



Immediate Release:

June 1, 2009

Contact:

Noelle Collins  
Public Affairs Specialist  
310-660-6217  
noellec@westbasin.org

## Eight Local Students Awarded \$1,000 Each for Higher Education by *new* West Basin Scholarship Program

CARSON, Calif. – In an effort to recognize and nurture student interest in water careers and reward scholastic achievement and community service, the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors has awarded eight local students with \$1,000 each in scholarship funds.

“This scholarship program is timely and helpful in these challenging times,” said West Basin Board President Edward C. Little. “Tuition is on the rise and the application process is becoming more and more competitive, but this is also a time when the water industry is expecting many of its professionals to be retiring over the next 5 years.”

This is West Basin’s first-ever scholarship program, open to high school seniors living within West Basin’s service area who have been accepted for admission as full-time students to a trade school, junior college, or university, and have an interest in the water industry. The \$1,000 scholarship may be used for tuition or books and will hopefully spark an interest in a career in water.

The eight local students receiving West Basin scholarships include:

- Makoto Schroeder from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in Rancho Palos Verdes,
- Victor Diaz from Inglewood High School in Inglewood,
- Shelah Minor from Inglewood High School in Inglewood,
- Ellen Bruno from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach,
- Kelsey Umemoto from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach,
- Kyle Langlois from El Segundo High School in El Segundo,
- Andrea Flores from Lawndale High School in Lawndale, and

- Tony Tran from Hawthorne Math and Science Academy in Hawthorne.

Students are required to have a minimum 3.5 grade point average and write a 500 word essay describing their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of current and future water issues, describe how water will be integrated into their field of study and the reason they would like to work in the water industry. Students' extracurricular activities, part-time employment, and SAT or ACT scores are also considered.

"Our Board is excited to see smart, creative young people take an interest in water at one of our most challenging times in history," said Board Treasurer Ronald C. Smith. "We need problem-solvers."

Universities that will benefit from this young talent include Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Georgetown, University of California Los Angeles, University of California Riverside, University of California San Diego, and University of California Santa Barbara. Intended majors range from Marine Biology and Engineering to Psychology and Environmental Studies. The average Grade Point Average from this list of scholarship recipients is 3.98. Student scholarship winners also participated in athletics, student leadership, held part-time jobs or apprenticeships, and volunteered in their communities.

The Inglewood Education Foundation coordinated the review and selection process for students in Division II.

###

May is Water Awareness Month. Do your part to reduce your water use by 20 gallons a day. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) for indoor and outdoor water conservation tips. With a little effort, you can save a lot of water.

West Basin Municipal Water District is committed to water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service and environmental stewardship. West Basin is a recognized, international leader in the production of recycled water, has won several awards for its leadership, water recycling and water resource management. West Basin provides 30 million gallons of recycled water throughout the South Bay each day, replacing enough precious drinking water to supply 60,000 households annually. For more information, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).