



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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PHOTO AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008 at 2:00pm AT SEALAB IN REDONDO BEACH.

TEMPORARY OCEAN-WATER DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION PLANT PROCEEDS AT SEA Lab IN REDONDO BEACH

REDONDO BEACH, CA—West Basin Municipal Water District (“West Basin”) and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (“The Corps”) have signed a 5-year agreement to house and operate a temporary ocean-water desalination demonstration plant at the SEA Lab in Redondo Beach. West Basin’s occupation of the extra space at SEA Lab begins this month and will run through the end of 2012.

“This ocean-water desalination demonstration project is the next step in an incremental, research and testing-based project to create new, locally-produced water sources to replace lost supplies from Northern California and the Colorado River,” said Board President Donald Dear.

The demonstration project is in collaboration with the University of Southern California, City of Redondo Beach, SEA Lab, a program of The Corps, and AES, with support from the California Department of Water Resources. The demonstration facility will use full-size components and run for two years. One of the main research components is to utilize intake methodologies that best protect marine life.

In addition to fine-tuning the latest technologies in ocean-water desalination, West Basin will work with SEA Lab to create on-site educational exhibits about the need for local water supplies and the specific treatment process used to desalinate ocean water in addition to providing curriculum-based field trip opportunities for K thru 12th grades.

For the past five years, West Basin has operated an ocean-water desalination pilot project in El Segundo using small-scale equipment to prove that micro-filtration and reverse osmosis can effectively produce a safe and reliable source of potable water. The pilot project processes 40,000 gallons per day of ocean water. Roughly 500 water quality tests have been conducted each month over a five year period.

The demonstration project will use limited quantities of full-scale equipment to refine operating parameters and perform additional water quality testing, processing 500,000 gallons of ocean water per day. Roughly 250,000 gallons of drinking-quality water will be produced by the demonstration facility on a daily basis. A full-scale ocean-water desalination facility could produce 20 million gallons daily, enough to meet the needs of 40,000 South Bay households annually.

Today, roughly 65% of the water supply within West Basin's service area is imported from the Colorado River and the San Francisco Bay Delta, with the remaining 35% derived from a combination of groundwater, conservation, and recycled water. By 2015, West Basin is striving to balance and diversify our water supply by decreasing our reliance on imported water to less than 50%. Conservation efforts will reduce demand by 15% and ocean-water desalination will meet nearly 10% of our needs.

West Basin will need to obtain the necessary permit approvals under CEQA and through the California Coastal Commission and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, which will take about a year.

West Basin Municipal Water District 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 throughout the South Bay each day, replacing enough precious drinking water to supply 60,000 households annually.

The service area for West Basin 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.

The primary mission of the LA Conservation Corps is to offer at-risk young adults and school-aged youth with opportunities to succeed by providing them with job training, education, and work skills training with an emphasis on environmental and service projects that benefit the community. For more information about the Corps, please visit www.lacorps.org.

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