



For Immediate Release:
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West Basin Receives \$100,000 Grant for Landscape and Irrigation Efficiency Program to Reduce Runoff to Santa Monica Bay

Water agency leverages federal funds for local water efficiency programs

CARSON, Calif. — West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to help fund a \$417,000 outdoor water efficiency program. The Landscape Irrigation Efficiency Program or "LIEP" (pronounced "leap") is designed to provide funding assistance to West Basin's public retail customer agencies to help fix irrigation and landscape problems experienced by their high outdoor water users.

Focusing on outdoor water evaluations, the LIEP program will look for leaks, broken sprinklers and pipes, and other water wasting problems in landscapes – uses that cause unnecessary runoff – and make recommendations for more efficient outdoor water use for residents and businesses.

Participating public customer agencies include County Waterworks District No. 29 and the cities of El Segundo, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach. All agencies are required by the State to reduce their water use 20% by 2020 in their individual service areas.

The USBR grant will enable the cities and County Waterworks district to determine high water users in their service areas through water bills and offer the free LIEP program that includes a site survey or evaluation, a list of recommended improvements and repairs, a recommended water budget and schedule, and water efficient rotating sprinkler nozzles that will provide a healthy and attractive landscape. The sprinkler nozzles alone provide at least 20% water savings, better wind resistance, less misting and evaporation, and virtually no runoff to the ocean. Other recommendations may include turf replacement with water efficient landscaping such as drought tolerant or native plants.

"The LIEP program will provide 10,000 nozzles and 400 landscape surveys, saving the local area an estimated 481 million gallons of drinking water over the next 10 years," said Gus Meza, West Basin's Senior Water Efficiency Specialist.

Additional funding for the LIEP program has been provided by the Water Replenishment District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and West Basin. The \$100,000 grant is part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's water use efficiency and water conservation program. The LIEP program is currently available and will be complete by October 2013.

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Since its formation in 1947, West Basin has remained steadfast in its commitment to ensuring water reliability. Faced with current and future water supply challenges, West Basin is implementing an award-winning Water Reliability 2020 program that will reduce our region's dependence on imported water by 50% by 2020. To learn more about Water Reliability 2020 and for information about free water purification plant tours and water efficiency programs, visit www.westbasin.org.