News Release

For Release: Immediate

Regional residents prove water-wise landscapes are winners

RIVERSIDE, CA – JUNE 16, 2009 – Inland Empire residents wanting to reduce water use in their yards can still have a lush and green landscape. To find out how, they often need look no further than just around the corner – at their neighbor's yard. With our region and the entire state in the midst of water supply challenges and shortages, seven local residents have proven that using California-friendly plants for landscapes not only look great, but conserve precious water resources at the same time.

The idea is quickly catching on. In recognition of their creative effort, Western and contest partners Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, and other participating water agencies recognized local residents on June 10 as part of the second annual *Western Water-wise Landscape Contest*. "This year's contest included an eligibility area of more than 1,300-square miles," said Western Board Member S.R. "Al" Lopez, on hand for the event. "With nearly 100 entries received, it's clear that customers want to help save water."

The winning contest entries for this year include**:**

- Regional 1st Place: Matt & Hillary Pruitt, Riverside
- Regional 2nd Place: Mariah Ho, Menifee
- Regional 3rd Place: Tim & Laura McPherson, Fontana
- Local for Western Municipal Water District: David & Leanne Austin
- Local for Eastern Municipal Water District: Mariah Ho
- Local for Inland Empire Utilities Agency: Tim & Laura McPherson
- Local for City of Corona: Doris Calderon
- Local for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District: Maryanne Johnson
- Local for Rancho California Water District: Bill Silverthorn
- Local for Riverside Public Utilities: Matt & Hillary Pruitt

Eastern Board President Ron Sullivan (third from left) and Western Board Member S.R. "Al" Lopez (fourth from right) recognize landscape contest winners.

"Conserving water during these times of drought remains one of the biggest challenges facing our region," said Eastern Board President Ron Sullivan, also on hand for the event. "All of the entries recognized illustrate that adopting water-wise landscapes can save water and look beautiful at the same time."

Western offers a complimentary copy of *Water Wise Gardening for the Inland Empire*, an educational CD that teaches how to save water with beautiful plants. Customers can pick up a free CD at Western's offices in Riverside and Murrieta. There is a limit of one CD per family while supplies last. For more information on how to be water-wise, call the Water Use Efficiency Hotline at 951.789.5086 or go online at wmwd.com.

Additional ideas, exhibits, resources and information can also be found at Western's water conservation garden, Landscapes Southern California Style℠, located adjacent to Western's office at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd. in Riverside; Eastern's brand new water conservation garden at 2270 Trumble Road in Perris; Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park at 6075 Kimball Avenue in Chino; and Riverside Public Utilities' Kathleen M. Gonzales Memorial Waterwise Garden at 3025 Madison Street in Riverside.

(more)

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Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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