



Press Release

Presented by:



In Association with:

**Building Industry
Association of Orange
County**

City of Anaheim

City of Fullerton

City of Santa Ana

County of Orange

**Irvine Ranch Water
District**

**Laer Pearce &
Associates**

**League of Cities –
Orange County**

**Metropolitan Water
District of Southern
California**

**Orange County
CoastKeepers**

**Orange County
Sanitation District**

**Santa Margarita Water
District**

**Southern California
Water Committee**

CONTACT:

Darcy Burke, MWDOC (714) 593-5014, dburke@mwdoc.com

Gina DePinto, OCWD (714) 378-3228, gdepinto@ocwd.com

ORANGE COUNTY’S FIRST WATER SUMMIT A SUCCESS *O.C. Leaders Seek Answers to California’s Impending Water Crisis*

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (May 19, 2008) – Just as the Department of Water Resources announced that the average snowpack statewide is down about two-thirds of normal, more than 400 Orange County and state policy makers, and business, community and civic leaders gathered May 2, 2008 at the first Orange County Water Summit to learn where our water comes from, status of a water supply crisis and water quality challenges we face regionally and statewide.

The O.C. Water Summit was presented by the Municipal Water District of Orange County, Orange County Business Council and Orange County Water District. A second water summit is tentatively planned for September 2008, which the general public is invited and strongly encouraged to attend.

The program included experts like Chair of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors John Moorlach (2nd District), County of Orange Supervisor Pat Bates (5th District), California Assembly Member Mike Duvall (R, 72nd District), Congress Member Dana Rohrabacher (R, 46th District), Metropolitan Water District General Manager Jeff Kightlinger, and Sunne Wright McPeak, former Secretary of the California Department of Business, Transportation and Housing and current member of Governor Schwarzenegger’s Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.

“This type of event is extremely important because it serves to increase awareness of our state’s water supply issues,” explained California Assemblyman Mike Duvall, a champion of infrastructure and economic development. “Southern California residents and leaders need to understand that there are ways to address our water supply issues through innovative solutions and local projects, such as the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System, as well as statewide water conservation programs. We can’t continue to be reliant on San Joaquin Delta water that is subject to the whim of Northern California environmental activists and judges.”

-MORE-

**OC WATER SUMMIT
ADD 1-1-1**

Water supply imported into Southern California has experienced historic cutbacks with no immediate relief in sight. Attendees learned what temporary measures are in place, such as water reuse and conservation and efficiency programs, to address issues, as well as possible solutions to water reliability and preserving the Bay-Delta River, California's main source of water.

"The Water Summit was the first attempt to communicate with the stakeholders of Orange County about our water supply issues, and the dialogue will continue," commented OCWD Board President Stephen R. Sheldon. "In order to develop viable long-term solutions for future water supplies, the water industry and policy makers need to engage with the residents of Southern California and realize that not only is our water supply at stake, but so is our economic stability."

"We all came together at the Water Summit – business leaders, elected officials, water professionals, community leaders and concerned citizens to learn about California's water crisis, how it impacts Orange County and what we might do about it," said MWDOC President Wayne Clark.

A growing population and two years of below average precipitation spells trouble for California water supplies. Residents of Orange County and attendees of the O.C. Water Summit were polled about their knowledge of their local and state water resources. Results of the study indicate that the general public is unaware of the Bay-Delta, a major source of water for Southern California, and that the Delta water supply is threatened. About 35 percent of those polled believe that drought is the biggest threat to Orange County's water supplies, yet one good rainy season is not going to pull us out of the danger zone and experts believe we should expect more low precipitation in the coming year or two.

The second O.C. Water Summit is planned for later this year in Irvine. For more information, contact Darcy Burke (MWDOC) at (714) 593-5014 or Gina DePinto at (714) 378-3228.

-30-

EDITORIAL NOTE:

For a copy of the O.C. Water Summit Resident Survey results, please contact Gina DePinto at (714) 378-3228 or via e-mail to gdepinto@ocwd.com.