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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

August 12, 2021

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; District) manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north and central Orange County, which provides approximately 77 percent of the drinking water for 2.5 million people. To replenish the basin, OCWD maintains one of the world's most advanced aquifer recharge systems. The system is composed of more than a dozen artificial lakes that have permeable sides and bottoms where replenishment water is allowed to soak through to the underlying groundwater aquifers. Primary water sources that are used to fill the basins include flows from the Santa Ana River, rainfall from local wintertime storms, advanced recycled water and imported water from distant sources.

The bottoms of the recharge basins (artificial lakes) eventually become clogged with fine silt. This causes permeability to decrease and reduces the overall effectiveness of facility operations. When this happens, draining and cleaning is required. The District is in the process of emptying and cleaning Anaheim Lake, located at **3451 East Miraloma Avenue**.

This process requires draining the basin and drying the organic rich mud at the bottom of the lake for a few weeks. After this time, excavation equipment may enter the basin to remove the silt. While every attempt is made to transfer fish before draining is performed, it is inevitable that smaller fish will remain and become stranded in shallow depressions in the basin bottom. Many of these fish will become food for foraging birds. Those that do not will likely perish causing a fishy odor to be emitted. We understand that the smell is unpleasant for those in the local area and apologize in advance for any inconvenience. We will complete the project as quickly as possible and employ measures to minimize the smell and its impact on the community.

The Orange County Water District's programs benefit water supplies and nature. OCWD has dedicated more than 1,200 acres of land for environmental preservation. In addition, OCWD's 2,150 acre Prado Constructed Wetlands provide a home to several rare and endangered species, including the least Bell's vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Santa Ana sucker.

Thank you for your patience as we clean Anaheim Lake and continue to efficiently provide a reliable supply of high-quality water. For more information or project updates, please call the OCWD Construction Hotline at (714) 378-8244, email info@ocwd.com, or visit our website, www.ocwd.com/news-events/construction-updates. Si tiene preguntas en Español, favor de llamar a (714) 378-8244.

Sincerely,

Kira Erquiaga
Senior Communications Specialist
Orange County Water District