

**West Basin Municipal Water District  
Redondo Beach, California**

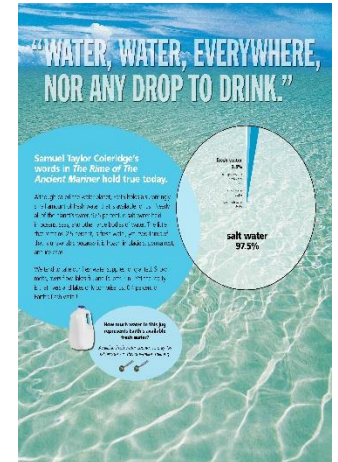
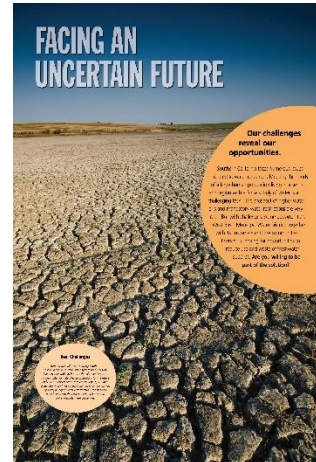


*In 2009, The Acorn Group was tasked with the challenge of converting a dilapidated utilities building constructed in the 1950s into a dynamic place of learning. The architecture presented certain challenges, as did the imperative to raise awareness of pressing water resource issues among a highly diverse audience.*

We worked with West Basin Municipal Water District to repurpose the beach-front building space as the new Water Education Center at SEA Lab. There, exhibits would focus on Southern California’s limited water supplies and the need for water conservation and reclamation.



This was accomplished by organizing the vacuous space into six “exhibit pods” that lend a more intimate tour experience among visitors and, in collaboration with Group Delphi, designing exhibits that engage visitors with interactive media, provocative text, and bold graphics.



Since all visitors are led on guided tours, we had the distinct advantage of controlling the order in which visitors experience the exhibits and build upon their knowledge base. The six “exhibit pods” correspond directly to the subthemes, beginning with media that “awaken,” moving to media that provoke new thought, and concluding with media that encourage commitment.

The Acorn Group created the exhibit plan; designed all the interpretive print media, including interpretive panels, photo essays, maps, and exhibit backdrops; created the exhibit renderings, and wrote the panel text.