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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT HONORED WITH UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AWARD

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Jan. 21, 2009) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) was honored today by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with the 2008 Performance and Innovation in the State Revolving Fund Creating Environmental Success (PISCES) Award in recognition of its innovative groundwater management practices, particularly the development of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System.

The PISCES Award recognizes organizations that demonstrate leadership and innovation in Clean Water Act compliance and financial integrity. In addition each organization demonstrates a commitment to one or more of the following criteria: better management practices, full-cost pricing, efficient water use, watershed approach, innovation in financing, innovative approaches to project implementation and creative use of partnerships. OCWD was selected as the recipient for region nine of the 10 regions in the state.

“Being recognized with the PISCES award is acknowledgment of OCWD’s innovation, sound financial management, and commitment to water quality and sustainability,” said Stephen R. Sheldon, Board President of OCWD. “It also reflects OCWD's ability to address Southern California's long-term water supply problems in an environmentally-friendly manner with new water projects like the Groundwater Replenishment System.”

The District received the award for its excellence in water reuse as demonstrated by the Groundwater Replenishment (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, a joint project of the OCWD and Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD), takes highly treated sewer water and purifies it through a three-step 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.

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**OCWD HONORED BY EPA WITH PISCES AWARD
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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 residents. 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. For more information about the Orange County Water District and the Groundwater Replenishment System, go to www.ocwd.com.

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OCWD 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.