



**For Immediate Release:**

Contact:

**April 15, 2013**

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

### **NEW OCEAN FRIENDLY DEMONSTRATION GARDEN DEDICATED IN MALIBU**

*New Garden Will Save Water and Teach Residents How to Install Native Gardens*

MALIBU, Calif. – The first day of spring ushered in the opening of Malibu’s newest Ocean Friendly Garden. The garden represents one in a series of sustainable gardening projects implemented in West Basin Municipal Water District’s (West Basin) service area to save water and preserve the environment. West Basin partnered with the City of Malibu and the Surfrider Foundation to create a garden that will save approximately 80 percent of water use. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place March 20, 2013 at Malibu Bluffs Park.

The demonstration garden at Bluffs Park emulates a residential yard and shows alternatives to standard turf and high-water-use landscaping that has been popular in recent years. Ocean friendly gardens offer a sustainable and beautiful change from the norm. Project partners hope that this garden will inspire others to implement the same principles at their homes and businesses.

“West Basin is pleased to be working with the City of Malibu to install this ocean friendly demonstration garden in one of the most outstanding local parks in the City,” said West Basin Director Edward C. Little. “This new garden will show residents that ocean friendly gardens are nice looking, water efficient, and something they can incorporate in their own homes to reduce water use and costs.”

Rainwater (also known as runoff) is currently treated as waste when it is collected off impermeable surfaces, like roadways, and discharged through the storm drain system out to local water bodies, usually without being treated. Ocean friendly gardens prevent ocean pollution and protect marine life by retaining storm water for reuse on a property. Runoff from rain and even irrigation can be harmful when it leaves yards and heads to the ocean, picking up pollutants from the street as it travels. Ocean friendly gardens trap rain water and use water efficient irrigation systems to provide for plants, conserving water and reducing polluted runoff. They also reduce the reliance on pesticides and provide natural habitats that are desirable to native wildlife like birds and butterflies.

“This garden is one of many ways the City continues to deliver on its commitment to environmental stewardship, specifically our ongoing quest to protect ocean water quality,” Mayor of Malibu Lou La Monte said. “This garden will allow the public to witness ocean friendly garden principles in action and empower individuals to implement them in their own yards. We thank the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Surfrider Foundation for working with us to develop this educational community resource,” he noted.

**--MORE--**

West Basin, the City of Malibu and Surfrider have a successful history of partnering to bring ocean friendly garden workshops to Malibu. The demonstration garden was funded through a Proposition 50 grant from the California Department of Water Resources with additional funding contributions from the City of Malibu, West Basin Municipal Water District, Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29 and the Metropolitan Water District, in addition to generous support of materials and services from the community.

###

*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.*

*The City of Malibu was incorporated on March 28, 1991. Located in Northwest Los Angeles County, the City has 21 miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean and a population of 12,645.*