

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Release

**WRD WINS WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION'S PRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC
COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAM AWARD**

Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project selected for outstanding outreach award

Chicago – Members of WRD's Board of Directors received the distinguished 2017 Public Communication and Outreach Program Award last week from the Water Environment Federation (WEF), one of the largest and oldest organizations representing water quality professionals around the world. WRD was selected based on their comprehensive and grassroots outreach campaign educating the public about the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP) currently under construction in a residential community in the City of Pico Rivera, CA.

"WRD is thrilled and deeply proud to be the recipient of the Water Environment Federation's recognition for our communications and outreach work in Southern California," stated Board President Rob Katherman. "Eliminating the need to import billions of gallons of water annually from the fragile Sacramento Delta and the Colorado River and developing local groundwater supplies is a mission that we believe everyone in California shares, and we are grateful to know that our efforts to communicate this message have been successful."

The future GRIP facility will use state-of-the-art technology to treat and purify billions of gallons of recycled wastewater annually (coming from the nearby San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant) so it can percolate into the local groundwater basin for domestic use later. The purified water will replace 21,000 acre feet of imported water WRD currently uses to replenish the District's groundwater supplies. The project will mark the fulfillment of WRD's Water Independence Now (WIN) Program, a suite of local water projects that will eliminate the District's need for imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River for annual replenishment of local groundwater supplies, which provide half of the water needs for 4 million residents of the 43 cities within the WRD service area.

"WRD is truly honored to be recognized for our achievements in engaging the communities we serve and raising awareness around the importance of our groundwater resources," said Board Treasurer Albert Robles, who represents the City of Pico Rivera and the surrounding cities. "For WRD, maintaining communications and transparency with our stakeholders about our work is fundamental to everything we do at the District."

"The Board of Directors thanks the Water Environment Federation for this award and for all of the work they carry out in connecting industry professionals, educating, and training water

leaders around the world,” stated WRD Board Vice President, John Allen. “WEF’s leadership across these areas is vital for continued advancements in the industry.”

The Water Environment Federation Awards are the most respected and prestigious awards in the water industry. The awards recognize the most creative achievements across an arena dedicated to protecting public health and the environment.

The Water Environment Federation is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 33,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. WEF and its global network of members and Member Associations provide water quality professionals around the world with the latest in water quality education, training, and business opportunities. WEF’s diverse membership includes scientists, engineers, regulators, academics, utility managers, plant operators, and other professionals.

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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.