



West Basin Municipal Water District

17140 S. Avalon Blvd • Suite 210 • Carson, CA 90746-1296

telephone 310-217-2411 • fax 310-217-2414

For Immediate Release
May 11, 2006

Contact: Melinda Weaver
(310) 660-6217
(310) 218-2380

Assembly Member Engages the Future Visions of the Water Supply *Ted Lieu Tours the West Basin Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo*

El Segundo, CA – Assembly Member Ted Lieu and several local City Council Members visited the West Basin Water Recycling Facility to learn about water issues facing the region and the proactive approach West Basin has taken to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the future. West Basin’s service area includes much of the South Bay, which makes up a large portion of Assembly Member Lieu’s District.

Assembly Member Lieu was accompanied by his wife, Betty Chim from the City of Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. Mayor Don Suminaga and Council Members Margaret Estrada and Barry Waite from the City of Lomita, Council Members Don Szerlip and Steven Diels from the City of Redondo Beach, and Council Member Carl Jacobson from the City of El Segundo also attended to learn more about West Basin’s programs.

“We are so excited that Assembly Member Lieu and all of the elected officials were able to attend with their busy schedules,” said West Basin Director Carol W. Kwan, who invited Assembly member Lieu on the tour. “We have so many innovative programs here and we wanted to show them what programs we are implementing to ensure that the region has a safe, reliable and affordable water supply for future generations.”

West Basin described successful programs that have placed it at the cutting edge of conservation development in the region and illustrated how its innovative future approach to diversifying the water supply would decrease the area’s dependence on imported water from 79 percent to 44 percent by the year 2015. West Basin’s vision for ensuring water supply reliability

for its service area includes expanding its water recycling program and aggressive conservation efforts as well as integrating ocean-water desalination.

“It’s really amazing what West Basin has been able to accomplish,” Assembly Member Lieu said. “Water is such a critical issue in California, one that we’re striving to learn more about as elected officials. This visit really helped me understand what’s being done regionally to secure the water supply.”

The elected officials were given an introduction to each aspect of the multi-prong approach that West Basin uses to ensure a safe and reliable water supply – education, conservation, groundwater storage, water recycling and desalination.

“Water issues affect everyone in Southern California,” West Basin Board President William A. Baker said. “As one of the water agencies in the forefront of conservation, we welcome the chance for dialogue with our elected officials because it establishes a greater understanding that we all have a part in the goal of ensuring that our region has enough water for the future.”

The visitors completed their afternoon with a tour of the West Basin Water Recycling Facility, the largest facility of its type in the nation, which conserves 8 billion gallons of imported water annually.



Pictured (from left) are President William A. Baker, West Basin; Director Donald L. Dear, West Basin; Assemblymember Ted Lieu; Betty Chim, City of Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission; Director Carol W. Kwan, West Basin; Vice President Jose A. Fernandez, West Basin; and Director Edward C. Little, West Basin (not pictured).

(An electronic version of this photo is available upon request.)

West Basin is a public agency that wholesales imported water to cities, mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities and private companies in the South Bay and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, serving a population of nearly a million. In addition, West Basin provides the region with recycled water for municipal, commercial and industrial uses. Formed in 1947, West Basin is committed to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the region.

###