



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

75 Years of Serving Orange County's
Groundwater Needs

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES 2008 AGENCY OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM NATIONAL WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION

Groundwater Authority Named Top Agency for Water Savings, Leadership and Innovation

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Sept. 8, 2008) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) recently received the 2008 Agency of the Year Award from the WateReuse Association, a national organization whose mission is to advance the beneficial and efficient use of water resources through education, sound science and technology using reclamation, recycling, reuse and desalination. The District was awarded the “large” Recycled Water Agency of the Year award for reusing more than 5,000 acre-feet of water per year. OCWD shares this honor with North Texas Municipal Water District’s East Fork Raw Water Supply Project.

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) nominated OCWD for the distinguished award. OCWD was evaluated on seven key areas including advancement of water reuse through education, sound science, financing and technology; use of innovative applications; and effectiveness of District projects to address customer needs.

“Recognition from the water industry, our customers and our peers demonstrates how effectively OCWD has utilized innovation and technology to manage northern and central Orange County’s groundwater supply for the past 75 years,” said Stephen R. Sheldon, President of OCWD.

Paul Jones, general manager of IRWD noted, “OCWD has an international reputation of industry leadership that has contributed to solving many of the world’s water challenges by serving as an example for the utilization of innovative technologies.”

2008 marked an important year for the District as the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System became operational in January. The GWR System is a groundwater management and water supply project that supplements existing water supplies by providing a new, reliable, high quality, drought-proof source of water. The GWR System has quickly become the model for water agencies and municipalities around the world that are searching for solutions to dwindling water supplies and growing water demand.

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The GWR System purifies highly treated sewer water by using a state-of-the-art, three-step process of microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide disinfection. These same technologies are used to purify baby food, medicines and bottled water. The GWR System is environmentally responsible by reusing water that is normally discharged to the ocean, providing peak wastewater flow disposal relief and postpones the need for the Orange County Sanitation District to construct a new ocean outfall, probably indefinitely, by diverting treated wastewater flows that would otherwise be discharged to the Pacific Ocean.

Purified water from the GWR System is injected into the seawater barrier and percolated into deep aquifers, ultimately protecting and improving the quality of the Orange County groundwater basin and benefitting the region's self-reliance on local groundwater supplies. In turn, it reduces demand on imported water supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River, and uses less energy than transporting state water over the Tehachapi Mountains.

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, visit www.ocwd.com on the Internet.