



Immediate Release:

November 17, 2009

Contact:

Noelle Collins, Public Affairs
noellec@westbasin.org
310-660-6217

Reliability and Recycling are the focus of West Basin's 11th Water Harvest festival

El Segundo, CA—West Basin's 11th Annual Water Harvest festival held on Saturday, October 24, 2009, educated the community about where our water comes from, how much water we use on a daily basis, and what we can do to make our local water supply more reliable. More than 2,200 people from throughout West Basin's service area attended this year's event, with the greatest numbers arriving from nearby Hawthorne, El Segundo, and Inglewood.

Showcasing the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo, West Basin highlighted its Water Reliability 2020 program to reduce our dependence on imported water. Passports taking visitors to the Seven Wonders of California's Water World shared information about where our water comes from and required visitors to stop at seven different booths to get their passports stamped. A full passport allowed guests to enter the raffle for various prizes, with the ultimate grand prize being a water and energy efficient washer and dryer. This year's winner was Norma Diaz from Inglewood.

"This year's Water Harvest festival was full of rich educational opportunities for the community, numerous tours of our water recycling facility and had an emphasis on the environment," said West Basin Director Gloria D. Gray. "Instead of handing out bottled water, we shifted to re-usable water bottles and water stations, reducing the amount of plastic water bottle waste by 4,500 bottles."

There were also a record number of educational booths—43—in addition to an El Segundo Truck, Police D.A.R.E. vehicle, Inglewood Street Sweeper, and a Trash 4 Teaching Treasure Truck. The Discovery Science Center of Orange County provided educational and entertaining stage shows quizzing visitors' knowledge of water and water issues through *Are you in sink with West Basin?* and *Is the Price Right?*. SEALab's Traveling Tidepool provided a hands-on experience with small sea life.

More than \$3,000 in raffle prizes were donated by local businesses. On behalf of the communities we serve, West Basin thanks our event sponsors MWH, United Water, National Water Research Institute, Parsons, Lee&Ro, AKM Engineers, SPI, Malcom Pirnie, Dreyer's, Paisano's, *Inglewood Today*, *California Crusader News*, *Daily Breeze*, *Palos Verdes Peninsula News*, and *The Beach Reporter News* for making this event possible.

###