



## **FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

Gina Ayala (714) 378-3323, [gayala@ocwd.com](mailto:gayala@ocwd.com)

## **OCWD: DOING OUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (May 19, 2015) —Fulfilling the Orange County Water District’s (OCWD; the District) mission to provide a reliable, adequate, high-quality water supply to local water retailers serving 2.4 million people requires extensive operations and infrastructure that occupy thousands of acres of land. As a responsible landowner, OCWD is committed to using water efficiently and explores opportunities to increase conservation, especially during times of drought. Recently, the District received a turf removal rebate in the amount of \$347,606 from the City of Anaheim’s Public Utilities Department. The grant was provided through a partnership between the Anaheim Public Utilities and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s *SoCal Water\$mart* program, which provides turf removal rebates to assist customers with further reducing their water use.

Water used for outdoor irrigation accounts for approximately 60 percent of consumer water usage. It’s OCWD’s responsibility to take steps to decrease water used for its own landscape irrigation. The District’s immediate response to the drought was to curtail irrigation spraying and let turf go brown, but as a long-term solution it is looking for ways to replace old landscapes with native and water tolerant alternatives.

Maintaining an attractive, water-wise landscape is important to the District, which owns more than 1,100 acres of open space used for public recreation such as, parks, trails and lakes in Orange and Riverside Counties. The majority of property owned by the District is used to operate a complex groundwater recharge system that replenishes the groundwater basin it manages in north and central Orange County, and when possible, this land is used for both operational and recreational activities.

“The turf removal rebate will allow us to build a beautiful landscape that supports native species and once established, will demand little or no irrigation,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “OCWD takes many measures to prepare for and respond to drought conditions. This is an immediate step we can take and we are extremely thankful to our partners at the City of Anaheim for helping us implement this water conservation project,” she added.

-MORE-

ADD 1-1-1

OCWD: DOING OUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER

The District will use the rebate money to replace 172,303 square-feet of turf on frontage property it owns in Anaheim near the intersection of La Palma and Tustin Avenue. Key elements of the project include removal of non-native trees and grasses; re-grading an existing slope to add a pedestrian walkway along La Palma; planting the area with native, drought-tolerant species; and installation of a new water-conserving irrigation system. It is anticipated the project will be completed in November and will save over 16.5 million gallons of water each year.

OCWD will continue to do its due diligence to increase water-use efficiency, while also supporting its core mission to explore and implement projects that bring increased water reliability to Orange County.

For more information about the District, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com). To learn more about the City of Anaheim and its rebate and incentive programs for water conservation, go to [www.anaheim.net/savewater](http://www.anaheim.net/savewater). Demand for these programs is high and supplies are limited.

About OCWD

*OCWD 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.*

###