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Contact:

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## **HAWTHORNE CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO CONDITIONALLY SUPPORT WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S RESPONSIBLE OCEAN WATER DESALINATION PROGRAM**

**HAWTHORNE, Calif.** – The West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) provided a briefing on its responsible Ocean Water Desalination Program to the Hawthorne City Council on May 10, 2016. West Basin asked for, and received, the city council's support for the district's desalination program contingent on West Basin meeting specific conditions.

Donald L. Dear, secretary of the West Basin Board of Directors and Division V board member representing the City of Hawthorne stated: "It is important for West Basin to provide its water users with as much reliability as possible heading into an uncertain water future. Ocean water desalination is a potential drinking water source that is available to the District today."

"West Basin thanks the Hawthorne City Council for supporting the district as it explores ways to meet future drinking water needs," added Dear, who came to the Board with a vast array of public service experience, including serving as the Mayor of Gardena for nine consecutive terms and as a distinguished teacher in Carson.

The city's support for a responsible desalination program is based on West Basin's commitment to the following conditions: that the proposed project meet and/or surpass the new environmentally protective regulations set by the State of California; that the cost of the desalinated drinking water be similar to the cost of West Basin's non-potable recycled water program; and that the proposed project use the same amount of energy as importing water (carbon neutral), at a minimum, while striving to be carbon zero and use renewable energy sources.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process began in fall 2015 and is currently underway. The report, which will provide information to analyze ocean water desalination as a viable future drinking water supply, is expected to be finalized in late 2016 or early 2017. Upon review of the final EIR, the West Basin Board of Directors will decide whether to proceed with the program and proposed project for either a 20 or a 60 million gallon a day ocean water desalination facility located at the primary proposed site in El Segundo, Calif. (with an alternate proposed site in Redondo Beach, Calif.).

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**About West Basin Municipal Water District**

*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water recycling, conservation, and water education. West Basin is currently implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop drought-proof local water supplies. The program includes water recycling, water conservation, groundwater desalting and ocean water desalination. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*

**About West Basin's Ocean Water Desalination Program**

*Since 2002, West Basin has been researching responsible ocean water desalination in a manner that protects marine life, maximizes energy efficiency and minimizes cost. West Basin is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing a proposed ocean water desalination facility producing 20 and 60 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water. For more information about West Basin's Ocean Water Desalination Program, visit [www.westbasin.org/desal](http://www.westbasin.org/desal).*