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WRD’s 2026 Water Awareness Calendar Features 24 New Student Artists

Artwork encourages the community to appreciate and protect water resources.

Lakewood, CA – January 22, 2026 – The Water Replenishment District (WRD) is ushering in the new year with the release of its 2026 Water Awareness Calendar, which features conservation-themed artwork created by 24 talented student artists from across Southern Los Angeles County. The calendar, which is distributed to thousands of households across the county, serves as a practical reminder of the crucial role water plays in our daily lives and the need to protect it for future generations. The full list of winners and a digital copy of the calendar are available on the program webpage at www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest.

The Water Awareness Calendar is produced annually as part of WRD’s student art contest, which is open to kindergarten through 6th-grade students throughout its service area. This year, the contest also included in-classroom art lessons, where WRD staff engaged with students to connect the themes of groundwater and water conservation to their artistic expressions.

A panel of judges selected the artwork based on artistic creativity and ability to raise awareness about groundwater conservation, water preservation, and environmental stewardship. A record 1,500 pieces of art from nearly 125 schools were submitted this year, making the selection process competitive. Each of the selected winners is awarded school-related supplies and a \$75 gift card, which was generously provided by sponsorship funds.

“Each year, we are amazed by the incredible talent and passion of the student artists who participate in our contest,” said WRD Board President Sergio Calderon. “Their artwork inspires our community to take action in protecting our water resources. We are proud to celebrate these young ambassadors and all the students who participated this year.”

Starting in January and continuing throughout the year, the student artists will be recognized through a series of social media posts, in-classroom recognition events, and at the District’s annual Groundwater Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

The next art contest will open in early fall 2026. For more information on the program, visit: www.wrd.org/StudentArtContest.

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 Joy Langford, Rob Katherman, John D. S. Allen, Sergio Calderon, and Vera Robles-DeWitt.