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## **Water Replenishment District and West Basin Team up to Supply the World's First Seawater Intrusion Barrier with 100% Recycled Water**

Project Will Save Millions of Gallons of Drinking Water

CARSON, CALIF – The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) and the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) have just signed an agreement to create the world's first seawater intrusion barrier made up entirely of recycled water. Today, the agencies have signed an agreement that will protect local groundwater supplies from contamination by seawater intrusion by using 100% purified wastewater. When the project comes on line in approximately two years it will be the only seawater intrusion barrier containing entirely purified, recycled water. By using recycled water where imported drinking water has historically been used, the project will save 5.5 billion gallons of drinking water each year, enough to serve 136,000 people for one year.

"The project is a great example of public agency partnerships and cooperation that bring value and benefit to the communities we serve," said Albert Robles, President of the Board of Directors of the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

"West Basin is a world leader in producing various types of recycled water, and it is appropriate that we be the agency to supply the first 100% recycled water seawater intrusion barrier in the world," said Edward C. Little, President of the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

West Basin will deliver the recycled water to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for injection into the West Coast Basin Barrier. The water injected into the barrier under pressure holds back the ocean and prevents it from contaminating local groundwater aquifers. This water additionally replenishes well water supplies.

The barrier is currently supplied with 75% recycled water and 25% imported water. Converting the barrier to 100% recycled water will free up much needed drinking water and save energy over importing water from Northern California.

West Basin will expand its Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility for the fifth time to produce the additional purified water for the recycled water barrier. The facility has been expanded four times in the past to provide recycled water to more than 200 sites throughout the South Bay. The Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility takes wastewater that would otherwise be sent to the ocean and, through advanced water purification technologies, makes five types of “designer” waters, the only facility in the world to do so. These five types of water range from water for use in irrigation to ultra-pure water for high and low pressure boiler feeders, cooling towers and the seawater barrier, which meets all drinking water standards.

WRD manages two of the most heavily used groundwater basins in the state of California and therefore plays a significant role in providing groundwater to southern Los Angeles County. WRD manages groundwater for nearly four million residents in 43 cities of southern Los Angeles County. The 420 square mile service area uses about 250,000 acre-feet of groundwater per year, which equates to nearly 40% of the total demand for water in that area.

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 more than 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).

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