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

(May 25, 2010 - 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 proudly displayed at Chaparral Elementary School in Calabasas for the coming year, in recognition of the exceptional work of **Danielle Ovidia**, a 5th grade student in Mrs. Kaplan's class. Danielle's artwork dramatically portrays a barren land with a small figure attempting to drink drops of water from a pipe. The poster asks us "Can you imagine life without water?"

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The 11 other students selected for recognition include:

Bay Laurel Elementary, in Calabasas, was well represented with four finalists:

- **Ruby Henrikson**, from Ms. Echt's 1st grade class. Ruby skillfully displays a water saving garden, filled with flowers, vegetable plants, birds, and butterflies. "Save Water – Grow a Garden" her poster declares.
- **Alexandra Lee**, a 2nd grader in Mrs. Rudy's. Her poster, with large water drops, clouds, and a rainbow, brightly encourages the viewer to "Conserve – One Drop at a Time".
- **Denna Hadipour**, a 3rd grader in Mrs. Fedor's class. Denna presents a hospital room complete with water drop patient, nurse and doctor, that boldly declares "Water is Life – Save Water Save Life."
- **Ava Naziri**, a 4th grader in Ms. Kodama's class. With artistic precision, Ava created a dual scene comparing a parched landscape, complete with a lone thirsty figure that dreams of water with a plentiful water oasis. Ava's poster reminds us "Water is The Drop of Life. "

Yerba Buena Elementary, Agoura Hills, had two finalists:

- **Evelyn Chang**, a 5th grader in Mrs. Fleishman's class. This poster shows, in great detail with mountains, canyons, wildlife and flowing water, that "Every Drop Takes a Long Journey to Get Here . . . Conserve Water".
- **Julia Pfau**, also a 5th grader in Mrs. Fleishman's class. Julia's poster reminds us that "Wasting water is wasting life" as the sink taps flows showing fish and plants that depend on water.

St. Jude the Apostle School, in Westlake Village, also had two finalists:

- **Bernice Nguyen**, a Kindergarten student in Mrs. Andrea's class. In bright clear colors with flowers, the sun, a tree, butterflies and a young girl, Bernice's poster portrays how to save water by stating "I water our garden with my pail."

- **Evan Johnson**, a 2nd grader in Mrs. Wolfe's class. Evan's eye-catching poster shows a water-covered earth with a faucet. His poster's theme reminds us to "Save a drop today and keep the drought away."

Lupin Hill School, in Calabasas, had one finalist:

- **Evan Nicol**, a 1st grade student in Mrs. Kalbfeld's class. Evan's poster dramatically shows the earth's water dripping into a bucket as it turns brown. The poster emphatically states, "Love Earth? Save Water!"

Willow School, Agoura Hills, had one finalist:

- **Jenna Forston**, a 3rd grader in Mrs. McNamee's class. Using multiple images, Jenna shows ways water is needed from plants and trees, to birds, fish, pets and us. The text states "Water is Life – H2O Conserve"

Round Meadow School, in Calabasas had one finalist:

- **Lily Polvy**, a kindergartener in Ms. Hyman's class. Using powerful colors and theme, Lily's poster depicts a world with everyone, with hands linked, that needs water and her super hero, Water Girl. The text states "Water Girl Wants You to Save the World!"

All of the honored posters will join the artwork of past finalists on display at the water district headquarters on Las Virgenes Road. LVMWD's annual Water Awareness Poster Contest is part of the May celebration of "Water Awareness Month" and is one of the district'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 local water supply; where 100% of the drinking water for the LVMWD service area must be imported.

Las Virgenes Municipal Water District serves nearly 65,000 residents of the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village, as well as unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County.

NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos of the students at the awards ceremonies are available in digital format. Please e-mail your requested artwork to dlow@lvmwd.com