



For Immediate Release

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**WATER SQUAD INVESTIGATIONS IS AWARDED
PROGRAM OF THE YEAR BY THE WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION**

Education program teaches 4-12 graders about the benefits of recycled water

Commerce, CA- One of Central Basin Municipal Water District's environmental education programs, *Water Squad Investigations*, has been awarded the "2008 Recycled Water Outreach and Education Program of the Year" by the WateReuse Association.

This prestigious award recognizes one program each year that has helped advance the use of recycled water by communicating its value to students and the public. Among a long list of criteria, the awards committee considers a program's originality, the effectiveness of the program to educate and raise awareness, and the leadership techniques used to implement the program throughout a community.

Since September 2006, more than 3,000 students have participated in *Water Squad Investigations*, learning about the importance of recycled water and its critical role in preserving local water supplies and the environment.

"Water Squad Investigations is one of the many great student education programs we have developed over the years for the students of our community," said Central Basin Board President Ed Vasquez. "With so many schools in our service area suffering from budget cuts, education programs like this one are one of the most important public services we can provide."

Developed in partnership with the LA County Sanitation Districts and LA County's Whittier Narrows Nature Center, the program features an action-packed field trip to the San Jose Creek Water Recycling Plant and the Whittier Narrows Nature Center. By the end of the program, students gain a solid understanding of how water recycling can help conserve valuable drinking water and other concepts of water reuse through multimedia presentations, hands-on activities and guided tours of the facilities.

"Through innovative, standards-based environmental education programs like Water Squad Investigations, Central Basin is helping teachers to teach and students to learn in a fun, hands-on manner," said Mark R. Moss, Central Basin's Education Manager. "This helps students to reduce their individual 'water footprint' in an effort to move all southern Californians toward a more sustainable future."

The award was presented at the annual CA Section WateReuse Conference in San Francisco on Monday, March 23.

"Sustainability Through Equity & Partnerships"

Note to Editor: Photos of the Water Squad Investigations Program and of the Watereuse Award Ceremony are available upon request.

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. ###

"Sustainability Through Equity & Partnerships"

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