Riverside County Students Learn About Efficiency with Western’s New Education Program

RIVERSIDE, CA – April 21, 2011 – This month, Western Municipal Water District launched an innovative partnership with Discovery Science Center to provide a hands-on water use efficiency program to schools in its service area. The program, which aligns with the California Science Content Standards, is conducted in two formats: one an assembly-style, the other an interactive, two-session workshop.

The District intends to reach 2,400 students in this initial year of the program. Those slots filled up in less than a week.

“Making the most efficient use of our water supply is a priority of the District, and reaching kids early has long been a focus of our efforts,” explained Board President Brenda Dennstedt. “When Discovery Science Center approached us with a program that could deliver this message in an interactive and measurable way, while also meeting the state’s science standards, it represented a step forward in our approach. The response from teachers and students has been overwhelming.”

The assembly program engages students in the learning process by using a keypad system that provides both a unique element to the program and a means of measuring just how much information the students retain.

The workshop program consists of two highly interactive sessions that take place right in the classroom. Discovery Science Center provides an instructor who leads students through a series of water quality tests and instruction, including tests on pH, nitrate levels, and dissolved oxygen levels of various water samples.

Upon program completion, each student participant will receive a take-home booklet and a home water efficiency kit, valued at more than $20, compliments of Western. The booklet and kit are designed to extend the classroom program and encourage wise water use among students and their families.

Discovery Science Center is the largest provider of water education programs in Southern California, instructing about 112,000 students within Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and LA Counties. These programs focus on sources of water, water delivery, water quality, water conservation, the chemical and physical components of water, water-related technologies, and human impact on aquatic environments. Nationally, the Center ranks third in outreach, with over 220,000 students reached each year through its programs.