



**Media Contact:**

Crystal Nettles, (714) 378-3202 or [cnettl@ocwd.com](mailto:cnettl@ocwd.com)

## ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT MOURNS THE LOSS OF BOARD MEMBER KELLY ROWE

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (November 22, 2023)** – The Orange County Water District (OCWD) is mourning the loss of Board Member Kelly Rowe, who passed away today at the age of 70. Director Rowe was elected to the OCWD Board of Directors in 2018 to represent Division 7, which includes Costa Mesa, and parts of Fountain Valley, Irvine, Newport Beach, and Tustin. He previously served on the board from 1998 to 2000.

“Kelly’s passing is a tremendous loss not only to OCWD but to all of Orange County,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “His wisdom, passion and unwavering commitment to Orange County water issues was unmatched. Our thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time. He will be greatly missed.”

Director Rowe was a water resources technical professional with more than 40 years of experience specializing in the design, construction and management of groundwater wells and basin operational facilities. Among his many achievements: he was a California-licensed Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist, and was a long-term Association of State Floodplain Managers Certified Floodplain Manager. In 1985, he worked at OCWD as a technical consultant addressing the groundwater conditions of the Irvine Subbasin area, and from 1996 to 1998, he oversaw major repairs to OCWD’s coastal seawater intrusion barrier injection wells.

Director Rowe had a passion for water and geology from an early age. As a high school junior, he participated in the first Earth Day program in 1970 and presented on the impacts of air pollution in the Cleveland, Ohio area. After high school he moved to San Diego to attend UC San Diego and become a marine geologist. He subsequently studied at San Diego State University to become a hydrogeologist. Director Rowe earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from San Diego State University, with additional geology graduate studies. He was the founder and president of American Water Resources Association, Southern California Section, he was a long-term member of the American Geophysical Union and Association of Engineering Geologists, and he was a continuing member of the American Water Resources Association. In 2020, he was appointed commissioner to represent OCWD on the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority.

Outside of work, Director Rowe was an avid fan of Disney. He frequented their theme parks and could often be spotted wearing a Disney-branded shirt to board meetings. He also enjoyed playing frisbee golf. Director Rowe was a longtime resident of Costa Mesa and is survived by his wife, Suzanne.

*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](http://www.ocwd.com) and follow @OCWaterDistrict on social media.*

###