



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OCWD HONORED AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON DROUGHT AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (June 3, 2014) — As the state of California faces severe drought conditions, increased attention is turned to local projects that provide reliable water supplies. For more than 80 years, the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) has been planning and investing in these types of projects and was recently honored on a global platform for this tradition of innovation. As the sixth recipient of the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize (Prize), an international water award, OCWD was recognized for its pioneering work in groundwater management and water reclamation using advanced water reuse technologies, as well as its achievements in public policy and community outreach.

As the highlight of Singapore International Water Week (SIWW), the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize honors outstanding contributions by individuals or organizations towards solving the world's water problems by applying innovative technologies or implementing policies and programs that benefit humanity. The 2014 Prize was presented to OCWD June 2 during an awards ceremony hosted in conjunction with SIWW, the World Cities Summit and Clean-Enviro Summit Singapore. OCWD 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Cathy Green accepted the award on behalf of OCWD and delivered the 6<sup>th</sup> Singapore Water Lecture about the District and its notable projects. Director Green is the first woman to give this distinguished lecture.

“This is a tremendous achievement for OCWD; we are proud to serve as a global leader in the water industry and to provide a roadmap that helps communities achieve water reliability,” said OCWD President Shawn Dewane. “We will continue to push forward and utilize science and technology to inspire innovation in water treatment and reuse worldwide.”

This award embodies OCWD's implementation of world renowned projects such as Water Factory 21, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), its groundwater management program, and the public outreach and support programs that paved the way for these many projects and continue to do so.

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In 1976, OCWD established itself as the pioneer in water reuse and groundwater management when it went on-line with Water Factory 21, the first facility in the world to successfully demonstrate that potable-grade quality recycled water can be reliably produced from treated used water effluent through an advanced water purification system. Since then, based on research and demonstration efforts by OCWD, a three-stage advanced treatment process of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide has been established as the standard for potable water reuse in the industry. This industry standard is otherwise known as the Groundwater Replenishment System: the world's largest advanced water purification system for potable reuse.

Operational since January 2008, the GWRS produces up to 70 million gallons of high-quality water every day, or enough water to meet the needs of nearly 600,000 residents in north and central Orange County, California. It is one of the most celebrated civil engineering and water reuse projects and serves as a blueprint for water agencies around the globe to help solve their local water supply issues. It has been replicated in the states of Texas and Colorado, and in the countries of Australia and Singapore, benefitting millions in the process.

OCWD is currently expanding the GWRS to produce an additional 30 million gallons per day. This will enable the production of 100 million gallons of water per day and will be complete in early 2015.

As the Lee Kuan Yew Prize recipient, OCWD received 300,000 Singapore dollars (approximately 238,000 U.S. dollars), a certificate and a gold medallion. OCWD plans to invest this money to develop an applied water research fellowship. This action affirms its commitment to further research into promising technologies that improve water quality and increase the efficiency of water treatment and recharge operations.

For more information about the Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize and SIWW, please visit <http://www.siww.com.sg/lee-kuan-yew-water-prize> and <http://www.siww.com.sg/>, respectively. For more information about OCWD, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com) and [www.gwrsystem.com](http://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 utilize the groundwater basin managed by OCWD: 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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*OCWD First Vice President Cathy Green Delivers  
Lee Kuan Yew Water Prize Lecture*