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Contact: Amy Rocha

310-991-0032 | [amyr@westbasin.org](mailto:amyr@westbasin.org)

## **STUDENT WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2021 WATER IS LIFE ART CONTEST**

*West Basin Recognizes 15 Local Student Artists for Water-Smart Artwork*

**CARSON, Calif.** – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) announced the winners of its 2021 Water is Life student art contest. Local student artists created inspiring artwork that encourage others to conserve and use water more efficiently, especially important as California is facing drought conditions.

“We commend all of the students who participated in the Water is Life contest during this challenging school year,” said West Basin Board President Harold C. Williams, P.E., MSCE. “This program reinforces the importance of learning about water conservation at a young age. Student artists continue to inspire us through the creative art submissions we received this year.”

Nearly 450 entries were received from students throughout the West Basin service area, with one grand prize winner and four honorable mentions being selected in each of the elementary, middle and high school categories. The award winning student artwork can be viewed online: <https://www.westbasin.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-Water-is-Life-Student-Art-Contest-Winners.pdf>

### **2021 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS**

Elementary School Grand Prize Winner:

Steven Romero, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Towne Ave. Elementary School, Carson**

Middle School Grand Prize Winner:

Madisson Torres, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, **El Segundo Middle School, El Segundo**

High School Grand Prize Winner:

Laeci Callahan, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Leuzinger High School, Lawndale**

### **Honorable Mention Award Winners**

- Isabella Hernandez, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Centinela Elementary School, Inglewood**
- Yumie Lee, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Birney Elementary School, Redondo Beach**
- Landon Ahn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, **Center St. Elementary School, El Segundo**
- Emma Alversado, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, **156<sup>th</sup> St. Elementary School, Gardena**
- Avery Ertman, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Chadwick School / Alyce’s Art Studio, Palos Verdes**
- Megan Apolonio, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, **La Tijera K-8 Academy of Excellence Charter School, Inglewood**
- Anthony Padnos, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Manhattan Beach Middle School, Manhattan Beach**
- Victor Nava, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Will Rodgers Middle School, Lawndale**
- Lauren Jung, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Palos Verdes Peninsula High / Seoul Arts Academy, Rolling Hills Estates**
- Rebecca Melendez, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Lennox Mathematics, Science & Technology Academy, Inglewood**
- Christian Pasos, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, **West High School, Torrance**
- Sierra Nimnual, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, **Culver City High School, Culver City**

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Each winner is awarded a new Apple iPad, with Grand Prize winners additionally receiving a digital stylus pen and \$25 Apple Store gift card.

West Basin hosts the annual Water is Life contest to encourage third through 12th grade students to showcase their artistic creativity through the depiction of responsible water use in their homes, schools, and communities.

The contest is a collaborative water education program between West Basin and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). Winning artwork from West Basin's local contest will advance to Metropolitan's regional competition and may be featured in the agency's 2022 calendar.

For more information about the Water is Life Student Art Contest and the full list of awardees and artwork, please visit [www.westbasin.org/waterislife](http://www.westbasin.org/waterislife).

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*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that serves nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin provides imported drinking water, recycled water, and conservation and education programs. Through its Water for Tomorrow Program, West Basin is committed to protecting, diversifying, and securing our water supply for the future while continuing a history of innovation and industry leadership. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*