



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California*

# NEWS RELEASE

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TOP NATIONAL CERTIFICATE PRESENTED THIS SATURDAY AT DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN; SPECIAL BIKE RIDE ALSO PART OF FESTIVITIES

**Visitor Center, Museum recognized by U.S. Green Building Council with platinum certificate, nation's highest recognition for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design**

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Diamond Valley Lake Visitor Center and the Western Center for Archaeology & Paleontology will be recognized Saturday for green building and development practices when they receive the country's highest acknowledgement for sustainable design and architecture.

The platinum LEED certification will be awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council at an 11:30 a.m. ceremony. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the standard for environmentally sensitive building design.

"This is great recognition for the architects and for Metropolitan in demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability," said Metropolitan board Chairman Timothy F. Brick, who will take part in Saturday's ceremonies.

Brick also will be leading a Metropolitan-sponsored bike ride around DVL that is open to the public. The ride on the Lakeview Trail will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until noon. Riders may go around the lake, a distance of 21.8 miles, or any distance they choose. Parking will be available at DVL's marina.

In addition, the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Water Conservation Festival also will occur Saturday. This event at the Visitor Center takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include exhibits on how to conserve water and California Friendly® landscaping. There will be drawings for conservation devices and activities for children, as well as workshops and demonstrations about water efficient programs and devices.

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The LEED award covers the entire 70,000-square-foot, 17-acre building complex. Among other features, the buildings are topped with one of the largest solar-panel installations of its kind, which provides nearly half of the facility's power needs. The panels also shade the roof from the hot sun, particularly important in summer when temperatures reach 100 degrees or more. The buildings have heat-blocking glass that also lets in abundant natural light, minimizing artificial interior lighting. When needed, interior lighting is controlled by a network of electronic sensing devices. Architectural tours of the buildings will be available.

Outside, the buildings are surrounded by native and drought-tolerant plants watered by drip-irrigation systems that use reclaimed water.

The buildings were designed and built by Los Angeles-based Lehrer + Gangi Design + Build. Making the presentation Saturday will be Lance Williams, executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

For further information contact Brian Tubbs at [btubbs@mwdh2o.com](mailto:btubbs@mwdh2o.com) or go to Metropolitan's Web site at [www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com).

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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.*