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## ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

*Orange County's Groundwater Authority*

May 3, 2017

Dear Neighbor,

Formed in 1933, the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) manages and protects the Orange County Groundwater Basin, from which 19 north and central Orange County cities and water agencies draw three-quarters of their water supply, serving more than 2.4 million people. OCWD ensures the water it provides is safe to drink and meets or exceeds state and federal drinking water standards. Through a proactive groundwater monitoring and surface water program it protects the high-quality of water in the basin and identifies potential threats.

Starting in mid-May, OCWD will be working in your neighborhood on the South Basin Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study (RI/FS) over approximately five months. This project seeks to protect groundwater near the cities of Santa Ana, Tustin and Irvine. The study's goal is to establish an area-wide cleanup plan for the shallow aquifer that has been affected by decades-old manufacturing practices.

The upcoming phase of the project will include the installation of 24 monitoring wells that will allow for soils testing, water sampling and mapping of subsurface contamination. The 24 wells will be drilled in clusters at six locations in your area (*please see map on backside*). All six locations are in the streets and public rights-of-way. Work will take place Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Work hours may vary depending on city ordinances. No weekend or nighttime work will take place. Our agency will secure all necessary city encroachment permits and will comply with the respective city ordinances. At the worksite, equipment used will include sonic and hollow-stem auger drill rigs, pump trucks and other equipment and vehicles. For safety purposes, please avoid construction areas.

The RI/FS is a well-coordinated, united effort with regional and state environmental regulatory agencies including the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). These two state agencies are working closely with OCWD and some cooperative potentially responsible parties to map the occurrence of the contaminants, identify appropriate remedies and implement groundwater cleanup.

Please be assured that your water is safe to drink and that OCWD is committed to working with the community to solve threats to groundwater. The District implements a comprehensive water quality monitoring and testing program, testing for more than 500 compounds, many more than required by state and federal laws and regulations. It tests water from approximately 1,500 locations throughout the basin, analyzes more than 20,000 samples each year and reports more than 400,000 results. Together, we can ensure a clean and reliable water supply, protect ratepayers and protect long-term property values.

We apologize for the temporary inconvenience this project may cause and thank you for your patience. Please note the work schedule may change due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. For more information including project updates, please call the OCWD Construction Hotline at (714) 378-8244 or email [info@ocwd.com](mailto:info@ocwd.com). For additional project information, please visit our website, [www.ocwd.com/newsevents/construction-updates](http://www.ocwd.com/newsevents/construction-updates). For information about the overall South Basin Groundwater Protection Project, visit <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/groundwater-cleanup/south-basin>. Si tiene preguntas en Español, favor de llamar a (714) 378-8244.

Sincerely,

Gina Ayala  
Principal Communications Specialist  
Orange County Water District

