



For Immediate Release

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HOMEOWNERS LEARN TO SAVE MONEY AND WATER WITH FREE, BILINGUAL WATER-SMART GARDENING WORKSHOPS

COMMERCE, CA—Central Basin Municipal Water District, in coordination with 26 cities area cities, is offering a series of low-water gardening workshops known as *Gardening with Blue* or *Jardinería con Azul*. The free, bilingual workshops bring a hands-on learning experience to residents of the District. Instruction is led by members of the LA Conservation Corps, who help eager gardeners adopt landscaping secrets that will save them money, water and time.

“Landscape irrigation accounts for almost half of all the water Californians use at home,” said Director Ed Vasquez, President of the Central Basin Board of Directors. “Reducing the amount of non-native turf in your yard is an energy-efficient, water-smart way to increase your property's curb appeal and conserve our most precious natural resource.”

California-native plants and other drought-resistant species need very little water in order to thrive in Southern California's Mediterranean climate. Many of these plants bloom year-round, putting an end to the need to replant at the beginning of each new season. To get residents started, each workshop participant will receive a free California Friendly Plant.

Four Gardening with Blue workshops events have been scheduled during the month of May—California Water Awareness Month—and one Spanish-language series of *Jardinería con Azul* offered in the City of Norwalk.

UPCOMING GARDENING WITH BLUE WORKSHOPS:

Montebello - May 21 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call (323) 201-5564

Hawaiian Gardens - May 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Call (323) 201-5580

Workshop information and a full calendar of upcoming events are available on the Shut Your Tap! website, at www.shutyourtap.org.

About Central Basin: *Central Basin is a public agency that wholesales imported water to cities, mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities and private companies in Southeast Los Angeles County, serving a population of more than 2 million. In addition, Central Basin provides the region with recycled water for municipal, commercial and industrial uses. Formed in 1952, Central Basin is committed to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the region. For more information, please visit www.centralbasin.org.*

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“Serving Our Community”