



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Orange County Water District Ensures High-Quality Water & Aids EPA Effort to Monitor Contaminants of Emerging Concern

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (June 29, 2017) - One of a small number of public agency laboratories in the nation implementing the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Unregulated Contaminant Rule 4 (UCMR4) program, the Orange County Water District's (OCWD; the District) lab will begin UCMR4 monitoring on behalf of the 19 retail water agencies it serves in January 2018.

The OCWD laboratory received official approval certificates from EPA for all seven required inorganic and organic chemical testing methods required for UCMR4 on the basis of successful proficiency test results. Using these methods, along with contract lab services for the three required cyanotoxin methods, the District will monitor for the required 30 currently unregulated contaminants. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. EPA thereby collects occurrence data for contaminants that may be present in drinking water, but are not currently subject to EPA drinking water regulations. This information is then used to support future regulatory decision-making for the public's safety and support the administrator's determination of whether (or not) to regulate a contaminant listed in the UCMR program.

"This is something OCWD is extremely proud of," said OCWD President Denis Bilodeau. "We are committed to exceptional water quality to fulfill our mission of providing local water retailers, serving more than 2.4 million people, with an adequate, high-quality and reliable water supply. I am proud to say that OCWD's testing capabilities are some of the best in the nation. We can monitor for contaminants down to a part-per-trillion—that's equivalent to one drop in 26 Olympic-size swimming pools," he added.

OCWD's commitment to water quality is further demonstrated by its comprehensive monitoring and testing program. It tests for more than 500 compounds, many more than the 106 regulated constituents that are required by state and federal laws and regulations. It tests water from approximately 1,500 locations throughout the Orange County Groundwater Basin, managed by OCWD; analyzes more than 20,000 samples annually; and reports more than 400,000 results. The District also provides regional water testing of more than 200 drinking water wells for the 19 water retailers served by OCWD to help them meet monitoring and reporting requirements mandated by the federal SDWA. Additional measures taken to ensure water quality include OCWD's participation in studies, work groups and global collaboration to address and further study water quality issues.

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The UCMR4 was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2016 and requires monitoring for 30 chemical contaminants between 2018 and 2020 using analytical methods developed by EPA and consensus organizations. To learn more, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fourth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>.

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.

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