



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:**

Gina Ayala  
Director of Public Affairs  
(714) 378-3323  
[gayala@ocwd.com](mailto:gayala@ocwd.com)

## **ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT HONORED WITH PLATINUM AWARD BY ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (November 10, 2022) – The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) presented the Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) with the prestigious Platinum Award for Utility Excellence. The award is given to agencies that demonstrate a strong record of effective utility management and a significant contribution to the drinking water industry.

“What an honor to be recognized by AMWA and peers in the industry for our work to secure water reliability,” said OCWD President Steve Sheldon. “From local supply development to maintaining high-quality water, we’re proud of our efforts to address critical issues that will ensure water is flowing for generations to come.”

As a wholesale groundwater management agency formed in 1933, the District safeguards the Orange County Groundwater Basin that provides 77% of the drinking water supply to 19 cities and water agencies, serving 2.5 million people in north and central Orange County. OCWD replenishes the 270 square mile basin through the management and development of local supplies, enhances water reliability, ensures high-quality water that meets all state and federal drinking water standards, prevents seawater intrusion, and protects rights to Santa Ana River water.

The Platinum Award recognizes the District’s initiatives to expand water recycling at the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), increase stormwater capture with Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO), store water across the region through the Santa Ana River Conservation and Conjunctive Use Program, research and develop new technologies to enhance operations, and remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) detected in local water supplies. Additional judging criteria included financial viability, community and stakeholder engagement, risk and resiliency, and employee development.

“The Orange County Water District has made remarkable efforts to excel in a highly challenging and constantly changing environment,” added Tom Dobbins, CAE, AMWA chief executive officer. “Congratulations to the OCWD board of directors and staff for its dedication and commitment to the water industry.”

OCWD previously won AMWA's Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance in 2019. Gold Award winners are eligible to apply for the Platinum Award three years after achieving the gold level. OCWD earned its Platinum recognition in its first year of eligibility, demonstrating progress in implementing key management attributes and expanding upon past achievements.

**About Orange County Water District**

The Orange County Water District is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities rely on the groundwater basin, managed by OCWD, to provide 77% of their water demands: Anaheim, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda. For more information about OCWD, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com), like @OCWaterDistrict on Facebook, follow @OCWDWaterNews on Twitter, follow @OCWD on Instagram, and follow Orange County Water District on LinkedIn.

###