Media Statement

Western committed to efficiency and new local water source expansion even as state officials boost imported supply to highest level in 5 years

RIVERSIDE, CA – April 21, 2011 – The state Department of Water Resources on Wednesday said contractors of the State Water Project can count on 80 percent of the water they requested, the highest allocation since 2006. The improved short-term conditions do not signal an end to long-term water challenges for western Riverside County. Efficient water use is still the way of life for residents in this region.

“In addition to helping water consumers use existing supplies more efficiently, Western is securing your water supply by expanding new local water sources and integrating regional delivery systems,” said John V. Rossi, Western’s general manager. Western’s Board of Directors continues to invest in a more reliable water supply derived from local sources that include storm water capture, recycled water system expansion and groundwater cleanup.

Imported supplies from the ecologically unstable Delta and drought-plagued Colorado River are less reliable than in the past. The state water delivery system is aging and inadequate. Originally built to serve a population of 19 million people, California’s antiquated water delivery system now serves a population of nearly 40 million people.

On any given day, there is a 66 percent probability that a major earthquake will strike California’s water system, potentially cutting off water supplies to Southern California for months and causing billions of dollars of damage.

Despite a wet year, climatologists forecast significant changes to the way we receive water in the future. The state water system is not built to capture and store the flood that would result from water historically stored as Sierra Nevada snow pack arrives as rain instead.

Western is heavily reliant on imported water from Northern California for its drinking water. The agency reminds its customers and the public that there is no water to waste. “Most Western customers are doing a great job in using water efficiently. Regardless of the weather conditions at the moment, Western is committed to helping all of our customers to achieve and maintain efficient water use,” said Rossi.

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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