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\$800,000 GRANT TO HELP MAKE SOUTH BAY CITIES MORE WATER RELIABLE

LOS ANGELES—West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) was recently awarded more than \$800,000 in water conservation grants to help the 17 cities in its coastal, southwest Los Angeles county service area be more water reliable in the face of challenged imported water supplies, climate change and reoccurring droughts.

The money provided by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will be used to reduce water use in the following areas: large food service facilities, such as, hotels, hospitals, or restaurants, city street medians, and multi-family dwellings.

The water savings realized from the three programs is estimated to be 144 million gallons a year. Depending on the water saving device and application, the water savings can last from three to twenty years.

“This is a great opportunity to improve our local water reliability by expanding West Basin’s water conservation programs,” said West Basin President Donald Dear. “With our grants and partnerships, we obtain \$3.50 worth of water savings value for every dollar we spend.”

MWD is providing roughly 75% of the program funds, with additional financial contributions from West Basin, City of Torrance, Southern California Edison, and Southern California Gas Company. The South Bay Energy Savings Center will also be assisting in the implementation of these projects.

MWD awarded more than \$2 million in conservation grants. West Basin received the second largest grant funding behind San Diego County Water Authority.

West Basin's expanded conservation programs to be implemented with this grant funding include working with large to medium food service facilities to accept free water use audits and installation of water saving devices. Participating food service facilities will receive rebates for water saving devices and training on how to use the devices and overall water saving practices.

Cities will be approached to make their street medians more water efficient by using native plants, porous pavement, artificial turf, drip irrigation, Smart irrigation controllers, and rotating sprinkler nozzles.

Grant funds will also be used to make multi-family dwellings more water and energy efficient with free indoor water audits, direct installation of showerheads, kitchen and bathroom aerators, high efficiency toilets, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. The grants will allow West Basin to reach out to more than 77,000 multi-family dwelling units in West Basin's service area and 10,000 dwelling units in the City of Torrance. The multi-family dwelling program has the potential to achieve a water savings of 176 acre-feet of water and 3 million kWh per year.

West Basin Municipal Water District is committed to improving local water reliability through water recycling, water conservation, and eventually ocean-water desalination. West Basin is a recognized leader in the production of recycled water, has won several awards for its leadership, planning and design of its recycled water facility, and supplies 30 million gallons of recycled water each day, replacing enough precious drinking water to supply 60,000 households annually.

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