WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON METROPOLITAN'S REGIONAL DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARATION

West Basin Board President Harold C. Williams, P.E., MSCE issues the following statement:

"What the regional drought emergency declaration by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California means for West Basin is that our communities must continue to use less water. That's the bottom line. For our service area, our region and our state to thrive, we must use water prudently.

"The Metropolitan drought emergency demonstrates the seriousness of this drought and puts into focus the fragile situation that our region is in, with some of our neighboring communities wholly dependent on dwindling Northern California water supplies. The added reliance and strain on supplies from the Colorado River means we must all do our part to reduce demand.

"For West Basin, a 15% reduction of water use means actively seeking ways to reduce water use by approximately 20 gallons per person per day; with some areas needing to save more. Overall, our water use is trending in the right direction, which is down, but there is still much water-saving work to be done for the benefit of all.

We encourage our service area to take advantage of the West Basin programs available to help our communities use less water. In particular, decreasing outdoor water use by replacing your grass with drought-tolerant landscaping is great opportunity to make reductions that will last this drought and prepare you for the next."

###

West Basin Municipal Water District is a wholesale water agency that serves nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin provides imported drinking water, recycled water, and conservation and education programs. Through its Water for Tomorrow Program, West Basin is committed to protecting, diversifying, and securing our water supply for the future while continuing a history of innovation and industry leadership. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.