bay Environmental Services Center, Stout Design Build and Surfrider Foundation.

For more information about West Basin's Ocean Friendly Garden and other water conservation programs, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).

**Photo from L to R:** Beth Crosse, Ocean Friendly Garden Program Chair, Surfrider Foundation; Dan Medina, Councilman, Gardena City Council; Donald L. Dear, Director, West Basin Municipal Water District; Gloria D. Gray, Board President, West Basin Municipal Water District; Tasha Cerda, Councilwoman, Gardena City Council; Steven Bradford, Former Assemblymember, 62<sup>nd</sup> District of California; and Rachel Johnson, Councilwoman Emeritus, Gardena City Council

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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 its Water Reliability 2020 program that will double conservation, double recycled water production and add desalted ocean water to its portfolio by the year 2020. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*