Water Guardians Honored for Protecting Earth’s Most Precious Resource, Water

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Move over Superman and Wonder Woman! There’s a new superhero in town: Western’s Water Guardians, protecting earth’s most precious resource, water. Recently, Murrieta Western customers Earl and Patti Bonawitz joined the growing list of local Water Guardians who use water efficiently and urge others to do the same.

“Earl and Patti embody all the attributes we look for when honoring our residents as Water Guardians,” said Western’s Division 3 Board Member Brenda Dennstedt, whose area includes Murrieta. “For years they’ve practiced water efficiency principles and worked within the community to spread the message about the importance of being water wise. We couldn’t have chosen two more worthy individuals.”

The Bonawitz’s have been active in their community and savings water for many years. Earl sits on Western’s Murrieta Advisory Council, which meets quarterly to discuss water and community issues in Western’s Murrieta service area. Patti is a Master Gardener, and she also developed a water-efficient garden at her office, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Both work with their neighbors and others to spread the word about efficiency at home. In addition to being Water Guardians, they were recognized as Western Water-wise Landscape Contest Winners in 2011.

“We are honored to be recognized as Water Guardians,” said Patti. “Much of what we learned about outdoor landscaping and efficiency came from attending Western classes, resources, and events, and through the state and Riverside County Master Gardener Program, which gave us the skills to bring our ideas to life.”

The Water Guardian program was started in 2011 and honors Western customers who are leaders in water efficiency; Western takes nominations from community members, Western staff and board. Nominees are judged by Western staff and board members on several factors, including actively participating and advocating for water efficiency, serving as a community leader and setting an example of water use efficiency. To date, two Water Guardians have been honored: Geoffrey Dooley, Woodcrest Municipal Advisory Committee chairperson and Jenny Jones, owner of Chick-fil-A in Murrieta.

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