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February 26, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

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Palmdale Water District Officials Seek Federal Funding for Key Projects

While attending the Association of California Water Agencies' Washington D.C. Conference, members of the Palmdale Water District Board of Directors met with Congressman Buck McKeon, legislative aides for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, consultants for the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, and key federal agency officials to discuss federal funding for several top priority projects.

The Palmdale Water District (District) is pursuing several projects aimed at increasing the water supply reliability and quality of water for the residents and businesses in the City of Palmdale. Top priority for the District is the Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal project which would remove at least 270,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir and to build a grade control structure at Littlerock Creek. The project would increase local water supplies, provide greater flood control in the region, and protect the habitat of the arroyo toad (a federally-endangered species).

“Having the opportunity to discuss the merits of the Littlerock project and the multiple benefits the project will provide for the local community with officials at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was invaluable,” stated Jeff Storm, President of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District. “I believe our meetings in Washington have provided us with a solid working foundation that we hope to build upon as we move forward on this critically important project.”

In addition to the Littlerock project, the District also provided information on its water main replacement program which would replace 125,000 feet of deteriorating water pipelines. This shovel-ready project would conserve water otherwise lost to leakage, improve water quality, and decrease maintenance costs for the District and its ratepayers.

“We were very pleased with the response the District’s proposed projects received by the legislative aides we met with while in Washington, D.C.” commented Dave Gomez, Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District. “Our representatives and their staff were able to hear first-hand how projects like the water main replacement program would not only benefit the District’s ratepayers but also the local economy since it is a shovel-ready project and would create local construction jobs.”

Other projects on the horizon, including the construction of new groundwater extraction wells, will benefit from the meetings the District held in Washington, D.C. “I am a strong believer of being able to meet people in person to make sure they fully understand what we are trying to get accomplished in Palmdale,” stated Dick Wells, Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District. “Not only were we able to meet with other board members from water districts throughout California to discuss federal water issues, we were also able to meet with those that will have a direct impact on the projects we are pursuing.”

In addition to the previously mentioned projects, the District is currently developing a Strategic Water Resources Plan to provide it with a roadmap to develop regional water supplies. Upon the completion of the plan, the District will begin developing a Programmatic EIR related to the projects within the plan.

“As we pursue new projects and programs aimed at increasing water supply reliability for our customers, the need for federal agency officials and our Congressional representatives to understand the needs of our District is critically important,” commented Linda Godin, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District. “We have taken the initiative to meet with those in Washington D.C. and educate them on the pro-active measures we are pursuing to meet the expectations of our customers.”