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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER TO RETIRE AFTER 40+ YEAR CAREER IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (September 11, 2023) – General Manager Michael (“Mike”) R. Markus has announced his retirement, effective January 26, 2024, after a distinguished career in water resource management spanning 45 years.

“It has been an absolute privilege to lead an organization that is a global leader in its industry,” said Mike Markus. “From groundwater management to water recycling and water quality, OCWD has driven innovation and set the gold standard for many projects and programs. This is a testament to the board and the dedicated staff who work to fulfill our mission to provide a safe, reliable water supply.”

Markus has served at the helm of OCWD since 2007, becoming only the sixth general manager in the District’s 90-year history. He first joined OCWD in 1988 as a construction manager and ascended quickly through the organization’s management ranks.

Markus’ [visionary leadership](#) and implementation of large-scale water projects like the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) have been recognized by the water and engineering community world-wide. Most notably, he received the USC Sonny Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award and the international 2009 Säid Khoury Award for Engineering Construction Excellence.

"Mike’s dedication, expertise, and passion for groundwater management and water reuse have left an indelible mark on the industry and have helped paved the way for many successful projects," said President Cathy Green. "We are grateful for his outstanding service and wish him a well-deserved retirement."

OCWD is recruiting for its next general manager to lead the organization on highly complex issues that ensure a continued healthy groundwater basin and a reliable local water supply. The ideal candidate must be a visionary and strategic leader, manage a high-performing organization, and maintain a culture of collaboration inside and outside the organization. Information is available at www.ocwd.com/careers.

The Orange County Water District manages the local groundwater basin that provides 85% of the water supply for 19 cities and retail water districts in north and central Orange County, serving 2.5 million people. Guided by its commitment to sound planning and investment, high standards for water reliability, exceptional water quality, environmental stewardship, sound financial management, and transparency, OCWD has proactively implemented initiatives to protect and increase local water supplies. OCWD replenishes the basin, prevents seawater intrusion, and protects Orange County’s rights to Santa Ana River water. For more information about OCWD, please visit www.ocwd.com and follow @OCWaterDistrict on social media.