



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Ron Wildermuth, OCWD (714) 378-3351

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM BARRIER FACILITY COMPLETED
Orange County Project Completed Under Budget and On Time

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Aug. 8, 2006) – The Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System recently completed construction of the expanded seawater intrusion barrier, which stops seawater from contaminating the groundwater basin. The project was completed on time and \$700,000 under budget. The GWR System is an innovative water purification project designed to provide a new supplemental source of high-quality water for north and central Orange County residents.

“The barrier is one of the most important facilities that the Orange County Water District manages because it protects most of Orange County’s drinking water from seawater intrusion,” said Phil Anthony, president of OCWD’s Board. “The enlarged, expanded barrier was the genesis of the GWR System and now that it is complete, it will protect our basin for years to come despite future increased groundwater demands.”

The completed work included construction in Huntington Beach and Fountain Valley of 16 injection wells at eight different sites, four nested monitoring wells, pipelines, and electrical, mechanical and instrumentation systems. Pipeline work included installation of 2,200 linear feet of 30-inch pipeline, 2,200 linear feet (twin 2 inch and single 4 inch) PVC conduits, and eight pre-cast concrete pull boxes for communication and power facilities.

The GWR System is a joint project of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) and Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) that takes highly treated sewer water currently released into the ocean and purifies it using the same technologies that purify baby food, fruit juices, medicines and bottled water. The GWR System will create a new supply of near-distilled quality

water, totaling 70 million gallons per day. The new water will be used to expand the already existing seawater intrusion barrier along the coast and to augment groundwater supplies for 2.3 million north and central Orange County residents.

The GWR System will begin delivering water via the pipeline in 2007. Both the pipeline and the purification plant are designed to handle additional purified water if it is needed in the future to meet Orange County's water supply needs.

The GWR System project will help increase water reliability in Orange County. It will also help improve the overall water quality in the groundwater basin by reducing the mineral content as well as preventing ocean water contamination. Additionally, it will provide a reliable locally controlled supply of water during droughts, which can be recurring events in Southern California.

For more information about the Groundwater Replenishment System, go to www.gwrssystem.com.

-30-

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 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. Recently, the basin, larger than the largest reservoir in Southern California, sustained the county through a five-year drought. OCWD has also spent millions of dollars on studies by outside experts to ensure the quality of our groundwater. We want to be your trusted source for water quality. We will continue to plan and invest in ways to get more water into and out of the basin. OCWD is a special district, separate from the County of Orange that supplies water to 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. 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. OCSD 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 OCSD's 471 square mile service area. Go to www.ocsd.com for information.