



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

MEDIA ALERT

WHAT: Dedication of the H₂O Learning Center at OCWD (Orange County Water District; the District)

The H₂O Learning Center at OCWD (Center) is an interactive exhibit designed to teach visitors about Orange County's water management process and how OCWD supplies 75 percent of the water supply for north and central Orange County. The Center encompasses the exhibit and all of the educational aspects at the District including tours of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), tours of OCWD's Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory, Water 101 classes, workshops, public board and committee meetings, and vocational training and certification classes for water professionals.

As a global leader in groundwater management and water reuse, OCWD is a hub for people around the world to visit and learn about sustainable water solutions that could be implemented in their communities. Starting in the 1970s, visitors flocked to OCWD to learn about Water Factory 21, a first-of-its-kind water reuse plant. Award-winning groundwater operations also drew crowds to OCWD and today, more than ever, the GWRS is the main attraction. Hailed as a global model for water reuse, the GWRS has been visited by more than 34,000 guests since it went online in January 2008.

Recognizing the demand and need to create an educational center to continue to teach and collaborate with stakeholders, the District invested in bringing the H₂O Learning Center at OCWD to life. OCWD is excited to dedicate and open up this exhibit to the community. It hopes to bring visitors of all ages together to continue learning about the important world of water. Through this program it also hopes to inspire today's young leaders to become engineers, scientists and inventors.

WHO: The event host is the Orange County Water District. Guests in attendance will be from Orange County water agencies and cities, local elected officials offices, representatives from local chambers, OCWD staff and current and former board members, and members of the design team. The primary design team includes the Discovery Cube, Cinnabar Design Build and WateResources. Following is the event program:

- *Welcome: Cathy Green, President, Orange County Water District*
- *Introduction of the design team: Sean Fitzgerald, Vice President of Sales and Strategic Development, Discovery Cube*
- *Introduction of dignitaries and presentations: Cathy Green*
*(*At this time, staff from the offices of Congressman Ed Royce and Assemblyman Travis Allen will be present.)*
- *Ribbon cutting: OCWD Board of Directors, design team and dignitaries*

WHEN: Friday, August 5, 2016 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

WHERE:The Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, California 92708

MEDIA: Media representatives wishing to cover the dedication of the H₂O Learning Center at OCWD, please contact Gina Ayala at 714-378-3323 or gayala@ocwd.com. Interview requests may be made in advance or on the day of the event. Photo opportunities are available throughout the event's duration.