



For Immediate Release:
Contact:

March 3, 2014
Ron Wildermuth, Public Information Manager
310-660-6258 | RonW@westbasin.org

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADOPT RESOLUTION DECLARING DROUGHT ALERT

CARSON, Calif. – On February 24, 2014, the Board of Directors of the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) adopted a resolution declaring a Drought Alert. The Resolution calls for the District’s seventeen cities, unincorporated county areas and its retail customer agencies to implement conservation measures to meet California Governor Brown’s goal of a 20 percent water use reduction, spelled out in his Emergency Drought Declaration on January 17, 2014.

The West Basin Board has directed staff to work with the District’s eight retail customer agencies to identify immediate water use efficiency measures and to assess new connections to West Basin’s recycled water system, if feasible.

The West Basin Board declared the Drought Alert based on the fact that at this time there is no State Water Project water from Northern California allocated to Southern California; the State of California is in its third year of drought; the Colorado River is in its 14th year of drought; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) issued a Water Supply Alert on February 11, 2014; and finally, that conservation is needed now to help extend and protect the water now in storage, which is being used to meet the water needs in Southern California.

“Metropolitan has done a great job in investing in storage and other water supply projects for the past 20 years. Likewise, West Basin has invested in drought-proof supplies like water recycling and conservation. Together, these investments in reliable water supplies are paying off with no water restrictions during this current drought,” said West Basin Board President, Edward C. Little. “However, both West Basin and Metropolitan are strongly encouraging residents, businesses and institutions to meet the Governor’s call for a 20 percent reduction in water use.”

While, West Basin is not at this time imposing any water restrictions, the agency is strongly encouraging its customers to take advantage of the many free water efficiency programs it offers. West Basin provides free rain barrels, high-efficiency toilets, and weather-based irrigation controllers to help reduce water use along with free landscape audits and California Friendly Landscaping classes. For more information about West Basin’s water efficiency programs and tips on reducing water use, visit www.westbasin.org.

###

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.