



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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WEST BASIN DEDICATES OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN TO CITY OF CARSON

The Native Garden Will Help to Conserve Water in This Time of Drought

CARSON, Calif. –Community partners, City of Carson Mayor Jim Dear, and West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Director Ronald C. (Ron) Smith will dedicate the Ocean Friendly Demonstration Garden at the Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center (Community Center) with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 10 a.m. The new garden features drought-tolerant plants that thrive in dry climates and will save up to 80 percent of the water previously required for landscaping.

“As California faces one of the worst droughts on record, these Ocean Friendly Gardens provide an opportunity for communities to make small, yet substantial changes that conserve water and are sustainable,” said West Basin Director Ron Smith. As members of the committee, I commend Mayor Dear and Councilwoman Lula Davis Holmes for their attentiveness along with the Council and representatives of the Community Center for taking the initiative to bring this resource to Carson and inspire others to implement the same principles at their homes and businesses.”

The initial garden began with local citizens taking part in a free workshop that provided instruction in sustainable gardening techniques; followed by a hands-on installation alongside local leaders on September 27. In coordination with West basin, the City of Carson, G3LA, the Surfrider Foundation and Cal Water, citizens gained knowledge about local plants, water-efficient irrigation devices and proper installation and maintenance.

“The coordinated efforts of the Ocean Friendly partnership helps to create gardens that restore the natural California landscape and uses water more efficiently than turf landscaping,” said Mayor Jim Dear. “We hope our residents take this garden concept and implement similar gardens at their homes and reduce the size of their lawns. Once these gardens are established they will grow on our local rainfall of around fifteen inches.”

The Ocean Friendly Garden program is part of West Basin’s Water Reliability 2020 Program, which aims to reduce dependence on imported water in half by the year 2020 by doubling water recycling, doubling conservation and adding a small amount of desalinated ocean-water to West Basin’s water supply portfolio.

The Ocean Friendly Garden program allows West Basin to work toward its conservation goals and increase water use efficiency by reducing the amount of water used outdoors (the top water wasting practice in residential communities). The garden is located at the renovated Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center for residents and visitors to enjoy. This garden was fully funded by the Department of Water Resources, California Water Service Company and the Metropolitan Water District.

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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 the Water Reliability 2020 program that will double conservation, double recycled water production and add desalted ocean-water to our portfolio by the year 2020. Partnering with community organizations, businesses and other public agencies keeps West Basin lean and strengthens its [programs. www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org)