# News Release

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## Western Helps Schools Save Money, Increases In Efficiency Stretch Region's Water Supply

RIVERSIDE, CA – September 1, 2009 – As classes begin for Riverside Unified School District (RUSD), Western Municipal Water District welcomes the newly-opened Frank Augustus Miller Middle School with nonpotable water to irrigate landscape and playing fields. This partnership between the school district and Western helps save RUSD money in irrigation costs, and at the same time, conserves more drinking water for the service area.

"Schools need to cut costs in these tough economic times, and our region needs to save valuable imported water," said John V. Rossi, Western's general manager. "By providing schools with a different source of water for irrigation, it's like jumping two hurdles in a single bound."

Nonpotable water is untreated water that has not been approved for consumption, but is a perfect source for irrigation purposes.

In addition to supplying non-potable water, Western is in the process of auditing six additional schools sites as part of its Water Use Efficiency Evaluation Program. Together, staff from both districts, review the irrigation systems and determine ways how they might be improved to reduce water consumption. The two site reports completed to date reveal that the school landscape maintenance personnel are doing a good job managing water on these sites. The report further states that specific improvements will result in water savings of nearly 1,000,000 gallons per year per site.

"Riverside Unified School District is pleased to have a community partner like Western Municipal Water District working with us to help save water and cut costs," said Ken Mueller, Director of Maintenance and Operations for RUSD.

Miller Middle School now joins Mark Twain Elementary and Martin Luther King High School as the third school Western provides nonpotable water to within the school district. Western is preparing to augment its non-potable water source with recycled water upon completion of the Western Water Recycling Facility upgrade to 3.0 MGD tertiary treatment next summer.

The tertiary-treated recycled water will be highly treated wastewater originating in local homes and businesses and represents a valuable new source of irrigation water for the District and its customers.

"An effective cost controlling measure in a period of severe drought, recycled water will help save millions of gallons of potable water, reducing the need for Western to import expensive drinking water," said Board President Tom Evans. "Savings for Western translates to savings for the customers we serve."

*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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