



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

JANUARY 7, 2009

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**West Basin Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith Distributes *free* Water-Saving Devices,  
Board Member Helps Carson Save 7 ½ Million Gallons of Drinking Water Each Year**

CARSON, CA—In the middle of one of the State’s worst droughts, West Basin Municipal Water District Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith recently distributed 600 high-efficiency toilets to residents of Carson to save precious drinking water through more efficient toilets. The toilet distribution event was held at Carson City Hall on December 6, 2008. Director Smith enlisted the assistance of local, community-based organizations to help distribute toilets at the event, including the Kayumanggi Lions Club and the City of Carson Parks and Recreation Program. Together, the groups provided 19 volunteers, contributing 150-200 hours of their time.

“Volunteers worked hard to help distribute *free* water-saving devices to our local community,” said Smith. “Even with the recent rains and beautiful snow in the mountains, we remain in a drought here in Southern California and these *free* conservation programs make a huge difference in reducing home water use and making our water supply more reliable.”

This event is part of West Basin’s Water Reliability 2020 Program to improve water reliability for our service area and reduce our dependence on imported water. Goals of Water Reliability 2020 include doubling our water conservation efforts, expanding our award-winning education program for school children, adding ocean-water desalination as a supplemental water source, and doubling water recycling.

High-efficiency toilets save 35 gallons a day. These 600 toilets will collectively conserve more than 7 ½ million gallons of water every year.

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To qualify, residents in West Basin's service area had to replace water-wasting 3-gallon flushing toilets with the newer 1.2 gallon flushing high-efficiency toilets and must return their old toilet two weeks after receiving the new one.

At the event, volunteers managed traffic control, helped with registration and loaded devices into vehicles. For their assistance, the two groups will earn funding for their programs.

Additional water and energy conservation devices were distributed at the event, including free compact fluorescent light bulbs from South Bay Environmental Services Center and water-efficient shower heads from Golden State Water Company. The showerheads will conserve an additional 2 million gallons of water a year.

Returned toilets will ultimately be recycled. Southwest Environmental Inc. was hired by West Basin to manage the program and, once the metal hardware is removed from the old toilets, the porcelain will be recycled into road and construction materials.

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*West Basin Municipal Water District provides a safe and reliable supply of imported and recycled water to a diverse service area that includes the cities of Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, West Hollywood, portions of the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, and several unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. West Basin is committed to water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service, and environmental stewardship. For more information, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).*