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**REVOLUTIONARY WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT BEGINS INJECTING WATER
INTO SEAWATER INTRUSION BARRIER**

Health and Regulatory Agencies Authorize Project Start Up

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Jan. 10, 2008) — An Orange County water district and sanitation district made history today by receiving final approval from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to turn on the world's largest advanced water purification project of its kind.

This state-of-the-art water purification project, known as the **Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System**, was developed jointly by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSA). The GWR System takes highly-treated sewer water and puts it through a three-step purification process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. This advanced water purification system produces near-distilled quality water. The GWR System will provide northern and central Orange County with a new locally-controlled source of safe, clean water.

“The GWR System produces the highest quality water we can put into our groundwater basin, and ensures water reliability for northern and central Orange County at a time when alternative water resources in the state and Colorado River basin are in jeopardy,” said Steve Sheldon, OCWD board president.

The GWR System has the capacity to produce 70 million gallons per day of near-distilled quality water. Initially, approximately 35 million gallons per day (MGD) of the water will be injected into an expanded seawater barrier to prevent ocean water from contaminating the groundwater supply. Later, after approval by CDPH, the remaining 35 MGD of the water will be pumped to OCWD's spreading basins in Anaheim where it will mix with Santa Ana River water and other imported water sources and percolate into the groundwater basin.

“The Groundwater Replenishment System serves as a model for public agency collaboration on one of the most significant water projects in California's history,” said Jim Ferryman, OCSA board chair.

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The GWR System project will help increase water reliability in Orange County. Over time, it also will help improve and protect the overall water quality in the groundwater basin.

For more information about the Groundwater Replenishment System, call the Orange County Water District at (714) 378-3200 or go to www.gwrssystem.com.

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About Orange County Water District

Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the large groundwater basin that underlies north-central Orange County that provides most of the water for more than 2.3 million citizens. OCWD is committed to enhancing Orange County's groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly manner. With years of prudent planning and careful investment, OCWD has doubled the sustainable yield of the groundwater basin. OCWD is a special district established by the California State legislature in 1933 and governed by a 10-member board of directors. Separate from the County of Orange, OCWD supplies water to residents in the cities of 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. Go to www.ocwd.com for information.

About Orange County Sanitation District

The Orange County Sanitation District is a public agency responsible for safely collecting and treating wastewater (sewage) for 2.5 million people. OCSA beneficially reuses and recycles the treated wastewater and other resources resulting from the treatment process. It is a special district established by the California State legislature and governed by a 25-member board of directors. The directors are comprised of elected representatives for each of the sewer agencies or cities within OCSA's 471-square mile service area. Go to www.ocsd.com for information.