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New Guestroom Toilets Help The Westin South Coast Plaza Become Flush With Savings

Luxury hotel is setting example for environmentally responsible behavior

COSTA MESA, CA, February 00, 2011 – The Westin South Coast Plaza will save nearly one million gallons of water and thousands of dollars annually as the result of installing 397 water-efficient toilets in its guestrooms and adding low-flow aerators to all of the hotel's faucets.

As part of the Municipal Water District of Orange County's Water Smart Hotel Program, Mesa Consolidated Water District (MCWD) and WaterWise Consulting, Inc. recently surveyed the Westin's indoor water fixtures, kitchen and housekeeping operations, heating and air conditioning equipment, and outdoor irrigation system. The surveyors also examined how the hotel informs guests of California's water challenges and the need to join local residents in being efficient with limited water supplies.

"We welcomed the study as part of our ongoing efforts to set an example for environmentally responsible behavior for other hotels and businesses," said Mike Hall, the hotel's general manager. "By retrofitting our toilets alone, we've saved the equivalent of 600,000 toilet flushes a year. That's good for the environment and for business."

The Westin has also received the Green Seal Environmental Standard for Lodging Properties for achieving stringent environmental and performance requirements – the only hotel in Orange County to receive the designation.

Additionally, the hotel has been certified at the Leadership Level in the California Green Lodging Program, an initiative of the California Dept. of General Services that promotes pollution-prevention practices in the tourism and hospitality industry.

Annually, The Westin recycles some 16,000 tons of paper, 6,000 pounds of glass, 900 pounds of aluminum, and 1,500 pounds of plastic. Each year for Earth Hour – the world's largest global climate change event – it shuts the power down in guestrooms floors based upon occupancy, and in vacant meeting spaces. The hotel uses candlepower to illuminate the Lobby Bar, and asks that guests turn off the power in their rooms.

Extensively remodeled, The Westin South Coast Plaza is now more than ever a leading choice for meeting and event planners nationwide, savvy business travelers, as well as leisure guests seeking a sophisticated, yet relaxing experience. The hotel's \$20 million renovation included new guestrooms that exude an inviting residential feeling and are furnished with a host of convenient amenities like high-speed Internet access, flat screen plasma televisions, the Westin "Heavenly Bed" and the relaxing "Heavenly Bath."

The lobby, public spaces and meeting rooms have been completely redesigned, and a Terrace Level with relaxing outdoor space and a striking 5,100-square-foot pavilion that features insulated walls, an air and heating system, new carpeting, an accent wall and new chandeliers was added. Other upgrades include a wedding gazebo to comfortably accommodate up to 250 people, and an expanded “Grab ‘n Go” coffee/bakery/retail shop to offer guests the ultimate in convenience.

The Westin South Coast Plaza, part of the Starwood Hotel and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. family, is located at 686 Anton Boulevard in Costa Mesa, California. For reservations and information, call (714) 540-2500 or visit www.westinsouthcoastplaza.com.

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