



## Board of Directors



Ronald C. Smith



Gloria D. Gray



Carol W. Kwan



Edward C. Little



Donald L. Dear

## State of the District

March 2013

Outgoing President Donald L. Dear presented the “State of the District” luncheon in January to highlight recent West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) accomplishments and future plans. Highlights included updates on efforts towards improving youth education programs, conservation projects, and consideration for the future of local water resources. West Basin has been expanding its recycled water sites; increasing its pipelines; building relationships with local, water-wise businesses; installing community ocean friendly gardens; and so much more. Stay up to date on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) as we continue to post upcoming events, announcements, and updates on our current projects.

## West Basin’s Board of Directors Re-election and Reorganization

Director Carol W. Kwan and Director Donald L. Dear were re-elected to the West Basin Board of Directors and installed in January. Director Kwan was first elected to the West Basin Board of Directors in 1996 and previously served as Board Vice President in 2012 and as the Board’s representative to the Metropolitan Water District. Kwan represents the Cities of Hermosa Beach, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and a portion of Torrance. Director Dear was elected to the West Basin Board of Directors in November 2000 to represent the cities of Gardena, Hawthorne, Lawndale and portions of El Camino Village. He served as Board President in 2012. Dear served as Mayor of Gardena for nine consecutive terms and was also an award-winning teacher at Stephen White Middle School for 37 years.

West Basin’s Board reorganization occurs once annually at its January board meeting. Director Kwan will serve as Board President. Serving as Vice President this year is Edward C. Little who has served on the West Basin Board since 1989. Ronald C. (Ron) Smith was elected to the Board in 2006, and currently serves as Board Treasurer, and Gloria D. Gray serves as a member of the Board of Directors.

## Deadline: March 15 to Turn in Submissions for the 2013 Water is Life Student Art Contest



Calling all artists! West Basin is encouraging students to learn about the importance of water and express the value of this precious resource through art. One grand prize (a MacBook Pro laptop) will be awarded to an individual in the elementary, middle, and high school categories. All third to twelfth grade students, currently enrolled in schools within West Basin's service area, are encouraged to participate. The deadline to submit student art is March 15, 2013. Visit the Water is Life Student art page [here](#) for further details.

## Free Water-Saving Toilet Events

A black and white advertisement for a 'Free Toilets' event. The top section says 'FREE TOILETS' in large letters, with the tagline 'Save water and save money.' below it. The event date is 'March 9, 2013' from '9 AM to Noon' at 'Manhattan Beach, CA'. Two circular logos are on either side of the date. The middle section says 'Trade in your old water-wasting toilets for up to two free high-efficiency toilets!' with an image of a toilet. Below that, it says 'Pre-registration REQUIRED!' and provides contact information: 'Call (866) 861-0784 or visit www.waterprograms.com/westbasin'. The bottom section says 'Open to Hermosa, Manhattan and Redondo Beach Residents' and includes a Facebook icon with the text 'Follow us on facebook or visit us at westbasin.org to learn more'.

Residents from West Basin's service area can take advantage of our Free High-Efficiency Toilet events which are being hosted across the coastal Los Angeles area.

The first event took place on February 23 in Gardena. Residents came to replace their older toilets, manufactured before 1992, with free high-efficiency toilets which use 1.28 gallons per flush. West Basin hosted the event at the Normandie Casino parking lot and 300 toilets were distributed. Our second event of the year, took place at Manhattan Beach Middle School on March 9. More than 200 toilets were distributed to Beach City residents to help make their homes more water efficient.

These events are part of the larger goal of West Basin's Water Reliability 2020 program to promote water efficiency in partnership with local residents. This program creates 50 percent

more local water supplies through water conservation and recycling and ocean-water desalination.

Look for the next High-Efficiency Toilet event coming to Inglewood on May 4. For more information: call (866) 861-0784 or visit [www.waterprograms.com/westbasin](http://www.waterprograms.com/westbasin).

## Home Depot Plant Sales Just in Time for Spring



More saving.  
More doing.®



West Basin, The Home Depot and their vendors have partnered to offer special deals and great savings on select varieties of low-water-use plants at each of the parking lot events throughout coastal Los Angeles. Events will take place from 8 a.m. to noon.

The Home Depot works closely with their wholesale growers to have a large selection of specially labeled, drought-tolerant plant selections available to the public at these events. Visitors will learn about water-saving soils and high-efficiency irrigation through free gardening demonstrations. The event will also include free high-efficiency water devices, hands-on children's workshops, and free raffles.

### Calendar of Events

All Events Take Place from 8:00 am to Noon

<p><b>March</b> <b>2</b></p>	<p>The Home Depot 110 E. Sepulveda Blvd. Carson, CA 90745</p>	<p><b>May</b> <b>18</b></p>	<p>The Home Depot 12975 W. Jefferson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066</p>
<p><b>April</b> <b>13</b></p>	<p>The Home Depot 8801 S. La Cienega Blvd. Inglewood, CA 90301</p>	<p><b>June</b> <b>1</b></p>	<p>The Home Depot 14603 Oceangate Hawthorne, CA 90250</p>
<p><b>May</b> <b>4</b></p>	<p>The Home Depot 24451 Crenshaw Blvd. Torrance, CA 90505</p>	<p><b>FREE -</b> Demonstrations, Devices, Raffles and More!</p>	

Mark your calendars to visit one of these events at a location near you. For full details, click [here](#).

## West Basin and Redondo Union High School students dedicate new OFG Garden



In February, Redondo Union High School (RUHS) celebrated the dedication of their newly created Ocean-Friendly Garden (OFG) after RUHS students and faculty participated in a hands-on workshop on sustainable gardening techniques to build and create the garden. RUHS students helped remove water-wasting turf from the school ground and installed sheet mulch, drip irrigation, bioswales, and drought tolerant plants in coordination with West Basin and the Surfrider Foundation.

The garden is located on One Sea Hawk Way (on Diamond Street) for students and visitors to enjoy. RUHS students will monitor the flora and fauna as part of an ongoing science curriculum. Full funding for this garden was provided by Metropolitan Water District, the Department of Water Resources, and California Water Service Company.

Change your water inefficient front lawn into an ocean-friendly garden by taking a free OFG class from West Basin. Click [here](#) for more information.

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### Spotlight On: California Water Service Company



California Water Service Company (Cal Water) is the largest investor-owned American water utility west of the Mississippi River and the third largest in the country. Cal Water provides utility services to almost two million people in 100 communities. Cal Water also maintains West Basin's recycled water distribution system.

Cal Water is a longtime partner of West Basin, and has been especially vital in its support of conservation programs as part of Water Reliability 2020. Thank you to Cal Water for their ongoing collaboration to our communities' important water-efficiency programs:

#### Recent Cal Water Partnership Support for:

- Redondo Beach Water Bottle Filling Station, October 2012
- Hands-on Workshops for Ocean Friendly Garden at Redondo Union High School, January 2013
- Manhattan Beach High-Efficiency Toilet Event, March 2013
- The Home Depot Water-Efficient Plant Sales, March - June 2013
- Audits and incentives for larger commercial and industrial businesses, Ongoing



# SAVE THE DATE



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual California Water 101 Summit



February 1 marked West Basin's first annual California Water 101 Summit in Sacramento. The summit invited legislative members and staff from Southern California's State Senate and Assembly offices to hear about California's current water challenges, goals, and initiatives.

The panel presented California's current water concerns to more than 30 legislative offices on issues such as: water supply infrastructure, achieving co-equal goals in the Delta, the importance of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), water recycling, ocean water desalination, and water efficiency investments and techniques.

Speakers for the forum included: Director Mark Cowin (Department of Water Resources), Karla Nemeth (Bay Delta Conservation Plan), Jeff Kightlinger (Metropolitan Water District), Dr. Dave Smith (California WaterReuse), Ron Davis (CalDesal), Paul Jones (Eastern Municipal Water District), Rich Nagel (West Basin Municipal Water District) along with special guests: Frances (Fran) Spivy-Weber (State Water Resources Control Board) and Director Gloria Gray (West Basin Municipal Water District, Metropolitan Water District and the Delta Stewardship Council). The Summit reflects West Basin's commitment to the partnership necessary to meet the state's complex water concerns.

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## Return on Investment: A Penny-a-Day

In January, the California State Auditor released a report on water rates for the Southeastern County of Los Angeles. The State Legislature requested that an audit be done to review various issues affecting water rates and rate increases.

West Basin received favorable reviews from the audit. The average rate increase from participating agencies from 2008 - 2012 was 51 percent, whereas West Basin's increases averaged only 31 percent. West Basin's administrative costs at two percent were also very low in comparison to an average of 17 percent.

The audit also provided an estimated breakdown of rates for a family of four for a month. On average,

an individual uses 125 gallons of water per day. Your water supplier purchases drinking water from West Basin and of your bill, just one penny-a-day goes to West Basin.

**For a penny-a-day, West Basin is able to provide:**

- Active water efficiency/conservation programs which provide free water-efficiency devices to the community;
- A world-renowned water recycling plant including 130 mile distribution system to more than 350 customer sites and three satellite water recycling plants;
- An annual water and environmental education program for over 10,000 children and adults;
- The Water Reliability 2020 program to improve local-control and reliability for future water supplies; and
- Groundbreaking ocean-water desalination research, including marine life protection, energy reduction and cost-efficiency research at the ocean-water desalination demonstration facility in Redondo Beach.

### Cat Kuhlman Visits Ocean Water-Desalination Demonstration Facility



Catherine (Cat) Kuhlman, the Ocean Protection Council’s Executive Director/Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Matters, visited West Basin’s Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Facility for a tour in January. State Water Resources Control Board Member Fran Spivy-Weber also toured with the group who was briefed on the steps West Basin is taking to protect ocean life while researching how to produce potable drinking water from ocean water.

### Blue Jeans Maker Goes Green and Receives Grant



The West Basin Board of Directors presented a \$10,000 grant funding check to Blue Creations of California, Inc. The grant recognized Blue Creations’ investment in water-saving practices for their business. Blue Creations is a local Carson business which processes denim jeans for top companies in the fashion industry with various washes and dyes. They installed a state-of-the-art ozone system, which will use 50 percent less water and natural gas in production.

## West Basin Earns Safety Award



The safety award for “Outstanding Loss Ratio for 2007-2011” was recently presented to West Basin by the State Compensation Insurance Fund. West Basin earned this award for no loss time for work-related injuries from 2007-2011. John Pasqualucci and Donna Harbour, from the State Compensation Insurance Fund, presented the safety award to West Basin in January.

Follow us on Facebook  and on YouTube 

Visit us at [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) West Basin Municipal Water District

Serving the Cities of Carson, Culver City, Del Aire, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Ladera Heights, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, Topanga, View Park, West Hollywood Windsor Hills, and portions of Athens, El Camino Village, Howard, Lennox, Ross-Sexton, San Pedro and Torrance.

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