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EX-GENERAL SCHWARZKOPF AIDE JOINS WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT STAFF

CARSON— Ron Wildermuth, a retired Navy Captain and former aide to General Norman H. Schwarzkopf during the first Gulf War, has joined West Basin Municipal Water District (“West Basin”) as the new Manager of Public and Government Affairs. Wildermuth comes to West Basin having worked the past ten years at the Orange County Water District where he was Director of Communications, and in charge of the outreach efforts for the Groundwater Replenishment System, a 70,000 acre-feet per year wastewater purification project that recharges Orange County’s large groundwater basin.

Wildermuth served 23 years in the Navy as a public affairs specialist eventually retiring as a Navy Captain. He had tours of duty throughout the world, including duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and on the staff of the Navy’s Chief of Information. His last tour of duty was at the U.S. Central Command where he was the media advisor to General Schwarzkopf and in charge of in-theater media relations during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He retired from the Navy after the war and worked five years for the Parsons Corporation in Pasadena, California, as their Director of Corporate Relations.

“We are pleased to have someone of Ron Wildermuth’s outreach experience at West Basin as we try to actively outreach to our community about the need for building water reliability through water recycling, water efficiency and eventually ocean-water desalination,” said Donald L. Dear, President of the West Basin Board of Directors.

Focusing his efforts on communicating West Basin’s strategic business plan to increase local water reliability in the face of challenged imported water supplies, Wildermuth

will oversee West Basin's education, media and public relations efforts, legislative advocacy, and water conservation programs.

Wildermuth joined the Orange County Water District in 1998, to head up a ten-year information campaign to explain the need for and benefits of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. The GWR System is the largest indirect potable water reuse project of its kind in the world.

Wildermuth earned a Bachelor in Arts degree from St. Ambrose University in Sociology and International Relations, a Masters Degree in Public Relations from American University, and is a graduate of the Naval War College. He is married to Charlene Hatakeyama-Wildermuth, an ex-Mayor of La Palma, California. They reside in Cypress, California. Wildermuth is currently on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Santa Ana Zoo.

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West Basin provides imported and recycled water to a diverse service area that includes the cities of Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, West Hollywood, portions of the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, and several unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County.