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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER AND SANITATION AGENCIES RECOGNIZED BY
ORANGE COUNTY COASTKEEPER**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Sept. 18, 2008) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) were honored for their water stewardship by Orange County Coastkeeper at its annual gala held September 13, 2008. OCWD President Stephen R. Sheldon and OCSD Director Larry Crandall attended the gala to accept the Coastal Protection Award.

The award recognizes the agencies for their advances in protecting the water quality of the region's waterways, wetlands and coast. In addition, the agencies were recognized for the new, state-of-the-art Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. The GWR System became fully operational in January 2008 and is the world's largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, serving as a model for global water recycling projects.

"OCWD is honored to receive the water stewardship award from Coastkeeper," said Sheldon. "Coastkeeper was one of the very first organizations to publicly support the Groundwater Replenishment System, which provides Orange County with a new source of safe, clean water in an environmentally sensitive and fiscally responsible manner."

The GWR System is a joint project of the OCWD and OCSD that takes highly treated sewer water and purifies it through a three-step purification process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide, resulting in near-distilled quality water. The facility produces enough water to meet the needs of 500,000 people in northern and central Orange County.

OCSD Chairman Doug Davert added, "OCSD is proud to accept this award because it further recognizes the outstanding partnership between the Orange County Sanitation District and the Orange County Water District on an important project that benefits thousands of people throughout the county."

Orange County Coastkeeper is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of Orange County's marine habitats and wetlands through education, advocacy, restoration and enforcement.

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

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**OCWD/OCSD RECEIVE COASTAL PROTECTION AWARD
ADD 1-1-1**

About Orange County Water District

Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north-central Orange County that provides most of the water for more than 2.3 million citizens. OCWD is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly manner. With years of prudent planning and careful investment, OCWD has doubled the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin. OCWD is a special district established by the California State legislature in 1933 and governed by a 10-member board of directors. Separate from the County of Orange, OCWD supplies water to residents in the cities of 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. Go to www.ocwd.com for information.

About Orange County Sanitation District

The Orange County Sanitation District is a public agency responsible for safely collecting and treating wastewater (sewage) for 2.5 million people. OCSA beneficially reuses and recycles the treated wastewater and other resources resulting from the treatment process. It is a special district established by the California State legislature and governed by a 25-member board of directors. The directors are comprised of elected representatives for each of the sewer agencies or cities within OCSA's 471-square mile service area. Go to www.ocsd.com for information.