



**October 9, 2018**

Katie Casey, Public Information Specialist

310-650-1239 | [katiec@westbasin.org](mailto:katiec@westbasin.org)

## **WEST BASIN DIRECTOR GLORIA D. GRAY ELECTED CHAIRWOMAN OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT**

**CARSON, Calif.** – In a vote by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) Board of Directors, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Director Gloria D. Gray was elected to serve as chairwoman of the MWD board. Gray is the first African-American woman in Metropolitan’s 90 -year history to hold the position.

“It’s a tremendous honor to have been selected by my fellow Metropolitan board members to serve as chair,” said Gray. “I look forward to continuing the board’s important commitment to providing reliable supplies of high-quality water both now and in the future.”

She added, “I am committed to an open and transparent decision-making process.”

In 2006, Gray was first elected to the West Basin Board of Directors to represent Division II, which includes the City of Inglewood and areas of unincorporated Los Angeles County including Athens, Ladera Heights, Lennox and Westmont. She has served as a West Basin representative on the MWD Board of Directors since 2009.

Starting Jan. 1, 2019, Gray will commence her two-year term as chairwoman of the MWD board, becoming the 19<sup>th</sup> board chair of the primary water importer and wholesaler for nearly 19 million people in six counties. As the head of the 38-member board, Gray will represent district policies and programs at national, state and local levels. She also will preside over monthly meetings of the board and its executive committee. In addition, she will appoint all members of the MWD’s nine standing committees, as well as the leaders of any special committees or task forces.

Gray was also the first African-American woman to serve as vice chair of the MWD Board, chair of Water Planning and Stewardship Committee, and serves on the Executive Committee, Personnel and Technology Committee, Special Committee on Bay-Delta, and Communication and Legislative Committee.

In addition, in 2014, the West Basin board appointed Gray as their representative to the ACWA Joint Powers Insurance Authority and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Region 8, where she serves as the 2018-2019 Vice Chair. She was also appointed to represent West Basin as a voting board member on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the Commission elected her to the Executive Committee and the Commission’s Authority.

Gray was also appointed in March 2009 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to serve on a water quality Community Task Force, which is part of the County’s Clean Water, Clean Beaches Initiative to address pollution in our local waterways that include rivers, lakes, bays, beaches, and coastal waters. In April 2010, Gray was appointed to the Delta Stewardship Council by former Assembly Speaker Karen Bass and served a four-year term.

In 2018, Gray was recognized as Visionary of the Year by Playa Vista Jobs for her work in the water industry. In 2017, Gray received the Esther Williams Award of Excellence for her continued commitment to community service and water reliability from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. In 2012,

-CONTINUE-

she was honored by the Southern California Water Committee with the “Honorable Harriett Wieder” award for leadership in water.

West Basin is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District and is governed by a five-member board of directors who are publicly elected to represent nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas throughout its 185-square mile service area in coastal Los Angeles County. West Basin is also an industry leader in producing recycled water, implementing effective water conservation programs, desalting groundwater, exploring ocean water desalination and providing education programs. For more information, please visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).

###

*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 conservation, recycling and education. The District is implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency’s dependence on imported water and develop local, drought-proof water supplies. This includes water conservation, recycling, groundwater desalting and the exploration of ocean water desalination. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*