



For Immediate Release
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Three Dams, Two Days, Numerous Treatment Plants and Reservoirs and an unbridled appreciation for where our water comes from

HOOVER DAM, Arizona/Nevada – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board President Gloria D. Gray recently toured the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) with Inglewood residents, business owners, media and educators to see the infrastructure and distance our water travels from the source to our taps here in Southern California. Water from the CRA serves an estimated 18 million Southern California residents.

The tour emphasized the amount of infrastructure and technology it takes to bring water here and the importance of maintaining a reliable water supply for the region. The CRA Inspection Trip is hosted by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the agency that built and owns the CRA. The CRA is 242-miles long.

“Guest who have the opportunity to view the Colorado River in person, seeing how far our water has to travel, and hearing about the history and development of our water supply brings home the urgency of creating more local, sustainable supplies of drinking water,” said West Basin Board President Gloria Gray. “West Basin is building reliability into our water supply by doubling water recycling and conservation and adding desalted ocean-water to our portfolio through our Water Reliability 2020 Program.”

President Gray also stated, “The guests on this tour were Inglewood residents, business leaders and educators who are concerned about future water reliability for our region and have committed to educating the community by assisting West Basin in spreading the message about the WR 2020 Program through community meetings, church assemblies, and neighbors.”

Thirty-five people followed the water’s path from Lake Mead at Hoover Dam, near Las Vegas, downstream along the Colorado River to Parker Dam, Whitsett Pumping Plant, and Copper Basin Dam west of Parker, Arizona, eventually passing through the Palm Springs desert and ending up at Lake Mathews in Southern California.

West Basin is reducing its dependence on imported water by doubling conservation and water recycling and creating 10% of its supply from desalted ocean-water. The Colorado River ecosystem has been in a drought for nearly a decade, with reservoir levels at half their capacity. One climate study predicts that Lake Mead may never again reach its water storage capacity due to climate change.