

The mission of Orange County Water District is to provide local water retailers with a reliable, adequate, high-quality water supply at the lowest reasonable cost in an environmentally responsible manner.



Orange County Water District

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GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER COMMENDS ORANGE COUNTY WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT

Governor praises Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District for "ingenuity"

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently commended the Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District for partnering in the development and construction of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, a state-of-the-art water purification project that takes highly treated sewer water and purifies it to near-distilled quality water.

In the Governor's letter to the districts, he states:

"California's economic and environmental future is enhanced by our ability to maximize precious resources. The GWR System is an environmentally responsible approach for securing alternative sources of water. It increases Orange County's water independence by creating a drought-proof supply of safe, clean water.

"I commend you for your ingenuity in promoting water efficiency and conservation. Your efforts save energy, minimize wastewater released to the Pacific Ocean and help sustain healthy water resources for future generations."

Just last month, OCWD and OCSD held the official groundbreaking ceremony for the multi-million dollar project that will provide approximately 23 billion gallons of new water each year for Orange County beginning in 2007. The event, held on the OCWD water campus in Fountain Valley, attracted nearly 200 officials, including Congressmen Ken Calvert, 44th District; Dana Rohrabacher, 46th District; Ed Royce, 40th District and Loretta Sanchez, 47th District; as well as other community, industry and government leaders from around the state and country.

Using high-tech membrane purification systems backed by ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide disinfection, the GWR System purifies sewer

water to a level similar to bottled water. Then, the water is put into our groundwater basin for further natural treatment before it is extracted for later use.

The technologies used for this project are the same as used by baby food manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies and bottled water companies. Half of the water produced from the GWR System will be injected along the coast to revitalize the seawater intrusion barrier that keeps the ocean from contaminating Orange County's groundwater basin. The need to expand the seawater barrier, coupled with the need for locally controlled, high-quality water, is the driving force behind the project. When the project is complete in 2007, it will provide enough water for 144,000 families annually. The new water can be produced for less than the cost of imported water in 2007 and uses one-half the energy required to import water from Northern California.

For more information on the Groundwater Replenishment System, please log onto www.gwrsystem.com.

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Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages and protects the large groundwater basin underlying north and central Orange County. OCWD is a special district, separate from the County of Orange or any city government. It was created by the California Legislature in 1933 to oversee Orange County's groundwater basin. The groundwater basin supplies more than half of the water needs for 2.3 million residents in the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Costa Mesa, 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.

Orange County Sanitation District is responsible for safely collecting, treating, and disposing wastewater. It is a special district, separate from the County of Orange or any city government, established under the State Health and Safety Code, to provide sewerage service to a specific geographic area. The Orange County Sanitation District is governed by a 25-member board of directors comprised of representatives of each local sewerage agency or cities within our 470-square-mile service area. For more information, visit www.ocsd.com.

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