



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:**  
Angelina Mancillas  
Manager of External Affairs  
Tel: 562-275-4231  
Email: Amancillas@ wrd.org

## **WRD Receives Groundwater Resources Association Kevin J. Neese Award**

**Lakewood, CA (Sept 29, 2020)** – The Water Replenishment District has been presented with the Kevin J. Neese Award from the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) for its Albert Robles Center for Water Recycling & Environmental Learning (ARC).

The Kevin J. Neese Award recognizes a “recent, significant accomplishment by an entity that fosters the understanding, development, protection, and management of groundwater.” The GRA is a statewide organization that is dedicated to resource management that protects and improves groundwater supply and quality through education and technical leadership. The award was presented at the GRA’s Annual Western Groundwater Congress event.

The Albert Robles Center is WRD’s landmark facility that will ensure a completely locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment. This facility, opened in August of 2019, produces 14 million gallons a day of advanced treated water which is used to replenish groundwater resources in the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins. Water from these basins provides 50% of the drinking water for the over 4-million residents who reside in Southern Los Angeles County. The project also features a state of the art learning center

ARC is the cornerstone of WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) initiative which reduced the strain on imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River by developing local recycled water into a resilient and drought-proof supply of water for groundwater replenishment. With its completion, WRD can provide half of the drinking water for the over 4 million residents from its service area without using a drop of imported water.

“We would like to thank GRA for selecting our project for this prestigious award. We would also like to thank our partners and recognize the support we received for this project from the community as well as local, state, and federal legislators,” said WRD Board President Vera DeWitt.

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*The Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been managing and protecting groundwater resources for 60 years. WRD manages two of the most utilized groundwater basins which provide half of the drinking water for over 4 million residents in 43 cities of Southern Los Angeles County. Through WRD’s Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, the District has developed a resilient and locally sustainable source of water for groundwater replenishment.*