



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 **January 8, 2026 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 **January 21** 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, Santa Ana
1454 Madison Steet, Tustin
No. 111, Section 2, Gongdaowu Rd, East District, Hsinchu City, Taiwan 300
6151 Baja Drive, Anaheim
301 N. Ross Street, Santa Ana
1502 North Broadway, Santa Ana
303 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton
* 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 NOVEMBER 6, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: Approve minutes as presented

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

3. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

4. ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE GOALS & STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATION: Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5. CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL UPDATE
6. PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH REPORT

CHAIR DIRECTION AS TO WHICH ITEMS IF ANY TO BE AGENDIZED AS A MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY 21 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
November 6, 2025 12:00 p.m.

Director Tran 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
Roger Yoh
Steve Sheldon
Valerie Amezcua (absent)
Erik Weigand

Alternates

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

OCWD Staff

Chris Olsen – Executive Director
Gina Ayala – Director of Public Affairs
Alicia Harasty – Legislative Affairs Liaison
Crystal Nettles – Principal Communications Specialist
Michelle Diaz – Communications Specialist
Jason Dadakis – Executive Director
Jeremy Jungreis – General Counsel
Leticia Villarreal – District Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Ayes – Tran, Yoh, Sheldon, Weigand, Green

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the October 2, 2025 Communications/Legislative Liaison Committee meetings are approved as presented.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. State Legislative Update

District staff and consultants provided an update on OCWD's 2025 accomplishments and planning for the 2026 legislative session.

3. Federal Legislative Update

Federal Consultants and District staff provided a brief overview on OCWD's 2025 accomplishments and provided an update on Federal activities of interest to the District.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

4. Children's Water Education Festival Update

Communications Specialist Michelle Diaz reported that the next Children's Water Education Festival will be hosted at Oak Canyon Park on April 15 and 16, 2026. She added that registration opened September 30 and 5,455 students are preregistered to attend with 19 presenters committed.

Ms. Diaz advised that OCWD will continue to solicit schools, presenters and sponsors and noted monthly updates will be provided.

5. Public Affairs Outreach Report

Director of Public Affairs Gina Ayala provided a report on outreach activities for November stating that 448 guests from 17 groups toured OCWD. She shared that the GWRS Tour Ad Hoc Committee visited the Water Replenishment District's Albert Robles Cener for Water Recycling and Environment Learning (ARC). She reported that OCWD's Quarterly Webinar had 80 live attendees and 175 recorded views.

6. Orange County Water District State And Federal Legislative Goals & Strategy

Legislative Liaison Alicia Harasty reported that staff will be reaching out to OCWD's retail water providers, key OCWD staff and other stakeholders to provide input for this annual review. She stated that a final proposed draft will be provided at an upcoming committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Van Tran, Chair

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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) consultants and staff will provide an update on the 2026 legislative session.

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

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Please see the attached “Joe A. Gonsalves and Son – Edelstein Gilbert Robson & Smith January Report.”



EDELSTEIN GILBERT ROBSON & SMITH^{LLC}



Joe A. Gonsalves & Son
Anthony D. Gonsalves
Jason A. Gonsalves
Paul A. Gonsalves
PROFESSIONAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION
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916 441-6597 - FAX 916 441-5961
Email: gonsalves@gonsalves.com

TO: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

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

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE: December 17, 2025

The Legislature will return to Sacramento on January 5. While it is impossible to perfectly anticipate what we will be working on in 2026 given the thousands of bills introduced each year, our firms have been meeting with colleagues and staff to learn what we can about what's coming. There are a few issues worth highlighting.

The State Budget isn't Good

State revenues have consistently outperformed the assumptions made by the Legislature and Governor when the 2025-2026 Budget was adopted. Nevertheless, the budget picture continues to be dismal. In their recent analysis of the state's fiscal condition, the nonpartisan and highly respected Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimated that the state would be facing an \$18 billion problem. They identified a variety of reasons why their estimated deficit is higher than the deficit anticipated by the Governor and Legislature when they adopted the 2025-2026 Budget earlier this year.

First, increased payments to schools and state reserves mandated by Prop. 98 and Prop. 2 respectively almost entirely offset these revenue gains. At the same time, programmatic costs are projected to increase by \$6 billion.

The LAO also builds economic volatility into their estimates. The windfall revenues the state has been collecting are driven by the strong performance of AI in the stock market resulting in increased capital gains tax revenue. California has long been the victim of volatile revenues that follow the market. While the LAO's projections do not assume that the market will take a turn for the worse, but it is conservative and assumes slightly weaker revenues to hedge against the potential of a future downturn.

Water Rights

In 2023 and 2024, OCWD opposed legislation that would have significantly changed water law and diminished the value of water rights, especially senior water rights. We opposed these bills on OCWD's behalf and they were either defeated or amended in ways that were acceptable to OCWD before passage.

We have heard rumors that some of the proponents of the legislation introduced in the last two years are looking for authors who are willing to revisit this issue. If this legislation is introduced, we will work with OCWD staff to evaluate their impact on the district and will be ready to oppose them on your behalf if necessary.

Legionella

We have heard that legislation may be introduced to regulate water quality in statute. The potential bill is rumored to:

- Set some sort of statutory standard for treatment of legionella
- Impose new public noticing requirements on water purveyors who experience service interruptions.

Our firms have worked extensively on water quality issues in the past on OCWD's behalf. As a general proposition, the district has opposed legislation that sets standards in statute. We will keep an eye out for such legislation and work with OCWD to evaluate its impact should such legislation be introduced.

2026 Politics/election year

In June 2025, the Senate Democrats elected Senator Monique Limon from the Santa Barbara area to be the next Pro Tem since Pro Tem McGuire is termed out in 2026. The transition was supposed to take place in early 2026, but frustrations from the end of 2025 session drove the transition to take place on November 17th, 2025.

The Pro-Tem transition has come with changes in Senate leadership. Most notably, Senator John Laird, who represents the Central Coast, was appointed Chair of the Senate Budget Committee while Senator Josh Becker, who represents San Mateo and Silicon Valley, was appointed Chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

All this coupled with the 2026 mid-term election during which all 80 Assemblymembers will be up for re-election, 20 of the 40 Senators and the ever changing congressional races.

In summary, thank you for the confidence you have shown in our firms, it is a privilege and honor to represent OCWD in Sacramento and we look forward to many more shared successes.

Happy Holidays and here's to a healthy and exciting 2026.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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: FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Orange County Water District's (OCWD) federal advocate and staff will brief the committee on federal activities of interest to OCWD.

Attachment: ENS Resources January Update

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Please see attached "ENS Resources January Update," for activities that are of interest to OCWD.



TO: Alicia Harasty
FROM: Eric Sapirstein
DATE: December 22, 2025
SUBJECT: Washington Update

Congress recessed for the year and will return to work for the second and final session of the 119th Congress on or around January 3, 2025. Top among the legislative issues that will capture congressional attention are funding, Clean Water Act permit reforms, State Revolving Loan Fund reauthorization, western water supply, and PFAS liability policy matters. Meanwhile, the Administration is expected to continue its deregulatory initiatives impacting water quality and water supply matters and importantly advancing water conveyance as it relates to the Colorado River and the Bay Delta. The following summarizes these issues.

Efforts to Develop Minibus Spending Bill on Track for January

When Congress recessed, House and Senate leaders left nine fiscal year 2026 spending bills, including those that fund USEPA and USBR, in limbo. When the Senate recessed, an apparent agreement between Republican and Democratic Senators was reached to act upon a minibus that would carry five spending bills that include USEPA's budget. However, the Administration's surprise decision to terminate a climate research facility in Colorado triggered opposition to passage of the minibus from Colorado's Senators, until the termination action is repealed. It is highly likely that a resolution will be brokered to allow for passage of the minibus upon the Senate's return in January. In addition, Senate and House Committees on Appropriations reached an overall agreement on total spending levels to guide development of the final nine spending bills. Assuming that the agreement holds, Congress should be in a position to pass final spending bills before the January 30, 2026 deadline when the Continuing Resolution expires. This would avoid the prospect of a year-long stopgap spending bill or another government shutdown.

Importance of Spending Agreement

Assuming final passage of the spending bills, OCWD's earmark should be included to support ongoing groundwater PFAS clean-up efforts. Additionally, funding of USEPA's State Revolving Loan Fund and WIFIA, and USBR's WaterSMART programs can be expected to remain at or near current spending levels, maintaining federal support for water infrastructure programs. It is important to note that the final year of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's funding water infrastructure is also provided boosting federal water infrastructure assistance.

Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request Anticipated to Seek Spending Reductions

When the second session convenes in January, a second appropriations debate will begin to unfold. The Administration is required to transmit its Fiscal Year 2027 budget request on the first Monday of February. Whether the Administration meets this deadline, or delays transmittal for a few weeks, the key issue will involve requested spending levels for key water infrastructure programs. Specifically, a request, again, to cut federal support of programs like the SRF and WIFIA and eliminate federal programs addressing natural resources is highly likely. In an election year, such requests are unlikely to be sustained. Additionally, providing project earmarks is expected to remain a priority in the process of developing spending bills over the first seven months leading into the congressional midterm elections.

House Committee Considers Impacts of Passive Receivers of PFAS CERCLA Liability

The House Committee on Energy and Commerce convened a hearing into the policy implications of USEPA's designation of PFAS as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA). The review illustrated concerns that the water sector, and other passive receivers stakeholders, are at risk of being held liable for PFAS clean-ups. The hearing followed a similar Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works hearing in November. Committee members Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff voiced concerns over the prospect of CERCLA liability law shifting the burden of responding to PFAS contamination on utilities simply because utilities provide public health services, that involve PFAS treatment, exposing them to third party litigation. Both hearings revealed support to remedy the CERCLA liability threats and preserve the polluter pays principle. Notably, the American Water Works Association and other experts testified before the House that two policymaking avenues should be pursued. First, USEPA current discretionary enforcement policy should be codified to avoid future reversal. Second, an explicit exemption to protect water and wastewater agencies, similar to the existing innocent landowner liability protection, was called to ensure ratepayers would not be held liable for the costs associated with PFAS contamination.

Last, federal litigation is pending against USEPA's CERCLA designation. The litigation is based upon the assertion that the designation process the agency relied upon was inappropriate. The court is expected to hear oral arguments against the designation this winter. Should the court rule in favor of the plaintiffs, and remand the rule back to the agency, then the potential CERCLA liability for passive receiver stakeholders would be temporarily eliminated.

Importance of Congressional Hearings

The Senate and House hearings into CERCLA liability issues sets the stage for legislative initiatives to provide protection to utilities. Currently, a House bill, H.R. 1267, is pending before the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Senate legislation is expected to be introduced early in the next session. Assuming the committees begin formal consideration of liability protection legislation (something the Administration requested), final action on a measure might occur late in the session. If the court rules in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that USEPA violated administrative procedures to establish PFAS as a hazardous substance, it could paradoxically, provide greater impetus for Congress to legislate amendments to CERCLA to protect the water and wastewater sector, while preserving the use of CERCLA to ensure that the polluter pays for cleanups.

Clean Water Act Legislative Initiatives Move Forward

The House approved by a vote of 221 the PERMIT Act (H.R. 3898). This bill would provide for ten-year National Permit Discharge Elimination System permits (NPDES), replacing the existing five-year term for such permits. In addition, H.R. 3898 would address a number of other clean water regulatory reforms, including streamlining permit reviews and imposing strict deadlines for review and approval of environmental studies. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is also expected to unveil a package of permitting reforms next year. It is expected to address NPDES terms. Senate committee action is highly likely and if the committee approves a bill, then it could lead to finalizing a bill with the House in 2026.

The reauthorization of the Clean Water Act SRF program is also expected. The House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure continues to develop a compromise bill to renew the SRF that is expiring to ensure that federal assistance continues uninterrupted in the years ahead. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is also developing an SRF reauthorization. Because the Senate committee holds jurisdiction over both the clean water and drinking water SRF's, its bill is expected to address both programs unlike the House committee bill.

Importance of Clean Water Legislation

Consideration of the clean water bills is important because, if enacted, it would lead to the modernization of the permitting processes and reduce administrative burdens on water and wastewater agencies. It would also ensure that the SRF federal partnership would continue allowing federal appropriations to continue to be considered without violating budget limitations on unauthorized spending.

Central Valley Project Water Conveyance Directives

As reported earlier in the year, the president issued an Executive Order (E.O. 14181) to convey more water from the Central Valley Project to south of the Delta regions. As part of this policy priority, the Department of the Interior issued policy statement to implement Action 5. Action 5 would be implemented consistent the Record of Decision issued earlier in the year to enhance water supply. Action 5 would shift decision making on when to export water relying upon real time factors rather than the existing fixed limits approach. It would also require operations decisions based

specific risk data. Action 5 is also notable for a priority to provide operators with greater flexibility in operation decisions. upon The Administration is expected to continue to develop Initiative 6 in the coming months. Initiative 6 would impose significant changes in the operations of the federal project with impacts upon the State Water Project.

Colorado River Compact Deadline Approaches

The end of year deadline for Upper and Lower Colorado River Basin states to reach an agreement to address water supply reliability on the river will pass without resolution. While the states remain at an impasse, USBR and the Department of the Interior will need to decide how to proceed. The federal government could move forward and implement directives to the states on water allocations, but this would likely trigger litigation. It is unclear how the situation will resolve other than another temporary reprieve. Given the economic, environmental and political dynamics at play, it is possible that Congress could work with the states to develop a western water resources bill that might address the management of the river, while providing resources to address water infrastructure projects like water recycling and desalination.

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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

From: John Kennedy

Staff Contact: G. Ayala/A. Dunkin

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: ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT STATE AND FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE GOALS & STRATEGY**

SUMMARY

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) annually updates the OCWD State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy (Goals), and reviews existing legislative policies. Two documents are attached for Committee review and input: (1) the DRAFT State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy V-1 and (2) the OCWD 2026-27 Legislative Policies. OCWD staff and consultants have included proposed updates and suggestions for 2026.

Attachments:

- DRAFT State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy V-1
- OCWD 2026-27 Legislative Policies

RECOMMENDATION

Agendize for January 21 Board meeting: Take action as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

The OCWD State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy is a summary of District goals and a proposed means to achieve them for the upcoming biennium. OCWD traditionally removes the legislative goals that have already been accomplished and develops new goals that reflect the needs of the District and retail water suppliers in OCWD's service area. Staff reached out to OCWD's retail water providers, key OCWD staff and OCWD's state and federal consultants to provide input.

DRAFT State and Federal Legislative Goals and Strategy for 2026

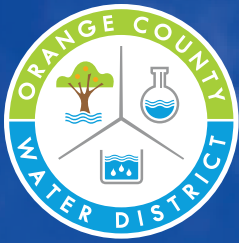
FEDERAL				
DRAFT Federal Legislative Policy Priorities	Status and Outlook	Strategy	New or continued effort from 2025	DRAFT Rank
Exempt water and wastewater agencies from any CERCLA liability for PFAS cleanup costs	Legislation is pending that OCWD supports & gained Congressmembers Kim and Correa to co-sponsor the bill	Work with passive receivers to ensure full liability protections for water sector	Continue	#1
Preserve the Safe Drinking Water Act's use of cost-benefit analysis in the development of drinking water standards such as PFAS family of chemicals and other constituents of emerging concern	Amendments and legislation that OCWD opposed that would have altered the use of cost-benefit analysis have not been adopted	Work with Senate and House Committees and OCWD congressional delegation to ensure that cost-benefit analysis is relied upon in any PFAS legislation	Continue	#2
Advocate for water infrastructure funding (grants) for OCWD's water producers	OCWD has provided multiple support letters for producer's projects	This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities	Continue	#3
Target federal assistance to support construction of large-scale all water supply facilities to support urban and agricultural needs which otherwise would not be constructed without such funding	OCWD board, staff and consultant continue to convey this message to the OC delegation	Ensure that current program is reauthorized and is fully funded working with OCWD congressional delegation and key western water House and Senate committees	Continue	#4
Maintain Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations congressional support and funding to update water control manual at Prado Dam		Work with Senate and House Committees, OCWD congressional delegation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography	Continue	#5
Gain "Phase 2" funding for Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project ("Local SIP")	OCWD staff will collaborate with its Local SIP partners: Mesa Water, City of Huntington Beach, and City of Newport Beach to apply for	This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities	Continue	#6

	federal and state grant funds			
With dam safety as a priority, maximize implementation of minor deviation at Prado Dam during upcoming repairs of the Prado Dam spillway		Work with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to collaborate	New	#7
Support collaboration to enable long-term sediment management behind Prado Dam		Work with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, elected officials (state and federal), cities, beach communities, University of California-Irvine, etc. to collaborate; possibilities include pulsing sending through Prado Dam during wet weather; gaining funding in the Water Resources Development Act, etc.	New	#8
Gain funding for the South Basin groundwater cleanup project	OCWD staff will apply for federal and state grant funds	Seek federal and state grants (This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities)	New	#9
Gain funding for the Sunset Gap Barrier project	The CA state 2025 water climate bond now has eligibility language in for the Sunset Gap project -OCWD staff will apply	Seek federal WaterSMART grants and state grants through the 2025 climate bond (This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities)	New	#10
Gain funding for a multipurpose education center at OCWD's headquarters and at Prado Dam		Seek federal and state grants (This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities)	New	#11
STATE				
Support water infrastructure funding opportunities, including PFAS cleanup	Advocate for climate bond (Prop 4) funds to be used for PFAS cleanup		Continue	#1
Advocate for water infrastructure funding (grants) for OCWD's water producers	OCWD has provided multiple support letters for producer's projects	This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities	Continue	#2
Ensure indoor water use is not limited as outlined in the OCWD board adopted resolution 23-9-134		OCWD must protect from having "stranded assets" which may happen to the GWRS if indoor water use	Continue	#3

		is further constrained by pending regulations		
Gain “Phase 2” funding for Local groundwater Supply Improvement Project (“Local SIP”)	OCWD staff will collaborate with its Local SIP partners: Mesa Water, City of Huntington Beach, and City of Newport Beach to apply for federal and state grant funds	This applies to both federal and state funding opportunities		#4
Oppose legislation that would impose stringent water quality requirements on OCWD and its producers or increase the cost of PFAS clean-up	OCWD’s firms lobbied in opposition to SB 601 and AB 794. Neither bill passed in 2025. Both bills are “2-year bills” that can still move in 2026. While it is good that they were defeated in their first year more work will be necessary on these issues in 2026.	SB 601 (Allen) and AB 794 (Gabriel) were introduced in 2025 and would have imposed costly new requirements on OCWD and its producers. OCWD lobbyists will work to oppose these bills	New	#5

Note: Item removed was as goal for 2025 that was accomplished: “Lift the State Revolving Fund (SRF) \$5 million cap on grants and gain an allowance for multiple applications per applicant.”

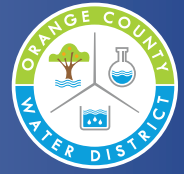
After meetings arranged by OCWD’s lobbyists with State Water Board Chair Esquivel and several subsequent meetings between OCWD staff and the Board, the Board adopted guidelines that virtually mirrored what OCWD was asking for, thus increasing the amount of money OCWD was eligible to receive from the Board by millions of dollars.



2026-2027

LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES



The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) works to influence legislation and funding in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. and ensures that OCWD's service area of 2.5 million people have a reliable, drought-resistant, affordable and safe water supply for now and the future. OCWD maintains an active presence in the government arena to forge and maintain long-term, positive and proactive relationships with legislative offices, to expand water reuse, advocate for the development of new water supplies, expand the use of new technologies, increase stormwater capture, among other topics.

Water Supply

- The federal and state government should prioritize the necessary funding to construct large scale water supply facilities to support urban and agricultural needs that provide a statewide or significant regional benefit which otherwise would not be constructed without such funding. Examples of these type of projects should include above and below ground storage of surface and storm water, water reuse, weather modification, brackish water, and seawater desalination. Local, state and federal officials should collaborate on projects and prioritize the necessary funding. Use of such funds for environmental restoration should be for project impact mitigation and funds for environmental improvements should be classified under their own category.
- Add "water supply" to the authorized use of Prado Dam.
- Support legislation that adds to the reliability, affordability, and security of water supplies to Orange County.
- Protect the quality of surface and groundwater and support entities to meet state and federal water quality standards.
- Encourage economical outdoor water use efficiency while preserving flows for existing reuse.
- Ensure indoor water use is not limited as outlined in the OCWD board adopted resolution number 23-9-134.
- Expand water recycling, potable reuse, groundwater recharge, storage, brackish and ocean water desalination, and surface water development.
- Allow for local governmental agencies to provide input to statewide water resource planning decisions.
- Support water storage and exchange/transfer programs where the primary benefits occur to OCWD, its local water suppliers and the ratepayers they serve.
- Engage on legislation and regulatory actions related to constituents of emerging concern that ensures continued access to safe and reliable drinking water supplies with regulation of constituents of emerging concerns based on sound, peer-reviewed science.

GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES (CONT.)



- Support state and federal legislation to manage salinity in source water supplies.

Groundwater

- Legislation should not interfere with the authority of governance of special act non-adjudicated basins.
- Existing laws and court/agency decisions that effectively govern groundwater production and recharge should not be disturbed. The rights of parties to take water pursuant to prior court decisions, decisions of the State Water Resources Control Board (the State Board) or inter-agency agreements must be protected, and existing legal obligations imposed on parties should remain enforceable.
- Support legislation and programmatic reforms that expedite the appropriate and applicable use of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and/or leads to the clean-up of toxic chemical contamination in groundwater.
- Existing groundwater basin management boundaries created through statute or court decision should not be modified and new groundwater management areas should not be carved out of existing groundwater management plan areas without the approval of the affected groundwater management agency(ies). Similarly, where a statute or a court decree has authorized an entity to manage a groundwater basin, legislation should not create or empower other local entities with duplicative or overlapping authority.
- Local agencies are in the best position to implement sustainable groundwater management. Groundwater management can best be accomplished at the local level by agencies that have the technical expertise and existing or newly-granted authority to ensure aquifer health is maintained and competing uses balanced.
- Any definition of sustainable groundwater management should allow groundwater managers, including OCWD, sufficient flexibility to manage groundwater, recognizing the following:
 - Sustainability varies as a function of local hydrogeologic conditions, water supply availability, and historic groundwater utilization.
 - Sustainable groundwater management can include periods when groundwater withdrawals exceed recharge if it causes no long-term negative impacts and there is a commitment to balance pumping over time with natural or artificial replenishment.
 - Managed aquifer recharge is a key tool that allows for sustainable groundwater management. As such, groundwater recharge should be recognized as a beneficial use of the water supplies of the state.
- Monitor activities related to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and will take a position as appropriate.

GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES (CONT.)



Recycled Water

- Authorize local government agencies to regulate the discharge of contaminants to the sewer collection system that may adversely affect water recycling and reuse.
- Reduce regulatory burdens on water recycling and brackish or ocean water desalination projects.
- Authorize, promote and provide incentives for potable and non-potable reuse projects.
- Support funding for research needed by the State Board to be able to develop direct potable reuse regulations.
- Support the expansion of recycled/reused water for potable and non-potable purposes without the use of ocean discharge prohibitions or percentage reuse mandates.

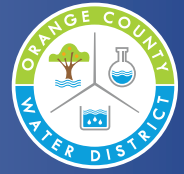
Stormwater

- Support stormwater capture projects that are cost-effective.
- Support policies, programs and projects that enhance stormwater capture, sediment management, water conservation, and ecosystem restoration.
- Support adequate state and federal funding to increase understanding and prediction of atmospheric rivers that provide most of California's precipitation.
- Support adequate state and federal funding for development of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) and modifications to dam water control manuals to incorporate FIRO to increase water supplies to Orange County.
- Gain Congressional approval for a "reallocation" of the use of Prado Dam to maximize water capture through the use of FIRO and gain a permanent major deviation or greater.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

- Advocate to exempt water and wastewater entities for any liability for PFAS clean-up costs if PFAS is listed under CERCLA as a hazardous waste. A water utility that properly disposes of residuals containing PFAS, in a manner consistent with applicable laws, must not be held liable for current and future costs associated with PFAS cleanup.
- Support development of a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to be developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Support development of PFAS MCLs through a rigorous health-based, scientific approach that promotes consistency across the nation.

GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES (CONT.)



- Oppose legislation that sets PFAS MCLs without following sound regulatory processes with stakeholder input.
- Advocate for state and federal funding to ensure that adequate funds are available to address costs associated with PFAS monitoring, research and potential groundwater treatment by OCWD and local water suppliers.
- Allow water and wastewater agencies to determine the PFAS treatment systems they will use; oppose tying federal funding to only EPA-approved treatment systems.

Imported Water Supply

- Support administrative/legislative action and state funding to keep the California Delta Conveyance Project on schedule to advance conveyance and ecosystem improvements to help achieve the coequal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration.
- Support the California Delta Conveyance Project and EcoRestore and projects that facilitate delivery of high-quality water from the Bay-Delta and the Colorado River.
- Support projects that enhance the Bay-Delta's ecological health, while employing sound scientific research and ensuring that costs of such projects are shared equitably among beneficiaries.
- Oppose projects that would reduce water reliability or would increase the cost of imported water without improving reliability or quality. Also, oppose any water fee that does not fund water supply improvements in the Delta.

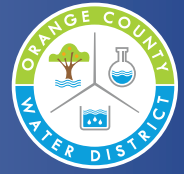
Greywater

- Any state greywater policy should encourage generating new water supplies for the state. Specifically,
 - Avoid adding a new upstream greywater system that would significantly impact the current flows to the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) and waste capacity of OCWD's existing or future GWRS water recycling infrastructure.
 - Encourage the State Board's greywater policy to be flexible enough to consider local conditions where there is already an investment in water recycling facilities.
 - Advocate that the State Board not develop a uniform statewide policy, but instead address local conditions where extensive recycling is already occurring, and new greywater systems would lead to the diverting of water that could be recycled for potable reuse projects.

Water Transfers

- Oppose regulatory or procedural barriers to water transfers and legislation that interferes with the financial integrity of a water utility or compromises water quality.

GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES (CONT.)



Environment

- Support legislation to streamline and modernize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Preserve OCWD's state and federal rights to seek cost recovery for groundwater clean-up projects.

Energy

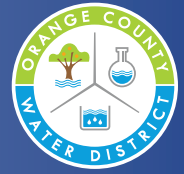
- Encourage energy efficiency through incentives, funding and other assistance to facilitate water use efficiency partnerships with the energy sector, including wastewater programs.
- Support legislation and policies that encourage and incentivize energy storage and creates incentives for demand response use by water districts.
- Seek available funding for water projects under existing programs for climate resiliency and/or climate change response.
- Support legislation or regulations that facilitate the development or expansion of clean, renewable energy in California if it does not significantly increase the cost of water.

Funding

Distribution of Bond Funds

- Support adequate funding to expand statewide and/or regional groundwater supplies, newly created water supplies through water recycling/reuse, weather modification, brackish water and seawater desalination, stormwater capture, and remediation of groundwater contamination.
- Support regional projects through the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process.
- Funding for any Delta restoration project shall support the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration.
- Bond proceeds should be distributed to beneficial projects throughout the state in an equitable, balanced and reasonable manner.
- Any water infrastructure financing measure should include specific criteria which must be met before a project obtains funding. The specific criteria should include cost-effectiveness, a project proponent's ability to implement the project, specific timelines for project implementation, and a high-level of measurable benefit.
- Bond proceeds should be leveraged to the maximum extent possible utilizing local or federal matching funds. Projects funded with a higher percentage of non-state funds should be given priority.

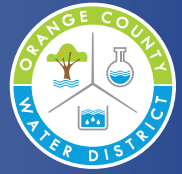
GENERAL OCWD LEGISLATIVE POLICIES (CONT.)



- The allocation of bond funds should be handled with minimal bond administration costs.
- Obtain funding for PFAS cleanup in any upcoming climate/water bond in the amount of \$50 to \$75 million (retroactive to when CA drinking water Response Levels were lowered in 2020).

Water Infrastructure Financing and Project Funding

- Support establishing grants or other funding opportunities for local and regional water infrastructure projects and support programs that reduce the cost of financing water infrastructure planning and construction, such as tax-credit financing, tax-exempt municipal bonds, advance refundings of tax-exempt municipal bonds, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act (WIFIA), Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), the Environmental Infrastructure Accounts, revitalization of the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program, and other funding mechanisms.
- Support water infrastructure funding from the EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE; Corps), and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) as part of a Congressional Infrastructure funding package.
- Advocate for funding and federal appropriations of low-interest loans through the EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) to support water infrastructure funding in California.
- Gain allowance through SRF of multiple applications per applicant for PFAS cleanup funding up to 50% per project cost with a cap of \$15 million per project.
- For any PFAS state or federal grant funding expand cost eligibility, which should begin when regulation was adopted.
- Continue to build on federal appropriations of funding for expanding the existing Corps' FIRO program from Lake Mendocino to Prado Dam and support for study of atmospheric river precipitation events that impact California water supplies.
- Support funding for weather modification.
- Support legislation that allows for Congressional earmarks.
- No unfunded mandates. For newly mandated federal and state costs or regulatory actions, support legislation that requires the federal and/or state governments to provide reimbursement to local governments.
- Ensure that regulations and legislative mandates are developed using sound science and cost benefit analysis and oppose imposition of unfunded mandates in accordance with existing law.

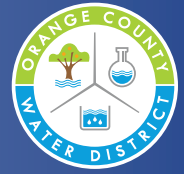


- Protect special district ad valorem tax revenues.
- Advocate for water infrastructure funding (grants) for OCWD's water producers.
- Pursue additional PFAS cleanup funding through federal programs.
- Obtain WaterSMART grants of \$2 million for planning and CEQA compliance to support the Sunset Gap project and 50% grant funding for construction (estimated at \$150 million).

Water Rate Structures

- Support legislation that allows flexibility in water rate structures and does not mandate a specific rate structure for local water suppliers.
- Oppose a "public goods charge" or "water tax" on public water agencies or their ratepayers.

OCWD PROCESS FOR TAKING POSITIONS ON BILLS

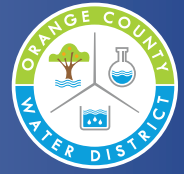


Legislation that meets or fails to meet the principles set forth in the platform may be supported or opposed accordingly. Pending approval by the Board President and General Manager, the platform also allows staff and the District's legislative advocates to act in a timely fashion in between Board meetings on issues that are clearly within the legislative platform. Such actions are then reported to the Board at the next available monthly Comm/Leg Committee meeting or Board meeting. The legislative team, in conjunction with the Board, may take appropriate action consistent with the legislative platform, including, but not limited to, drafting letters, lobbying legislators and staff, engaging in legislative work groups, and drafting bills.

Procedure for Taking Positions on Bills

1. Staff and legislative advocates will track bills of greatest interest to OCWD, particularly those that fall within the goals and objectives identified by the Board of Directors. Staff will monitor bills being watched by similar agencies in Orange County as well as state, federal and national agencies and associations such as the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), National Association of California Water Agencies (NACWA), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), WaterReuse Association (WRA), and California Association of Municipal Water Companies (CalMutuals).
2. For those bills that are being tracked, where there is clear policy direction stated in the Board-adopted legislative platform, staff can send letters and give direction to its lobbyists to advocate.
3. When a bill does not fall within the scope of the legislative platform or is a politically controversial issue, but if a position may be needed before the next scheduled Comm/Leg Committee meeting or Board meeting, staff will seek direction from the Board President and General Manager.
4. If a bill does not fall within the scope of the legislative platform, but an association such as ACWA or WRA has adopted a position, and timing is critical, staff will inform the Board President and General Manager about the organization's position to seek approval to follow the organizations' position, but staff must inform the Comm/Leg Committee of such action at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
5. All bills that are of potential interest or concern to the District are monitored by staff and legislative advocates, as reflected on the monthly bill matrix provided to the Board. If any of those measures are amended, they are re-evaluated to determine if a formal position should be recommended for Board consideration.

OCWD PROCESS FOR TAKING POSITIONS ON BILLS (CONT.)



Bill Positions Considered by OCWD Board of Directors

The following represent active bill positions that may be recommended by District staff for consideration by the District's Board in providing guidance to the District's legislative advocates and staff. Once adopted by the Board of Directors, the bill position will be communicated with the author of the legislation and may be communicated with other legislators, legislative staff, the Administration, water agencies, and the public.

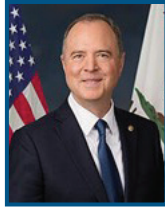
Advocacy strategies and activities will be directed toward implementation of the Board's policies through advancement of the District-adopted bill position.

- **SUPPORT:** This position reflects the District's interest to see the legislation become law. District staff and legislative advocates will work for passage of the bill in its present form.
- **SUPPORT IF AMENDED:** This is an affirmative position that connotes conditional support for a measure, but only if it is amended to incorporate specific amendments approved by the District Board. District staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in support of the legislation unless it is amended as requested by the District.
- **WATCH:** Take no action, but monitor the bill during the legislative process to see if any amendments are added that may impact the District or its local water suppliers.
- **OPPOSE:** This position reflects the District's interest to defeat the legislation. District staff and legislative advocates will work for defeat of the measure in its present form, and will not pursue amendments to address the measure's shortcomings.
- **OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED:** This position reflects the District's interest to defeat the legislation, but only if it is not amended to incorporate specific amendments approved by the District's Board. District staff and legislative advocates will not advocate in opposition of the legislation if it is amended as requested by the District.

United States Senate



Alex Padilla
State of California



Adam Schiff
State of California

United States House



Young Kim
40th District



Derek Tran
45th District



Jose Luis "Lou" Correa
46th District



Dave Min
47th District

California State Senate



Kelly Seyarto
32nd Senate District



Tom Umberg
34th Senate District

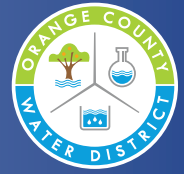


Tony Strickland
36th Senate District



Steven Choi
37th Senate District

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION (CONT.)



California State Assembly



Phillip Chen
59th Assembly District



Sharon Quirk-Silva
67th Assembly District



Avelino Valencia
68th Assembly District



Tri Ta
70th Assembly District



Diane Dixon
72nd Assembly District



Cottie Petrie-Norris
73rd Assembly District

Orange County Board of Supervisors



Janet Nguyen
1st District



Vicente Sarmiento
2nd District



Donald P. Wagner
3rd District

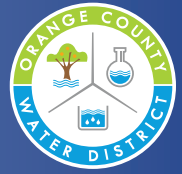


Doug Chaffee
4th District



Katrina Foley
5th District

LEGISLATIVE TEAM



OCWD Staff

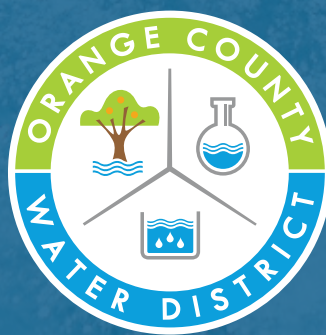
John Kennedy, P.E. General Manager	(714) 378-3305	jkennedy@ocwd.com
Alicia Harasty Legislative Affairs Liaison* <i>*Key Contact for Legislative Issues</i>	(714) 477-3750	aharasty@ocwd.com
Gina Ayala Director of Public Affairs	(714) 378-3323	gayala@ocwd.com

Federal Lobbying Team

ENS Resources Eric Sapirstein, President	(202) 466-3755	esap@ensresources.com
David French		dfrench@ensresources.com

State Lobbying Team

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Trent Smith		trent@EGRSlobby.com
Jason Ikerd		jason@EGRSlobby.com
Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Anthony D. Gonsalves Jason A. Gonsalves Paul A. Gonsalves	(916) 441-0597	gonsalves@gonsalvi.com



SINCE 1933

Orange County Water District
18700 Ward Street | Fountain Valley | California 92708
(714) 378 - 3200 | www.OCWD.com

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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: \$265,000

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 UPDATE

SUMMARY

The 29th annual Children's Water Education Festival (Festival) will take place on April 15-16, 2026, at Oak Canyon Park.

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

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 2026 Festival will take place April 15-16, 2026, at Oak Canyon Park. The free event is open to third, fourth and fifth grade classes in Orange County, Calif. Registration opened September 30, 2025.

As of December 30, \$5,000 in sponsorship funds has been raised. Registration continues to grow with 5,515 students, 37 presenters, and 10 volunteers confirmed so far. Staff continue to solicit participants and will update the Board monthly.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION(S)

N/A

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL

Meeting Date: January 8, 2026

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 (NOV/DEC 2025)

SUMMARY

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

Attachments:

- November 2025 Media Clips Report
- December 2025 Media Clips Report

RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Tours

In November, 208 guests from 10 groups toured OCWD, and in December, 136 guests from nine groups toured OCWD. A total of 2,667 guests toured OCWD in 2025, an increase of 2.5% from the year prior.

The GWRS [on-demand technical virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 15,700 times. The [on-demand general virtual tour](#), in all forms, has been viewed more than 6,800 times. An on-demand tour of OCWD's surface recharge operations has garnered more than 900 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.

November speakers bureau:

- November 4 – Principal Hydrogeologist Dave Mark gave a geology presentation to Vista Verde middle school students.
- November 6 – Chief Hydrogeologist Roy Herndon presented on the Orange County Groundwater Basin to Villa Park Rotary.
- November 11 – Senior Scientist Meeta Pannu presented “Separation and Destruction of PFAS from Potable Reuse Reverse Osmosis Concentrate” at AWWA’s Water Quality Technology Conference.
- November 12 - Senior Scientist Meeta Pannu discussed her scientific publications as a panelist at AWWA’s Water Quality Technology Conference.
- November 12 - Post Doc Research Associate Sophie Sun presented “Chlorination vs Chloramination: Nationwide Impact on DBP Occurrence and Toxicity” at AWWA’s Water Quality Technology Conference.
- November 19 – Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney spoke on the panel “From Pilots to Practice: AI for Water Sector Innovation” at the Schneider Electric Innovation Summit North America.

December speakers bureau:

- December 3 – General Manager John Kennedy spoke on the panel “The Cost of Reliability” at the ACWA Fall Conference.
- December 3 - Executive Director of Operations Mehul Patel spoke on the panel “Balancing AI Innovation and Cybersecurity for California's Water Systems” at the ACWA Fall Conference.
- December 4 - Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney spoke on the panel “Diving Deep: An AI Approach to Water Management” at the ACWA Fall Conference.
- December 4 – Senior Regulatory Affairs Specialist Claire Johnson provided a GWRS presentation to Hays High School aquatic science students.
- December 8-9 – President Denis Bilodeau and General Manager John Kennedy attended the Innovation Driven Water Sustainability Conference where they were invited to speak during the following sessions:
 - Keynote: “Setting a Global Standard: Orange County Water District’s Groundwater Replenishment System” (Denis Bilodeau)
 - Panel: “Global Innovation Leadership: Driving Progress Through the Public Sector to Achieve Water Sustainability” (Denis Bilodeau)
 - Roundtable: “Bridging Waters: US-Saudi Arabia Regulatory Dialogue on Water Innovations” (Denis Bilodeau and John Kennedy)
 - Presentation: “PFAS in the Orange County Groundwater Basin” (John Kennedy)
 - John Kennedy also staffed an information table on OCWD where he met one-on-one with global water leaders to provide insights and counseling.
- December 9 – Director of Recharge and Wetland Operations Ben Smith led a water filtration activity at Walker Junior High School.

- December 9 – Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney presented on the Prado digital twin at the SWAN Smart Water Networks Forum.
- December 12 – Communications Specialist Rose Wilke staffed an information table at Richland High School's college and career fair.

OCWD board members and staff participated in 80+ speaking engagements in 2025.



Media Clips

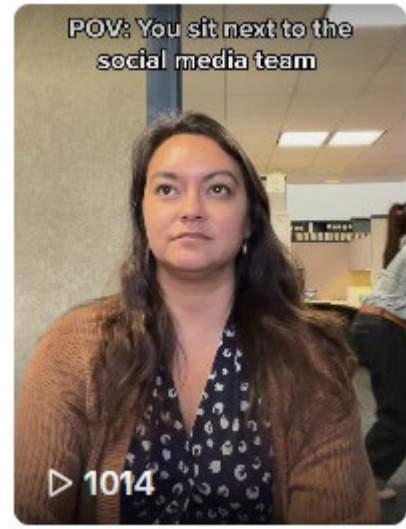
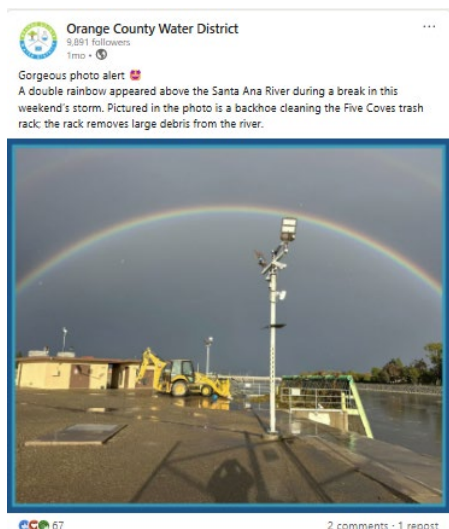
In November, there were three global news hits for OCWD, the GWRS and other District programs and projects with a total reach of 1.8 million. In December, there were six global media hits with a reach of 18.1 million. The media clip reports for November and December (as of December 29) are attached. Global hits for 2025 reached over 5 billion.

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 November and December (as of December 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: 20,311
- Impressions: 47,278
- Engagement & video views: 3,582

A sample of top posts is below:



Website Analytics

Below are November and December analytics for OCWD's website (as of December 29):

- Users: 26,197
- Page views: 53,745
- Top five pages (not including homepage):
 - Careers
 - GWRS
 - RFP & contracts
 - Meeting agendas & minutes
 - How water works in OC

In 2025 (through December 29) there were 312,374 page views from 113,947 users. 84% of traffic was from the U.S. 58% of sessions were direct visits.

Electronic Publications

Staff wrote and distributed the November and December issues of [Hydrospectives](#), OCWD's monthly e-newsletter.

Staff wrote and distributed the [Fall 2025 PFAS quarterly update](#).

Staff wrote and distributed a [North and South Basin groundwater cleanup update](#).

Staff wrote and distributed three press releases:

- [OCWD Earns Cal OSHA Golden Gate Recognition for Exemplary Safety Practices](#)
- [OCWD Captures More Than 5.6 Billion Gallons of Stormwater from Recent Storms, Strengthening Local Drinking Water Supplies](#)
- [OCWD Receives Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies Sustainability Award](#)

Staff produced three videos:

- [2025 Highlights: Leading Locally, Impacting Globally](#)
- [Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations \(FIRO\)](#)
- [2025 Water Quality Video: Yorba Linda Water District](#)

Webinar

OCWD hosted the webinar “Advancing PFAS Management: Progress, Lessons, and Tools for Retail Agencies” on December 17. The webinar provided a comprehensive overview of OCWD’s PFAS program, outlining current progress, operational lessons learned, and the coordinated approach taken with retail water agencies. It also featured a preview of OCWD’s new in-house PFAS dashboard. Speakers included Ryan Bouley, director of engineering, and Andrew Huang, senior laboratory analyst - data scientist. One hundred thirty people attended live and 111 have watched the [recording](#) (as of December 29).

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
NOVEMBER 2025**

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
1	2025-11-28	The San Luis Obispo Tribune	Laguna Beach and Newport Beach partner on new water well to enhance cities' water reliability	United States	https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/article313212490.html	232,774
2	2025-11-28	The Fresno Bee	Laguna Beach and Newport Beach partner on new water well to enhance cities' water reliability	United States	https://www.fresnobee.com/news/article313212490.html	264,034
3	2025-11-28	The Orange County Register	Laguna Beach and Newport Beach partner on new water well to enhance cities' water reliability	United States	https://www.ocregister.com/2025/11/28/laguna-beach-and-newport-beach-partner-on-new-water-well-to-enhance-both-cities-water-reliability/	1,310,997
					Total Reach	1,807,805

**OCWD
MEDIA CLIPS
DECEMBER 2025**

	Date	Source Name	Title	Country	URL	Reach
1	2025-12-19	NewsBreak	OCWD Earns Cal/OSHA Golden Gate Recognition for Exemplary Safety Practices	United States	https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4405051923956-ocwd-earns-cal-osh-golden-gate-recognition-for-exemplary-safety-practices	16,712,801
2	2025-12-10	Citizen Portal AI	Santa Ana details PFAS treatment and water-main projects, previews \$40M centralized treatment site	United States	https://citizenportal.ai/articles/7177641/Santa-Ana/Orange-County/California/Santa-Ana-details-PFAS-treatment-and-water-main-projects-previews-40M-centralized-treatment-site	320,339
3	2025-12-10	The Organization of Asia-Pacific News Agencies	Roundtable Discussions at IDWS Conference Spotlight Innovative Approaches to Water Governance	Azerbaijan	https://www.oananews.org/node/709986	12,604
4	2025-12-09	The American Public Power Association	Turlock Irrigation District Honored for Innovative Project Nexus	United States	https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/turlock-irrigation-district-honored-innovative-project-nexus	21,128
5	2025-12-09	Human Online	Saudi-US Roundtable Discusses Future of Water Governance at IDWS	Saudi Arabia	https://humanonline.org/news/saudi-us-roundtable-discusses-future-of-water-governance-at-idws	705
6	2025-12-09	Saudi Press Agency (Saudi Arabia)	Roundtable Discussions at IDWS Conference Spotlight Innovative Approaches to Water Governance	Saudi Arabia	moodys:publicid:SAUDI_PRESS_AGEN:9xGuwoIlnh0cKFC7X2QRNFgAtyc	1,005,665
					Total Reach	18,073,242