



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES \$64,719 FOR
SAVING ENERGY**

***Southern California Edison “Savings By Design” Awards Recognize Energy Saving
Commercial Building Design and Construction***

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Dec. 16, 2009) – Orange County Water District (OCWD) was recognized by Southern California Edison with an incentive check totaling \$64,719 for energy-saving strategies that were incorporated into the design of its new Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory. The Southern California Edison “Savings By Design” incentive program is available to businesses in Southern California that incorporate smart, energy saving designs in long-term facility planning for new structures. The statewide program offers cash incentives and free design assistance.

The check was presented at the OCWD Board of Directors meeting on Dec. 16, 2009 for superlative design and creativity, environmental sensitivity, and innovative energy efficiency solutions. OCWD’s Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory was dedicated on Oct. 15, 2009 at its Fountain Valley campus.

“Our engineers carefully planned the new lab to incorporate environmentally responsible designs that would save resources and reduce energy consumption that exceed the California Title 24 energy conservation standards by more than 10 percent, while at the same time holding to a tight overall project budget,” said Mike Wehner, OCWD Assistant General Manager. “Major energy savings were achieved in part through use of efficient air cooled chiller units (part of HVAC system), high efficiency fan motors, significant glazing efficiencies on the windows and a well designed lighting system.”

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 conduct more than 350,000 analyses of approximately 18,000 water samples taken each year. The new facility replaces a 35-year-old building and several add-on portable trailers that OCWD outgrew. In addition to the energy savings described above, the new laboratory incorporated green building practices including: north-south exposure built for maximum use of daylight, drought tolerant landscaping irrigated with reclaimed water, white roof to reflect heat, waterless urinals and recycled or locally made building materials. Finally, the building was constructed with paints, sealants, adhesives and composite wood that only emit low levels of a common class of pollutant known as volatile organic compounds.

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OCWD's lab monitors groundwater, drinking water, recycled water, Santa Ana River water, and imported water from the Colorado River and State Water Project. 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).

OCWD manages the large groundwater basin that underlies northern and central Orange County that currently provides 62 percent of the water for 2.3 million residents from Seal Beach south to Irvine. 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.

For information about the “Savings By Design” program, go to <http://www.savingsbydesign.com>.

For more information about OCWD, call (714) 378-3200 or go to www.ocwd.com.

-30-

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 on the Internet.