**Western’s LEED Silver Building Status Highlights Commitment to Sustainability**

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Western Municipal Water District’s Administrative Office on Meridian Parkway in Riverside has been awarded LEED Silver for Commercial Interiors certification, an honor that highlights the District’s commitment to sustainability in water and other natural resources.

“Receiving LEED Silver certification is a prestigious accomplishment that speaks to Western’s commitment to sustainability and employee well-being,” said Western’s General Manager John Rossi. “Many of the items that qualified our building for Silver certification are healthful, green features that support both our employees and the environment.”

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized building certification program to distinguish exemplary green building design. LEED certified buildings integrate environmental sustainability into a building’s overall design, construction, operation and maintenance. Rossi added that when the District outgrew the old building it made more financial sense for the District and ratepayers to purchase an already-existing building at a lower cost than building one from scratch or expanding the facility. However, Western staff was committed to making sure the new building was able to be retrofitted to meet the District’s commitment to the environment.

Western’s LEED Silver certified Administrative Office has the following features:

- 20 percent of new materials used were made from recycled content, including desks
- Low volatile compound paints, coatings, floorings, adhesives and sealants were used throughout the building to protect indoor air quality
- Cork, which is used on the flooring in the space, is a sustainable, renewable resource and is produced without destroying any trees
- Natural light that pours through the work space minimizes the need for artificial lighting and is shown to improve employee productivity
- Low flow toilets, urinals and faucets in the building reduce water by 40 percent
- 85 percent of equipment and appliances installed are ENERGYSTAR
- Bicycle racks, changing facilities and showers provided for at least 5 percent of employees encourages alternative transportation resulting in healthier lifestyles, energy savings and decreased pollution

The District’s Operations Center, off of El Sobrante in Riverside, is also a LEED Silver certified building.

Western’s 55,000 square-foot building was prebuilt and purchased by Western in late 2010. The District’s goal was to prudently manage ratepayer dollars through leasing its old administrative building, located off of Alessandro Boulevard, to Riverside Community College District bringing in additional revenue for the District and its ratepayers. Additionally, the new office has nearly 6,000 square feet set aside for leasing, which will contribute to the District’s financial efficiency, and also serves as a community gathering place with public meeting and event space available.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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