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**YOUNG LOCAL ARTISTS RECOGNIZED IN
LVMWD WATER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

(May 24, 2011 - CALABASAS, CA) Twelve local students were recognized as finalists in Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD)'s annual Water Awareness Poster Contest, during ceremonies today.

Interpreting the theme "Water is Life", the posters were selected from more than 2500 entries by elementary-school students from public and private schools within the LVMWD service area. The student artworks encompassed a wide range of artistic approaches – including watercolors, mixed-media, and crayon creations – all centering on the importance of water in our lives.

Families, teachers and school officials joined the students at LVMWD's board of directors meeting for recognition and celebration. Each finalist was presented with a personalized Certificate of Recognition.

The Ann Dorgelo Water Awareness Award, a perpetual trophy that honors the memory of a long-term member of LVMWD's board of directors in recognition of her commitment to excellence in education, was presented to the top finalist.

The trophy will be displayed at Bay Laurel Elementary School in Calabasas for the coming year, in recognition of the work of **Liane Lee**, a 3rd grade student in Mrs. Fedor's class. Liane's poster depicts a desert watering hole surrounded by assorted wildlife communally enjoying this resource. As her poster states, "Save Water...It's Precious".

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In addition, 11 more students selected for honors include-

Also from Bay Laurel Elementary school,

- **Avan Franklin**, from Ms. Brkic's 4th grade class. Titled "Every Drop Counts", Avan skillfully portrays a young boy delighting in raindrops from the sky with snow-covered mountains in the background.
- **Emma Brauer**, a 4th grade student from Mrs. Smith's class. Emma's poster presents brightly colored smiling flowers who urge us to "Conserve Water" as "Shorter Showers Make Happier Flowers".

Lupin Hill Elementary School, in Calabasas, had two finalists:

- **Khai Berry**, a 5th grader in Mrs. Hunt's class. Khai has been a finalist in previous years. His entry this year states, "Water Reflects Life" and realistically shows a young boy, a herd of deer, other native wildlife and plants surrounding a blue stream pool set in a barren rocky landscape, indicating that water brings color and life to everyone.
- **Anastasia Escalante**, from Mrs. Reynold's 5th grade class. This poster cleverly shows a row of colorful and wise owls on a tree branch asking " Whoo, whoo, whoo, whoo's going to save water? You!"

Round Meadow Elementary School in Calabasas was represented by three finalists:

- **Riley Jackson**, from Ms. Hyman's Kindergarten class. "We Need Water, Water Needs Us" states this straight-forward enjoyable poster depicting a young girl holding hands with a blue water drop.
- **Anna Keough**, a 1st grader from Mrs. Juarez's class. Anna creatively shows a water-wise garden with buzzing bees and fluttering butterfly beneath a bright yellow sun. Her poster encourages us to "Plant a Succulent Garden".
- **Ella Stonich**, a 3rd grader in Mrs. Mellick and Mrs. Saylor's class. Ella shows us a bright sunflower enjoying a gentle watering as it asks, "I use water wisely, why don't you?"

Sumac Elementary in Agoura Hills had one finalist:

- **Hunter Pearson**, a 5th grader from Mrs. Lorch's class. A previous finalist, Hunter skillfully shows a boy and a girl using water to help fill up a piggy-bank that looks like a globe. Entitled "Save Water – Every Drop Counts" the viewer is encouraged to help the Earth fill up on water rather than be wasted.

St. Jude the Apostle School in Westlake Village had one finalist:

- **Bernice Nguyen**, a 1st grader in Mrs. Hudson's class. Also a finalist last year, in this year's entry Bernice shows a happy girl decked out in raincoat, boots, hat and umbrella surrounded by buckets that catch the raindrops from the clouds above. "Save the Gift!!" reminds us all to use water wisely.

Willow Elementary in Agoura Hills also had one finalist:

- **Anais Larson**, a 5th grader in Ms. Pope's class. Using a dramatic a black background, Anais' poster shows a hand about to catch a water drop that looks like the Earth. Simply stated "Water is Life. . . So Save It" this poster clearly reminds us to be good water stewards.

Yerba Buena Elementary in Agoura Hills had one finalist:

- **Sarah Liang**, from Mrs. Sarno's 5th grade class. Sarah's poster states, "Save Water" as a young girl with a red umbrella happily frolics in a gentle rain shower. Colorful buckets, surrounding a stylish garden fountain, catch the rain drops.

All of the honored posters will join the artworks of past finalists on display at LVMWD's headquarters on Las Virgenes Road. The annual Water Awareness Poster Contest is part of the May celebration of "Water Awareness Month" and is one of LVMWD's many educational programs designed to instill lifelong water conservation practices in young people. Conservation is very important in this naturally arid region that has no natural water supply; where 100 percent of the drinking water for LVMWD's service area must be imported.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves nearly 70,000 residents in the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and surrounding unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County.

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