



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Samantha Dobrev (714) 378-3323, sdobrev@ocwd.com

SANTA ANA REAPPOINTS COUNCIL MEMBER SARMIENTO TO THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (February 10, 2017) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) recently welcomed back Santa Ana (the City) Council Member Vicente Sarmiento to its board of directors. Reappointed by the Santa Ana City Council (Council) to represent OCWD's Division 8 (Santa Ana), Director Sarmiento replaces Roman Reyna, a former Santa Ana council member who served for nearly two years on OCWD's Board of Directors (the Board). Director Sarmiento is no stranger to the Board as he previously served as a member from January 2013 to February 2015. During that time, he was the 1st Vice-President of the Board and also served on several committees, including Administration and Finance, Communication and Legislative Liaison, Water Issues, Property Management, and Retirement.

"We are honored to have Vicente Sarmiento serve on the OCWD Board of Directors again," stated Denis Bilodeau, OCWD President. "Water management is very complex and technical in nature. Having a community leader like Director Sarmiento, who is very knowledgeable about the subject matter and is an attorney by profession, is of great benefit to the District, Santa Ana and its residents. He is very well prepared to jump right in to address today's challenges that will have long-lasting impacts on the region's water reliability and quality for decades to come."

The District, established in 1933, has an annual operating budget of \$195 million. OCWD's pending future capital improvement and refurbishment and replacement projects over the next five years will cost approximately \$446 million. Director Sarmiento will be part of a 10-member board of directors responsible for protecting the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which requires extensive planning and investments to address short and long-term water supply challenges and environmental issues in north and central Orange County.

"I am very proud to serve on the OCWD Board of Directors again," stated Sarmiento. "The District is considered an international leader in groundwater management and water reuse. It is a

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**SANTA ANA APPOINTS COUNCIL MEMBER SARMIENTO TO OCWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADD 1-1-1**

privilege to be a part of a team that has implemented cutting-edge technologies that are helping to solve problems not only locally, but around the world as well.”

Director Sarmiento and his family have lived in and around Santa Ana since 1965. He attended John Muir Elementary, Sierra Elementary and Willard Intermediate Schools. Director Sarmiento now lives in a 1929 historic home in the Saddleback View neighborhood, three blocks from where he grew up. Presently, he and his wife Eva, also an attorney, are the principal owners of a law practice in Santa Ana. They have three children; ages 17, 14 and 11 whom they hope will learn the value of public service and contributing to their community.

In January of 2007, Director Sarmiento was appointed to the Santa Ana City Council to represent Ward 1. He was formally elected in November 2008, November 2012, November 2016 and is currently serving his third term. He also served as Mayor Pro Tem from 2014 to 2016.

Director Sarmiento is currently a member of several OCWD committees including Administration and Finance Issues, Communication and Legislative Liaison, Water Issues, and Property Management. He is also the Chairman of the Oversight Board of the Successor Agency to the former Redevelopment Agency for the City of Santa Ana. The Oversight Board has the fiduciary responsibility of handling the dissolution of the City’s former Redevelopment Agency. In his capacity as Councilmember, Director Sarmiento also chairs the City Council Committees for Development and Transportation, and Legislation; and he is also a member of the Finance, Economic Development and Technology Committee.

Director Sarmiento graduated from the University of California, Berkeley with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. More recently, he attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and successfully completed the Certificate Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Director Sarmiento was recently invited to become a Board Member for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies based out of George Washington University. He was also selected as one of fourteen leaders from across the country to join the NewDEAL, a national network that is committed to highlighting innovative ideas from state and local elected leaders who are pro--growth

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**SANTA ANA APPOINTS COUNCIL MEMBER SARMIENTO TO OCWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADD 2-2-2**

progressives. Director Sarmiento is also a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

OCWD's board is composed of 10 directors – seven elected from divisions that consist of cities throughout north and central Orange County, and three appointed to represent the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana. The nine other directors and their divisions include: Dina L. Nguyen, Esq., Division 1, a resident of Garden Grove; Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E., Division 2, a resident of Orange; Roger C. Yoh, P.E., Division 3, a resident of Buena Park; Philip L. Anthony, Division 4, a resident of Huntington Beach; Stephen R. Sheldon, Division 5, a resident of Newport Beach; Cathy Green, Division 6, a resident of Huntington Beach; Shawn Dewane, Division 7, a resident of Costa Mesa; James Vanderbilt, Division 9, a resident of Anaheim; and Jan M. Flory, Esq., Division 10, a resident of Fullerton.

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 Orange County Groundwater Basin managed by OCWD and receive approximately 75 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, please call (714) 378-3200 or visit www.ocwd.com.