



# ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

## MEDIA ALERT

[www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com)  
[www.gwrsystem.com](http://www.gwrsystem.com)



**JANUARY 12, 2012**

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### **GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY TO EXPAND ORANGE COUNTY'S WORLD RENOWNED WATER PURIFICATION FACILITY**

***Orange County's Sustainable Water Supply to Increase by 30 Million Gallons Per Day***

**WHAT:** The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Boards of Directors will officiate over the groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the 30 million gallon per day (MGD) Initial Expansion of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The \$142.7 million project will create an additional 31,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of new water supplies to serve north and central Orange County bringing the total production of the GWRS to 103,000 AFY, enough water for 850,000 people. Construction is estimated to be completed by fall 2014.

The GWRS, a joint project of the OCWD and OCSD, takes highly treated wastewater and purifies it through a three-step process of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide, resulting in near-distilled quality water. It is the world's largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, currently producing up to 70 million gallons of new water every day.

The GWRS Initial Expansion Project will consist of constructing additional microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light treatment equipment, pumps, electrical equipment and additional post treatment systems. A significant portion of the infrastructure was constructed in 2008 with the GWRS to accommodate the planned expansion including underground piping, pump stations and electrical systems.

**WHEN:** 12 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 (The 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GWRS)

**WHERE:** Orange County Water District  
18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
(714) 378-3200

**WHO:** Local, county and state elected officials, water retail agencies, and representatives from McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., Parsons, and Black & Veatch.

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**OTHER:** The internationally renowned facility has garnered more than 20 awards including the prestigious American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2009 Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award for the year's most outstanding national engineering project, and the Stockholm 2008 Industry Water Award for the year's most outstanding international water project.

**Benefits of the GWRS Expansion Include:**

- Provides Southern California with up to 31,000 AFY source of new, high quality water to meet the needs of 250,000 residents annually, bringing the total production of the GWRS to 103,000 AFY, enough water for 850,000 people.
- Decreases California's dependency on the State Water Project and Colorado River water.
- Produces water at one-half the energy currently required to import water into Orange County and one-third the energy to desalinate seawater, making the GWRS water more energy efficient than imported water or ocean desalination.
- Decreases the amount of wastewater discharged to the Pacific Ocean.
- Creates a new water supply for the groundwater basin.
- Improves the quality of the water in the groundwater basin.
- Postpones the need for OCSD to construct a new ocean outfall by treating peak wet weather storm events.
- Diversifies water supplies in Southern California, minimizing negative impacts resulting from current and future limitations on imported water supplies and/or natural disasters and droughts.

For more information about the Groundwater Replenishment System, call the Orange County Water District at (714) 378-3200 or go to [www.gwrssystem.com](http://www.gwrssystem.com).

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