



The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

NEWS RELEASE

P. O. Box 54153, Los Angeles, California 90054-0153 • (213) 217-6485 • www.mwdh2o.com

Contact: Bob Muir, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT, FRIENDS OF UNITED NATIONS RECOGNIZE ENVIRONMENTAL, RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS ON WORLD WATER DAY

In celebration of World Water Day, the Metropolitan Water District and the Friends of the United Nations partnered to honor non-profit environmental groups and relief organizations for their leadership and work on providing clean and safe drinking water around the world.

Timothy F. Brick, chairman of Metropolitan's Board of Directors, and Irving Sarnoff, co-founder and vice president of Friends of the United Nations, presented certificates to representatives of several organizations during an event Monday at MWD's downtown Los Angeles headquarters. The event also featured photographer, author and former Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti.

International World Water Day is held annually March 22 to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The day was designated at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific freshwater aspect. For 2010, the World Water Day theme is "Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities."

Among the organizations recognized today were Agua Para La Vida, the Arroyo Seco Foundation, Children's Hunger Relief Fund, Coalition for Sustainable Africa, Engineers Without Borders, Environment Now; Environmental Defense Fund, Food & Water Watch, Friends of the Los Angeles River, Global Water, Green LA Coalition, Heal the Bay, Help the Children, International Medical Corps, Islamic Relief USA, Lifewater, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Mono Lake Committee, Natural Resources Defense Council and NextAid.

Others were Operation USA, Orange County Coast Keeper, Planning and Conservation League, Relief International, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, Safe Water International, Samburu Project, Santa Monica Baykeeper, Save Africa's Children, Seton Institute, Sierra Club,

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Southern California Watershed Alliance, Surfrider Foundation, The Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy, TreePeople, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Urban Semillas, Water & Sanitation Rotarian Action Group and Water Charity.

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The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a cooperative of 26 cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties. The district imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California to supplement local supplies, and helps its members to develop increased water conservation, recycling, storage and other resource-management programs.