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**DIRECTOR GLORIA GRAY FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN TO CHAIR
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**

Metropolitan Board of Directors Recognize Black History Month at February Meeting

LOS ANGELES, Calif. – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Director Gloria Gray chaired the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2013. The Metropolitan Board opened the February Board meeting in recognition of Black History Month. Gray was the first African-American woman to hold the gavel in Metropolitan’s history. She joined the Metropolitan Board of Directors as West Basin’s representative in April of 2009 and is currently the Vice Chair of the 37-member Board of Directors.

“As a Board Member for Metropolitan, I am honored to represent West Basin and its communities as we provide reliable, high quality water to one million residents in 17 cities in coastal Los Angeles,” Gray said. “I am proud to be the first African-American woman to chair a Metropolitan Board meeting, especially during the month of February when we remember and recognize so many important African-American pioneers. Today is a special day I will never forget,” she noted.

Director Gray has served on the West Basin Board since 2006 and represents the Division II cities of Inglewood, South Ladera Heights, a portion of Lennox and Athens, Howard and Ross-Sexton. She also serves as a council member on the Delta Stewardship Council which strives to provide a more reliable water supply for California and protect, restore, and enhance the Delta ecosystem. Gray was appointed in 2010 by Speaker of the Assembly Karen Bass and was the first African-American to serve on the council.

Gray has a long history of public service including a 36-year career with the Los Angeles County Departments of Human Services and Health Services and serving on several Inglewood Unified School District Boards and commissions. She was also appointed by Los

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Angeles County Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to serve on the Water Quality Community Task Force, part of the county's "Clean Water, Clean Beaches" initiative to address pollution in local waterways.

In 2011, she received the "Women in Action Award" from the Los Angeles African-American Women's Public Policy Institute for her positive representation as a role model for young women. Last year, she received the honorable "Harriet Wieder" award for leadership in water from the Southern California Water Committee and special recognition from the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands for leadership on current and future water issues.

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West Basin Municipal Water District is a wholesale water district that serves nearly a million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas throughout its 185-square mile service area. West Basin 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. www.westbasin.org