



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT WELCOMES NEW R&D DIRECTOR

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (October 19, 2015) — Dr. Megan Plumlee joins the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) as director of research and development (R&D). She will lead the R&D department in its effort to provide sound science and research state-of-the-art technologies. This critical work helps guide the District’s planning and investment decisions to bring water reliability to the region.

“Since the 1970s, the R&D department has been a source of pride for the District,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “Research staff has been at the forefront of emerging water technologies and has been instrumental in improving the efficiency of reverse osmosis membranes. We are honored Dr. Plumlee joined the OCWD family and we look forward to her advancing the District’s tradition of research and innovation,” she added.

The R&D department coordinates and conducts applied physical, chemical and biological research that supports and enhances the District’s core operational needs. Additionally, department staff researches and reviews promising new technologies to improve water quality and increase the efficiency of OCWD’s recycled water treatment and groundwater recharge operations. Staff also participates in scientific advisory panels, research advisory boards and project advisory committees to help guide external research efforts related to District activities.

Dr. Plumlee holds doctorate and master’s degrees in environmental engineering and science from Stanford University and a bachelor’s degree in chemistry with a minor in physics from Pacific University. She is a registered professional civil engineer in the state of California. Dr. Plumlee previously served as the manager of the applied research group at Kennedy/Jenks Consultants and as a senior scientist at Exponent, Inc. In addition to applied research, she has worked on projects for municipal and industrial clients spanning a wide range of topics including

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non-potable and potable water reuse, contaminants of emerging concern, costs for advanced treatment, tracer studies, groundwater resources, constructed wetlands, bench testing for water/wastewater treatment studies and much more. Dr. Plumlee has also authored and contributed to several peer-reviewed publications.

For more information about the District or its new R&D director, please contact (714) 378-3200 or visit www.ocwd.com.

About OCWD

OCWD is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities pump approximately 70 percent of their water from 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.