



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Samantha Dobrev, (714) 378-3268, sdobrev@ocwd.com

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION HONORS OCWD FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO WATER RESOURCES AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Dec. 6, 2016) — The American Water Resources Association (AWRA) recently awarded the Orange County Water District (OCWD) with the Sandor C. Csallany Institutional Award, for exemplary contributions to water resources and management. OCWD was given this honor for its creative vision and implementation of water reuse and its successful groundwater management.

Since 1933, OCWD has focused operations on recharging, monitoring and purifying groundwater as three main ways to protect and manage groundwater supplies in north and central Orange County. Surface water is collected from several sources and with the use of a system of pumps, pipelines, levees, and filters is added into the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which is managed by OCWD. Maintaining sustainable water levels in the basin, preventing seawater intrusion and continuous testing of water quality are all essential to monitoring and protecting the region's water supplies. In addition, OCWD's wetlands are used to purify water naturally, while its Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world's largest water purification system of its kind, purifies wastewater to supplement drinking water supplies.

The GWRS has been operational since 2008 and has already produced over 200 billion gallons of water. The project takes treated wastewater that would have previously been discharged into the Pacific Ocean and purifies it to meet and exceed state and federal drinking water standards. In 2015, the GWRS increased its water production from 70 million gallons a day (MGD) to 100 MGD and is currently working towards yet another expansion. The plan for the final expansion will increase production by another 30 MGD, to produce 130 MGD, which is enough water for more than 1 million people.

As a public agency, OCWD remains dedicated to proactive public outreach, engagement and education. The GWRS serves as a model for successful water reuse programs around the globe. Approximately 4,000 guests visit the plant annually to learn about the project, which provides a

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blueprint for other agencies to replicate advanced water purification technologies in their communities. OCWD has set an industry standard for advanced water purification projects by using a three-step process of microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide that results in the highest quality water.

“I believe OCWD has remained a leader in water resource management because we are always looking far into the future,” stated Cathy Green, OCWD President. “Our board and staff are committed to researching, testing and challenging methods and to finding more and better ways to help protect, conserve and expand our region’s water supplies. We are honored to be recognized by the American Water Resources Association for our holistic and forward-thinking approach to groundwater management and advancements in water reuse.”

AWRA has been dedicated to water resource management, research and education since 1964. The organization provides an avenue for those from a variety of different disciplines to come together, discuss and solve the issues facing water resources and management. AWRA annually recognizes institutions and individuals who distinguished themselves as leaders in the engagement of water resources. To view a complete list of the 2016 AWRA award winners, please visit, <http://awra.org>.

ABOUT OCWD

OCWD manages the vast Orange County Groundwater Basin which provides 75% of the water demands of 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County. 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: 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, call (714) 378-3200 or visit www.ocwd.com.

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