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CELEBRATING EARTH DAY: PAIR OF BALD EAGLES IN THE PRADO WETLANDS NAMED, FAMILY INTRODUCED

CORONA, Calif. (April 22, 2024) – A pair of bald eagles that have called the Prado Wetlands home for the last few years have been formally named just in time for Earth Day: Lucy and Ricky.

Located in Riverside County, the Prado Wetlands, owned by Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) is the largest constructed wetlands on the west coast of the United States, and play a pivotal role in protecting and increasing Orange County's water supply. It is also home to several rare and endangered birds and waterfowl species, including bald eagles.

This Earth Day, OCWD celebrates not only the naming of Lucy and Ricky but also welcomes the arrival of their three new eaglets. These eaglets, not commonly named because they may soon take flight and find homes of their own, are approximately eight-to-nine weeks old. Young eaglets are known to remain in the nest for 10-14 weeks before fledging, a term that indicates they have become capable of flight.

"Seeing our bald eagle family flourish underscores the importance of our environmental stewardship programs," said District President Cathy Green. "OCWD has a critical mission to manage and protect the groundwater basin here in Orange County and our work out in Prado supports this."

The District manages its water supply in an environmentally responsible manner through removal of nonnative invasive species, habitat restoration and wildlife management. This creates habitat for critically endangered species while allowing the District to collect and store more water for Orange County. The Prado Wetlands also improve water quality by reducing nitrate levels and naturally purifying the water for future percolation into the Orange County Groundwater Basin.

A public education campaign hosted by OCWD asked for the community's help to vote on names originally shortlisted by District staff. The exact location of the eagle nest will not be shared so as to not disturb the wildlife.

The Orange County Water District manages the local groundwater basin serving 2.5 million people in north and central Orange County. For more information about OCWD, please visit www.ocwd.com and follow @OCWaterDistrict on social media.

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