



For Immediate Release

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West Basin Municipal Water District Passes a Contingency Water Allocation Plan

Plan Depends on Future Imported Water Availability

CARSON, CALIF. – A water contingency plan to ration water has been adopted by the West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board of Directors, at their October board meeting, in the event a shortage is declared and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) implements their water shortage allocation plan. Both plans could be implemented as early as spring 2009.

The MWD water allocation plan is based on dry weather conditions, cut backs of Northern California water to protect endangered fish, the need to preserve limited reservoir storage, and other water supply problems.

The West Basin Allocation Plan is designed to equitably distribute imported water to its customer agencies. For fairness, the West Basin Allocation Plan essentially passes through the MWD plan.

Over the past few months, West Basin staff has been meeting with its customer retail water agencies and cities to work out the details of the Allocation Plan before it was taken to the Board of Directors.

“It is important for our cities and customers to understand that there is a good chance that imported water provided by MWD could be cut back in the spring,” said Donald L. Dear, President of the West Basin Board of Directors.

West Basin is a member of the MWD family of water agencies, and purchases imported water for use in its service area by approximately 1 million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas of LA County.

West Basin adopted its Allocation Plan this fall to allow sufficient lead time for cities, retail water agencies and County areas served by West Basin to plan ahead for local actions to reduce water use. Those actions could include operational adjustments, implementation of anti-water waste ordinances, increased public education about water conservation, and water pricing structures aimed at the heaviest water users.

Both MWD's and West Basin's plans come with stiff financial penalties in the form of significantly increased water costs in the event the allocations are exceeded. West Basin has indicated that any penalty funds collected beyond what is owed to MWD for excess water use will be re-invested in programs to improve local reliability, such as additional water conservation and water recycling projects.

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West Basin Municipal Water District provides a safe and reliable supply of imported and recycled water to a diverse service area that includes the cities of Carson, Culver City, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates, West Hollywood, portions of the cities of Los Angeles and Torrance, and several unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. West Basin is committed to water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service, and environmental stewardship.