



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ORANGE COUNTY LEADERS DEDICATE REVOLUTIONARY WATER
PURIFICATION PROJECT AT DEDICATION CEREMONY**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Feb. 5, 2008) – About 350 business leaders, elected officials and community members from throughout Orange County celebrated the launch of the world’s largest advanced water purification project of its kind, on January 25, 2008.

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 (OCSD). 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. The result is near-distilled quality water which is put into Orange County’s 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, OCSD board chair.

The dedication ceremony featured bipartisan support including speakers Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (D-Santa Ana) and State Senator and Minority Leader Dick Ackerman (R-Fullerton). After the program, guests toured the new facility and were invited to sample the purified water.

The GWR System generates enough purified water to meet the needs of 500,000 people in northern and central Orange County. The new system has the capacity to produce 70 million gallons per day of near-distilled quality water. Approximately 35 million gallons per day is injected into OCWD’s expanded seawater barrier to prevent ocean water from contaminating the groundwater supply. The remaining 35 million gallons per day are pumped to OCWD’s spreading basins in Anaheim where it mixes with Santa Ana River water and other imported water sources, and percolates into the groundwater basin.

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“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, President of OCWD’s Board of Directors.

Over time, the GWR System will help improve and protect the overall water quality in the groundwater basin by reducing the mineral content and preventing ocean water contamination. Additionally, it will provide a reliable, locally-controlled supply of water during droughts, which are recurring events in Southern California.

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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EDITORIAL NOTE: Photographs from the event can be obtained by contacting Alexis Tate at (714) 378-3202, atate@ocwd.com

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. OCS D 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 OCS D’s 471-square mile service area. Go to www.ocsd.com for information.