



# ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF DROUGHT, PUBLIC AGENCIES PARTNER TO INCREASE RECHARGE TO ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER BASIN

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (October 27, 2016) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD; District) and the Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD) dedicated Fletcher Basin on October 27 to increase recharge to the Orange County Groundwater Basin while strengthening flood control for the region. The project scope involved modifications to a flood control facility owned by the OCFCD in the city of Orange. OCWD manages the Orange County Groundwater Basin and uses a series of basins in Anaheim and Orange to replenish groundwater supplies.

Fletcher Basin, the 4.8 acre project site located near Fletcher Avenue and Batavia Street, was formerly used to retard stormwater flow prior to discharge into the Santa Ana River. The project, designed by Black & Veatch, included modifications to convert this basin into a joint water conservation and flood control facility. These modifications included excavation and disposal of existing soils, backfilling the basin with clean sand, and construction of a water supply pipeline and sump pump. The total cost of the project was \$5.6 million. A \$2.5 million grant was secured from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Measure M2, which subsidized the cost to \$3.1 million.

In addition to these benefits, OCWD and the OCFCD collaborated with Orange County Waste and Recycling and determined that the excavated materials to construct a recharge basin could be transported to the Olinda Alpha Landfill to be used as daily soil cover which is important for landfill operations.

“Basin construction and maintenance is extremely cost beneficial to capture rainwater and helps us gain a little more control of our local water reliability,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “This project is a shining example of how multiple agencies can work closely together to maximize resources to create multiple and impactful benefits for the region.”

Fletcher Basin is conservatively estimated to recharge more than 400 acre-feet of water into the groundwater basin annually. The cost of local groundwater is \$402 per acre-foot compared to \$1,022 for treated imported water. Over time, the savings of recharging water at Fletcher Basin will be significant for the region.

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**ENTERING 6<sup>TH</sup> YEAR OF DROUGHT, PUBLIC AGENCIES PARTNER TO INCREASE RECHARGE TO ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER BASIN**

OCWD operates a complex system of more than 25 recharge facilities so it can continue to provide a reliable water supply for the 2.4 million people it serves. 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: 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, recharge operations and its Board of Directors, call (714) 378-3200 or go to [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).

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