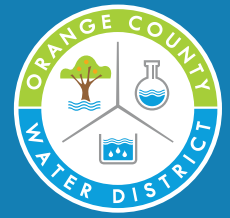


PROTECTING ORANGE COUNTY'S WATER SUPPLY



The Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) is committed to providing exceptional water quality to the 19 cities and retail water districts it serves in north and central Orange County.

Given its commitment to manage and protect the Orange County Groundwater Basin, OCWD implements rigorous water quality sampling, monitoring, and testing programs to ensure when water is delivered to you, it meets all state and federal drinking water standards.

Water Quality in the Groundwater Basin

Groundwater is typically high-quality within the OCWD groundwater basin. Recharge facilities and the Santa Ana River are used to recharge the groundwater basin through natural percolation. The near distilled quality of the purified recycled water produced by the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) enhances the quality of the groundwater once it travels to the underground aquifers.

OCWD continues to take proactive measures to ensure high-quality and clean drinking water through extensive monitoring, and by participating in studies, forming work groups, and collaborating with agencies around the world to address and study water quality issues.



Sample Collection and Monitoring

The OCWD Water Quality Department collects over 20,000 samples at approximately 1,500 locations. Samples are collected from groundwater at over 200 drinking water wells owned by cities and retail water districts as well as hundreds of groundwater monitoring wells owned by OCWD. Sample collection and monitoring is also performed at GWRS, drinking water treatment facilities, and wastewater treatment facilities located throughout Orange County and the Santa Ana River watershed. Surface water locations are also sampled and monitored which includes recharge facilities operated by OCWD and the Santa Ana River.

The majority of samples collected are analyzed at OCWD's Philip L. Anthony Water Quality Laboratory. Samples are also collected and delivered or shipped to laboratories located throughout California. Depending on the water quality monitoring program, the sample collection is performed at varying frequencies such as monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

Extensive Testing of Water Samples

Quality assurance is an important part of the OCWD water quality management efforts. The OCWD laboratory tests for many different regulated compounds as well as constituents of emerging concern (CECs) in the water. Testing identifies potential water quality issues and allows OCWD to act quickly and proactively to address them. OCWD also provides regional testing of more than 200 drinking water wells for local drinking water providers to help ensure compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements mandated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.



Local Water Providers

OCWD is a wholesale water agency that provides groundwater to 19 cities and retail water districts in north and central Orange County. These water providers depend on the groundwater basin for approximately 85% of their primary drinking water supply. They pump water from the basin and serve it to a collective 2.5 million people.

Local water suppliers establish the price of water delivered to customers. The rate charged for water is impacted by multiple factors, including the cost of groundwater, the cost of imported water from northern California and the Colorado River, the cost to construct, operate and maintain pipelines,

reservoirs, and pumps to deliver water to homes and businesses, and the administrative cost of operating a retail water system. Suppliers' rates can vary depending upon the age of the water system, how much groundwater is used versus more expensive imported water and other factors.

For this reason, OCWD attempts to maximize the amount of groundwater available to the cities and retail water districts, while sustainably managing the basin.

OCWD Member Agencies

- Anaheim
- Buena Park
- East Orange County Water District
- Fountain Valley
- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Golden State Water Company
- Huntington Beach
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- La Palma
- Mesa Water District
- Newport Beach
- Orange
- Santa Ana
- Seal Beach
- Serrano Water District
- Tustin
- Westminster
- Yorba Linda Water District

