



### NEWS RELEASE

May 1, 2013

### May Is Water Awareness Month

The City of Santa Maria Utilities Department, along with other water agencies across Santa Barbara County, is observing the month of May as Water Awareness Month. Water Awareness Month helps educate California residents about water issues and encourages wise use of water resources. The goal is to develop an awareness of water and the need to conserve water throughout the City and in the environment.

This year, the Utilities Department sponsored its fourth Annual Water Awareness School Poster Contest to allow 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in the Santa Maria-Bonita School District to compete and create colorful posters symbolizing Water Awareness Month and show why water conservation is important to our community. Prizes will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and honorable mention winners, who will have the opportunity to display their colorful posters at City Hall and have them highlighted on the City's website, and local government TV channel.

Prizes have been generously donated by the following local businesses:

- Game Movers
- Marco Polo Pizza
- Emerald Wave Media
- Boomers
- Santa Maria Valley Discovery Museum
- City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department

The Utilities Department offers informative brochures on water awareness and complimentary water conservation kits and other promotional items such as toilet tank banks and shower timers. A 30-second PSA about Water Awareness Month is broadcast all month on Comcast Channel 23, the City government public access channel. To learn more about water conservation and money-saving tips, visit the City's webpage at <http://www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us/3115.shtml>.

For more information, questions regarding water conservation, or to schedule a home water audit, please call the Utilities Department at 925-0951 extension 7235.

**Department:**  
**Contact Person:**  
**Telephone Number:**  
**Email Address:**

**Utilities**  
**Myra Ritchie, Water Conservation Specialist**  
**(805) 925-0951 ext. 7235**  
[mritchie@ci.santa-maria.ca.us](mailto:mritchie@ci.santa-maria.ca.us)