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Contact:

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

WEST BASIN FUNDS SEVENTH YEAR OF SURFRIDER “TEACH AND TEST” HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM
Program Gives Volunteers Experience Collecting and Analyzing Water Quality Samples in Santa Monica Bay

REDONDO BEACH, Calif. – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) President Carol W. Kwan recently presented a \$7,200 check to the Surfrider Foundation in support of their “Teach and Test” program. West Basin has supported the program, which allows high school students to volunteer to monitor water quality in the Santa Monica Bay by collecting and processing water samples, for seven years. This year’s student volunteers hail from El Segundo, Mira Costa, Redondo Union, and South Torrance high schools.

“Without West Basin’s support, we would not be able to involve the numerous high school students in these two important real world, local science programs that address the quality of local ocean waters and the characterization of trash flowing from local storm drain outlets onto our beaches,” said Alan Walti, Environmental Officer for the Surfrider Foundation, South Bay Chapter.

During the program, students collect water samples bi-weekly from October through May, and prepare and analyze water samples at the Algalita Marine Research Institute and Loyola Marymount University laboratories. At the end of the year, school teams are required to conduct a final presentation that connects the project findings to other environmentally sustainable efforts around the Santa Monica Bay. West Basin’s water recycling efforts and the reduction of biosolids released into the Santa Monica Bay through the recycled water treatment process have been highlighted as a positive case study in previous years.

“Getting young people excited about water and science and how important they are to our community is what this program is all about,” said West Basin President Kwan. “Giving students a hands-on opportunity in the field and at university laboratories teaches them how to protect their local beaches and introduces them to future career opportunities,” she noted.

After the check presentation, students, parents and program coordinators toured West Basin’s Ocean-Water Desalination Demonstration Facility and Water Education Center in Redondo Beach where they learned about environmentally sustainable desalination and its potential as a future water supply resource.

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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.

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world’s oceans, waves and beaches. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members and 90 chapters worldwide.