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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Water Providers Launch *WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest***  
**Recognition and Awards for Water Wise Landscaping**

The WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest is being launched to promote attractive and water efficient gardens in the County. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency and participating local water providers encourage residents to apply for the contest online to compete for an agency award and the countywide grand prize. Winners will have their landscapes featured online, receive a yard award, and more. Eligible residents may view contest rules and apply online at <http://www.WaterWiseSB.org/GardenContest/>. All applications are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Residents of single-family homes are eligible to apply if they reside in areas served by the water districts of Goleta, Carpinteria Valley, Montecito, and Vandenberg Village, and the City of Santa Barbara. Water Agency Manager Fray Crease said, “Despite receiving above-average rainfall last winter and significant increases in surface reservoir storage, continued vigilance of our water supplies remains a priority following the driest consecutive seven years on record in Santa Barbara County.”

Fifty to seventy percent of water use in an average Santa Barbara County home goes toward landscape irrigation. Water wise gardens can greatly reduce landscape water use, save money, and be beautiful and easy to maintain as well. There are dozens of easy ways to make a garden more water efficient, such as choosing water wise plants, installing a smart irrigation controller, or simply using the online Weekly Watering Index to adjust your existing sprinkler timer based on the weather. Visit [WaterWiseSB.org](http://WaterWiseSB.org) to learn about more ways to save water in your landscape and to apply for the WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest. *Let's Save Together!*

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The Network of Santa Barbara County Water Providers consists of the water providers across Santa Barbara County and the Santa Barbara County Water Agency. Together, these water providers sponsor programs that promote water conservation.

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EDITOR: For additional water conservation suggestions to use as sidebar material, please see the “Press” section of [www.WaterWiseSB.org](http://www.WaterWiseSB.org).