



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Orange County's Groundwater Authority

10500 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BESTOWED WITH HONOR OF
"OUTSTANDING MEMBER" BY THE AMERICAN MEMBRANE TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION**

OCWD Process Engineer Mehul Patel Also Awarded for His Work

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – (Aug. 6, 2007) The Orange County Water District (OCWD) and its process engineer, Mehul Patel, were recognized at the annual American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA) Conference & Exposition, held July 23-26 in Las Vegas. The District received the honor of "outstanding member" in recognition of Patel's contribution to water supply improvement for his work on the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System. Patel was also acknowledged for his leadership as president of the Southwest Membrane Operator Association (SWMOA).

"I was honored to be recognized by such a respectable organization made up of my peers and whose service is very important to the membrane industry," said Patel. Patel has been with OCWD for 11 years where he has been involved with the research, design, construction, and commissioning of the GWR System. Set to go on line fall of 2007, the GWR System is the largest advanced water purification plant of its kind in the world using microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and UV light with hydrogen peroxide. Patel has been involved with the project since its inception and regularly consults with industry experts from around the world.

"The Orange County Water District is an international leader in groundwater management, seawater barriers, and water purification and reuse," said OCWD President Phil Anthony. "OCWD continues to build its reputation with exceptional staff who are leaders in their field and committed to providing a reliable source of high quality water for Orange County residents now and in the future."

Patel helped form the SWMOA, for which he serves as its first president. The association, the newest affiliate of the AMTA, is dedicated to supporting the technical needs of membrane operators located in the southwest United States.

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OCWD AMTA AWARD
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The organization is committed to the education, training and networking of people involved in membrane technology, and serves as an information resource for elected officials, utility managers and the public who are using or considering using, a membrane based treatment plant.

The AMTA was formed originally in 1972 as the National Water Supply Improvement Association (NWSIA) and became the North American affiliate of the International Desalination Association (IDA) in 1986. The current name was adopted in 2000 to emphasize the organization's sole focus on membrane technologies from microfiltration to seawater reverse osmosis desalination. For more information on AMTA, visit www.amtaorg.com on the Internet.

For more information on the Orange County Water District, go to www.ocwd.com or call (714) 378-3200.

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Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north-central Orange County that provides most of the water for 2.3 million citizens. The 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, that 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 about the Orange County Water District, visit www.ocwd.com on the Internet.