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**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/OCWDWaterNews](http://www.twitter.com/OCWDWaterNews) links to pictures on **TwitPic**

**Web Site:** <http://www.ocwd.com/Water-Quality-Laboratory/ca-32.aspx>

### **STATE-OF-THE-ART WATER QUALITY LAB DEDICATED IN FOUNTAIN VALLEY** *Orange County Water District Conducts 350,000+ Water Analyses Each Year*

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY**, Calif. (Oct. 12, 2009) – The Orange County Water District (OCWD) is dedicating its new Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory on Oct. 15, 2009 at its Fountain Valley campus. With assistance from Butier and RNL Design, a special ceremony is being held to allow elected officials and key stakeholders to get the first look inside.

Designed by RNL, the modern two-story steel framed building houses chemists and lab technicians, water quality monitoring personnel and all the equipment needed to do more than 350,000 analyses of approximately 18,000 water samples taken each year. The new laboratory also supports the water quality testing requirements for the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System – the largest water purification project of its kind in the world ([www.gwrssystem.com](http://www.gwrssystem.com)).

The new facility replaces a 35-year-old building and several add-on portable trailers that OCWD has outgrown. Expanding and rehabilitating the old laboratory to meet seismic and other safety requirements would have been more costly than building a new facility that is needed to meet current and future water quality testing requirements. The new laboratory incorporated green building practices like use of locally manufactured materials with recycled components and low emissions of volatile organic compounds, and recycled water for onsite landscape irrigation. Key design strategies from LABS 21 (a federal government program to promote better laboratory design) have been incorporated into the design.

The groundwater basin is a critical source of local water supplies, currently providing 62 percent of the water needed for more than 2.3 million water users in northern and central Orange County. OCWD maintains a thorough groundwater protection policy that includes water quality monitoring, cleanup of contaminants, regulatory agency support, toxic residuals removal and hazardous waste management. Additionally, the District provides water quality information to regulators, other water agencies and the general public.

For more information, contact OCWD at (714) 378-3200 or go to [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).

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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, 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) on the Internet.*