RIVERSIDE, CA – July 27, 2011 – The way we define beauty and efficiency in our residential landscaping continues to evolve, as evidenced by the winning selections in the Fourth Annual Western Water-wise Landscape Contest. This year, 59 participants from as far away as Chino Hills and San Jacinto Valley submitted entries, showcasing their visions of how “Less Water Can be Beautiful.”

Contest winners were presented with their awards at Western Municipal Water District’s headquarters July 21.

Grand prize winning contest entries:
- **1st Place ($1,000)** Judith Carlson, Riverside (Riverside Public Utilities)
- **2nd Place ($750)** Patti Bonawitz, Murrieta (Western Municipal Water District)
- **3rd Place ($500)** Deby Anderson, Hemet (Eastern Municipal Water District)

Regional winners (each receiving $500):
- Elvira Ostrander, Corona (Corona Department of Water & Power)
- Scott Bradstreet, Wildomar (Elsinore Valley MWD)
- Lucas Giese, Rancho Cucamonga (Inland Empire Utilities Agency)
- Linda Richard, Redlands (San Bernardino Valley MWD)
- Joyce Johnson, Upland (City of Upland)

(more)
“We’re excited to see that the winning landscape was from our city,” said Riverside’s Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge. “It is a great example which shows other Riverside water customers that they too can have beautiful yards while still saving water.”

The event’s success, and the awareness generated about water savings, was the result of collaboration by 10 public agencies. “It was an honor to be able to partner with Western in this year’s landscape contest. How encouraging to see so many of our constituents interested in saving water, while at the same time beautifying their neighborhoods,” said Douglas Headrick, general manager of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. “We look forward to participating in future programs that encourage water conservation and build partnerships.”

A heightened dedication to water efficiency is important even in years when water supply is abundant. “Although we’ve had more rainfall this year in California, we must always be prepared for drought conditions in our region,” said Brenda Dennstedt, Western board president. “These landscape contest winners prove that being water efficient, saving money and having beautiful landscapes can all happen at the same time.”

“What’s been so helpful is to see that beautiful, appropriate landscaping can be a central part of everyone’s yard, not just for large estates,” added Philip E. Paule, EMWD board vice president. Paule represents the Hemet area, which earned third place in this year’s competition. “In fact, good landscaping really makes these yards look larger and more interesting.”

Residents interested in additional examples of landscaping appropriate to the region and climate served by participating water agencies have a number of options. They are invited to visit:

- Western’s water efficiency garden at 450 E. Alessandro Boulevard in Riverside
- Eastern’s water conservation garden at 2270 Trumble Road in Perris
- Inland Empire Utilities Agency’s Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park at 6075 Kimball Avenue in Chino
- Riverside Public Utilities’ Kathleen M. Gonzales Memorial Waterwise Garden at 3025 Madison Street in Riverside
- San Bernardino Valley’s water conservation garden at Cal State San Bernardino

Photos and addresses to the winning landscapes can be found at westernlandscapecontest.com.