



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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Alexis Tate, Chief Public Information Officer
310-660-6218 | alexist@westbasin.org

**DIRECTOR GLORIA D. GRAY SELECTED FOR PANEL ON WOMEN LEADERSHIP AT
LEADERSHIP CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – West Basin Municipal Water District’s (West Basin) Director Gloria Gray was invited to present on Leadership California’s special panel titled “Women Leaders: Lessons Learned on the Journey.” Each year Leadership California draws a diverse group of executive women into its California Issues and Trends Program with program sessions covering business, social issues and public policy. Alumnae gain new insights on complex global, national and regional issues facing California. The panel was part of the larger session focus on “California’s Heritage: Shaping the New California” hosted at the Omni Hotel in Los Angeles, April 28-30, 2013.

Leadership California is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) foundation dedicated to increasing the representation and influence of a diverse, accomplished and inspired group of women leaders, and to engage them on the issues and cutting-edge trends facing California, the nation and the world. Its program is designed to develop and mobilize female leaders from corporate, academic, state and community organizations across the state.

Director Gloria D. Gray joined three other female leaders for the panel: Veronica Gutierrez, Southern California Edison; Deputy Executive Director Cynthia Ruiz, External Relations for The Port of Los Angeles; Director of Energy Markets and Capacity Products Gillian A. Wright, Southern California Gas Company; and Vice President, CFO and Treasurer Ellen M. Beatty, The Aerospace Corporation. Each woman represented a different business sector and was interviewed on the lessons they have learned along their career paths. Gray said, “It was an honor to be invited to speak with other women about the challenges, demands and relationships that influenced our career paths. I believe that empowering women through mentorship, career advisement, and networking opportunities is invaluable, and I am always eager to offer support to other women working in leadership roles.”

Director Gray was elected to the West Basin Municipal Water District Board in 2006 as the first African-American woman elected to the Board in its near 60-year history. She represents the Division II Cities of Inglewood, South Ladera Heights, a portion of Lennox and Athens, Howard and Ross-Sexton. In April 2010, she was appointed to the Delta Stewardship Council and she serves as one of West Basin’s two representatives on the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors. She dedicated her 36-year career to the Los Angeles County Departments of Health and Human Services and other public service arenas. She served two terms on the Inglewood Unified School District, from 1995 - 2003, and was elected an Executive Board Member for the Los Angeles County Democratic Party Central Committee 51st Assembly 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 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 to learn more.

Leadership California is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) foundation with a governing Board of Directors and dedicated staff. Their vision statement is "Moving Women from Success to Significance."