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## **WEST BASIN TO FUND MARINE LIFE AND EQUIPMENT FOR SEA LAB**

CARSON, Calif. — The West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board of Directors voted yesterday to fund marine life replacement efforts, filtration equipment and an emergency operations holding tank for the SEA Lab aquarium in Redondo Beach. In February, operations were disrupted at the SEA Lab, a program of the L.A. Conservation Corps, when bleach from an accidental leak in West Basin’s desalination intake system was pulled into SEA Lab’s live aquarium tanks onshore.

SEA Lab will now be able to replace marine life similar to those lost as a result of the accident. In addition, SEA Lab will receive water quality testing equipment, a new free-standing holding tank, and filtration equipment to protect the facility from a similar future accident. The local educational aquarium has been receiving live donations from other aquariums since the first leopard sharks arrived from San Pedro’s Cabrillo Aquarium just two weeks after the incident.

“The process of working with West Basin has been positive and cooperative,” said L.A. Conservation Corps Executive Director Bruce Saito. “They were quick to come up with solutions to an unfortunate accident and are following through on their commitments to make the SEA Lab whole,” Saito said.

One of the major motivations of the desalination demonstration facility remains finding and implementing ways to protect marine life. While an unexpected expense, replacing the marine life, paying for staff time to address the leak, and investing in new water quality protections are aligned with the goals of the desalination project. The intake system designed for the facility was ‘double-contained’ and unexpectedly and unfortunately, the leak escaped through both layers of protection.

After the leak was identified, SEA Lab was immediately switched to an alternative water supply. SEA Lab has since been returned to its original water supply pumping system and is operating at full capacity.

“West Basin and the community have great affection for the local aquarium and we look forward to its continued success,” said West Basin Board President Donald L. Dear.

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*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 and 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. To learn more, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).*