



NEWS RELEASE

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OC Water Supplier Responds to Grand Jury Report

OCWD Emphasizes Its Role in Providing a Reliable Water Supply to the Region

Fountain Valley, Calif. (August 28, 2014) — In May, the Orange County Grand Jury released a report entitled *Sustainable and Reliable Orange County Water Supply: Another Endangered Species?* As the region's groundwater sustainability agency, the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District), commends the Grand Jury's efforts to investigate and report on the complex issue of water supply and reliability in Orange County.

At the District's board of directors meeting on August 20 it approved an official response to the Grand Jury, an action it is legally obligated to perform. OCWD's responses to the report findings and recommendations recognized that the first priority for sustainable water resource management should be to maximize the recycled water supply and the District is doing just this.

In Southern California alone, 1.3 billion gallons of treated wastewater is lost to the ocean every day. Working together with the Orange County Sanitation District, the two agencies are maximizing this resource as OCWD expands the world's (already) largest water reuse project, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The project uses a three-step advanced purification process to treat sewer water to drinking water standards.

"In 2015, the GWRS will bring 100 million gallons of water per day to the region—enough water for 850,000 people annually," said OCWD President Shawn Dewane. "And we aren't stopping there; the District is also exploring the feasibility of a final expansion in an effort to provide continued water reliability to the region."

If voters pass a water bond in the November 2014 election, \$750 million will be available to possibly fund the final expansion, as well as other similar projects throughout California.

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OCWD's responses to the Grand Jury also emphasized its support for additional actions that would bring water reliability to the region including restoring imported water supplies to Southern California, exploring alternative water supply projects like ocean desalination, implementing additional water recycling projects throughout the region, and improving the coordination and integration of groundwater and imported water supplies in Orange County.

These responses underscore OCWD's commitment to appropriately investment in and plan for a high quality and reliable water supply for Orange County; a function is has been successfully doing since 1933. Through this endeavor, collaboration with other agencies, stakeholders and dedicated citizens, such as, the members of the Orange County Grand Jury, is critical. In fact, the new Grand Jury that began its term July 1 is scheduled to tour OCWD, the GWRS and the Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory in September. The District appreciates its engagement in an effort to advance water reliability for the region.

To read the Grand Jury's report, please visit www.ocgrandjury.org. Click on [OCWD's Grand Jury Response](#) to read the Districts official reply.

For more information about OCWD and the award-winning GWRS project, please visit www.ocwd.com and www.gwrsystem.com.

About Orange County Water District (OCWD)

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 72 percent 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.

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