

For Immediate Release: Contact: March 3, 2011 Noelle Collins Media & Public Information 310-660-6217 or noellec@westbasin.org

WANT TO SAVE \$4,000 IN THIS SLOW ECONOMY? GET A <u>FREE</u> SMART CONTROLLER TO REDUCE YOUR WATER USE, YOUR WATER BILL, AND PROTECT THE OCEAN

CARSON, Calif.—L.A. area residents and businesses use up to 70% of their daily water use watering yards and landscapes. Since the majority of our water travels hundreds of miles to our homes and businesses and is treated to drinking water standards, West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is working with area residents and businesses to reduce the amount of precious drinking water used outdoors.

"Everyone wants to be more efficient with their resources to get the most value from them, especially water," said West Basin Board President Ronald C. (Ron) Smith. "With the support of various grant programs, West Basin is able to offer free landscape controllers to residents within West Basin's service area with an acre or more of yard to help them create healthier, more efficient landscapes around their homes."

The free controllers are offered through West Basin's Ocean-Friendly landscape program that aims to reduce outdoor water use, as well as prevent runoff from polluting our local beaches and oceans. By participating in the large landscape controller program, residents are helping their landscapes to become healthier and more water efficient, along with protecting the local ocean environment from pollution caused by runoff.

The controller comes with a free landscape audit, free installation and programming. The entire controller program value to residents is \$1,350. The program requires that the property be located within West Basin Municipal Water District's service area, that the property be irrigated with potable water, and the landscape be at least 1-acre in size. Add to that, the savings from using less water, and residents could save up to \$4,000 over the lifetime of the device.

The property can be a private residence, school, college or university, homeowner's association, business, ballfield, etc. Examples of current program participants include Marymount College on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, The Pointe at Malibu, and Carson Senior High School, among others. One smart controller on one acre of property can save more than 100,000 gallons of water a year. Please note that some larger properties may qualify for more than one controller and the water savings could be even greater.

Take advantage of incredible water savings and save money on your water bill! To participate in this program, visit <u>www.westbasin.org</u>.

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West Basin Municipal Water District is reducing its dependence on imported water through the Water Reliability 2020 program that will double conservation, double recycled water production and add desalted ocean-water to our portfolio by the year 2020. Partnering with community organizations, businesses and other public agencies keeps West Basin lean and strengthens its programs. West Basin is a wholesale water district that serves nearly a million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas throughout its 185-square mile service area in the coastal Los Angeles area.