



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Orange County's Groundwater Authority

10500 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Gina DePinto, (714) 378-3228,
gdepinto@ocwd.com

IN THIS DRY YEAR OCWD URGING NORTH-CENTRAL COUNTY HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS TO JOIN WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Sept. 18, 2007) – As an important step towards saving water, the Orange County Water District (OCWD) is urging north-central Orange County hotels, motels and restaurants to join its **FREE** water efficiency program. Water conservation is an important component to address California's current water shortage conditions.

The OCWD Hotel/Motel Water Efficiency Program is designed to help hotel and motel facilities cut down on expenses and water consumption, and improve customer and community relations, all at no cost. Offered free-of-charge to hotels and motels, OCWD's program includes attractive, laminated cards for hotels and motels to place in their rooms encouraging guests who spend more than one night to consider reusing their towels and bed linens. Similarly, the OCWD Restaurant Water Efficiency Program offers restaurants free laminated table tents to alert customers that water will only be served upon request.

In addition to free laminated towel rack hangers and/or bed cards, hotels and motels that sign up for the program also receive a free bilingual instructional video for use in training the housekeeping staff. This program allows the guests and the hotel or motel to be environmentally aware while reducing water use, lowering costs, saving energy and reducing pollution.

"Only about 230 hotels and motels in our service area currently are participating," said Ron Wildermuth, OCWD's communications director. "This program is a great way to save water and money in a critical dry year, and more service businesses should participate."

North-central Orange County hotels, motels and restaurants not currently participating in the program should call the OCWD Water Conservation Hotline at (714) 378-3221 to get started. Since the program's inception in 1999, approximately 50 percent of Orange County hotels and motels have participated in this program demonstrating their environmental responsibility.

-MORE-

**OCWD HOTEL/MOTEL WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM
ADD 1-1-1**

As a worldwide leader in groundwater management, OCWD plays a valuable role ensuring that a reliable, safe water supply is available from the very large groundwater basin that lies under much of Orange County. This basin provides 60 to 75 percent of the water needs for more than 2.3 million north-central Orange County residents through their local water retailers. OCWD's groundwater basin is one of the largest water storage reservoirs in Southern California, which helps mitigate against recurring droughts.

The Orange County Water District is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly manner. OCWD is a special district, separate from the County of Orange, which supplies water to retailers in the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Costa Mesa, 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, visit www.ocwd.com or call (714) 378-3200.