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**ORANGE COUNTY ENGINEERS RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING
AWARD FOR GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Nov. 16, 2009) — A team of engineers affiliated with Orange County's Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, the world's largest water recycling facility of its kind, were honored last week with the 2009 Säid Khoury Award for Engineering Construction Excellence. The international award was presented in Kuwait at the General Assembly of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

The award recognizes an engineer or team of engineers for their noteworthy contribution to the development, planning, construction and implementation of drinking water, water management, water storage or water treatment infrastructure. Honored were Orange County Water District (OCWD) Director Denis Bilodeau, P.E.; OCWD General Manager Mike Markus; Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) Director of Engineering Jim Herberg; and Richard Corneille, P.E., from the engineering firm CDM. The team was nominated by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

“Over a decade in development, the elected leaders of OCWD and OCSD were visionary in their pursuit of the project and their understanding of water reuse and its potential as a new water resource,” stated George Tchobanoglous, Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of California, Davis. “The System has had a worldwide impact technically and socially in making indirect potable reuse a reality as a reliable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective supplemental source of water.”

The GWR System, a joint project of OCWD and OCSD, is a state-of-the-art water recycling facility that became fully operational in January 2008. The GWR System is the world's largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, serving as a model for global water recycling projects. It takes highly treated sewer water and purifies it through a three-step process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light (UV) with hydrogen peroxide, resulting in near-distilled quality water. The facility produces enough new water to meet the needs of 500,000 people.

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A Joint Effort of the Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District
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“The GWR System is truly groundbreaking in its uniqueness, and is the world’s largest water purification reuse project,” said Robert Bein, P.E., Chairman Emeritus of RBF Consulting and President Emeritus of the American Society of Civil Engineers. “The unprecedented system has already gained worldwide notoriety for its creative use of state-of-the-art technology to help solve the critical water needs of Southern California.”

Among its many awards, the GWR System has been honored with the prestigious Stockholm Industry Water Award and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award.

For more information about the Groundwater Replenishment System, visit www.gwrssystem.com.

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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.

