



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Orange County Water and Sanitation Districts Invite the Community to Learn About Their Roles in Providing Water Reliability and Recovery**

**Fountain Valley, California** — On Saturday, August 13 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) and the Orange County Water District (OCWD) will open their gates to the public for a Community Open House featuring tours of the world’s largest advanced water purification facility of its kind, Orange County’s largest wastewater treatment facility, informational booths, educational activities and more. This **free** event invites community members to learn about the critical services these agencies provide that help sustain Orange County’s thriving economy.

How is wastewater collected and treated? Where does water come from? Can wastewater be purified into drinking water? How does the groundwater basin that underlies north and central Orange County provide 75 percent of the water supply for the region? These questions and many more will be answered by OCSD and OCWD engineers, hydrogeologists, chemists, biologists, operators, and many more who are among top industry experts.

“This event is truly an opportunity to meet residents and business owners, answer questions and talk to them about what we’re doing to provide a reliable water supply,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “California is in its fifth year of drought and it’s important for our stakeholders to know we’re doing all that we can to ensure water reliability for the region. We’ve maximized stormwater capture, expanded our recharge system, enhanced groundwater management, built water infrastructure projects, increased the production of recycled water, and, we continue to explore all future possibilities for alternative water supplies,” she added.

“The Community Open House is a great way for our community to get a behind the scenes tour of the Sanitation District and the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world’s largest advanced water purification facility of its kind. Most people are unaware of the amazing facilities that our agencies operate to generate renewable power, compost and pure water. It’s a real eye-opener,” stated John Nielsen, OCSD Chair. “The Orange County Sanitation District treats nearly 185 million gallons per day of wastewater out of that we send 130 million gallons of wastewater daily to the GWRS to be recycled. Through our partnership with OCWD in the GWRS, we are progressively moving closer to OCSD’s goal of 100% recycling,” he added.

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The event also includes a drug take-back program administered by the Drug Enforcement Agency, a viewing of OCWD's newly unveiled interactive exhibit at its H<sub>2</sub>O Learning Center, a compost giveaway, a free opportunity drawing to win prizes and much more. For more information and to RSVP for a tour, please visit [www.ocsd.com](http://www.ocsd.com) or [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com), email [forinformation@ocsd.com](mailto:forinformation@ocsd.com) or call (714) 593-7102 or (714) 378-8272. Event parking will be available at both OCSD, located at 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley; and OCWD, located at 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley. We look forward to the community's participation.

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**About OCWD**

*The Orange County Water District (OCWD) is an internationally recognized leader in the water industry and its international reach is growing. OCWD takes the limited water supply found in nature and supplements it to provide water to 19 cities and water districts who serve 2.4 million people in Orange County, California. Since 1933, when the California State Legislature formed it, OCWD has been entrusted to guard the region's groundwater basin. OCWD manages and replenishes the basin, ensures water reliability and quality, prevents seawater intrusion, and protects Orange County's rights to Santa Ana River water. For more information about the Orange County Water District call (714) 378-3200 or visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com). Follow us at @OCWDWaterNews.*

**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. For more information about the Orange County Sanitation District call (714) 962-2411 or visit [www.ocsd.com](http://www.ocsd.com). Follow us at @OCSEwers.*