



# 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  
**October 2, 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 **October 15** 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  
151 Village Circle Rd., Killington, VT  
303 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton  
1454 Madison Steet, Tustin  
19 Cannery, Buena Park  
2630 East Vista Point Drive, Orange

\* 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 (ITEM NO. 1)**

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 SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

### **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for October 15 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for October 15 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

4. OC WATER SUMMIT RECAP
5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT

**CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE OCTOBER 15 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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  
September 4, 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 (non-voting)  
Roger Yoh  
Steve Sheldon (arrived at 12:02 p.m.)  
Valerie Amezcua  
Erik Weigand

OCWD Staff

John Kennedy – General Manager  
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs  
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 (arrived at 12:34 p.m.)  
Natalie Meeks (absent)  
Denis Bilodeau

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

***Ayes – Yoh, Amezcua, Weigand, Green, Jung***

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

**The minutes of the August 7, 2025 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.**

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

State consultants provided an update on legislation of interest to the District. General Counsel Jeremy Jungris provided an update on the status of SB 707.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants and District staff provided an update on OCWD's upcoming visit to Washington D.C. and federal regulations related to PFAS.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. OC Water Summit Update

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala reported that this year's OC Water Summit is scheduled to take place Friday, September 5 at the Westin South Coast Plaza. She stated this year's theme is Turning the Valve: Abundance in Orange County. She advised that there are 366 registrants and \$65,400 has been raised in sponsorships.

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Ms. Ayala provided a report on outreach activities for August stating that 57 guests from 8 groups toured OCWD. She provided an overview of upcoming meetings and events, noting that the employee Groundwater Adventure Tour will be held September 25 and the public Groundwater Adventure Tour will be held October 23.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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Erik Weigand, Director



## AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

**Meeting Date:** October 2, 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

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### SUMMARY

With the conclusion of the 2025 state legislative session on September 12, Orange County Water District (OCWD) staff and consultants will provide a suggestion for a state bill idea for our associations to sponsor and OCWD to support in the upcoming 2026 legislative session, beginning January 5.

#### Attachments:

- AB 2022 (Gordon) Advanced purified demonstration water, Chapter 408, 2016
- AB 2022 Bill Analysis
- Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith October Report

### RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for October 15 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

With the conclusion of the 2025 state legislative session on September 12, Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) staff and consultants will provide a suggestion for a state bill idea for our association, WaterReuse, to sponsor and OCWD to support.

#### Background:

In 2016, OCWD sponsored AB 2022 (please see attached bill text and bill analysis), which authorized the bottling of advanced purified demonstration water for educational purposes and to promote water recycling. OCWD bottled its Groundwater Replenishment System Water (GWRS) beginning in 2017 and distributed it until November 2024.

However, the bill stipulated that once direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations are concluded (which was established by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2025) then the bottling of advanced purified water for demonstration purposes has to meet the DPR regulations, which OCWD's GWRS does not satisfy.

On page 3, AB 2022 states: “(e) Advanced purified demonstration water shall not be distributed unless the following requirements are met:

(3) The water is produced using a treatment process that is consistent with the advanced treatment criteria for purified water specified in Section 60320.201 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and, if established by the state board, **in accordance with any uniform statewide water recycling criteria developed for the direct potable reuse of recycled water.**

**2026 bill idea:**

If the provision above were removed by legislation in 2026, allowing systems such as OCWD’s GWRS to continue bottling advanced purified water for demonstration purposes without having to meet direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations, this educational tool could remain available to inform the public about the benefits of water recycling systems.

**Need for the bill:**

By using advanced water purification technology, billions of gallons of water that would otherwise be discharged to the ocean can be reused as a safe, reliable, and precipitation-independent source to help meet California’s water demands. Legislation allowing the bottling of small amounts of advanced purified water would enable water agencies to better educate the public about the safety and reliability of this supply, especially for those unable to visit advanced purification facilities. OCWD’s GWRS, the world’s largest advanced water purification system for potable reuse, produces up to 130 million gallons per day and has found that sampling advanced purified water is one of the most effective ways to inform policymakers and residents. OCWD has raised this need with WateReuse California at its Legislative and Regulatory Committee meetings and annual conference, where there is broad support. Many agencies, including those in Los Angeles, San Diego, and other regions, have expressed interest in using bottled advanced purified water to support community education on recycled water.

**STATUS UPDATE ON BILLS WITH OCWD’S POSITIONS**

<b>Bill Number/Author</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
AB 259 Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina)	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences	Support	2 Year
SB 72 (Caballero, D-Merced)	The California Water Plan: long-term supply targets ‘California Water for All’	Support	Enrolled to Governor
AB 794 (Gabriel, D-Encino)	California Safe Drinking Water Act: emergency regulations	Oppose	2 Year
SB 454 (McNerney, D-Stockton) ACWA Sponsored Bill	SB 454 State Water Resources Control Board: PFAS Mitigation Program	Support	Enrolled to Governor
SB 496 Hurtado (D-Bakersfield)	Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation: appeals advisory committee: exemptions	Support	2 Year
SB 601 Allen (D-Santa Monica)	Water: Waste Discharge	Oppose	2 Year

SB 599 Anna Caballero (D-Merced)	Atmospheric rivers research: forecasting methods: experimental tools	Support	2 Year
AB 810 Jacqui Irwin (D-Thousand Oaks)	Local government: internet websites and email addresses	Oppose	2 Year
SB 31 Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton)	Water Quality: Recycled Water	Support	Enrolled to Governor

## PAST ACTIVITIES

- Sept. 23 Staff to staff meeting with Assembly Member Tri Ta's Senior Field Representative
- July 21 Staff to staff meeting with Assembly Member Dixon's Field Representative
- July 14 Staff to staff meeting with Assembly Member Cottie Petrie-Norris's District Director
- 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

## Assembly Bill No. 2022

### CHAPTER 408

An act to add Section 111070.5 to the Health and Safety Code, and to add Section 13570 to the Water Code, relating to water.

[Approved by Governor September 21, 2016. Filed with Secretary of State September 21, 2016.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2022, Gordon. Advanced purified demonstration water.

Existing law requires the State Department of Public Health to, on or before December 31, 2013, adopt uniform water recycling criteria for indirect potable reuse for groundwater recharge and to investigate and, on or before December 31, 2016, report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse. Existing law transferred these powers and responsibilities to the State Water Resources Control Board on July 1, 2014.

Under existing law, the State Department of Public Health licenses and regulates water bottlers, distributors, and vendors. Existing law prescribes various quality and labeling standards for bottled water and limits the levels of certain contaminants that may be contained in those water products. Violation of these provisions is a crime.

This bill would authorize the operator of an advanced water purification facility to cause advanced purified demonstration water to be bottled and distributed as samples for educational purposes and to promote water recycling, as specified. The bill would prohibit the advanced purified demonstration water in each bottle from exceeding 8 ounces and would prohibit that water from being distributed unless the water, among other requirements, meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards. The bill would authorize advanced purified demonstration water to be bottled at a licensed water-bottling plant in compliance with specified provisions. The bill would further establish bottling and labeling requirements for advanced purified demonstration water and would prohibit a facility from causing more than 1,000 gallons of the water to be bottled in a calendar year. The bill would require an operator of an advanced water purification facility seeking to bottle advanced purified demonstration water to establish a collection and recycling program for distributed bottles. The bill would require the operator to maintain a daily record of the number of individuals to whom the water is distributed, served, made available, or otherwise distributed and to submit a report based on those records, as specified and under penalty of perjury, to the state board. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would require a bottler of advanced purified demonstration water to submit sample labels and specified analyses of the advanced purified demonstration water to the department and to conduct a full sanitation of the bottling and filling equipment immediately after bottling advanced purified demonstration water.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 111070.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

111070.5. (a) “Advanced purified demonstration water” means product water from an advanced water purification facility that satisfies both of the following requirements:

(1) The product water is treated by all of the following treatment processes:

(A) Microfiltration, ultrafiltration, or other filtration process that removes particulates before reverse osmosis.

(B) Reverse osmosis.

(C) Advanced oxidation.

(2) The product water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards and is produced in accordance with the advanced treatment criteria for purified water specified in Section 60320.201 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(b) A bottler of advanced purified demonstration water shall do all of the following:

(1) Submit sample labels to the department for review at least 30 days before bottling advanced purified demonstration water.

(2) Submit the analyses of the advanced purified demonstration water required under subdivision (e) of Section 13570 of the Water Code to the department at least seven days before bottling advanced purified demonstration water.

(3) Conduct a full sanitation of the bottling and filling equipment immediately after bottling advanced purified demonstration water.

SEC. 2. Section 13570 is added to the Water Code, to read:

13570. (a) As used in this section, “advanced purified demonstration water” means product water from an advanced water purification facility that satisfies both of the following requirements:

(1) The product water is treated by means of all of the following treatment processes:

(A) Microfiltration, ultrafiltration, or other filtration processes to remove particulates before reverse osmosis.

- (B) Reverse osmosis.
- (C) Advanced oxidation.

(2) The product water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards and is produced in accordance with the advanced treatment criteria for purified water specified in Section 60320.201 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(b) As used in this section, “advanced water purification facility” means a water recycling treatment plant that produces advanced purified demonstration water in accordance with the advanced treatment criteria specified in Section 60320.201 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(c) As used in this section, “batch” means an increment of advanced purified treatment water that has completed the treatment process, is separate from incoming water, and is not receiving any additional source water.

(d) Except as expressly set forth in this section, the operator of an advanced water purification facility may cause advanced purified demonstration water to be bottled and distributed as samples for educational purposes and to promote water recycling, without complying with the requirements of Article 12 (commencing with Section 111070) of Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code. The volume of advanced purified demonstration water in each bottle shall not exceed eight ounces.

(e) Any operator of an advanced water purification facility seeking to bottle advanced purified demonstration water shall collect water samples from the batch prior to the commencement of the bottling process, and test that batch in accordance with Section 111165 of the Health and Safety Code. Advanced purified demonstration water shall not be distributed unless the following requirements are met:

(1) The water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water standards, including all maximum contaminant levels applicable to public drinking water systems.

(2) The advanced water purification facility meets or exceeds all purification requirements imposed by regulatory agencies to produce the advanced purified demonstration water, including the removal of constituents of emerging concern where the removal is otherwise required of an advanced water purification facility.

(3) The water is produced using a treatment process that is consistent with the advanced treatment criteria for purified water specified in Section 60320.201 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations and, if established by the state board, in accordance with any uniform statewide water recycling criteria developed for the direct potable reuse of recycled water.

(f) (1) Advanced purified demonstration water may be bottled only at a licensed water-bottling plant in compliance with Sections 111070.5, 111080, 111120, 111145, and 111155 of the Health and Safety Code.

(2) Before bottling advanced purified demonstration water, an advanced water purification facility shall follow all pretreatment and labeling

regulations for water bottling, including the requirements described in Section 111070.5 of the Health and Safety Code and the requirements for bottled water and vended water pursuant to Section 111080 of the Health and Safety Code.

(g) Advanced purified demonstration water shall be handled from the point of production to the completion of bottling in accordance with all regulations governing the transportation, bottling, labeling, and handling of bottled water, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 111070 of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, subdivisions (a), (b), (f), and (h) of Section 111075 of the Health and Safety Code and Section 111070.5 of the Health and Safety Code. A water-bottling plant that bottles advanced purified demonstration water in accordance with this section may also bottle potable water, subject to compliance with Article 12 (commencing with Section 111070) of Chapter 5 of Part 5 of Division 104 of the Health and Safety Code.

(h) An advanced water purification facility shall not provide bottled advanced purified demonstration water to any person under 18 years of age without the consent of that person's parent or legal guardian.

(i) An advanced water purification facility shall not provide advanced purified demonstration water for human consumption, as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, in bottles, to more than 25 individuals per day for 60 or more days in a calendar year.

(j) Advanced purified demonstration water shall be bottled in nonreturnable (one-way) bottles or packages with labels containing the following information in an easily readable format that complies with all of the following:

(1) The label shall state "sample water--not for sale" and "Advanced Purified Water Sourced From Wastewater."

(2) The label shall set forth the name, address, telephone number, and Internet Web site of the operator of the facility producing the advanced purified demonstration water.

(3) The label shall include a brief description of the advanced purified demonstration water, including its source and the treatment processes to which the water is subjected.

(k) A single advanced water purification facility shall not cause more than 1,000 gallons of advanced purified demonstration water to be bottled in a calendar year.

(l) Advanced purified demonstration water shall not be sold or otherwise distributed in exchange for financial consideration.

(m) Any operator of an advanced water purification facility seeking to bottle advanced purified demonstration water shall establish a collection and recycling program for distributed bottles.

(n) The operator of an advanced water purification facility that is bottling advanced purified demonstration water shall do all of the following:

(1) Maintain a daily record of the number of individuals to whom advanced purified demonstration water is distributed, served, made available, or otherwise provided, including, but not limited to, from a bottle.

(2) Compile a report of all daily records described in paragraph (1) for each calendar year.

(3) Certify under penalty of perjury that the report is accurate.

(4) Provide the report within 45 days of the end of the calendar year for which the report was made to the deputy director of the Division of Drinking Water of the State Water Resources Control Board.

(o) This section does not exempt an advanced water purification facility from any standard for bottling water imposed pursuant to federal law.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

## CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 2022 (Gordon)

As Amended August 15, 2016

Majority vote

ASSEMBLY: 76-0 (April 28, 2016) SENATE: 38-0 (August 18, 2016)

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Original Committee Reference: **E.S. & T.M.**

**SUMMARY:** Authorizes the bottling of advanced purified demonstration water, as defined, for educational purposes and to promote water recycling.

**The Senate amendments:**

- 1) Add definitions to the Bottled, Vended, Hauled, and Processed Water statutes of the Health and Safety Code consistent with the new definitions added in the Direct and Indirect Potable Reuse statutes of the Water Code.
- 2) Require a bottler of advanced purified demonstration water to do all of the following:
  - a) Submit sample labels to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for review at least 30 days before bottling advanced purified demonstration water;
  - b) Submit the analyses of the advanced purified demonstration water to DPH at least seven days before bottling advanced purified demonstration water; and,
  - c) Conduct a full sanitation of the bottling and filling equipment immediately after bottling advanced purified demonstration water.
- 3) Delete the requirement that the advanced purified demonstration water meets or exceeds all federal and state drinking water goals.
- 4) Clarify that advanced purified demonstration water shall be handled from the point of production to the completion of bottling in accordance with all regulations governing the labeling of bottled water, among other requirements.
- 5) Prohibit an advanced water purification facility from providing bottled advanced purified demonstration water to any person younger than 18 years of age without the consent of that person's parent or legal guardian.
- 6) Prohibit an advanced water purification facility from providing advanced purified demonstration water for human consumption to more than 25 individuals per day for 60 or more days in a calendar year.
- 7) Change the labeling requirements on the bottled advanced purified water from saying "advanced purified water meeting all federal and state drinking water standards" to "Advanced Purified Water Sourced From Wastewater."
- 8) Delete the exemption from the penalty provisions of the Sherman Food, Drug and Cosmetic Laws.

- 9) Require the operator of an advanced water purification facility that is bottling advanced purified demonstration water to do all of the following:
  - a) Maintain a daily record of the number of individuals to whom advanced purified demonstration water is distributed, served, made available, or otherwise provided;
  - b) Compile a report of all daily records for each calendar year;
  - c) Certify under penalty of perjury that the report is accurate; and,
  - d) Provide the report within 45 days of the end of the calendar year for which the report was made to the deputy director of the Division of Drinking Water of the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board).
- 10) Make other clarifying and conforming changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Authorizes the DPH to license and regulate manufacturers of bottled water and vended water. Establishes requirements for bottled, vended, hauled and processed water.
- 2) Requires the State Water Board to maintain a drinking water program.
- 3) Requires the State Water Board to establish uniform statewide recycling criteria for the various uses of recycled water where the use involves the protection of public health.
- 4) Requires the State Water Board, on or before December 31, 2016, to investigate and report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, should this bill be enacted, costs could be approximately \$140,000 annually (Drinking Water Fund) for the State Water Board to oversee purification facilities, some or all of which may be offset by fees assessed on the purification facilities.

**COMMENTS:**

*Need for the bill:* According to the author, "By using advanced water purification technology, billions of gallons of water that would otherwise be wasted and sent to the ocean can be reused as a safe and reliable source of new precipitation-independent water to help fulfill California's ever-growing demand... This legislation to allow the bottling of small amounts of advanced purified water is an excellent way to expand that educational opportunity to Californians who don't have the opportunity or means to visit these advanced purification facilities."

*Recycled water:* Water recycling is reusing treated wastewater for direct beneficial or controlled purposes, such as for agricultural and landscape irrigation, industrial processes, toilet flushing, and replenishing ground water basins. According the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), recycled water can satisfy most water demands, as long as it is adequately

treated to ensure water quality appropriate for the use. In addition to providing a dependable, locally-controlled water supply, water recycling can provide environmental benefits.

*Recent legislative and regulatory action on recycled water in California:* Among other requirements, SB 918 (Pavley), Chapter 700, Statutes of 2010 and SB 322 (Hueso), Chapter 637, Statutes of 2013, require the State Water Board, by December 31, 2016, to investigate and report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse. The law also requires the State Water Board to convene and administer an expert panel to advise it the investigation of the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse.

The State Water Board has convened and is currently working with the expert panel, and expects to release the required report on direct potable reuse of recycled water by December 31, 2016. There is some concern about allowing the bottling and direct drinking of treated recycled water prior to the release of the State Water Board's report on the safety of the direct potable reuse of recycled water.

*Recycled water for direct consumption:* In California, the State Water Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW), in conjunction with the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Boards, which are the permitting authorities, are responsible for evaluating the treatment, production, distribution, and use of recycled water. DDW does not regulate public consumption of treated recycled water from projects that do not meet the definition of a public water system. The State Water Board has not approved the use of any recycled water, including advanced purified demonstration water, for direct potable reuse. The US EPA does not have regulations for treating wastewater to drinking water quality; they leave it up to the states to do so.

While the State Water Board does regulate recycled water, it does not regulate bottled water or vended water – these are regulated as food by DPH's Food and Drug Branch. It is unclear how bottled advanced purified demonstration water would be regulated under the California bottled water law.

*Concerns about recycled water for direct consumption:* While recycled water has potential for providing solutions for the state's limited water resources, recycled water regulations are currently being developed and potential human health impacts of the direct consumption of recycled water are being studied. Numerous contaminants, such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products (antibacterial soaps, sunscreen, bath gels, etc.), flame retardants, and other constituents of emerging concern, are more likely to be present in municipal wastewater than in other water sources. Since there are currently no state or federal drinking water standards for these constituents, allowing the direct consumption of treated recycled water, as opposed to consumption after a spatial or temporal buffer as is required with groundwater or surface water recharging, may be cause for caution.

*Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS):* Operational since January 2008, Orange County's GWRS is the world's largest advanced water purification system for potable reuse, producing about 100 million gallons a day of highly-purified potable water from treated wastewater. Treated water samples are currently offered to visitors at the GWRS. The Orange County Water District states that while the advanced purified water that they produce meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards, it still faces a tough battle with public perception. They argue that the sampling of advanced purified water is seen as one of the most

effective ways of educating policymakers and members of the community about the safe purification process for this growing source of water supply.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Shannon McKinney / E.S. & T.M. / (916) 319-3965

FN: 0004344



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH<sup>LLC</sup>



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

FROM: JOE A. GONSALVES AND SON  
EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH<sup>LLC</sup>

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: September 24, 2025

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The end of the 2025 legislative session was tumultuous.

Energy affordability, legislation to allow California's utilities to participate in a western regional energy market, stabilization of the state's oil industry, replenishment of the utility wildfire fund, and reauthorization of the state's Cap-and-Trade Program were high priorities for the Legislature and the Governor throughout most if not all of 2025. However, when the Legislature returned from its summer recess on August 18, no agreement had been reached by leadership on how these proposals should be drafted.

The deadlock continued throughout August and into the final week of session despite the fact that the September 9th deadline to amend bills "in print" 72 hours before passage was looming. While the Assembly and the Governor began to reach consensus on a number of these issues, the Senate remained hesitant. As the deadline imposed by the 72-hour rule drew closer, it appeared that many if not all these issues may not pass.

Governor Newsom appeared on the Senate Floor late on the night of September 9<sup>th</sup>. Assembly and Senate leadership met with the Governor throughout the night and appeared in the morning with passable proposals on every issue. To get around the 72-hour deadline, the Legislature had to adjust the timing of the end of session, ultimately staying one additional day, Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to adopt these bills. All of which passed out of both houses and have been signed by the Governor.

As you know, the Governor had several water priorities earlier this year. This included permit streamlining for the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) and CEQA exemptions for the adoption of water quality control plans necessary for implementation of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program. In the final month of session, the Governor's priorities shifted away from these proposals as he focused more on energy and climate related priorities. Consequently, these concepts did not advance in 2025.

However, the Legislature and the Governor did reach agreement in the final week of session on a spending plan for some Proposition 4 funding. The agreement appropriates \$3.2 billion total including funding for water quality, water recycling, and dam safety.

The Governor now has until October 13th to act on the 780+ bills sent to him in the final weeks of session. The Legislature will return to Sacramento for the second year of its two year session on January 5<sup>th</sup> to begin next year's process of introducing another 2,000+ bills.



## AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

<b>Meeting Date:</b> October 2, 2025	<b>Budgeted:</b> N/A
<b>To:</b> Communications/Leg. Liaison Cte. Board of Directors	<b>Budgeted Amount:</b> N/A
<b>From:</b> John Kennedy	<b>Cost Estimate:</b> N/A
<b>Staff Contact:</b> G. Ayala/A. Harasty	<b>Funding Source:</b> N/A
	<b>Program/Line-Item No.:</b> N/A
	<b>General Counsel Approval:</b> N/A
	<b>Engineers/Feasibility Report:</b> N/A
	<b>CEQA Compliance:</b> N/A

**Subject: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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### 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., funding for OCWD's projects, and an update on PFAS.

Attachment: ENS Resources October Update

### RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for October 15 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

Please see attached "ENS Resources October 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	Referred to Committee Transportation & Infrastructure/Committee on Energy and Commerce
S. 322 Alex Padilla (D-CA)	Improve Atmospheric River Forecasts Act	Support	Referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
H.R. 3898 Mike Collins (R-GA); Includes H.R. 2093, Ken Calvert (R-CA) / Garamendi (D-CA)	Extends Permitting Terms	Support	Pending House floor debate and vote

## 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)

## PAST ACTIVITIES

August 7 President Bilodeau will brief and provide a GWRS tour for Congressman Derek Tran and his staff

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

July 15 Staff to staff meeting with Congressman Dave Min'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: September 24, 2025  
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congress returned from its summer recess on September 2. With six days until the start of fiscal year (FY) 2026, and no agreement on spending bills, Congress and the Administration appear far apart from reaching an agreement on a stopgap spending bill. Last minute compromises are always possible, but the proverbial “line in the sand” that Senate Democrats have drawn suggests a shutdown is more likely than not. Indeed, the betting markets have raised the probability of a shutdown from 49% to 70%. If a shutdown does occur, the question that arises is how long a shutdown will persist. Aside from spending legislation, congressional and Administration activities over the next several weeks will focus on the Water Resources Development Act’s (WRDA) implementation in a run-up to drafting WRDA 2026, permit reforms, and renewal of the State Revolving Loan Fund that supports water infrastructure.

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

***Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Stalled***

The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations approved their respective versions of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) FY 2026 spending bills. Notable is the fact that both committees preserve State Revolving Loan Fund program, but with sizable differences. The Senate seeks to provide \$2.7 billion, while the House seeks to provide \$2.1 billion. This will require reconciliation later this fall. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) is also supported, with the Senate providing \$58 million and the House providing \$52 million. Both levels are reduced from the current \$72 million level provided in the FY 2025 spending bill. On the PFAS front, the Senate spending bill for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) provides language encouraging drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 4PPT and designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance.

The House spending bill was approved at the committee level on a party-line vote. The Senate committee approved its bill on a bipartisan vote of 26-2. While this suggests that developing any compromise bill will be challenging at this writing the key question remains will there be a shutdown.

### **Importance of Appropriations Process**

If Congress cannot reach a final spending bill agreement, it would mean a year-long stopgap spending bill. This outcome would be unprecedented, as it would mean a second year of a year-long Continuing Resolution (CR). If this occurs, it will provide the president with the ability to determine which discretionary program priorities would be funded and limit program activities to ongoing projects. A CR could be amended, as many Members of Congress on a bipartisan basis are seeking, to include the funding of earmark thereby protecting OCWD's directed project assistance.

### ***PFAS Mandates and Litigation***

USEPA has responded to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) litigation that challenges the agency's Safe Drinking Water Act 4 PPT Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) MCL standard and the use of a hazard index (for PFAS chemical mixtures) rules. On September 10, the agency filed its brief on how it plans to proceed with the litigation. In its brief, USEPA states that it intends to defend its MCL drinking water standard. However, in the same filing, the agency asked the court to vacate the hazard index rule. USEPA states that because of the questionable process that the agency employed in issuing the rule, it violates the law's requirement for individual MCL's for a chemical.

AMWA and AWWA base their challenges on their belief that the 4PPT MCL is based upon flawed science and fails to consider the costs and benefits of the MCL. The second element of the litigation, the hazard index, is grounded on the premise that the agency failed to comply with the law's directives guiding the development of drinking water standards. Given the agency's response in agreement, it seems likely the court would remand the rule back for further consideration. In sum, the legal challenge if successful would likely force the agency to reopen its rulemaking process to address the science, economics and benefits flaws that AMWA and AWWA claim were inadequately considered.

The agency is also under litigation challenging its rule to designate PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Emergency Response and Liability Act (CERCLA). This rule has created the circumstance where public agencies, like OCWD, could be ensnared in CERCLA cleanup liability for PFAS contamination. As noted in past updates, this exists because agencies may have treated PFAS-contaminated water which results in PFAS in the treatment process residuals that must be disposed of after treatment. The agency advised the court it will defend the rule. In making this decision, the agency noted that it is precluded by statute from providing liability protections to passive receivers and requires congressional action.

## **Importance of PFAS Mandates**

As noted in prior updates, the outcome of litigation surrounding PFAS drinking water standards and the designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance holds the potential to impose substantial costs of compliance for water and wastewater treatment, as well as exposure to liability for clean-up of PFAS contaminated sites.

## ***Office of Water Assistant Administrator Nominee Confirmed and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Nomination Pulled***

The Senate voted 51 to 47 to confirm Jess Kramer to be the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Senate voted to confirm Kramer, along with 47 other nominees, following Senate Republicans' move to revise the rules governing the Senate nomination confirmation. The rules revision allowed Senate leadership to bundle nominations to expedite debate and allow for a simple majority vote to confirm nominees. Prior to the rules change, the Senate debated nominations one at a time and required a 60-vote supermajority to pass nominees.

However, the White House pulled the long stalled nomination of Ted Cooke to become the next USBR Commissioner. No explanation has been provided for the decision. Acting Commissioner, David Palumbo, will continue in this role, but we expect after the November 11 deadline for the Colorado River negotiations passes that a new Acting Commissioner will be named. Last, Andrea Travnicsek received Senate confirmation to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science that addresses fisheries and water supply issues.

## **Outlook**

The successful confirmation of Kramer to assume the role of the senior water official at the agency means that key policy issues addressing PFAS such as water related water quality standards and liability will now have oversight by an Administration appointee that can work with Congress.



## AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

**Meeting Date:** October 2, 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 RECAP

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### SUMMARY

The 2025 OC Water Summit was held September 5 at the Westin South Coast Plaza. Staff will provide a verbal recap 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 led the planning of the 2025 event.

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

The Summit included the four sessions listed below. Recordings of each session is posted on the OC Water Summit website. <https://www.ocwatersummit.com/program>

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

\$65,400 was raised in sponsorship and nearly 360 people attended. Staff will provide a verbal recap of the event.



## AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

**Meeting Date:** October 2, 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 (SEPTEMBER 2025)**

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### 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: September 2025 Media Clips Report

### RECOMMENDATION

Informational

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

#### Tours

In September, 181 guests from 10 groups toured OCWD. Below is a breakdown by group type.

Industry	7
International	1
Public/Community	2

The GWRS [on-demand technical virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 15,300 times. The [on-demand general virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 6,600 times. An on-demand tour of OCWD's surface recharge operations has garnered more than 890 views.

In September, the GWRS Tour Ad Hoc Committee visited the Mesa Water Education Center to learn about their exhibits and community education, as research for updates to the GWRS tour experience.

#### 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.

#### September Speakers Bureau:

- September 9 – Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala and Senior Communications Specialist Dani Berch presented on GWRS public outreach and community engagement during the monthly information exchange meeting between U.S. and Ukrainian water utilities organized by Mykolaiv Water Hub.
- September 17 - President Denis Bilodeau provided opening remarks and information on OCWD, and Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney presented on sediment management, at the National Water Supply Alliance.
- September 22-23 – Multiple OCWD presented at the WaterReuse CA Annual Conference. Sessions include:
  - Optimizing RO Performance with Dynamic Recovery & Advanced Data Techniques: OCWD Pilot Case Study
  - The Future of Membrane Technology: What Lies Ahead?
  - CalVal – Development of Guidelines for Potable Water Reuse Treatment
  - Running It to Ground: Insights from Groundwater Augmentation Projects
  - Real-Time Detection of Volatile Organic Compounds in RO-Based Potable Reuse
  - Ensuring Resiliency in Potable Water Reuse Systems: Climate Adaptation Planning Case Studies by City of Santa Monica and Orange County Water District
  - Hard Questions Honest Answers: Outreach Lessons From Potable Reuse Projects
- September 24 – Principal Communications Specialist Crystal Nettles presented on community engagement during a panel at the National Ground Water Association's Managed Aquifer Recharge Conference.
- Director of Engineering Ryan Bouley provided an OCWD and GWRS overview to A Plus 1 Academy

#### Upcoming Speakers Bureau:

- Goldenwest College Science Night
- Yorba Linda Water District Open House
- Water Advisory Committee of Orange County

#### **Media Clips**

In September, there were six global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 19.4 million. The media clip report for September (as of September 23) 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 September (as of September 23). 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: 20,028
- Impressions: 19,993
- Engagement & video views: 4,250

A sample of top posts is below:



## Website Analytics

Below are August analytics for OCWD's website (as of September 23)

- Users: 7,428
- Page views: 19,152
- Top five pages (not including homepage):
  - Careers
  - Meeting agendas & minutes
  - GWRS
  - RFP & contracts
  - About

Public affairs staff is working with Information Services and web developer Word Herd to put the finishing touches on ocwd.com's refreshed design. New features include a drop-down navigation bar and mobile-optimized pages. The changes bring the website in line with industry best practices and will launch in early October.

## **Electronic Publications**

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

Staff issued two press releases. A media alert for the OC Water Summit was also distributed to local media.

- [New PFAS Treatment Facility Enhances Orange County's Drinking Water Supply](#)
- [OCWD and Local Water Providers Secure Millions in PFAS Settlement to Keep Water Safe, Reliable and Affordable](#)

## **Events**

OCWD cohosted the 17<sup>th</sup> annual OC Water Summit on September 5.

OCWD cohosted the OPA-1 Well PFAS Treatment Plant Dedication with IRWD. President Denis Bilodeau provided remarks during the ceremony along with General Manager John Kennedy. Directors Van Tran and Erik Weigand attended, as did OCWD staff from engineering and public affairs.



Planning for the 2026 Children's Water Education Festival is underway, with registration scheduled to open September 30. The Festival is the District's largest event and welcomes approximately 6,000 third, fourth and fifth grade students annually.

## **Awards**

OCWD received the Outstanding Water/Wastewater/Recycle Water Project from the American Society of Civil Engineers – Orange County for the Fullerton PFAS Treatment Plant – Main Plant. Director Fred Jung accepted the award on OCWD's behalf.

OCWD received the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies' Sustainable Water Utility Management Award. Judges found OCWD demonstrates a strong record of effective utility management and a significant contribution to the drinking water industry. The award will be presented on October 27 at AMWA's Executive Management Conference.

OCWD's "Meet the Staff" video series is on the short list for a STAR Award, given by the California Association of Public Information Officials. STAR Awards celebrate video production within government communications. Winners will be announced in early October.

### **Construction Outreach**

A letter was delivered to Huntington Beach residents regarding construction of two monitoring wells. Construction will take place for one day on September 29, then start again on October 6 and last for three weeks.

**Media Clips Report  
September 2025**

	Date	Source	Headline	URL	Country	Reach
1	23-Sep-2025 04:59PM	NewsBreak	New PFAS Treatment Facility Enhances Orange County's Drinking Water Supply	<a href="https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4252095653099-new-pfas-treatment-facility-enhances-orange-county-s-drinking-water-supply">https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4252095653099-new-pfas-treatment-facility-enhances-orange-county-s-drinking-water-supply</a>	United States	17990759
2	18-Sep-2025 11:47AM	ASDWA - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators	2025 ASDWA Annual Conference Full Agenda Now Available	<a href="https://www.asdwa.org/2025/09/18/2025-asdwa-annual-conference-full-agenda-now-available/">https://www.asdwa.org/2025/09/18/2025-asdwa-annual-conference-full-agenda-now-available/</a>	United States	1820
3	17-Sep-2025 12:59PM	New University	UCI PFAS Study: Ending forever chemicals in OC drinking water	<a href="https://newuniversity.org/2025/09/17/uci-pfas-study-ending-forever-chemicals-in-oc-drinking-water/">https://newuniversity.org/2025/09/17/uci-pfas-study-ending-forever-chemicals-in-oc-drinking-water/</a>	United States	33607
4	05-Sep-2025 07:00AM	The Orange County Register	Proposed wave pool in Newport Beach clears first approval hurdle, heads to City Council vote	<a href="https://www.oregister.com/2025/09/05/proposed-wave-pool-in-newport-beach-clears-first-approval-hurdle-heads-to-city-council-vote/">https://www.oregister.com/2025/09/05/proposed-wave-pool-in-newport-beach-clears-first-approval-hurdle-heads-to-city-council-vote/</a>	United States	1298027
5	03-Sep-2025 02:10AM	KLCS (PBS)	NOVA - Wed, 03 Sep 2025 02:10:00 -0700	<a href="https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/Y1uymOsKFdPYwLI9ptF0o7GYMEg?keywords=%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22,%22california%22&amp;cid=robin_export_runner_66ba0557bd5d990011290672_e00b10ad8cbc79a974336a435b12c09a&amp;productType=app-export">https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/Y1uymOsKFdPYwLI9ptF0o7GYMEg?keywords=%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22,%22california%22&amp;cid=robin_export_runner_66ba0557bd5d990011290672_e00b10ad8cbc79a974336a435b12c09a&amp;productType=app-export</a>	United States	3435
6	02-Sep-2025 07:10PM	KLCS (PBS)	NOVA - Tue, 02 Sep 2025 19:10:00 -0700	<a href="https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/OXvIbjSONlSYNvC_Q0I8lm3XKhw?keywords=%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22,%22california%22&amp;cid=robin_export_runner_66ba0557bd5d990011290672_e00b10ad8cbc79a974336a435b12c09a&amp;productType=app-export">https://transition.meltwater.com/paywall/redirect/OXvIbjSONlSYNvC_Q0I8lm3XKhw?keywords=%22orange%20county%20water%20district%22,%22california%22&amp;cid=robin_export_runner_66ba0557bd5d990011290672_e00b10ad8cbc79a974336a435b12c09a&amp;productType=app-export</a>	United States	39723

**Total                    19367371**