



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

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECOGNIZED BY GROUNDWATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WITH KEVIN J. NEESE AWARD

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Oct. 3, 2008) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) was honored recently by the Groundwater Resources Association of California (GRA) with the 2008 Kevin J. Neese Award in recognition of its innovative groundwater management operations, particularly the development of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System.

The Neese Award recognizes significant accomplishments by a person or entity that fosters the understanding, development, protection or management of groundwater. GRA President Jim Strandberg praised OCWD for its leadership in groundwater sustainability and indicated that OCWD exemplifies the criteria for the award.

OCWD Board President Steve Sheldon accepted the award and remarked that, “the District is celebrating its 75th anniversary and that its accomplishments would not have been possible without its dedicated and professional staff.”

The OCWD is a special district established by the California state legislature in 1933 to manage the groundwater basin underlying northern and central Orange County that provides up to 75 percent 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.

In addition to managing the groundwater basin, OCWD operates the GWR System, a state-of-the-art water recycling facility that became fully operational in January 2008. The GWR System is the world’s largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, serving as a model for global water recycling projects.

The GWR System is a joint project of the OCWD and Orange County Sanitation District 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.

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