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**Press Release**

***RECYCLED WATER CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR AWARD GOES TO WRD***  
**Annual WateReuse Awards Ceremony recognizes industry leaders in recycled water**

TAMPA, FL – Today, the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) was among nine national leaders in the alternative water supply industry to be recognized by the WateReuse Association at the 2016 Award of Excellence Luncheon held in conjunction with the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual WateReuse Symposium. WRD, which manages the groundwater in the southern portion of Los Angeles County, was named Recycled Water Customer of the Year by the WateReuse Association.

“It’s an incredible honor to be regarded by leaders in the recycled water industry as a premier contributor to maximizing the use of this invaluable asset,” stated WRD Board Vice President, Rob Katherman. “We are particularly humbled to receive this award during a time when Californians have been faced with an epic drought that has increased the public’s desire for a locally reliable and sustainable source of water to replace imported water

The award was given to WRD for its use of recycled water at the Dominguez Gap Seawater Intrusion Barrier. The Dominguez Gap Barrier (DGB) is a recycled water project established over ten years ago in 2006 to increase the use of recycled water and protect the groundwater basins from seawater intrusion along the coast. The increased use of recycled water offsets the use of costly water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River which is injected into the ground to prevent against seawater contamination.

“WRD is grateful to the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power for nominating us in this category,” said WRD Board Treasurer Albert Robles. “Our success in reducing our reliance on imported water is a reflection of the strong partnership we have developed with the LADWP. I’m especially grateful to the City of Los Angeles for our unique collaboration to ensure our region strives to become more independent of imported water.”

In 2015, WRD used nearly 4,000 acre feet (1.3 billion gallons) per year of recycled water out of 7,000 acre feet of total demand to protect groundwater supplies for the Central and West Coast Basins. The City of Los Angeles’ Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant treats the recycled water using microfiltration and reverse osmosis before going through a disinfection process. The fully treated water is then conveyed to WRD’s Dominguez Gap Seawater Intrusion Barrier.

“For WRD, the partnership with LADWP regarding recycled water means more than using alternative sources of water,” explained WRD Board Secretary John Allen. “For years, WRD has been diligently working toward eliminating its demand for imported water from Northern California for replenishment of our local groundwater basins. With efforts such as the partnership between WRD and LADWP to use more recycled water, WRD is on track to achieve

independence from imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River within 3 years. Consequently, the groundwater supply will be completely locally sustainable.”

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*The Water Replenishment District of Southern California is the regional groundwater management agency that protects and preserves the quantity and quality of groundwater for two of the most utilized urban basins in the State of California. The service area is home to over ten percent of California's population `residing in 43 cities in southern Los Angeles County. WRD is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors which includes Willard H. Murray, Jr., Robert Katherman, John D. S. Allen, Sergio Calderon, and Albert Robles.*