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THOUSANDS OF ORANGE COUNTY STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT'S 25TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (May 3, 2022) — Orange County Water District (OCWD) recently celebrated 25 years of educating students about water in a week-long virtual format. The Children's Water Education Festival (Festival), the nation's largest event of its kind, is a free virtual field trip featuring live and on-demand programs for Orange County's third, fourth and fifth grade students. More than 5,500 students from 80 Orange County schools tuned in from April 25 through April 29.

The award-winning Festival presents a unique opportunity to educate students about water-related and environmental issues that support Next Generation Science Standards. Through a series of interactive live and on-demand presentations taught by well-known and respected experts and organizations, students learned about a variety of environmental subjects and how they can make a difference in protecting our natural resources.

"We are proud to have once again reached so many Orange County students," said OCWD General Manager Mike Markus. "Staff did an incredible job producing a robust program that was educational and entertaining for students and teachers."

Nearly 30 public and private organizations participated in the 2022 Festival, offering eight interactive live presentations and more than 45 on-demand videos including 13 presentations from OCWD. Additionally, grab-and-go resources and activity worksheets accompanied the presentations and were available for students to download. Among the experts and organizations who provided presentations were former NASA Rocket Scientist Kevin J DeBruin, founder of VirtualSpaceClass.com; California Science Center; United States Environmental Protection Agency; 16-year-old tech innovator, Gitanjali

Rao; Scripps Institute of Oceanography; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; Disneyland Resort; and Endangered Wolf Center.

The Festival has educated more than 144,000 students since its inception. This year's event was supported by 20 generous sponsors.

About Orange County Water District

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 rely on the groundwater basin, managed by OCWD, to provide 77% of their water demands: 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 OCWD, please visit www.ocwd.com, like @OCWaterDistrict on Facebook, follow @OCWDWaterNews on Twitter, follow @OCWD on Instagram, and follow Orange County Water District on LinkedIn.

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