



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Gina Ayala, (714) 378-3323, gayala@ocwd.com

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT JOINS ADOPT A CHANNEL PROGRAM



Left to right: Orange County Water District (OCWD) President Denis Bilodeau, OC Public Works Environmental Resources Specialist Stormwater Compliance Kimberly Buss, OCWD Director James Vanderbilt, Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) participants Milton Ornelas and Steven Segura, and OCCC Project Manager Jeremy Newton.

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (May 22, 2017) – The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) has recently joined the County of Orange Adopt A Channel program; adopting an 8-mile section extending approximately from Imperial Highway in Anaheim to Chapman Avenue in the city of Orange.

This area consists of both a 6-mile OCWD-owned portion of the Santa Ana River channel and a 2-mile portion owned by the OC Flood Control District (OCFCD) where OCWD conducts recharge operations—infiltrating Santa Ana River water to the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The groundwater basin supplies 75 percent of the water needs for north and central Orange County.

“The Santa Ana River flood control channel plays an important role in putting water back into the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which OCWD manages,” said Orange County Water District Board President Denis Bilodeau. “It is with civic pride that we joined the Adopt A Channel program to maintain the area’s appearance and help keep harmful debris from injuring wildlife and entering our precious ocean.”

The OCFCD, through OC Public Works, operates and maintains more than 380 miles of regional and sub-regional flood control channels in Orange County. These channels provide a vital service protecting property and life by transporting stormwater runoff to prevent flooding of nearby communities. While they convey stormwater runoff, these channels also collect trash and debris and are subject to graffiti.

The objectives of the Adopt A Channel program are “to improve the physical appearance of these channels, enhance the environment by removing trash and debris, and to increase awareness and commitment to keep our channels, creeks, bays and ocean clean.”

-MORE-

OCWD: Adopt A Channel
ADD 1-1-1

As an Adopt A Channel program participant, OCWD entered into a contract with the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC) to remove graffiti and trash, in the 8-mile section, under the supervision of OC Public Works. The OCCC is a voluntary work and learn program that provides opportunity for at-risk and disadvantaged youths, age 18 to 25. Any issues related to homeless encampments in this area of the flood control channel will continue to be addressed by the County of Orange.

The District's annual cost to participate in the Adopt A Channel program is \$18,576.

The County of Orange launched the Adopt A Channel program in 2014. It is patterned after Caltrans' Adopt-A-Highway program. For additional information about the Adopt A Channel program, visit https://cms.ocgov.com/gov/pw/watersheds/programs/waterways/adopt_a_channel/default.asp

About Orange County Water District (OCWD)

The Orange County Water District is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities rely on the groundwater basin, managed by OCWD, to provide 75 percent of their water demands: 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.

About the Orange County Conservation Corps

The Orange County Conservation Corps is a 501(c)(3) founded in 1993 as part of the Anaheim anti-gang task force. Its program grants the Corpsmembers a chance to earn a living while learning valuable employment skills through job training and attending its on-site charter school to earn their high school diploma. OCCC is affiliated with the California Association of Local Conservation Corps, The Corps Network, and other youth service organizations. Funding is provided through the California Department of Conservation as well as individual and corporate contributions, grants, contracts and entrepreneurial projects.

###