



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

75 Years of Serving
Orange County's Groundwater Needs

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2008

CONTACT: Gina DePinto, (714) 378-3228
gdepinto@ocwd.com

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION *Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System Awarded for its Innovation*

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (July 28, 2008) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) received an Honor Award in the category of Design Projects from the International Water Association (IWA). This global recognition, which was part of the IWA Project Innovation Program for Excellence in Innovative Water Engineering, comes at the heels of OCWD recently receiving another internationally prestigious award, the Stockholm Industry Water Award. The IWA Honor Award acknowledged OCWD for its advanced water purification project, the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. The award will be presented at the Global Ceremony during the IWA World Water Congress in Vienna on September 10.

Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. (CDM) nominated OCWD for the award. CDM played an integral role in the project, serving as the lead member of the design team. The distinguished award recognizes excellence and innovation in water engineering projects throughout the world. Award nominations were evaluated with respect to multiple criteria: original or innovative application of new or existing technology; future value to the water engineering profession; social, economic and sustainable design considerations; the complexity of the problem or situation addressed; and exceeding client/owner needs.

“OCWD is proud to be recognized for its innovation,” said Stephen R. Sheldon, OCWD Board President. “The Groundwater Replenishment System fulfills our commitment to decrease our dependence on imported water and provides a new supply of water for more than 2.3 million residents of northern and central Orange County. OCWD has made a critical step forward during a time when California is facing a looming water crisis.”

Paul Brown, President of CDM’s Public Service Group noted, “The Groundwater Replenishment System is an important industry milestone, proving the large-scale viability of water reuse as a means of ensuring a sustainable, drought-proof water supply. Just as important, the collaboration between the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District demonstrates the effectiveness of integrated approaches to water management.”

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The GWR System became operational in January 2008 and is the largest water purification and reuse project of its kind in the world. It helps increase Orange County's water independence by providing a locally controlled, drought-proof supply of high quality water. The GWR System continues to protect the groundwater basin and also provides a new sustainable water supply for 500,000 citizens with room to accommodate population growth.

The Orange County Water District manages the large groundwater basin that underlies northern and central Orange County that provides most of the water for more than 2.3 million citizens. The District is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities utilize the groundwater basin managed by OCWD: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster and Yorba Linda.

For more information about the Orange County Water District and the GWR System, visit *ocwd.com* and *gwrsystem.com*.