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GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM HONORED WITH TWO NATIONAL ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS AND GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARD

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (June 30, 2009) — The Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System was recently honored with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement (OCEA) award for its creative, effective solution to water shortage challenges through the creation of the GWR System.

The most prestigious award given by the society, the OCEA is bestowed on the best national engineering project. The GWR System is a joint partnership of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD). On hand to accept the award was OCWD Director Denis Bilodeau and OCSD Chair Doug Davert.

“Sufficient water sources are not guaranteed,” said ASCE President D. Wayne Koltz, P.E., D.WRE, F.ASCE, “especially not in Southern California. The Groundwater Replenishment System is a safe, reliable option for meeting the increasing water demands of north and central Orange County, and it is an excellent example of how civil engineering can contribute to a community’s economic success, improve residents’ quality of life and protect public safety.”

The contenders for the 2009 OCEA Award included the I-35W St. Anthony’s Falls Bridge Project in Minneapolis, Minn.; the H. Clay Whaley, Sr. Memorial Water Plant in St. Cloud, Fla.; the Lake Brazos Labyrinth Weir in Waco, Texas; the Montagua Bridge in LaGarrucha, Guatemala; and the Elk Creek Tunnel Bridge located between Elkton and Drain, Ore. Previous winners have included the California State Water Project, Woodrow Wilson Bridge project on the Washington, D.C. beltway, the Golden Gate Bridge Seismic Retrofit in San Francisco, the Cape Hatteras lighthouse relocation in North Carolina and the Saluda Dam Remediation project in Columbia, S.C.

In addition to the ASCE award, the project received an additional honor for outstanding project design from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). The GWR System was given top honor over more than 160 projects recognized at the annual engineering excellence awards. CDM, the engineering firm responsible for the design of the project, was acknowledged for its efforts in the design of the project. More than 20 awards have been bestowed upon the GWR System project since it became operational in January 2008, including the 2008 Stockholm Water Industry Award, the highest honor awarded to water projects internationally.

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GWR SYSTEM AWARDED NATIONAL ENGINEERING, GREEN LEADER AWARDS ADD 1-1-1

In March, the GWR System was awarded the California Green Leadership Award for Water Management. The project was recognized for its efforts managing sparse water supplies in Southern California. “Initiatives like these keep California ahead of the curve when it comes to preserving the environment,” said Carl Smith, editor-in-chief for Green Technology. The Green California Leadership Awards recognize state and local agencies for innovative efforts to green the Golden State.

The GWR System, a joint project of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Orange County Sanitation District (OCS D), 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 each year.

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

-30-

About Orange County Water District

Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north-central Orange County that provides most 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 more than 75 years of prudent planning and careful investment, OCWD has doubled the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin. OCWD is a special district established by the California State Legislature in 1933 and governed by a 10-member board of directors. Separate from the County of Orange, OCWD supplies water to residents in the cities of 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. Go to www.ocwd.com for information.

About Orange County Sanitation District

The Orange County Sanitation District is a public agency responsible for safely collecting and treating wastewater (sewage) for 2.5 million people. OCS D beneficially reuses and recycles the treated wastewater and other resources resulting from the treatment process. It is a special district established by the California State Legislature and governed by a 25-member board of directors. The directors are comprised of elected representatives for each of the sewer agencies or cities within OCS D’s 471-square mile service area. Go to www.ocsd.com for information.