



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## THE FIRST OF FOUR PFAS TREATMENT FACILITIES IN GARDEN GROVE BEGINS OPERATION

**GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (May 24, 2022)** – The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and the City of Garden Grove began operating one of four treatment plants being constructed in Garden Grove to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from local well water.

PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade, heat-resistant chemicals that are prevalent in the environment and are commonly used in consumer products to repel water, grease and oil. Due to their prolonged use, PFAS are being detected in water sources throughout the United States, including the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which supplies 77% of the water supply to 2.5 million people in north and central Orange County. Despite playing no role in releasing PFAS into the environment, water providers must find ways to remove it from their local water supplies.

The Garden Grove facility, located at West Haven Reservoir, is among 36 PFAS treatment facilities being designed and constructed in Orange County over the next two years; Garden Grove's West Haven Well 21 is one of the first in the county to be completed and go online. OCWD is funding 100% of design and construction costs and 50% of operation and maintenance costs for its water suppliers like Garden Grove.

"OCWD and our dedicated staff work tirelessly to address PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin," said OCWD President Steve Sheldon. "Working together with our retail providers to ensure that Orange County's water supply remains among the highest quality in the nation is our top priority. I commend our staff on quickly and successfully completing this facility."

Garden Grove, one of 19 water providers that pump water from the groundwater basin, had five of its groundwater wells impacted by perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), prompting it to temporarily shut down those wells and transition to purchasing imported water from the Colorado River and Northern California. These wells are among dozens of wells throughout Orange County that were removed from service in 2020 after the state of California lowered the Response Level advisories of PFOA and PFOS; two legacy PFAS compounds no longer produced in the United States.

Using an Ion Exchange (IX) treatment system made of highly porous resin that acts like powerful magnets that adsorb and hold onto contaminants, the facility can treat up to five million gallons of water per day. During treatment, contaminants such as PFAS are removed from the water before it goes into the distribution system.

“The City’s top priority is ensuring that the water we serve is safe, reliable, and meets all state and federal drinking health standards,” said Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones. “We are very proud to have collaborated with OCWD to design and construct this facility that is so important to our residents.”

OCWD and 10 Orange County public water agencies filed a lawsuit against the manufacturers of PFAS, seeking to protect ratepayers and ensure that the associated costs, including but not limited to treatment and replacement water, are borne by the companies that developed and manufactured PFAS.

To learn more about your water quality and view a video about Garden Grove’s approach to PFAS, visit [www.ggcity.org/pw/water-quality](http://www.ggcity.org/pw/water-quality). To learn more about OCWD’s comprehensive and robust PFAS response, please visit [www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/pfas](http://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/pfas).

### **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](http://www.ocwd.com), like @OCWaterDistrict on Facebook, follow @OCWDWaterNews on Twitter, follow @OCWD on Instagram, and follow Orange County Water District on LinkedIn.

### **About the City of Garden Grove**

Centrally located in beautiful Orange County, California, Garden Grove is The OC’s fifth largest city, known for its vibrant diversity, deep hometown spirit, and dynamic vision for the future. Bordering the Disneyland Resort and its world-renowned attractions, the city’s Grove District – Anaheim Resort tourist center offers brand name hotels, restaurants, and the popular Great Wolf Lodge Southern California water park resort. The city is also home to the bustling Little Saigon and OC Koreatown commercial districts, and the center of the Archdiocese of Orange—the Christ Cathedral. About 20 minutes from Southern California’s most scenic beaches, Garden Grove offers convenient commuter access to Los Angeles and San Diego via the SR-22 Garden Grove Freeway. [www.ggcity.org](http://www.ggcity.org)

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