



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

75 Years of Serving
Orange County's Groundwater Needs

NEWS RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR

Fullerton Mayor Don Bankhead Appointed to OCWD Board of Directors

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Jan. 20, 2009) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD) officially welcomed James D. "Don" Bankhead to its Board of Directors on January 7, 2009. Mayor Bankhead was appointed to the OCWD Board by the Fullerton City Council to represent Division 10.

Bankhead replaces Fullerton City Council Member Shawn Nelson, who was appointed to the OCWD Board in 2002. Nelson was elected to the Fullerton City Council in November 2002 to fill the remaining two years of an unexpired term, and was reelected to a four-year term in November 2004. He served as Mayor in 2004-05 and 2006-07, and as Mayor Pro Tem in 2003-04. An attorney by profession, Director Nelson is a managing partner in the Santa Ana law firm of Rizio and Nelson.

"Shawn has been an asset to the Board and the residents of Fullerton for six years," said OCWD Board President Steve Sheldon. "While we will miss Shawn's professionalism and focus on OCWD's sound financial management and innovative strategies, we welcome the experience and leadership qualities in Don Bankhead."

Director Bankhead will continue to serve as the Mayor of Fullerton for 2009. He was elected to his first four-year Fullerton City Council term in 1988, and re-elected in 1992. He left the Council briefly in the summer of 1994, and was re-elected to a four-year term in November of that year, and again in November 1998 and November 2002. He served as Mayor in 2001-03, 1997-1998 and 1991-92, and as Mayor Pro Tem in 2005-06, 2000-01, 1990-91, 1993-94, and 1995-97.

Director Bankhead joined the Fullerton Police Department in 1957 and quickly moved up the ranks to be named a Captain in 1978. Director Bankhead retired from the force in September 1988. During his tenure with the Police Department, Director Bankhead earned an associate of arts degree in police science from Fullerton Junior College, a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's in public administration, both from California State University, Fullerton.

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Director Bankhead has served as President of the League of California Cities, Orange County Chapter, and as Immediate Past President. He has also represented the Fullerton City Council on many committees. He has been honored with a Paul Harris Fellow by the Fullerton Rotary - Main. He was also honored by the North Orange County Community College District as the 2002 Distinguished Alumnus of the College, and by the North Orange County YWCA as the 2004 Man of the Year.

Active in the community, Bankhead is a member of the Fullerton Rotary - Main, the President's Circle of St. Jude Medical Center, the Fullerton Elks Lodge, the American Legion, and the Fullerton Chamber of Commerce. He has also been a long-time supporter of youth activities, including local Little League and soccer programs, as well as the PTA and Boy Scouts.

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 its Board of Directors, visit www.ocwd.com.