



## **WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT SEA LAB RESTORATION UPDATE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 14, 2012  
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REDONDO BEACH, Calif. — West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) reported an accidental leak of household bleach at its Temporary Ocean Water Desalination Demonstration Facility (Facility) in Redondo Beach on February 9, 2012. The District reported marine life loss to both the SEA Lab and the White Sea Bass Restoration Project aquariums.

At the time of the incident, West Basin immediately shut down pumps and established a lower volume, temporary, safe and secure supply of ocean water for the SEA Lab from West Basin's Facility. To provide the SEA Lab with the full volume of water needed to restore all aquariums to normal operations, West Basin has procured materials to build an interim piping system to supply the campus with a new source of ocean water. Establishing the interim system will allow West Basin to then send divers underwater to investigate the source of the leak and begin repairs.

West Basin has assembled a team of engineers and experts to develop a safe system that will allow the SEA Lab and White Sea Bass Restoration Program to return to their own intake pipe system. West Basin continues to coordinate with both organizations to address and resolve this situation as soon as possible. The SEA Lab has indicated they will continue their education programs and community tours.

West Basin estimates the interim ocean water supply for the SEA Lab aquarium will be in place within one week. The District cannot estimate timing for the leak repair until the cause of the leak and necessary repairs are determined by an underwater diving crew and team of engineers. West Basin will provide progress updates until the SEA Lab system is returned to normal operations. West Basin regrets this leak occurred and will work diligently to provide a permanent and safe solution.

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*West Basin Municipal Water District is committed to water reliability, water quality, sound financial and resource management, customer service, and environmental stewardship. West Basin is a recognized, international leader in the production of recycled water and has won several awards for its leadership, water recycling and water resource management. West Basin provides more than 30 million gallons of recycled water throughout the South Bay each day, replacing enough precious drinking water to supply 60,000 households annually. To learn more, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).*