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**OCWD and OCSD Co-Sponsor Legislation Allowing Californians
to Taste Purified Reused Water**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (April 14, 2016) — As California’s drought persists and endures a fifth year, awareness is high that water supply projects must be implemented to create a sustainable water supply for generations to come. Assemblyman Rich Gordon (D-Menlo Park) recently introduced legislation [AB 2022](#) that will aid promotion and education about water reuse—a proven solution to solving water shortages. The bill is co-sponsored by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) and WaterReuse California and will allow the bottling of advanced purified drinking water to support this educational outreach effort. Currently, agencies are not allowed to bottle reused water because of the source, even though the end product meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards and undergoes more testing than other drinking and bottled water supplies. Consumers must visit an advanced purification facility in person to taste this clean, safe reused water.

OCWD and OCSD have partnered for over 20 years to plan, design, build and operate one of the world’s most advanced water reuse facilities, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The GWRS provides water reliability for the region by purifying 100 million gallons per day (MGD) of highly treated wastewater to increase the local drinking water supply for north and central Orange County.

“Advanced purified water is becoming a common tool for water suppliers as we diversify water portfolios to improve reliability, but the law hasn’t caught up to including treated wastewater as a reliable resource,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “OCWD has been operating world-renowned water reuse facilities since the 1970s, starting with Water Factory 21 and culminating with the GWRS. Thousands of people from around the world have toured the GWRS to learn about this advanced purification technology first-hand and taste the ultra-pure water. We have witnessed that tasting and seeing means believing and we support legislation to bottle this type of water,” she added.

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“Each year, billions of gallons of treated wastewater that would otherwise be discharged to the Pacific Ocean can be captured, reused and served as a safe and reliable source of water to help fulfill California's ever-growing demand,” said Orange County Sanitation District Board Chair John Nielsen. “The GRWS is using just a portion of this resource, but the potential for California to tap into it even further is tremendous,” he added.

The GWRS is the world’s largest indirect potable reuse project. The water it produces is used as a primary source to replenish the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which is managed by OCWD and provides 76 percent of the water supply to 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County. The GWRS takes highly treated wastewater and purifies it through a three-step process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. Ultimate capacity for the GWRS is projected at 130 MGD after infrastructure is built to increase wastewater flows from OCSD to the GWRS.

Water reuse projects like the GWRS and other alternative water supply projects are critical to developing a reliable water supply and will help California better weather cyclical droughts and water supply challenges. AB 2022 will help support an educational outreach effort, which is a critical step in the process of gaining the public’s approval for water reuse projects. The bottled water will be used as a means to further educate audiences about the cutting-edge technology that is being used to purify reused water to near-distilled water quality in their community. Public understanding of the purity of this water is seen as a key requirement for more widespread acceptance of potable reuse in California.

About OCWD

The 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 and receive approximately 76 percent of their water supply from it: 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 the Orange County Water District and its Board of Directors, call (714) 378-3200 or visit www.ocwd.com.

About OCSD

OCSD is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.5 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OCSD is a special district that is governed by a 25 member Board of Directors comprised of 20 cities, four special districts, and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. OCSD has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources.