RIVERSIDE, Calif. – With summer heating up and the return of drier conditions this year in Southern California, living a water-efficient lifestyle is critical to our region’s future. Western Water-wise Landscape Contest, created by Western Municipal Water District, showcases individuals who are water-efficient leaders in their communities. Winning landscapes incorporate both beauty and efficiency. The competition and its efficiency message are promoted to nearly 4 million people in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, from as far away as Chino Hills to San Jacinto Valley.

This year’s contest winners were presented Thursday, June 28, at Western’s office.

Grand prize winning contest entries:

- **1st Place ($1,000)** Rich Hirschag, Chino Hills (Inland Empire Utilities Agency)
- **2nd Place ($800)** Marianela Soberanes, Murrieta (Eastern Municipal Water District)
- **3rd Place ($600)** Martha Saenz, Riverside (Riverside Public Utilities)

Regional winners (each receiving $500):

- Perry Schaefer, Corona (City of Corona)
- Ellen Heraty, Menifee (Eastern Municipal Water District)
- Linda Wallace, Wildomar (Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District)
- Bette Fontana, Riverside (Jurupa Community Services District)
- Bonnie Renfro, Temecula (Rancho California Water District)
- Brenda Wolfe, Redlands (San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District)
- Rich & Suzanne Priebe, Riverside (Western Municipal Water District)
- Heidi Macpherson, Claremont (City of Upland)

Water efficiency is important even in years when water supply is abundant. “We must all continue to think about our water situation in California and focus on living efficiently to save as much water as possible in our region,” said Jeff Sims, Western’s deputy general manager. “The landscape contest reminds everyone about being water efficient in a way that saves money and shows you can have a beautiful landscape as well.”

According to Joseph J. Kuebler, EMWD board president, “Now that we’re starting to experience hot summer weather, we’re glad to see that our contest winners won’t have to increase their irrigation as much as their neighbors. Beautiful gardens and water-wise landscaping go together.” EMWD’s customers have consistently rated among the top-ranked contestants every year of this contest.

For more information about the Western Water-wise Landscape Contest visit [westernlandscapecontest.com](http://westernlandscapecontest.com).

(more)
Participating water purveyors include the cities of Corona and Upland; Eastern Municipal Water District; Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District; Inland Empire Utilities Agency; Jurupa Community Services District; Rancho California Water District; Riverside Public Utilities; San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Western Municipal Water District.

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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Western Municipal Water District regional winner, Suzanne Priebe, Riverside.

Second place grand prize winner and Eastern customer, Marianela Soberanes, Murrieta.

Grand prize winner Rich Hirchag, Chino Hills.

Eastern Municipal Water District regional winner, Ellen and Peter Heraty, Menifee.

Second place grand prize winner and Eastern customer, Marianela Soberanes, Murrieta.