



ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANAHEIM CITY COUNCIL APPOINTS NEW MEMBER TO THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (February 22, 2017) — The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) recently welcomed a new member, James Vanderbilt, to its board of directors. Director Vanderbilt has dedicated over a decade to public service and more than 20 years to military service. Director Vanderbilt was appointed by the Anaheim City Council, to represent OCWD's Division 9, which encompasses the city of Anaheim. The 10-member board of directors is responsible for protecting and maintaining the Orange County Groundwater Basin.

Director Vanderbilt currently serves as Mayor Pro Tempore of Anaheim and was first elected to city council in November 2014. He served on the Community Service Board for seven years, five years as member and chair of the Anaheim Planning Commission, and ten years as a board member and president of the Anaheim Elementary School District.

Born and raised in Anaheim, Director Vanderbilt has lived in the city nearly his entire life. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master of Public Administration degree with an emphasis in public finance from California State University, Fullerton. He has previously taught at the North Orange County Community College District, School of Continuing Education and now serves on the faculty of California State University, Los Angeles.

Director Vanderbilt is also a veteran of the U.S. Navy Special Warfare unit and currently serves as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Captain. During his twenty years with both branches of the military, Director Vanderbilt has participated in humanitarian missions in El Salvador and South Korea. He was deployed to Kuwait 2012-2013 to serve as an assistant Officer-In-Charge of a medical facility near the border of Iraq.

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 Vanderbilt will be part of a 10-member board of

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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.

OCWD is recognized as an innovator and leader in groundwater management. With the use of the Groundwater Replenishment System(GWRS), the largest in the world of its kind, the District helps to provide water to 2.4 million residents in north and central Orange County. OCWD receives treated wastewater from the Orange County Sanitation District, which would normally be discharged into the ocean, and purifies it to meet federal and state drinking water standards. The GWRS water is then used to refill the basin as well as fight seawater intrusion.

The District owns and manages 25 recharge basins, located in Anaheim and Orange. One of these basins, Burris Basin, is located at Anaheim Coves, a 14-acre joint park project between OCWD and the city of Anaheim. The Burris Basin is used for recharge and wildlife habitat area while Anaheim Coves allows residents and guests to enjoy the recreational park and river trail system in a beautiful environment.

“I am honored to be appointed to the board of directors at OCWD,” stated Vanderbilt. “I have seen firsthand the innovative work that the District does, particularly in Anaheim, with its recharge basins. I am very pleased that the District recently reaffirmed its commitment to environmental stewardship by allowing the city to expand Anaheim Coves for recreational use.”

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; Vicente Sarmiento, Division 8, a resident of Santa Ana; and Bruce Whitaker, Esq., Division 10, a resident of Fullerton.

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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.