



AGENDA

18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 378-3200

COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS* ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

August 7, 2025, 12:00 p.m. - Conference Room C-2

*The OCWD Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting is noticed as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors for the purpose of strict compliance with the Brown Act and it provides an opportunity for all Directors to hear presentations and participate in discussions. Directors receive no additional compensation or stipend as a result of simultaneously convening this meeting. Items recommended for approval at this meeting will be placed on the **August 20** Board meeting Agenda for approval.

This meeting will be held in person. As a convenience for the public, the meeting may also be accessed by Zoom Webinar and will be available by either computer or telephone audio as indicated below. Because this is an in-person meeting and the Zoom component is not required, but rather is being offered as a convenience, if there are any technical issues during the meeting, this meeting will continue and will not be suspended.

Computer Audio: You can join the Zoom meeting by clicking on the following link:

<https://ocwd.zoom.us/j/99465334409>

Telephone Audio: (213) 338 8477

Webinar ID: 994 6533 4409

Teleconference Sites:

10382 Bonnie Drive, Garden Grove

20 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Ana

6148 E Baja Dr, Anaheim

303 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton

1454 Madison Steet, Tustin

3 Pl. du Général Kœnig, 75017 Paris, France

* Members of the public may attend and participate at all locations.

ROLL CALL

ITEMS RECEIVED TOO LATE TO BE AGENDIZED

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution determining need to take immediate action on item(s) and that the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the posting of the Agenda (requires two-thirds vote of the Board members present, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present.)

VISITOR PARTICIPATION

Time has been reserved at this point in the agenda for persons wishing to comment for up to three minutes to the Board of Directors on any item that is not listed on the agenda, but within the subject matter jurisdiction of the District. By law, the Board of Directors is prohibited from taking action on such public comments. As appropriate, matters raised in these public comments will be referred to District staff or placed on the agenda of an upcoming Board meeting.

At this time, members of the public may also offer public comment for up to three minutes on any item on the Consent Calendar. While members of the public may not remove an item from the Consent Calendar for separate discussion, a Director may do so at the request of a member of the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEMS NO. 1-2)

All matters on the Consent Calendar are to be approved by one motion, without separate discussion on these items, unless a Board member or District staff request that specific items be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

1. MINUTES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD JUNE 5, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

2. KIRA ERQUIAGA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Authorize execution of a professional services agreement with Kira Erquiaga for up to \$10,000 at a rate of \$75 per hour

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

3. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

5. CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL LOCATION AND CONTRACT APPROVAL

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for August 20 Board meeting:

- 1) Host the 2026 Festival at Oak Canyon Park on April 15-16;
- 2) Authorize staff to execute an agreement with James Event Productions to provide rentals, event planning, and logistical support and services for the 2026 Festival for a combined total amount not to exceed \$199,136; and
- 3) Authorize the general manager to approve an additional \$25,000 to James Event Productions for a rain contingency plan, should extreme weather warrant it

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

6. OC WATER SUMMIT UPDATE

7. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE AUGUST 20 BOARD MEETING

DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

GENERAL MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENT/REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

COMMUNICATION AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Van Tran – Chair
Roger Yoh – Vice Chair
Steve Sheldon
Valerie Amezcua
Erik Weigand

Cathy Green
Fred Jung
Dina Nguyen
Natalie Meeks
Denis Bilodeau

Agenda Posting: In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda is posted in the window of the guard shack at the main entrance of the Orange County Water District, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, CA and on the OCWD website: www.ocwd.com not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All written materials relating to each agenda item are available for public inspection in the office of the Assistant District Secretary. Backup material for the Agenda is available at the District offices for public review and can be viewed online at the District's website: www.ocwd.com.

Accommodations to the Disabled: Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with a disability who require a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, may request such modification or accommodation from the District Secretary at (714) 378-3234, by email at cfuller@ocwd.com by fax at (714) 378-3373. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable District staff to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

Availability of Agenda Material: As a general rule, agenda reports or other written documentation that has been prepared or organized with respect to each item of business listed on the agenda can be reviewed at www.ocwd.com. Copies of these materials and other disclosable public records distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors in connection with an Open Session agenda item are also on file with and available for inspection at the Office of the District Secretary, 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley, California, during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If such writings are distributed to members of the Board of Directors on the day of a Board meeting, the writings will be available at the entrance to the Board of Directors meeting room at the Orange County Water District office.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WITH COMMUNICATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
June 5, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Director Weigand called the Communications and Legislative Liaison Committee meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. in the District Conference Room C-2. Public access was also provided via Zoom webinar. The Secretary called the roll and reported a quorum as follows:

Committee Members

Van Tran arrived at 12:01 p.m.
Steve Sheldon (absent)
Roger Yoh
Valerie Amezcua
Erik Weigand

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Chris Olsen – Executive Director of Engineering
Mehul Patel – Executive Director of Operations
Leticia Villarreal – Assistant District Secretary

Alternates

Cathy Green
Fred Jung
Dina Nguyen
Natalie Meeks (absent)
Denis Bilodeau (absent)

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar was approved upon motion by Director Amezcua, seconded by Director Yoh and carried [5-0] as follows:

Ayes – Tran, Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the May 8, 2025 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2. State Legislative Update

District staff and consultants provided a status update on legislation of interest to the District.

Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Position	Status
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Senate Local Government Committee
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets 'California Water for All'	Support	Senate Third Reading
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	Assembly Second Reading
SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Senate Second Reading
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Senate Appropriations Committee – Suspense File

SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	Senate Second Reading
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	Senate Third Reading

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants provided an update on federal regulations related to PFAS, funding for OCWD's projects and on the status of bills of interest to OCWD.

Bill Number/Authors	Short Title	Position	Status
H.R. 1267 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) & Celeste Maloy (R-UT)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Energy and Commerce Committee
S. 322 Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improve Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support	Commerce Science and Transportation Committee
H.R. 2093 (Ken Calvert, R-D-41)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support	Transportation & Infrastructure Committee

4. OC Water Summit Update

Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles reported that this year's OC Water Summit is scheduled to take place Friday, September 5th at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She stated this year's theme is *Turning the Valve: Abundance in Orange County*. Fritz Coleman will be the Master of ceremonies as in years past. She advised that four sessions are being planned and finalized with OCWD leading the planning this year.

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided a brief overview of outreach activities for May 2025.

May Highlights:

- OCWD received three awards – 1) Outstanding Water-Wastewater-Recycled Water Project for the Fullerton PFAS Treatment Plant from the American Society of Civil Engineers OC, 2) Certificate of Excellence from the Association of California Water Agencies, and 3) Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Award for the Power of Water Recycling Video from the National Association of Government Communicators.
- In May, OCWD held 17 tours with 349 guests from 19 groups.
- Globally – OCWD participated in three events. John Kennedy traveled to Paris and participated in the Global Water Summit. Chris Olsen was hosted by Japan Society on Water Environment and Jason Dadakis, Mehul Patel, John Kennedy and Roy Herndon participated virtually in the Columbia Hydrogeology Congress.
- OCWD co-hosted a dedication ceremony with the City of Tustin for their PFAS treatment plant. District President Denis Bilodeau gave remarks on behalf of OCWD. District Directors Erik Weigand and Fred Jung also attended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Van Tran, Chair

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line Item: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers Report Approved: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: KIRA ERQUIAGA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

SUMMARY:

Kira Erquiaga, who managed the Orange County Water District's (OCWD; the District) tour program, retired on July 3, 2025. Staff recommend entering into a professional services agreement with Kira to provide on-call support during peak work periods and as-needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Authorize execution of a professional services agreement with Kira Erquiaga for up to \$10,000 at a rate of \$75 per hour.

BACKGROUND:

Since the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) began operations in 2008, facility tours have been a key component of the District's outreach and education efforts. The tours showcase the GWRS as the world's largest indirect potable reuse project and a model for water reliability. The program draws a broad audience — from industry professionals and policymakers to middle school, high school, and college students interested in water, science, and engineering.

Staff may provide up to seven tours in a week. Each tour requires approximately four hours for preparation, delivery, and teardown. With the formation of the Board Tour Ad Hoc Committee and expanded school outreach, further growth is expected.

During periods when the Public Affairs department is preparing for special events such as the Children's Water Education Festival, the annual Orange County Water Summit, and other special events, staff resources become limited.

To maintain program quality and accommodate peak demand, continued support from experienced personnel is needed. Kira's institutional knowledge and hands-on experience with the tour program make her well-suited to provide support.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION(S)

N/A

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Harasty

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line-Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) staff and consultants will provide a status update on legislation of interest to the District.

Attachment: Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith August Report

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Please see attached “Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith August Report” for a state legislative update.”

STATUS UPDATE ON BILLS WITH OCWD’S POSITIONS

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Bill Number/Author	Short Title	Position	Status
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	Senate: 2 Year Bill.
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets ‘California Water for All’	Support	Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File.
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	Assembly: Inactive File.

SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	SB 454 State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File.
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	Senate: 2 Year Bill.
SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	Assembly Appropriations Committee.
SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	Assembly Appropriations Committee – Suspense File.
AB 810 Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)	Local government: internet websites and email addresses	Oppose	Assembly: 2 Year Bill.
SB 31 Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton)	Water Quality: Recycled Water	Support	Assembly Appropriations Committee.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

August President Bilodeau will brief Senator Tony Strickland in his district office

PAST ACTIVITIES

July 21 Staff to staff meeting with Assembly Member Dixon's Field Representative

July 9 Staff to staff meeting with Assembly Member Tri Ta's Senior Field Representative

May 28 Senator Ben Allen, Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy, Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez, Vice Chair of Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee were included in the California Groundwater Coalition Legislative meeting in Sacramento, in which Alicia Harasty participated.

May 5 California Municipal Utilities Association Executive Director and Legislative Director visited OCWD for a briefing and tour with John Kennedy, Lisa Haney and Alicia Harasty

- April 23 Madison Marks-Noble, District Representative, Office of Senator Tony Strickland (SB-36) visited OCWD for a briefing and tour of the GWRS with Alicia Harasty
- March 11 President Bilodeau, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty visited Sacramento and met with Assemblymembers Chen, Dixon and Ta, as well as Senators Umberg and Choi. They also met with staff for Assemblymember Quirk-Silva, Sanchez, and the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
- March 26 Alicia Harasty participated in the ACWA Legislative Symposium
- January 23 Alicia Harasty briefed staff to Assembly Member Avelino Valencia



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Anthony D. Gonsalves
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TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

FROM: JOE A. GONSALVES AND SON
EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: July 29, 2025

The Legislature adjourned for its summer recess on July 18. They will return to Sacramento on August 18 and begin the mad dash towards adjournment for interim recess on September 13.

Historically the last month of session has been a chaotic and incredibly busy time as bills that died earlier in the year had a tendency to resurface when legislators make last-minute plays to land their bills on the Governor's desk. The imposition of a 72-hour in print rule years ago has diminished the Legislature's ability to move their priorities at the last minute. Instead, the last month is now full of wrangling between the two houses and the Governor as they negotiate over final changes to the budget and other high priority issues.

We have a number of updates on significant issues for OCWD.

AB 794 (Gabriel)

We are pleased to report that AB 794 (Gabriel) is a 2-year bill.

As you know, AB 794 would have given the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) authority to establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) via an emergency regulation. More importantly, the bill would have directed the Board to establish an MCL for PFAS by December 31, 2026.

Our firms worked to oppose the bill in advance of the June 6 deadline for bills to pass out of the house they were introduced in. As Assemblymember Gabriel is a respected and well-liked legislator, we did not expect to be able to kill the bill on the Assembly Floor but made the effort to do so hoping the bill would pass with few votes to spare and move into the Senate with less momentum.

Fortunately, Assemblymember Gabriel opted not to take the bill up at all. As a consequence, it did not pass off the Assembly Floor in time to meet the deadline and is now a 2-year bill. Mr. Gabriel has until the end of January 2026 to get the bill passed to the Senate.

SB 601 (Allen)

In its original form, SB 601 (Allen) gave the State Board new regulatory authority over water bodies it does not currently regulate today. It did so while removing the state's burden to evaluate the cost of any new permit requirements it issues. Finally, the bill created a new private right of action. The only purpose this provision served was to increase the exposure of permitholders like OCWD to litigation.

Our firms spoke to dozens of members and their staff about OCWD's concerns with SB 601 in advance of it being considered on the Senate Floor. We worked with others including CalChamber, ACWA, CMUA, the Western Growers, and the Farm Bureau in an effort to kill the bill on the Senate Floor. As such, Senator Allen was struggling to find the votes necessary to pass the bill to the Assembly in early June.

As a consequence, Senator Allen needed to make a number of commitments to his colleagues. First and foremost, he had to commit to removing the private right of action from the bill. This was by far the most threatening provision in the legislation. Our efforts also helped secure a number of amendments limiting the scope of the bill so that it would not apply as broadly to water bodies.

We continue to work with other opponents to get our concerns addressed and will keep you apprised of further developments.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025	Budgeted: N/A
To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte. Board of Directors	Budgeted Amount: N/A
From: John Kennedy	Cost Estimate: N/A
Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Harasty	Funding Source: N/A
	Program/Line-Item No.: N/A
	General Counsel Approval: N/A
	Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A
	CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Orange County Water District’s (OCWD) federal advocate and staff will brief the committee on OCWD’s upcoming visit to Washington D.C., federal regulations related to PFAS, funding for OCWD’s projects, and an update on bills of interest to OCWD.

Attachments:

- ENS Resources August Update
- Federal Bill Matrix
- Letter: Orange County Water District Update – PFAS Treatment

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for August 20 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

Please see attached “ENS Resources August Update,” for current updates on federal activities that are of interest to OCWD.

STATUS UPDATE ON BILLS WITH OCWD’S POSITIONS

Bill Number/Authors	Short Title	Position	Status
H.R. 1267 Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) & Celeste Maloy (R-UT)	Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act	Support	Energy and Commerce Committee
S. 322 Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improve Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support	Commerce Science and Transportation Committee
H.R. 2093 (Ken Calvert, R-D-41)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support	No longer moving

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- October 20 President Bilodeau will visit Washington D.C. to brief the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on OCWD's federal priorities and provide input on Federal PFAS regulations, meet with members of Congress to discuss OCWD's bills of interest and funding priorities, and meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss coordination on OCWD's projects (FIRO, Sediment removal from behind Prado dam, Santiago Basin)
- August 7 President Bilodeau will brief and provide a GWRS tour for Congressman Derek Tran and his staff

PAST ACTIVITIES

- July 21 Staff to staff meeting with Congressman Young Kim's District Director
- July 16 Staff to staff meeting with Congressman Lou Correa's Field Representative
- June 26 Staff to staff meeting and GWRS tour with Congressman Tran's District Director
- June 18 A coalition of national water sector organizations, including the Association of Municipal Water Agencies (AMWA), convened a congressional briefing in Washington, D.C. focused on the growing challenges utilities face in addressing PFAS contamination. The event drew attention to how federal policies are shaping the responsibilities and liabilities of essential public service providers.
- The panel featured experts from across the water, wastewater, solid waste, and local government sectors, and included Jason Dadakis, executive director of water quality and technical resources for OCWD. Jason's testimony echoed concerns shared across the utility community: Congress must enact liability safeguards so the financial burden addressing PFAS rests with polluters; not with the communities tasked with cleaning it up.
- May 12 Congressman Correa toured the Santiago Basin with President Bilodeau and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Orange County and OCWD staff
- May 5 California Municipal Utilities Association's Director and Legislative Director visited OCWD for a briefing of OCWD's legislative priorities with John Kennedy, Lisa Haney and Alicia Harasty.

March 28 OCWD applied for Community Project Funding (CPF) or “earmarks” for PFAS Cleanup Projects of \$5 million from Congressmembers Kim, Tran, Min, and Senators Padilla and Schiff. The City of Santa Ana applied for CPF for PFAS Cleanup Projects of \$5 million from Congressman Correa

February 17 President Bilodeau and Alicia Harasty provided a briefing and tour of OCWD/GWRS to Congressman Dave Min and his staff

January 30 President Bilodeau, John Kennedy and Alicia Harasty briefed Congresswoman Young Kim and her staff on PFAS, FIRO, Sunset Gap, and Sediment removal from behind Prado Dam

January 22 Alicia Harasty briefed staff to the office of Congressman Lou Correa



TO: Alicia Harasty
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: July 29, 2025
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Enactment of the One Big Beautiful Bill, H.R. 1 allows Congress and the Administration to turn attention to the development of Fiscal Year 2026 (FY 26) spending bills as well as pending legislation addressing Clean Water Act permitting reforms, FEMA reforms and water sector cyber security mandates. At the federal agencies, the U.S. Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation continue to review agency reorganization proposals to submit to the Office of Management and Budget in conjunction with proposed reductions in workforce given the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision green lighting the president's authority to implement such layoffs. Congress will be on recess for the month of August and key work on these and other policy issues will resume in September.

On the all-important legal challenge to USEPA's PFAS drinking water standard, USEPA and the Justice Department advised the court that the agencies are prepared to go forward to defend against the lawsuit filed by AMWA and AWWA. Actual proceedings must await for the court to set a new schedule for briefings by the litigants. However, the challenge that the agency's standards setting was flawed on economic grounds will now receive scrutiny.

The following summarizes the status of these and other policy issues of interest to OCWD.

House and Senate Committee on Appropriations Approve U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FY 26 Spending Priorities

House and Senate Committees on Appropriations approved respective spending bills for USEPA. The House bill (unnumbered at this writing) included limited earmarks for priority water infrastructure projects. Representative Young Kim secured \$750,000 for OCWD to continue its remediation of PFAS well contamination. Representative Lou Correa secured an additional \$1,092,000 for Santa Ana's ongoing PFAS treatment project. The project was the only water project funded. The funding levels illustrated the scaled back amounts for Member project requests and is consistent with other projects' allocations. The Senate spending bill, S. 2431, did not provide any assistance because Senators Schiff and Padilla requested priorities were for projects that supported underserved communities with limited revenue sources. The two bills will be reconciled later this fall.

Both committees on a bipartisan basis rejected the Administration's request to eliminate federal funding for the core water infrastructure programs. Both the State Revolving Loan Fund and WIFIA would be funded. The Senate allocates \$2.7 billion and the House \$2.1 billion for the SRF. WIFIA would receive \$64 million and \$72 million respectively. An expectation is stated that this funding would leverage \$12 billion in new project construction spending. Last, FY 26 represents the final year of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's support of water infrastructure. USEPA would receive approximately \$8 billion to support water infrastructure needs, including removal of lead service lines. PFAS water related cleanups would benefit from the ongoing \$10 billion appropriated as part of the law.

The House committee also completed action on the USBR's FY 26 Energy and Water Development spending bill, H.R. 4553. It reaffirmed support of key programs like WaterSMART and water recycling, allocating \$30 million. Within the funding for WaterSMART, the committee directs USBR to focus on PFAS water-related project needs. The committee also allocated \$200 million to support WIIN Act storage projects and \$20 million for proposed project Feasibility Studies. The Bay Delta program would be provided \$32 million. The Senate has not acted on its version of the USBR spending bill. Additionally, the House bill would extend the authorizations for WIIN Act storage projects, Calfed Bay-Delta, and the Emergency Drought Relief Act to allow for continued program funding.

In addition to spending levels, a number of policy riders and directives were included in the USEPA bills:

- House language:
 - Prohibit finalizing draft biosolids PFAS risk assessment model.
 - Direct continued research and data collection into plant and animal uptake and impacts to groundwater from PFAS.
 - Report to Congress on implementation progress of PFAS CERCLA discretionary enforcement policy.
 - Provide water agencies with technical assistance to better understand PFAS MCL compliance requirements.
 - Direct that best leak detection technologies be considered as part of grants assistance.

- Senate language:
 - Reaffirms support of 4PPT PFAS drinking water standard.
 - Reaffirms support of PFAS hazardous substance CERCLA designation.
 - States that committee is "appalled" by decision to eliminate Office of Research and Development orders staffing levels to be maintained and halt any reorganization.
 - Support of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's \$10 billion in funding assistance for PFAS clean-up assistance.

House Floor Action on PERMIT Act Postponed

The House leadership's decision to recess for the summer early upended scheduled legislation floor debate. This included the PERMIT Act, H.R. 3898. Nonetheless, delay does not jeopardize floor action, and a vote is expected in early September upon the return of the House from its August recess. While the bill does not directly impact OCWD, its provisions could reduce costs of water quality standards compliance and help to reduce upward pressures on rates. One provision could assist OCWD. The bill would clarify that groundwater recharge would be exempted from the definition as a Water of the U.S.

Passage of H.R. 3898 would set the stage for Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and Senate floor consideration later this year at the earliest. Senate committee staff have indicated the committee is considering a permit reform bill. H.R. 3898 is an important bill because it proposes to update and streamline the Clean Water Act's statutory provisions governing among other matters NPDES permit terms and numerous compliance provisions. Assuming enactment, the reforms would help to reduce compliance costs while preserving water quality improvement. H.R. 3898's key provisions include:

- Reforming NPDES permit terms, to extend terms for ten year terms instead of the current five year term.
- Codification of the existing regulatory definition of WOTUS exemptions for purposes of defining navigable waters to ensure wastewater discharges and groundwater recharge are not captured by current or future WOTUS definitions.
- Require that "commercially available" treatment technologies be the compliance standard for municipal sanitary and CSO projects.
- Codify the U.S. Supreme Court San Francisco narrative nutrient decision to ensure that a clear policy is in statute to guarantee that any mandates are underpinned by numeric limits.
- Provide that water quality certifications relate directly to a project's direct geographic impact and not downstream.
- Provide for ten year section 404 permits and require two year notification to permittee if permit not to be renewed.

President Issues AI Action Plan

President Trump issued an AI Action Plan (Plan), and a related Executive Order, to prioritize the nation's effort to advance AI and data centers. While the plan puts a premium on the construction of data centers and ensuring reliable energy supplies, an element of the plan targets supporting cyber security for the nation's "critical infrastructure". As defined, critical infrastructure includes the water sector. Under the Plan, the Department of Homeland Security would be tasked to support and better equip such infrastructure operators with the ability to be resilient against cyber-attacks and to assist in responding to any impacts from such attacks.

Smart Water Technology Adoption Legislation Introduced

Senators Reuben Gallego (D-AZ) and John Curtis (R-UT) are sponsoring the Water Infrastructure Modernization Act (WIMA). WIMA would amend the Alternative Water Sources Act to allow for 75% grants assistance to water and wastewater agencies to adopt

and deploy smart water technologies, including AMI, and to digitalize water data to enhance management of utility systems to address water scarcity and severe storm events. The bill would authorize \$50 million in grants assistance annually.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Legislation Introduced

Representatives Eric Sorenson (D-IL) and John Bresnahan (R-PA) introduced Low-Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Establishment Act that would re-establish the expired water assistance program that was created during Covid 19 pandemic. As introduced, the bill would rely on SNAP, LIHEAP, TANF, SSI, and means tested veterans programs to define individuals eligible for financial assistance. The legislation is similar to Senator Alex Padilla's efforts in 2024. Padilla has indicated that the issue remains a priority.



August 2025 OCWD Federal Update

Summary of Pending Legislation

H.R. 4754

Department of the Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Act,
2026

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

Introduced: 07/24/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Simpson ID-02

Latest Actions:

07/24/2025 - Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 175.

07/24/2025 - The House Committee on Appropriations reported an original measure, H. Rept. 119-215, by Mr. Simpson.

07/24/2025 - The House Committee on Appropriations reported an original measure, H. Rept. 119-215, by Mr. Simpson.

Committees: House Appropriations Committee

Why this bill is important: Provides annual funding to USEPA including Community Projects requests. H.R. 4754 includes \$750,000 to support OCWD PFAS clean-up and \$1,092,000 for Santa Ana PFAS clean-up.

Outlook: Congressional efforts to complete action on FY 26 spending bills is unlikely to be finalized until late in the year. A Continuing Resolution is anticipated to avoid a government shutdown after October 1 and allow final spending bills to be passed.

H.R. 337

To provide technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects.

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The bill provides technical and financial assistance for groundwater recharge, aquifer storage, and water source substitution projects. It authorizes the Department of the Interior to make unobligated amounts available under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for each fiscal year 2026-2031 to carry out these projects.

Introduced: 01/13/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Jim Costa CA-21

Latest Actions:

01/13/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

01/13/2025 - Introduced in House

Committees: House Natural Resources Committee

H.R. 1267

Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act

● High Priority ● Support

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act exempts certain water and water treatment facilities from liability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) for costs arising from a release to the environment of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Introduced: 02/12/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez WA-03

Latest Actions:

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation an...

02/12/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation an...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why this bill is important. H.R. 1267 represents a marker bill to allow for the House to consider the issue of water sector CERCLA liability due to the USEPA's action to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under CERCLA that

exposes water agencies to potential liability simply because water supplies contain PFAS and treatment residuals that must be disposed of could become subject to third party efforts to attach responsibility for cleanups.

Outlook: Both the House and Senate Members with jurisdiction over CERCLA are have expressed concerns over the potential for water sector liability. Committee consideration of legislation to provide liability protections for water sector could be considered in the latter months of the session, but actual floor debate is unlikely to occur until the final session of Congress next year.

H.R. 1871

Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity Act expands the income exclusion for certain conservation subsidies to include subsidies for water conservation or efficiency measures, storm water management measures, and wastewater management measures. The bill defines water conservation as any evaluation of water use or any installation or modification of property with the primary purpose to reduce consumption of water.

Introduced: 03/05/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Jared Huffman CA-02

Latest Actions:

03/05/2025 - Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

03/05/2025 - Introduced in House

Committees: House Ways and Means Committee

H.R. 2344

Water ISAC Threat Protection Act

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The bill requires the EPA to develop and carry out a program to encourage, support, and maintain the participation of community water systems, treatment works, and other appropriate entities in the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center. EPA must also offset costs incurred by such water systems and treatment works that are necessary to maintain membership in the center.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky IL-09

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

03/25/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

H.R. 3898

PERMIT Act

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The bill addresses water quality standards and other matters related to the U.S. waters of the United States. It requires the EPA to publish the results of each review of any water quality standard applicable to a body of water into which there is a municipal combined storm and sanitary sewer discharges. The bill also requires EPA to establish a process for states.

Introduced: 06/11/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Mike Collins GA-10

Latest Actions:

07/02/2025 - Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 145.

07/02/2025 - Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H. Rept. 119-180.

07/02/2025 - POLITICO Pro - Republicans on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Wednesday advanced a sweeping pack...

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee

Why this bill is important: H.R. 3898 is important because it provides for a comprehensive reform of Clean Water Act permitting and compliance mandates. For OCWD, the bill would, if enacted, statutorily provide an explicit exemption for groundwater recharge from being subject to Waters of the U.S. regulation.

Outlook: H.R. 3898 will be voted on by the full House in September. Senate consideration of a permit reform bill is likely in the fall.

H.R. 4733

To authorize the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

No Priority No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

Introduced: 07/23/2025

Sponsor: Rep. Eric Sorensen IL-17

Latest Actions:

07/23/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

07/23/2025 - Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ene...

07/23/2025 - Introduced in House

Committees: House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

S. 322

Improving Atmospheric River Forecasts Act

No Priority No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The bill directs NOAA to establish an atmospheric river forecast improvement program to reduce the loss of life and property and economic losses from atmospheric rivers. NOAA must acquire and sustain adequate crewed and uncrewed aircraft, necessary equipment, and personnel annually from November 1 through March 31.

Introduced: 01/29/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Alex Padilla CA

Latest Actions:

01/29/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sponsor introductor...

01/29/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

S. 1118

Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act of 2025

○ No Priority ○ No Stance

Congress: Federal - 119th Congress

AI Summary: The Water Intelligence, Security, and Cyber Threat Protection Act of 2025 requires the EPA to develop and carry out a program to encourage, support, and maintain the participation of community water systems, treatment works, and other appropriate entities in the Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center. The EPA must also offset costs incurred by such water systems and treatment works to maintain membership in the center.

Introduced: 03/25/2025

Sponsor: Sen. Ed Markey MA

Latest Actions:

03/25/2025 - Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

03/25/2025 - Introduced in Senate

Committees: Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

POLITICOPRO

This report was created using **POLITICO's Policy Intelligence Assistant.**

This report is for informational purposes only. The views and opinions presented do not necessarily reflect those of POLITICO LLC.



July 22, 2025

The Honorable Young Kim
United States House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Orange County Water District Update – PFAS Treatment

Dear Congressman Kim:

Thank you for your continued support of Orange County Water District's (OCWD) PFAS Treatment Program. I'm writing to provide an update on our progress, particularly considering the recent changes to national PFAS drinking water regulations announced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

OCWD proactively partnered with local cities and retail water providers to implement wellhead treatment facilities well ahead of state and federal regulatory deadlines. We remain on track to meet the EPA's new Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 4 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS at all impacted wells in our service area by the 2031 compliance deadline.

Of the 200 drinking water wells within OCWD's 2.5-million-person service area, 102 require PFAS treatment. To date, 49 wells have been returned to service, 13 are under construction, 30 are in design, and 10 are in planning. Construction costs are estimated at \$570 million, with total 30-year project costs—including operations—expected to reach \$1.8 billion.

Although OCWD is not responsible for the release of PFAS, it is leading efforts to remove these contaminants from the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which supplies up to 85% of the region's drinking water. To fund critical treatment projects, groundwater production rates have increased by more than 10% annually for three consecutive years beginning in 2023. To help offset these costs OCWD pursued litigation and state and federal funding. The basin, managed by OCWD, serves 2.5 million people, including 500,000 residents in disadvantaged communities. Thanks to long-term planning and investments like the Groundwater Replenishment System, this local supply remains reliable and cost-effective—nearly half the cost of imported water from Northern California or the Colorado River.

OCWD supports H.R. 1267, the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act, and urges Congress to advance a CERCLA exemption for water systems to protect communities from the costs of pollution they did not cause. Polluters may attempt to shift cleanup expenses onto water agencies and ratepayers, undermining the "polluter pays" principle in CERCLA.

The Honorable Young Kim
July 22, 2025
Page 2 of 2

For questions or to schedule a tour of an OCWD PFAS treatment facility, please contact Alicia Harasty, Legislative Affairs Liaison, at (714) 477-3750 or aharasty@ocwd.com.

Sincerely,

Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denis R. Bilodeau".

President

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contacts: G. Ayala/M. Diaz

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount: \$265,000

Cost Estimate: \$199,136

Funding Source: 1012.51112

Program/Line Item No.: 1206

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

**Subject: CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL LOCATION AND
CONTRACT APPROVAL**

SUMMARY

Planning for the 29th annual Children's Water Education Festival (Festival) is underway for 2026. This board-approved program educates thousands of Orange County students about water each year. After evaluating more than 50 potential venues for the 2025 Festival, Oak Canyon Park continues to be the most suitable location, providing ample space, parking, and comprehensive services through longtime vendor James Event Productions.

Attachment: 2026 James Event Productions, Inc. Festival Contract

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for August 20 Board meeting:

- 1) Host the 2026 Festival at Oak Canyon Park on April 15-16; and
- 2) Authorize staff to execute an agreement with James Event Productions to provide rentals, event planning, and logistical support and services for the 2026 Festival for a combined total amount not to exceed \$199,136; and
- 3) Authorize the general manager to approve an additional \$25,000 to James Event Productions for a rain contingency plan, should extreme weather warrant it.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Children's Water Education Festival is an annual, successful program started in 1997 to educate Orange County's youngest stakeholders about the importance of water. Since inception, more than 158,000 students have experienced the Festival and all it has to offer. The free event is open to third, fourth and fifth grade classes in Orange County, Calif.

The entire \$265,000 cost of the Children's Water Education Festival is budgeted and is contained in OCWD's approved FY 2025-26 budget. The venue and rental contracts are the event's two largest expenses. Sponsorships, donations and grants offset the District's cost.

Oak Canyon Park, located in the city of Orange, is owned and operated by James Event Productions, who have provided all-inclusive event rentals and services to the Festival for over 20 years. The park was approved by the Board in 2024 after a thorough review of 50+ locations. James Events hosted the 2025 Festival, proving to have a strong understanding of the Festival and its unique needs, executing a smooth and seamless event. In addition, Oak Canyon Park received strong positive feedback from teachers, presenters and volunteers during the Festival and through post-event surveys.

Oak Canyon Park has the space to host 7,500+ students and 1,600+ teachers, presenters, and volunteers in a beautiful park setting with convenient and ample parking. The James Events cost includes facility needs, such as the outdoor event space, multiple parking lots, staffing, and maintenance costs. The cost also encompasses event service needs, including rentals (tents, tables, chairs, golf carts, AV, generators, etc.), portable restrooms, security and first aid services, logistical support and coordination throughout the year-long planning effort, and onsite event staff during the weeklong set-up, teardown, and event days.

Staff reviewed the schedules of more than 100 public schools from across Orange County, as well as previously attending private schools to ensure a strategically selected date that maximizes attendance from all board member service areas. The available date at Oak Canyon Park with no school district spring break conflicts is April 15-16, 2026.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION(S)

Annual



a full service event production company

July 10, 2025

Michelle Diaz
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92728
714-378-3334 office

DATE: Wednesday & Thursday April 15-16, 2026
TIME: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm each day
SET-UP TIME: Tents will begin setting up on Sunday @ 6am.
Presenters can move into booths Tuesday after 12pm.
LOCATION: Oak Canyon Park
CONTACT: Michelle Diaz
JOB#: 230578043-DS

***CONTRACT MUST BE FINALIZED AND A SIGNED COPY RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE AT LEAST 10 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EVENT TO ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE. YOU MAY EITHER MAIL OR FAX TO OUR OFFICE. FAX NUMBER: (714) 563-9164.**

office 714.563.9778
fax 714.563.9164

1116 North Olive Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

jamesevents.com

Version 3

EQUIPMENT AND ATTRACTION RENTAL CONTRACT

JAMES EVENT PRODUCTIONS, INC. 1116 N. Olive St., Anaheim, CA 92801 (hereinafter referred to as "Producer") and **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT** (hereinafter referred to as "Client") hereby enter into this contract for Producer to rent equipment attractions as described below to Client.

DATE: Wednesday & Thursday April 15-16, 2026
TIME: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm each day
SET-UP TIME: Tents will begin setting up on Monday, April 13
LOCATION: Oak Canyon Park
JOB#: 230578043-DS

James Event Productions to provide:

OAK CANYON FACILITY

5 Day Rental

PARKING

Includes all lots identified
Grading of the weeds
Organization of cones for identifying route
Parking staff **Client to provide 5 each event day to park the buses.**
Directional Signage with arrows

ORGANIZATION

All Electrical Needs & Generators for presenters
40 Porto Potties (4 Handicap/ LO Parking Lot)
8 Hand Washing Stations
20 Gallons of Hand Sanitizer
4 Water Hoses & 3 Connectors
1 JP Booth – Information w/banner - Blue
1 JP Booth – First Aid w/banner - Red
5 JP Canopies (**School Check In Area**) - Blue
3 JP Canopies (**Volunteer Check In**) Red,
White & Blue with 6 tables
1 JP Canopies (Bus Driver area) – White
2 10'x10' JP Canopies for Extra
Bases for all Canopies
16 Red Flags w/Stands for Trash Stations
6 Flat Carts for Vendor Move In
Water dirt areas

GOLF CART RENTALS

2 Four Passenger Carts; 3 Flatbed Carts

MAINTENANCE & TRASH MANAGEMENT

Full maintenance & Supplies included in rental.

AV EQUIPMENT

6- PA Systems w/music and Mics for tents
Bell system with speakers and attendant
AV needs to be finalized closer to event.

NEW THIS YEAR

Presenter Restroom area w/ 5 toilets and 3
hand washing stations \$1,000
200 Servings of Coffee 75 servings of hot
water each event day with cups and all the
condiments \$400 total
Bags of ice...no charge

RENTALS

Includes estimated additional rentals based on new location.

1- 40'x70' Maxi Canopy
1 15'x40' Disney Storage with slider on one end
(no tables)
1 40'x40' Maxi Canopies
1-40'x50' Maxi
52- 20' x 20' Canopies
6 40'x40' Canopies
3 40'x60' Canopies
6- 20'x40' Canopies
1 20'x20' OCWD Storage
2-15'x15' Volunteer Tent
225' 10' high white wall
2,300 8' high white wall
310 - 8' Tables
4,100 Samsonite Chairs
310 White Resin Chairs
9 – 8'x8' Stages in
Site Drawing/Layout/Design

Rain Plan (not included in price)

Sidewall for every tent add \$25,000.00
approx.

STAFFING

Event Manager
Electrical Technician
2 Support Staff
EMT (8-3 each day)
2 Security Mon, Tues & Wed night (5pm-6am)
2 staff for OCWD's use Tues-Thurs 7am-4pm

1. Client will pay **\$199,136.00** to Producer for the above described equipment rental.

2. Terms of Payment. **A deposit in the amount of \$50,000 is due to confirm the rental of the park and event. This deposit is non-refundable.** The balance of the contract amount is due and payable on the day of the event, prior to the commencement of the event. If payment is not made at that time, Producer reserves the right to remove the attraction or rental equipment at Producer's discretion.

3. Insurance. Producer will provide comprehensive general liability insurance and property damage in the total amount of Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00). **Producer agrees to provide liability and property damage insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 naming your organization as additionally insured, a certificate for which to be issued by Producer's insurance company, if requested by Client, prior to the date of equipment or attraction rental.** Client will provide Producer with a copy of comprehensive general liability insurance and property damage naming James Productions, Inc as additionally insured. Certificate to be provided prior to the event.

4. Dual Indemnity. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless, Producer, its employees, executives and agents from and against any and all damages, liabilities, claims, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, etc. incurred by Producer directly or indirectly, in connection with the rental of the above named rental equipment and/or attraction or attractions. Any injuries, damages or losses must be reported by any person to Producer on the day of the Event and failure to report such injury, damage or loss in writing may result in a waiver of insurance coverage. In such event, Producer shall bear no responsibility for such injury or damage.

Producer shall indemnify and hold harmless, Client, its employees, executives and agents from and against any and all damages, liabilities, claims, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, etc. incurred by Client directly or indirectly, in connection with the rental of the above named rental equipment and/or attractions. Any injuries, damages or losses must be reported by any person to Producer on the day of the Event and failure to report such injury, damage or loss in writing may result in a waiver of insurance coverage. In such event, Producer shall bear no responsibility for such injury or damage.

5. Condition of Rental Equipment. Producer agrees to deliver equipment for rental in a safe and fully operable condition. Client agrees that all of Producer's safety instructions will be followed and assumes full liability for any damage to equipment as a result of Client's or any of Client's guests or Client's employees', executives' or agents' failure to follow Producer's instructions concerning said equipment.

6. Cancellation. An event may be canceled or postponed by Client by notifying Producer in writing, provided that in the event of such cancellation or postponement, the following amounts shall be due from Client to Producer and shall be deducted from the deposit on hand or if insufficient, additional funds shall be paid by Client to Producer:

A. If a written cancellation is received more than 30 days prior to the date of the Rental, Producer shall return Client's deposit.

B. If the written cancellation is received within 30 days of the date of the rental, then producer shall retain the deposit as full compensation.

C. If the event is postponed more than 30 days, the deposit shall apply to the event at its new date and the balance due paid on that date.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement which is effective on the date and year when executed by Producer.

JAMES EVENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



Donna Steele

7-10-25

Date

Date



Chris Brackett

7-10-2025

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



a full service event production company

July 10, 2025

Michelle Diaz
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
18700 Ward St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92728
714-378-3334 office

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OAK CANYON FACILITY

5 Day Rental

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Includes all lots identified
Grading of the weeds
Organization of cones for identifying route
Parking staff **Client to provide 5 each event day to park the buses.**
Directional Signage with arrows

ORGANIZATION

All Electrical Needs & Generators for presenters
40 Porto Potties (4 Handicap/ LO Parking Lot)
8 Hand Washing Stations
20 Gallons of Hand Sanitizer
4 Water Hoses & 3 Connectors
1 JP Booth – Information w/banner - Blue
1 JP Booth – First Aid w/banner - Red
5 JP Canopies (**School Check In Area**) - Blue
3 JP Canopies (**Volunteer Check In**) Red, White & Blue with 6 tables
1 JP Canopies (Bus Driver area) – White
2 10'x10' JP Canopies for Extra
Bases for all Canopies
16 Red Flags w/Stands for Trash Stations
6 Flat Carts for Vendor Move In
Water dirt areas

GOLF CART RENTALS

2 Four Passenger Carts; 3 Flatbed Carts

MAINTENANCE & TRASH MANAGEMENT

Full maintenance & Supplies included in rental.

AV EQUIPMENT

6- PA Systems w/music and Mics for tents
Bell system with speakers and attendant
AV needs to be finalized closer to event.

NEW THIS YEAR

Presenter Restroom area w/ 5 toilets and 3 hand washing stations \$1,000
200 Servings of Coffee 75 servings of hot water each event day with cups and all the condiments \$400 total
Bags of ice...no charge

RENTALS

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2-15'x15' Volunteer Tent
225' 10' high white wall
2,300 8' high white wall
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4,100 Samsonite Chairs
310 White Resin Chairs
9 – 8'x8' Stages in
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Rain Plan (not included in price)

Sidewall for every tent add \$25,000.00 approx.

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4. Dual Indemnity. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless, Producer, its employees, executives and agents from and against any and all damages, liabilities, claims, costs, expenses, attorney's fees, etc. incurred by Producer directly or indirectly, in connection with the rental of the above named rental equipment and/or attraction or attractions. Any injuries, damages or losses must be reported by any person to Producer on the day of the Event and failure to report such injury, damage or loss in writing may result in a waiver of insurance coverage. In such event, Producer shall bear no responsibility for such injury or damage.

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JAMES EVENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



Donna Steele

7-10-25

Date

Date



Chris Brackett

7-10-2025

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

Budgeted: Yes

Budgeted Amount: \$100,000

Cost Estimate: \$100,000

Funding Source: 1012.51119

Program/Line Item No.: 9959

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: OC WATER SUMMIT UPDATE

SUMMARY

The 2025 OC Water Summit will be held September 5 at the Westin South Coast Plaza. Staff will provide a verbal update of the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The OC Water Summit is an annual water supply conference co-hosted by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). OCWD and MWDOC trade off leading planning efforts each year. OCWD is leading planning of the 2025 event.

The 17th annual Summit takes place Friday, September 5, 2025, at the Westin South Coast Plaza. This year's theme is "Turning the Valve: Abundance for Orange County". Comedian and former NBC weatherman Fritz Coleman will return as master of ceremonies.

Four sessions are scheduled and listed below:

1. Responding to PFAS: Balancing Protection, Policy, and Practicality
2. Rethinking the Bay-Delta: Restoration with Benefits
3. Is the State Prioritizing Abundant Water Supply?
4. Getting Water on the Ballot

As of July 29, \$50,400 has been raised in event sponsorship, and 239 people are attending.

Staff will provide a verbal update on event planning.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: August 7, 2025

To: Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte.
Board of Directors

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/C. Nettles

Budgeted: N/A

Budgeted Amount: N/A

Cost Estimate: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

Program/Line Item No.: N/A

General Counsel Approval: N/A

Engineers/Feasibility Report: N/A

CEQA Compliance: N/A

Subject: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT (JULY 2025)

SUMMARY

Outreach for the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) and its programs and projects continue in an in-person and virtual format.

Attachment: July 2025 Media Clips Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Tours

In July, 277 guests from 19 groups toured OCWD. These tours were comprised of 18 GWRS tours and one recharge tour. Below is a breakdown of group-type.

High School	1
College	2
Nursing	2
Industry	6
International	5
Public/Community	3

There are currently eight tours scheduled for August.

The GWRS [on-demand technical virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 15,200 times. The [on-demand general virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 6,500 times. An on-demand tour of OCWD's surface recharge operations has garnered more than 860 views.

Speakers Bureau/Media

As part of OCWD's standard to forge and maintain long-term, positive, and proactive relationships with members of the community and to be transparent about its operations and programs, OCWD Board members and staff participate, regularly, at conferences and events and speak before civic groups.

July Speakers Bureau:

- July 7 – Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala chaired the WaterReuse Communications Collaborative Group's online meeting and program – "Engaging Medical Professionals is Reuse"
- July 14-18 – GIS Supervisor Zac Henderson spoke on GIS success and the OCWD Fleet Asset Management (FAM) application used to track vehicle maintenance and mileage during the 2025 Esri International User Conference.
- July 21 – Executive Director of Operations Mehul Patel provided an update on the National WRAP during the Arizona Water Reuse Symposium.

Upcoming Speakers Bureau:

- 12th annual FIRO training and workshop
- CA Environmental Flows workgroup
- National Water Supply Alliance
- WaterReuse California 2025 Conference

Media Clips

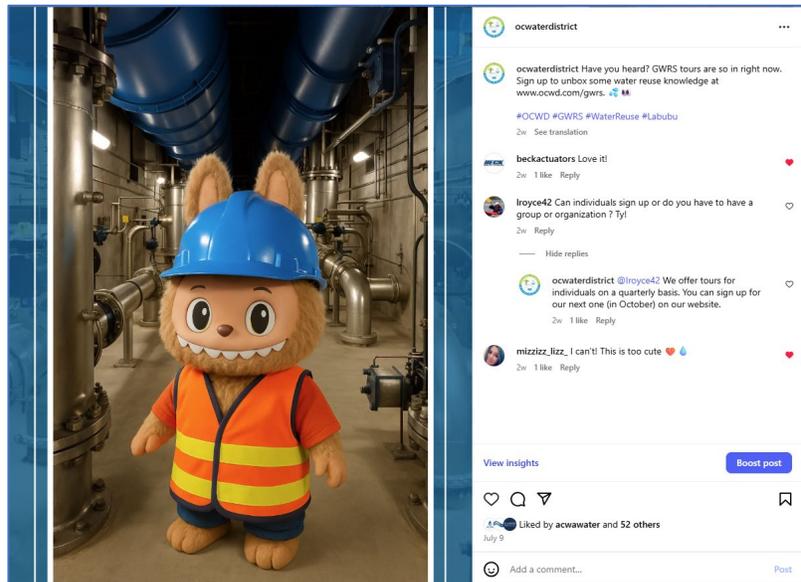
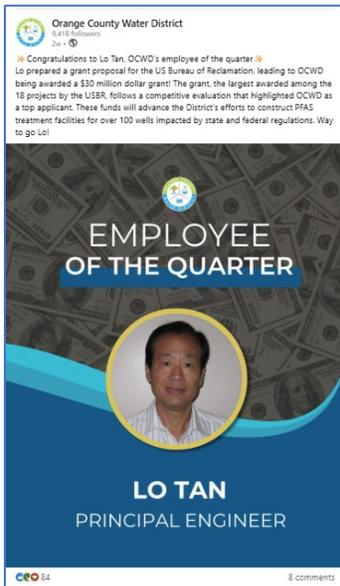
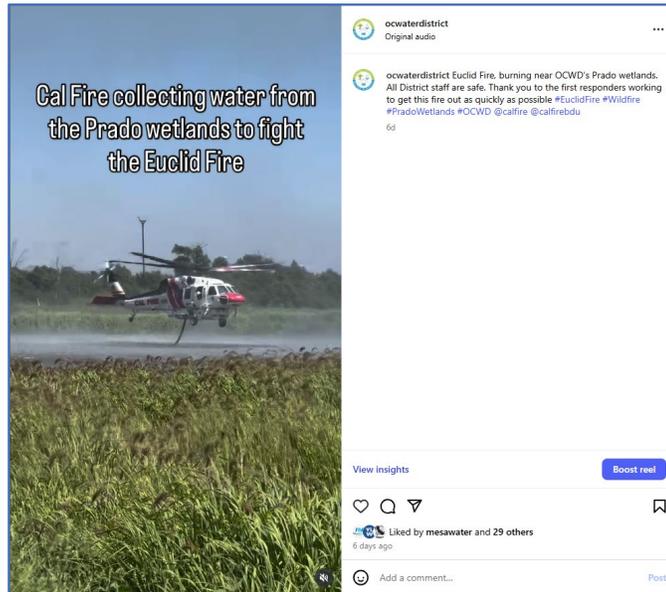
In July, there were 26 global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 111.56 million. The media clip report for July (as of July 28) is attached.

Social Media

The District posts regularly to the following social media channels: X, Facebook, Instagram, Linked In, Tik Tok, Threads, and YouTube. Below are statistics for OCWD's social media for July (as of July 29). Impressions refer to the total number of times a post shows up on a user's feed. Engagement refers to the number of users who interact with a post.

- Followers: 19,502
- Impressions: 28,746
- Engagement & video views: 11,066

Top performing July social media posts encompassed popular trends, top news stories, and employee features. A sampling of top posts are below:



Website Analytics

Below are July analytics for OCWD's website (as of July 29):

- Users: 7,346
- Page views: 23,481
- Top five pages (not including homepage):
 - Careers
 - RFP & contracts
 - Meeting agendas & minutes
 - GWRS
 - About

Electronic Publications

Staff wrote and distributed the July issue of Hydrospectives, OCWD's monthly e-newsletter.

Staff wrote and distributed one press releases: [Orange County Water District Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 17th Consecutive Year](#)

Construction Outreach

Staff distributed a letter for the Bond Basin slope repair project.

Staff monitored the construction hotline for questions regarding current construction projects.

Awards

OCWD received a Certificate of Achievement in Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 17th consecutive year. The certificate was awarded for the District's comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and affirms OCWD's ongoing commitment to responsible financial stewardship and transparent reporting.

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS

JULY 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
1	07/25/25	Los Angeles Times	Cloud seeding within Santa Ana River watershed canceled by wildfires, lackluster results	United States	https://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/story/2025-07-25/cloud-seeding-pilot-in-santa-ana-river-watershed-canceled-for-lackluster-results-wildfires	14,542,515.00
2	07/23/25	Long Beach Press-Telegram	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.presstelegram.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	92,644.00
3	07/20/25	The Cool Down	Innovative facility develops incredible method to produce drinking water from purified sewage: 'Tastes like water ... because it is water'	United States	https://www.thecooldown.com/green-tech/water-recycling-plant-california-sewage/	11,421,308.00
4	07/20/25	Bytes Europe	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear – Orange County Register	United States	https://www.byteseu.com/1211482/	203.00
5	07/20/25	The San Luis Obispo Tribune	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/article311029565.html	250,641.00
6	07/20/25	Merced Sun-Star	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.mercedsunstar.com/news/article311029565.html	57,654.00
7	07/20/25	The Fresno Bee	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.fresnobee.com/news/article311029565.html	315,490.00
8	07/20/25	The Orange County Register	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.ocregister.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	1,387,356.00

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS

JULY 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
9	07/20/25	Los Angeles Daily News	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.dailynews.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	539,039.00
10	07/20/25	Inland Valley Daily Bulletin	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.dailybulletin.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	107,211.00
11	07/20/25	San Bernardino County Sun	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.sbsun.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	158,996.00
12	07/20/25	Pasadena Star-News	Forever chemicals in Orange County continue to inspire science and fear	United States	https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	87,228.00
13	07/20/25	Whittier Daily News	It's still unclear how deadly PFAS molecules are, or aren't, but scientists, and tap water consumers, are eager to find out	United States	https://www.whittierdailynews.com/2025/07/20/forever-chemicals-in-orange-county-continue-to-inspire-science-and-fear/	40,881.00
14	07/20/25	Yahoo! News	Innovative facility develops incredible method to produce drinking water from purified sewage: 'Tastes like water ... because it is water'	United States	https://www.yahoo.com/news/innovative-facility-develops-incredible-method-110008078.html	66,649,761.00

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS

JULY 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
15	07/17/25	Water Online	California Water Service Awards Multi-Million-Dollar Design-Build Contract To Covenant Technical Solutions For Tank Mixing And Dosing Program	United States	https://www.wateronline.com/doc/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-covenant-technical-tank-mixing-dosing-program-0001	11,495.00
16	07/17/25	US Times Gazette	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.ustimesgazette.com/article/831290587-california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	271.00
17	07/17/25	California Commerce Daily	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.californiacommerce.com/article/831290587-california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	365.00
18	07/17/25	News Channel Nebraska	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://metro.newschannelnebraska.com/story/52931199/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	129,431.00
19	07/17/25	Today's Family Magazine	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.todaysfamilymagazine.com/story/52931199/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	2,226.00

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS

JULY 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
20	07/17/25	Effingham Magazine	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://lifestyle.effinghammagazine.com/story/52931199/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	797.00
21	07/17/25	Informed Infrastructure	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions for tank mixing and dosing program	United States	https://informedinfrastructure.com/101902/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions-for-tank-mixing-and-dosing-program/	5,164.00
22	07/17/25	International Business Watch	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.internationalbusinesswatch.com/article/831290587-california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	102.00
23	07/17/25	Innovation & Entrepreneurs News	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.innovationandentrepreneursnews.com/article/831290587-california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	708.00

OCWD MEDIA CLIPS

JULY 2025

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
24	07/17/25	Einnews	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://companies.einnews.com/pr_news/831290587/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	60,345.00
25	07/17/25	EIN Presswire	California Water Service awards multi-million-dollar design-build contract to Covenant Technical Solutions	United States	https://www.einpresswire.com/article/831290587/california-water-service-awards-multi-million-dollar-design-build-contract-to-covenant-technical-solutions	248,529.00
26	07/15/25	NewsBreak	Innovative facility develops incredible method to produce drinking water from purified sewage: 'Tastes like water ... because it is water'	United States	https://www.newsbreak.com/the-cool-down-314855763/4109718029132-innovative-facility-develops-incredible-method-to-produce-drinking-water-from-purified-sewage-tastes-like-water-because-it-is-water	15,465,562.00
					Total Reach	111,575,922.00