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NATION'S LARGEST PFAS TREATMENT PLANT GARNERS STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

A collaborative project of the Orange County Water District and Yorba Linda Water District recognized for significant contribution to the civil engineering profession

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (April 26, 2023) – The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and the Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) received the 2022 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Region 9 Outstanding Project Award for the Yorba Linda Water District Ion Exchange (IX) PFAS Water Treatment Plant. Region 9 is ASCE's California chapter representing more than 18,000 members throughout the state.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from ASCE's statewide chapter for our proactive efforts to treat PFAS and remove it from local supplies," said OCWD President Cathy Green. "The Yorba Linda Water District PFAS Treatment Plant is a testament of OCWD's commitment to provide a safe, reliable water supply to its communities."

Despite playing no role in releasing PFAS into the environment, OCWD swiftly initiated a robust PFAS treatment program, the nation's largest, that tested effective treatment techniques to remove PFAS from local well water. The District is working with its impacted retailers such as YLWD to build treatment plants and restore the impacted water supply in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which provides 85% of the drinking water supply for 2.5 million people in north and central Orange County. The YLWD PFAS Treatment Plant is one of 36 treatment facilities that will be online by 2024.

"The YLWD treatment plant enables the District to bring all nine impacted groundwater wells back into service and increase its use of local groundwater," said YLWD President Brett R. Barbre. "In addition to being recognized as the largest ion exchange plant in the country, we are most proud that this facility represents our commitment to provide a safe, reliable, and cost-effective water supply to our customers."

Located at the existing YLWD headquarters in Placentia, the PFAS treatment plant is the nation's largest IX treatment plant and [became operational in December 2021](#). It uses an IX treatment system made of highly porous resin that acts like powerful magnets that adsorb and hold onto contaminants and can treat up to 25 million gallons per day. The plant consists of six pre-filters, 22 IX vessels, a booster pump station, and a 1000-kilowatt backup generator. The treatment process removes impurities, such as PFAS, from the water before entering the distribution system.

The YLWD PFAS Treatment Plant previously won top honors with the ASCE Orange County and ASCE Los Angeles chapters. Its project team includes OCWD, YLWD, Tetra Tech, Pacific Hydrotech Corporation, AqueoUS Vets, and Carollo Engineers.

For more information on OCWD's comprehensive PFAS program, please visit the PFAS education center at <http://pfas.ocwd.com/>.

About Orange County Water District

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 85% 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. For more information about OCWD, please visit www.ocwd.com, like @OCWaterDistrict on Facebook, follow @OCWDWaterNews on Twitter, follow @OCWD on Instagram, and follow Orange County Water District on LinkedIn.

About Yorba Linda Water District

A "District of Distinction" for its commitment to good governance, ethics, and sound operating practices, Yorba Linda Water District serves the residents of Yorba Linda and portions of Placentia, Brea, Anaheim, and unincorporated areas of Orange County. Governed by a five-member publicly elected Board of Directors, YLWD's mission is to provide reliable water and sewer services and protect public health and the environment while maintaining financial integrity and superior public service. It accomplishes this by embracing proven technologies, improving customer satisfaction, providing efficient and responsive operations, and ensuring reliable infrastructure.

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