



For Immediate Release:

Contact:

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New Ocean Friendly Garden and Water Filling Station Open at Manhattan Beach Strand

Garden and Filling Station Will Save Water and Protect Local Oceans and Beaches

MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif. – The Manhattan Beach Strand unveiled the newest additions to its ocean-front scenery: a water wise, ocean friendly demonstration garden and a water filling station to reduce water bottle littering on the local beach. West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) and the City of Manhattan Beach constructed the garden as an example of a sustainable and beautiful landscape that will save the city approximately 80 percent of water use, while Leadership Manhattan Beach and West Basin partnered to construct a filling station that will encourage active Manhattan Beach residents and tourists to protect our ocean from plastic by using a reusable bottle. Visitors and residents can now visit both new additions on the Strand, at the top of the Manhattan Beach Pier.

On Thursday, April 25, partners that helped to construct, sponsor, and build the garden attended a small ribbon cutting ceremony to officially recognize the opening. Manhattan Beach Mayor Pro Tem Amy Howorth said, “Visitors to the Strand will be able to witness ocean friendly garden principles in action and be empowered to implement them in their own yards. This garden provides practical steps on how to save maintenance time, money, and provide for local, reliable water resources for the future.”

The demonstration garden provides a model of a sustainable garden exemplifying the alternatives to standard turf and high-water-use landscaping that has been popular in recent years. The Surfrider Foundation spearheaded three main principles guiding the design of ocean friendly gardens: Conservation, Permeability and Retention (CPR). This garden will promote: conservation of water, energy and habitat through native and climate adapted plants; permeability through mulch and biologically active soil; and retention of water through a down spout that was redirected to funnel rain water to the soil for the dry season.

West Basin’s President, Director Carol W. Kwan spoke at both the opening of the garden and the filling station and said, “We are proud to be able to partner with the City of Manhattan Beach and Leadership Manhattan Beach on these two projects which reflect a concern for the future generations of this beautiful city. This garden is just one of nine gardens that will be constructed in West Basin’s service area this year, and the filling station is the first of five to be built in Manhattan Beach this year.”

Each year, billions of single-use water bottles end up in landfills and oceans and the majority of single use bottles produced are not recycled into other products. The filling station allows residents to use multiple use bottles that are not turned into litter which may later end up in the ocean. The filling station will provide free, local tap water for residents to access at any time.

The demonstration garden was funded through a Proposition 50 grant from the California Department of Water Resources with additional funding contributions from the City of Manhattan Beach, West Basin Municipal Water District, Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden and the Metropolitan Water District, in addition to generous support of materials and services from the community. Funding for the Water

Filling Station came through Funding for the Water Filling Station came through H2.O Station Contributors: West Basin Municipal Water District, Dealer.com, Ipsos, Murad, Beach Cities Health District, Body Glove, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Shade Hotel, Venable, Y&C Law, Chevron, Rock'n Fish, Manhattan Beach Toyota, LA Car Guy, KGM Lighting, People Ware Staffing, Simmzy's, Techflex Packaging, TR Farnham Construction, Downtown Manhattan Beach Business and Professionals Association, and Village View Escrow. Individual Contributors include: Kyle and Sandra King, Fred Simmons and Olga Mohan, Jeff Neu, Jan Pipkin, Larry Auffrey, Wade Austin, Portia Cohen, Ellen Rosenberg and to the entire Leadership Manhattan Beach Class of 2013!

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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. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.

The City of Manhattan Beach was officially incorporated in December 1912. Located along the Pacific Coast, the City has a population of 35,135. Protecting the beaches and ocean from pollution is a resounding priority to preserving the quality of life in Manhattan Beach. In the spirit of protecting this and other natural resources, the City of Manhattan Beach has committed to embracing measures that will reduce the negative impacts of its operations on the environment.

Leadership Manhattan Beach's mission is to develop and unite community leaders and provide them opportunities to learn valuable leadership skills, serve their community and expand their circle of friends.

Photo 1 Attached: Manhattan Beach City Council, Surfrider Foundation, G3LA, Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden, and West Basin Municipal Water District Board at the Manhattan Beach Ocean Friendly Garden Ribbon Cutting on April 25, 2013.

Photo 2 Attached: Leadership Manhattan Beach, Manhattan Beach City Council, and West Basin Municipal Water District Board at the Water Bottle Filling Station Ribbon Cutting on April 25, 2013.