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## **WEST BASIN DIRECTOR GLORIA GRAY FURTHERS WATER CONSERVATION, GREEN PROGRAMS, AND HELPS NONPROFITS RAISE MONEY**

Inglewood, CA—Encouraging residents to cut water use in their homes through upgrades to plumbing and devices, West Basin Municipal Water District Director Gloria Gray recently helped distribute 700 high efficiency toilets to residents within her division. Requests far exceeded the number of toilets available. To qualify, residents had to replace water-wasting 3-gallon toilets with the newer 1.2 gallon high efficiency toilets and must return their old toilet two weeks after receiving the new one.

The toilet distribution event was held at Hollywood Park on Saturday May 31, 2008 and required many hands. Director Gray arranged for local, community-based organizations to help distribute toilets at the event, including Parents for Unity, U.S. Vets, Sportsman Little League, and North Inglewood Little League. Together, the groups provided 43 volunteers to help, contributing 300-400 hours of their time. Inglewood City Council Member Danny Tabor volunteered his time in support of Sportsman Little League and Council Member Ralph Franklin also attended.

“This has been an incredibly successful event and the participating nonprofits should be proud of their contribution to reducing water use in our homes and lessening our dependence on imported water,” said Director Gloria Gray. “They’ve contributed to water conservation on a bigger level.”

High efficiency toilets make a huge difference in water use in the home. These 700 toilets will collectively conserve 9 million gallons of water every year. Just one high efficiency toilet saves 35 gallons a day.

Volunteers participated in marketing efforts and distributed flyers, managed traffic control, helped with registration and loaded devices into vehicles. The amount of funds raised by each group is proportional to the number of volunteers represented at the event.

Additional water and energy conservation devices were distributed at the event, including free compact fluorescent light bulbs from South Bay Energy Savings Center and water efficient shower heads from Golden State Water Company. The shower heads will conserve an additional 2 million gallons of water a year. With the Governor's recent announcement declaring California to be in a drought, which hasn't happened since the early 1990's, everyone needs to be conserving water in their homes and businesses.

Returned toilets will ultimately be recycled. Southwest Environmental Inc. was hired by West Basin to manage the program and, once the metal hardware is removed from the old toilets, the porcelain will be recycled into road and construction materials.

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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. For more information, visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).*