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OCWD GENERAL MANAGER NAMED IN ENGINEERING 'TOP 25 NEWSMAKERS' LIST

Michael R. Markus, P.E. Honored for Role in Creation of New Water Purification Facility

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. (Feb. 5, 2008) — *Engineering News-Record (ENR)*, the leading engineering and construction industry trade publication, has named Orange County Water District (OCWD) General Manager Michael R. Markus, P.E. as one of “The Top 25 Newsmakers of 2007.”

Engineering News-Record is a weekly magazine that provides news, analysis, data and opinion for the engineering and construction industries worldwide. Subscribers include more than 70,000 contractors, project owners, engineers, architects, government regulators and industry suppliers. Each year, the editors of ENR choose 25 leaders in the construction industry for innovations and achievements featured in the magazine in 2007. Markus, a 19-year veteran of OCWD, was chosen for his leadership overseeing design and construction of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, the world’s largest water purification project of its kind.

“Mike has done a remarkable job,” said OCWD Director Philip Anthony. “It was a very big project with a lot of players and consultants and he oversaw all of it, and kept all of those things under control due to his effective leadership.”

The GWR System will help increase Orange County’s water independence by providing a locally controlled, drought-proof supply of high quality water. The 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, resulting in near-distilled quality water. The GWR System produces enough water to meet the needs of 500,000 people in northern and central Orange County.

OCWD is committed to enhancing Orange County’s groundwater quality and reliability in an environmentally friendly and economical manner. The following cities utilize the groundwater basin managed by OCWD: 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.

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EDITORIAL NOTE: For a photograph of Mike Markus, contact Alexis Tate at (714) 378-3202 or atate@ocwd.com.