



# ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

75 Years of Serving  
Orange County's Groundwater Needs

NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (Sept. 17, 2009) —Orange County Water District (OCWD) Director Philip L. Anthony will provide the keynote address to more than 700 international water industry stakeholders who will converge for a joint opening session of the 12th International Riversymposium and REUSE '09 conferences in Brisbane, Australia on September 21, 2009. ([www.riversymposium.com](http://www.riversymposium.com), [www.reuse09.org](http://www.reuse09.org))

Mr. Anthony, who has served on the OCWD Board for 28 years and was a former Supervisor for the County of Orange, will share the challenges and successes the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) has had bringing together five diverse water agencies in Southern California that combined serve more than five million residents. Together, these agencies are able to sustain water supplies in an arid desert while balancing the needs of each service area.

SAWPA was born out of a regional collaboration following a series of lawsuits over water rights along the Santa Ana River. Though conceived out of litigious circumstances, it has grown to be much more, creating a model integrated regional approach to water management. So much so, that the State of California has designated 11 geographic areas in California and has called upon each region to implement their own solutions to the state's ever growing water crisis. This model program can be replicated worldwide, and is a vital approach when dealing with continually threatened water supplies and insufficient funding for new projects and infrastructure.

It is this kind of collaborative effort that also led to the success of OCWD's development of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, the world's largest advanced water recycling facility of its kind. Mr. Anthony led the effort at OCWD in working with the Orange County Sanitation District to build the \$481 million dollar GWR System, which produces 70 million gallons of drinking water from purified sewer water every day.

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## **OCWD DIRECTOR IS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT INT’L CONFERENCE ADD 1-1-1**

While similar advanced water recycling projects, were politicized and failed to get approved in nearby Los Angeles and San Diego, Mr. Anthony was vital to Orange County’s success in overcoming fears and myths about recycled water and defied critics by garnering support from every California state and U.S. Congressional elected official in OCWD’s service area.

“It took courage and vision for leaders to support the Groundwater Replenishment System,” stated Director Anthony. “Many elected officials put their reputations on the line to support the project. Sometimes doing what is right is not the most popular thing to do, but not having enough water would have been a less popular decision with far greater political repercussions.”

During his visit, Mr. Anthony will call upon Brisbane policy makers to take that leap of faith and be in the forefront to advocate for advanced water recycling facilities or what OCWD is coining as “New Blue Water” projects throughout Australia.

“Orange County has been a leader in water management, conservation, water recycling and diversifying its water portfolio,” added Anthony. “In addition to providing viable water solutions that can be modeled throughout California, we need to make sure we get our fair share of funding for future projects.”

The Orange County Water 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, visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).