

## CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2016-12

March 24, 2016

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TO: La Palma City Council

FROM: Laurie A. Murray, City Manager

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#### In This Week's Report

- Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) in the News (with Attachments)
- District of Choice Letter (with Attachment)
- Donation from Centerpointe
- Softball Field Maintenance Scheduled
- Funeral Service for Officer Brian Rapp Scheduled
- Dispatch 911/Shoretel Phone Interface Upgraded:
- Attempted Armed Robbery Suspects Arrested
- Suspect of a Shooting Case Identified
- Personnel Activity
- Agenda Planning Guide

#### Other Attachments & Correspondence from Other Organizations

- City Council Monthly Calendar of Events
- Recently Posted Inviting Bid Notices
- Golden State Water News
- OCFA News
- OCTA News
- OCWD News

#### City Manager's Office News

**Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) in the News (with Attachments):** The OCFA was in the news quite a bit this past week. The Court of Appeal's ruled on an earlier Orange County Superior Court decision denying a proposed amendment to the OCFA's Joint Powers Agreement. The deal was designed to reimburse Irvine \$134.5 million in tax collections through 2030 after it was established that the city was contributing at least \$14 million per year more than the cost of the emergency services provided. Following this ruling there were several articles in both the Los Angeles Times and the

Orange County Register, including an editorial response to the OC Register from OCFA Chief Bowman. We will be watching the situation very carefully as it unfolds in the future.

**District of Choice Letter (with Attachment):** Attached is the letter regarding Districts of Choice that went out residents living north of Houston Avenue advising them that the City Council will be considering a Resolution asking the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) to take the steps to formally become a "District of Choice." If adopted by the District, this would allow any student living north of Houston to apply to attend school in La Palma (Walker Jr. High and Kennedy High School) without the approval of their current school district. Acceptance of the students is dependent upon the capacity of these schools.

### **Community Development Department News**

**Donation from Centerpointe:** Centerpointe's property management company Davis Partners has donated a conference room 4'x4' media board to the City that was left behind from a vacating tenant. The media board has been installed in the lobby conference room. The addition of the media board will make the conference room more functional for meetings.



### **Community Services Department News**

**Softball Field Maintenance Scheduled:** The annual spring maintenance of the Central Park softball field is now underway. The ball field is closed to permits during this month-long maintenance period, which will include treatment for the removal of cool season grasses, broadleaf and other seasonal weeds. Staff will be kick starting the existing drought tolerant Bermuda base grass with aeration, soil amendments and fertilization in anticipation of the coming seasonal warmth. This will be followed by the application of moisture management granules which convert water vapor within the soil to usable water droplets for the turf on days when irrigation is not scheduled. The use of this material helps to maintain the health of the park's turf during drought conditions. In addition to the turf areas, the infield will also be worked on to level it and loosen the brick dust.

### **Police Department News**



**Funeral Service for Officer Brian Rapp Scheduled:** La Palma Police Officer Brian Rapp passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 7:28 a.m. after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Officer Rapp started his law enforcement career at La Palma in 2004 and enjoyed a distinguished and exemplary service during his tenure. Funeral services for Officer Rapp will be held at the Riverside National Cemetery on Thursday, March 31, 2016, at 11:30 a.m. Officer Rapp is survived by his wife Jennifer and their two children, Morgan and Hunter. La Palma Police Department personnel and a number of City staff and City Council will be attending the service in honor of Officer Rapp's dedication and service to law enforcement and the La Palma community.

**Dispatch 911/Shoretel Phone Interface Upgraded:** Today, contractors from AT&T and Packet Fusion were onsite at the Police Department to complete an overdue upgrade of the City's Dispatch phone

system. When the 911 Vesta phone system was upgraded last year, the connection between it and the City's Shortel phone system was not upgraded from the old analog phone lines. The new digital PRI connection, launched today, will greatly improve sound quality and the speed of transferring calls in the Police Dispatch center. Cost for the upgrade was minimal, because existing phone equipment was re-purposed and only a few hours of technical assistance was required.

**Attempted Armed Robbery Suspects Arrested:** On March 19, 2016, at about 8:40 p.m., LPPD received a 911 call regarding a subject brandishing a firearm from a moving vehicle. Officers immediately responded and were able to locate the suspect vehicle. Officers conducted a high-risk car stop with the assistance of the Cypress Police Department. Officers discovered that three male suspects were armed with an airsoft pistol, and had tried to rob a victim who had visited the Wells Fargo Bank at South Street and Carmenita Road just moments prior. The male suspects, two adults and a juvenile, were taken into custody by the Los Angeles Sheriff Department since the crime occurred in the city of Cerritos.

**Suspect of a Shooting Case Identified:** On March 15, 2016, at about 11:40 a.m., Officers responded to the La Quinta Inn regarding a disturbance call involving guests on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor. When they arrived, Officers found no one inside the guest room in question, but there were signs of a struggle and there was evidence indicating that a shooting had occurred. Additional detectives and police personnel were summoned to begin processing the area as a possible homicide scene. Detectives immediately began to work on available leads and were able to identify several individuals as persons of interest. On March 17, 2016, two of the persons of interest were arrested in Los Angeles County on unrelated charges. Detectives conducted their follow-up investigation and were able to determine that one of the arrested subjects was the victim of the shooting with a minor wound to his arm. The suspect in the shooting was also identified. All subjects involved in the incident are known gang members from the Los Angeles County area.

**Citywide News**

Personnel Activity	
Position	Status
Per Diem Dispatcher	Applications being reviewed
Police Chief	Interim Police Chief hired; Recruitment to be held in late 2016
Police Dispatcher	Interviews to be held March 29
Police Officer (Eligibility List)	Candidates in backgrounds
Police Services Aide	Candidate in backgrounds
Recreation Leader/Sr. Recreation Leader	Interviews held March 23
Sr. Recreation Leader Day Camp Counselor	Interviews held March 22
Volunteers	Recruitment to close April 15

**Agenda Planning Guide**

(All meetings start at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated)

***Items listed on the planning guide are tentative and subject to move to different dates***

**April 5**

Budget Questions  
 Precise Plan Amendment – 5418 La Palma  
 Precise Plan Amendment – Gateway Tower  
 2016 Street Closures – City Special Events

*Planning Commission - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency*

Resolution Requesting that the Anaheim Union High School District become a “School District of Choice”  
 Waste Disposal Agreement Extension  
 General Government/Administrative Services  
 Personnel Reallocation

**April 19**

Presentation of Proposed FY 2016-17 Budget (Moved from April 5 to allow staff adequate time to refine projections)  
 Precise Plan Amendment – 6811 Walker  
 Precise Plan – Ozawa Subdivision

*Introduction/First Reading* - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency  
 City Attorney Amended Agreement  
 Brea IT Agreement

**May 3**

Adoption of FY 2016-17 Budget  
 Cash and Investment Reports as of 3/31/16  
 Third Quarter Operations Report – FY 15/16  
*Adoption/Second Reading* - Eliminate Planning Commission/Designate City Council as Planning Agency

**City Council Calendar of Upcoming Events**

Please tell Crystal which of the following activities you will be attending and if you would like assistance in registering for any upcoming event.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event Information</b>	<b>Known Attendees</b>
Sunday March 27	IACGOC Annual Nowruz Festival, Rose Garden, Irvine, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday March 29	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Garden Grove, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Butterfield Room A, 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday March 30	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Laguna Woods, 24264 El Toro Road, 10:00 a.m.	
Thursday March 31	Funeral Service, Riverside National Cemetery, 11:30 a.m.	GG, MS, LM
	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Tustin, 300 Centennial Way, 7:00 p.m.	
Friday April 1	John F. Kennedy’s Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy Pageantry, JFK Performing Arts Center, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.	PK, MS
Wednesday April 6	HB Chamber Economic Conference, Hyatt Huntington Beach Resort & Spa, 8:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	
Thursday April 7	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Brea, 1 Civic Center Circle, Community Rooms A & B, 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday April 14	OCVCD Town Hall Meeting, City of Irvine, Trabuco Center, 5701 Trabuco Road, 6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday April 19	Arbor Day Celebration, Central Park, 4:00 p.m.	PK, MS
Friday April 22	Los Coyotes Talent Show, Multi Purpose Room, 6:00 p.m.	LM
Tuesday April 26	State of the City, Central Park, Royal Palm Room, 7:00 p.m.	GG, PK, MS, LM
Saturday April 30	Fullerton Donate Life Run Walk Event, Cal State Fullerton, 7:00 a.m. - Noon	MS
Friday May 13	American Red Cross Heroes Luncheon, Angel Stadium, 2000 E. Gene Autry Way, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	
Monday May 30	Memorial Day Ceremony, Civic Center Eternal Flame, 9:00 a.m.	

## OCFA: Alive and Well

Mark Twain famously said, “The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated!” And so it goes with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), and a recent OC Register Editorial - *“Burning through the budget”* (Sunday, March 20).

As was the case with Mark Twain, OCFA is alive and well. We are on solid financial ground, operating well within our budget, and as the *Register* correctly notes, “One of the most proactive in trying to close the gap,” in our long-term pension liability.

On behalf of the more than 1,000 firefighters, and 300 staff, who serve to protect our 23 cities, the county’s unincorporated areas, and the lives of 1.8 million people, I write to provide balance and accuracy on our fiscal health where the *Register’s* editorial has fallen short.

We take no issue with the fact that as a public safety agency we must responsibly manage our pension liability. As the *Register’s* Teri Sforza correctly pointed out in her story on March 13, *OCFA Faces Financial Deficit* - new governmental accounting rules implemented by “GASB,” (Governmental Accounting Standards Board), are not a sign of problems that jeopardize operations. They are reporting standards required of all public sector agencies. Sforza quoted OCFA’s Assistant Chief for Business Services Lori Zeller, *“Nothing has changed in our true financial position; we’re in solid financial shape.”*

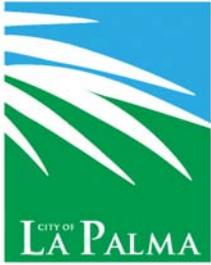
The *Register’s* management has to ensure newsroom autonomy, but that does not prohibit the editorial editors from studying facts that Sforza identified in their own newspaper. Instead they write as if the accounting rules create a new bright light on OCFA’s previously undisclosed pension obligations, drawing comparisons to financial mismanagement in San Bernardino, Puerto Rico, and Greece. This is as factually untrue as it is journalistically irresponsible.

The editors need look no farther than their own pages to find truth. As Sforza’s copy reads, *“For four years, it (OCFA) has dissected its debts in great public detail and set money aside to cover not just its unfunded pension liabilities, but also unfunded health care liabilities.”*

While the editorial gave OCFA credit for our aggressive plan to eliminate pension liability, the complete story of our fiscal resolve and financial health is much better and more transparent than what the *Register’s* editors would have you believe. As Assistant Chief Zeller said in Sforza’s story, *“We engage our board and our labor groups in these decisions, and our financial statements win awards. We had a clean opinion from our auditor – we had zero findings. I believe we’re financially strong, and will continue to be financially strong.”*

When a cardiac arrest happens in your home or your neighbor’s house is on fire, I can assure you that OCFA will be there as quickly as possible. We have been radically improving our emergency medical and fire response capabilities, so that when you call, we will arrive in a timely fashion, with fewer apparatus, and highly trained and skilled personnel.

Jeff Bowman  
OCFA Fire Chief



March 24, 2016

Dear Resident:

As you know, for some time, the City of La Palma has been actively advocating for all La Palma children to be able to attend La Palma schools. Last September we wrote to you about the City's efforts and pledged to keep working towards this goal. The City recently became aware of existing legislation that allows a student to transfer to any district that has deemed itself a "District of Choice" and agreed to accept a specified number of transfers. The key to the legislation is that transfer students do not need the consent of their home district.

On Tuesday, April 5, the City Council will be considering adopting a Resolution asking the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) to take the steps to formally become a "District of Choice." This will allow any student living north of Houston to apply to attend school in La Palma (Walker Jr. High and Kennedy High School) without the approval of their current school district. Acceptance of these students is dependent upon the capacity of these schools.

The City Council has worked on this issue for several years and a solution is in sight. However AUHSD must pass the resolution to make this a reality. The City will be sending a letter to all residents in the next few weeks to seek their active support on the issue by contacting AUHSD.

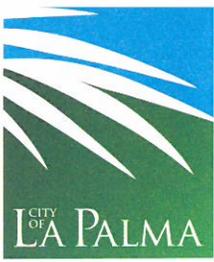
The City remains committed to seeing all La Palma children attending La Palma schools and will continue to pursue this matter diligently. If you are not already signed up and would like to receive automatic notices whenever new information relative to the school choice issue is posted, please sign up using the Notify Me button on the City's homepage at [www.cityoflapalma.org](http://www.cityoflapalma.org).

Thank you for your patience and continued support in our efforts to make it possible for every La Palma child to attend school in the City. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at (714) 690-3333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie A. Murray".

Laurie A. Murray  
City Manager



Office of the Community  
Services Director

## NOTICE INVITING BIDS

for

### CITY FACILITIES BLOCK WALLS CITY YARD AND WALKER WELL SITES

City Project No's 14-WTR-01 / 15-WTR-02

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The sealed bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

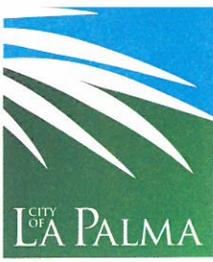
The Plans and Specifications are available on the City's website, [www.cityoflapalma.org](http://www.cityoflapalma.org), or by contacting the City Engineer's Office at (714) 690-3310.

The Engineer's estimated cost for the project is:

City Yard - \$23,250  
Walker Well - \$18,750

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael S. Belknap".

Michael S. Belknap  
Community Services Director



Office of the Community  
Services Director

## NOTICE INVITING BIDS

for

### CDBG ADA RAMP CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHASE 1

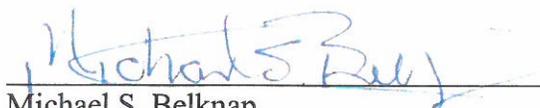
City Project No. ST-341

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The sealed bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

The Plans and Specifications are available on the City's website, [www.cityoflapalma.org](http://www.cityoflapalma.org), or by contacting the City Engineer's Office at (714) 690-3310.

The Engineer's estimated cost for the project is \$184,000.

  
Michael S. Belknap  
Community Services Director

**Wilkerson, Crystal**

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**From:** Golden State Water Company <waterways=gswater.com@mail67.atl111.rsgsv.net> on behalf of Golden State Water Company <waterways@gswater.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 18, 2016 11:04 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Local Water-Use Reduction Update From Golden State Water Company

**Waterways**  
A Resource For The Communities We Serve



**Home**

**Your Service Area**



Dear Valued Customer,

It's that time of year again! In recognition of the eighth annual **National Fix a Leak Week** from March 14-20, 2016, we are asking customers to check their household fixtures and irrigation systems for hidden leaks.

To help identify leaks, Golden State Water is offering customers a free Fix-A-Leak Kit that includes leak detecting dye tablets, hose washers, a drip measuring vial and instructions available at your local office, while supplies last. Click [here](#) for more information about Fix a Leak Week.

**Drought Update**

Below is an update on monthly and cumulative reduction totals for your service area, to measure your achievements against the State Water Resources Control Board's mandated reduction targets.

Please note that the reduction mandates for some areas could be adjusted in the coming weeks/months, as Golden State Water continues to advocate for adjustments based on climate, population growth and water supply investments. We will provide additional information as it becomes available from the State Water Resources Control Board.

Golden State Water thanks customers for their conservation efforts, and asks that they remain diligent in protecting our most precious resource.

- Golden State Water Company

# WATER-USE REDUCTION GOALS

## Orange County District

Location	State Reduction Goal	Water Saved in February	Reduction Total (June 1, 2015 - March 13, 2016)
COWAN HEIGHTS: COWAN HEIGHTS, LEMON HEIGHTS, NORTH TUSTIN HILLS, ORANGE	36%	14.5%	32.4%
PLACENTIA: PLACENTIA, YORBA LINDA	24%	7.2%	24.6%
WEST ORANGE: BUENA PARK, CYPRESS, GARDEN GROVE, LA PALMA, LOS ALAMITOS, ROSSMOOR, SEAL BEACH, STANTON	16%	7.4%	20.6%

For the latest updates, visit our website at [www.gswater.com](http://www.gswater.com)  
or follow us on Twitter at @GoldenStateH2O.



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**Our mailing address is:**  
Golden State Water Company

401 South San Dimas Canyon Rd.  
San Dimas, CA 91773

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



Orange County Fire Authority

## ***Daily News Stories***

*Prepared by Communications and Public Affairs*

1 Fire Authority Road  
Irvine, CA 92602  
Work (714) 573-6028  
Cell (714) 319-7152

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### **Weekend News Stories March 18 – March 21, 2016**

#### **Court of Appeal Decision, OCFA v. County of Orange, Santa Ana**

Los Angeles Times

["Could denials of tax reimbursement deal lead Irvine to form its own fire department?"](#)

#### **Privatization of Emergency Services, Orange County**

OC Register

["OC Watchdog: Will cities privatize emergency services?"](#)

#### **Orange County Register Editorial; Unfunded Liability, OCFA**

OC Register

["Unfunded liability scorching OCFA ledgers"](#)

#### **House Fire, Buena Park**

OC Register

["Multiple people injured in Buena Park house fire"](#)

Associated Press

["The Orange County Fire Authority says three people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation after a blaze damaged a home in Buena Park"](#)

## Wilkerson, Crystal

**From:** OCTA On the Move <OnTheMove@octa.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 23, 2016 4:31 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** OCTA On the Move - March 23, 2016

Giving you the latest updates on transportation in Orange County.

Share Sign Up



March 23, 2016



### Welcome to *On the move*

Baseball season is right around the corner and this year Angels fans in western Orange County can leave their cars home and climb aboard the new Angels Express Bus at the Goldenwest Transportation Center in Huntington Beach and travel nonstop direct to Angel Stadium in Anaheim. The new service complements our existing Angels Express Metrolink service. Go Angels!

  
Darrell Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer

#### RECENT BOARD ACTIONS

March 14, 2016

- OCTA receives grant for active transportation plan
- OCTA offering \$20 million for bikeway projects
- Bus service added to Angels Express lineup
- Board approves cooperative agreements with cities for I-405 Improvement Project
- Board receives quarterly Measure M update

 [View Board Actions](#)

[View Board Calendar](#)

[View Board Agendas](#)



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News. Alerts. Promotions!

## About OCTA



### Volunteer to Keep an Eye on Transportation Tax Dollars

We're looking for qualified volunteers to serve on the Taxpayer Oversight Committee to monitor OCTA's use of Measure M funds. [More >](#)



### Cleaning Up Aliso Viejo Creek with Help from Measure M

Near the intersection of Aliso Viejo and Moulton parkway, a quiet battle against pollution is being waged around and within Aliso Viejo Creek. [More >](#)



### Join us for the Annual Measure M Public Hearing April 12

The Taxpayer Oversight Committee will conduct its annual public hearing April 12 on Measure M. The hearing begins at 6 p.m. at OCTA headquarters. [More >](#)

## Freeways & Streets



### I-405 Improvement Project Moves Forward with Cooperative Agreements

The OCTA Board of Directors voted to enter into cooperative agreements with the cities of Costa Mesa, Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach, and Westminster. [More >](#)

## Bus



### New Non-Stop Bus Will Take Fans from Huntington Beach to Angel Stadium

Beginning April 4, Angels fans will have another convenient and inexpensive way to travel nonstop to Angel Stadium in Anaheim. [More >](#)

## Metrolink



### Celebrate the Return of the Angels Express on April 4

Beginning April 4, the special Metrolink train that takes fans to all Angels weeknight home games starting at 7:05 p.m. returns for its sixth season. [More >](#)



### Metrolink Launches Mobile Ticketing App

Metrolink has launched the first version of its mobile ticketing app. It allows riders to purchase tickets on a smartphone, tablet or other mobile device. [More >](#)

## Share the Ride



### Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program Call for Projects

Up to \$20 million in grants for projects that make bicycling and walking easier and safer in Orange County has been made available. [More >](#)



Orange County  
Transportation Authority

550 S. Main Street. PO Box  
14184  
Orange, CA 92863-1584, USA

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OC WATER NEWS

**HYDR** **spectives**  
ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



## OCWD BOARD MEMBERS

### **President**

Cathy Green

### **First Vice President**

Denis R. Bilodeau, P.E.

### **Second Vice President**

Philip L. Anthony

Jordan Brandman

Shawn Dewane

Jan M. Flory, ESQ.

Dina L. Nguyen, ESQ.

Roman Reyna

Stephen R. Sheldon

Roger C. Yoh, P.E.

### **General Manager**

Michael R. Markus

*P.E., D.WRE.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

- **President's Message – Diversification is Key to Regional Water Reliability**
- **Director Anthony Receives 35-Year Service Pin**
- **World Water Day March 22**
- **Make a Difference on Earth Day April 22**
- **Orange County Engineering Council Honors OCWD**
- **OC Water Summit set for May 20**
- **Desperate Times: The Making of SGMA**
- **OCWD Receives AMTA/AWWA Award**
- **Becky's Run to Eradicate Pediatric Cancer**
- **Californians Overwhelmingly Support Reused Water**
- **Out in the Community**
- **OCWD in the News**
- **OCWD Employees**
- **February Tours**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—DIVERSIFICATION IS KEY TO REGIONAL WATER RELIABILITY

The Orange County Water District is a strategist when it comes to water management, with a lot of practice over the past 83 years. It has successfully diversified its water portfolio with the goal of reliability.

OCWD makes decisions that are intended not to see the region through a current drought, but to ensure the availability and security of water supply for the next 40-75 years. Local water agencies in north and central Orange County typically require about 435,000 acre-feet of water annually to meet their needs. About one-third of that demand is currently met through much more costly imported water. The groundwater basin supplies about two-thirds. Of the groundwater supplies, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), the world largest advanced water purification project for potable reuse, supplies one-third of the basin water. Filling the basin with highly purified water has put us in an enviable position of allowing the 19 water producers in our service area to pump even more groundwater.

During the recent drought, we have realized that the State Water Project and the Colorado River, from which we receive most of our imported water, might not always be reliable. **Read More...**

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Cathy Green  
*President*

[Back to top](#)

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## **DIRECTOR ANTHONY RECEIVES 35-YEAR SERVICE PIN**



*Director Philip Anthony receives  
35-year service pin. He is joined by  
fellow board members.*

Director Philip Anthony, an elected member of the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors since 1981, received his 35-year service pin at the March 16 board meeting. He currently serves as Second Vice President and serves the areas of Los Alamitos and Seal Beach and parts of Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Stanton and Westminster.

For more than 30 years Philip L. Anthony has been a recycled water advocate and has utilized his leadership skills, community outreach efforts, scientific expertise, and knowledge of water reuse to advocate for its worldwide acceptance.

Under the direct leadership of Director Anthony, OCWD has become a global leader in water reuse and innovation. From expanding Water Factory 21, a first-of-its kind water recycling facility, to

approving the Groundwater Replenishment System, the world's largest wastewater purification system for indirect potable reuse, Director Anthony had spearheaded efforts to ensure Orange County water supplies remain reliable and safe.

[Back to top](#)

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## **WORLD WATER DAY MARCH 22**

World Water Day, March 22, is an international observance that focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The United Nations General Assembly designated the first World Water Day in 1993. This year's theme is "Water and Jobs." Take this opportunity to learn more about water related issues and be inspired to tell others and to take action to make a difference.

[Back to top](#)

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## **MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON EARTH DAY APRIL 22**



*Arundo donax*

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22. Won't you join the Orange County Water District and others around the globe to protect the environment?

For more than 80 years, the District has made protection of the environment a major part of its efforts. OCWD has dedicated more than 1,100 acres of land for environmental preservation and invested millions of dollars for conservation.

OCWD manages and protects the Santa Ana River Watershed through wildlife management, removal of non-native invasive species like the water-guzzling giant Arundo donax, and habitat restoration for species such as the threatened least Bell's vireo bird and Santa Ana sucker fish.

The Orange County Water District not only helps wildlife, it ensures a reliable supply of water from the groundwater basin and protects water quality. **[Read More...](#)**

[Back to top](#)

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## **ORANGE COUNTY ENGINEERING COUNCIL HONORS OCWD**



*(left to right) Dr. Steve Cheung, OCEC President, Director Denis Bilodeau, Dr. C.T. Bathala, OCEC President Elect*

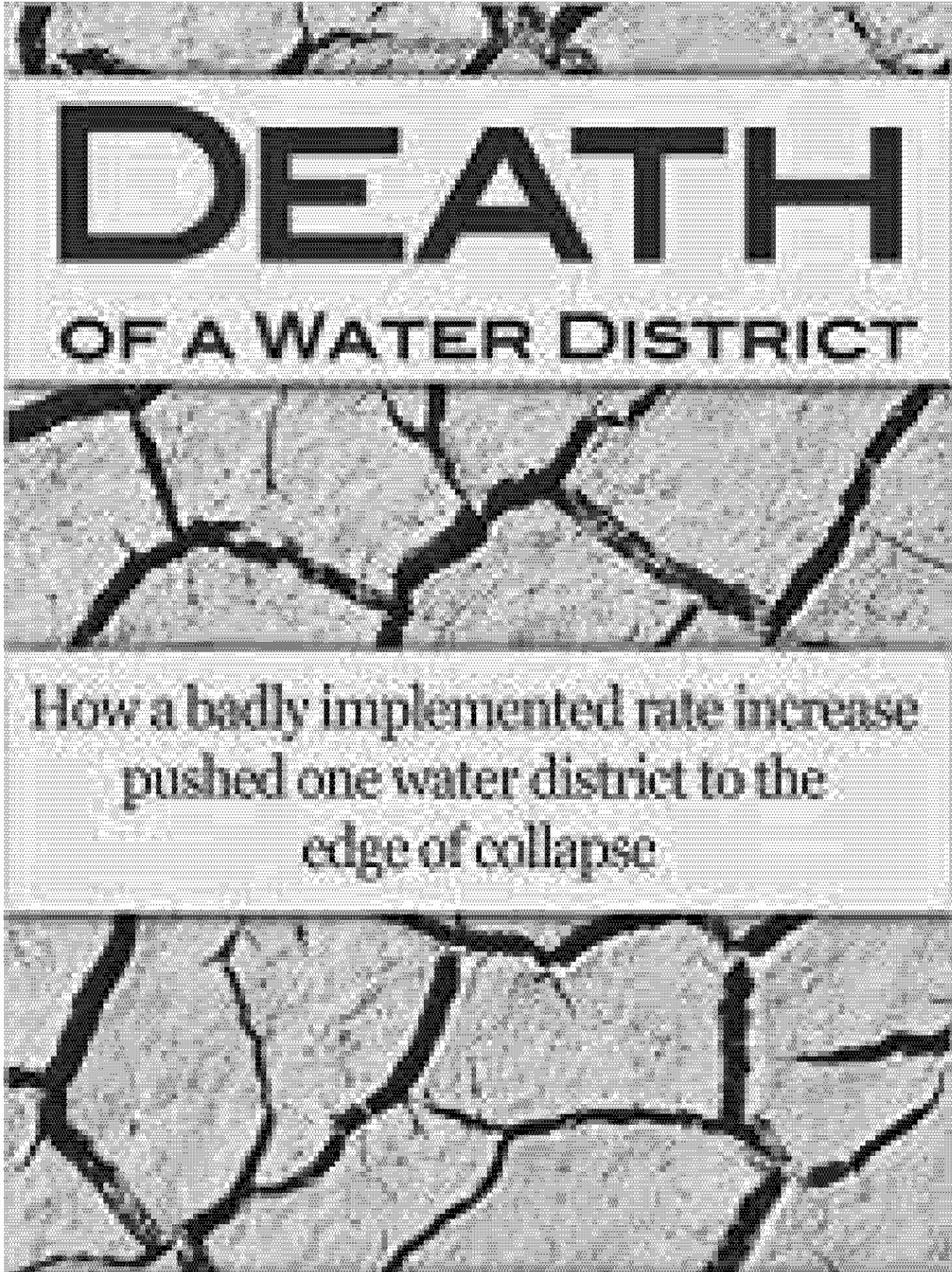
The Groundwater Replenishment System Initial Expansion received an Engineering Achievement Award from the Orange County Engineering Council (OCEC). The presentation was made February 27, 2016 at the OCEC Annual Honors and Awards Banquet, celebrated this year in Anaheim, Calif. OCEC is an umbrella organization of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

[Back to top](#)

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# OC WATER SUMMIT SET FOR MAY 20

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual OC Water Summit



# DEATH OF A WATER DISTRICT

How a badly implemented rate increase  
pushed one water district to the  
edge of collapse



will take place on May 20, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa.

"Death of a Water District" author Richard A. Wilson will discuss steps elected officials take -- or don't take -- that ultimately harm their city or agency. He is one of several experts who will address the physical, financial and political challenges faced by leading local-government agencies during their efforts to provide reliable water service at an affordable cost.

The OC Water Summit, hosted by the Orange County Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County, attracts leading business professionals, elected officials, water industry stakeholders, and community leaders from throughout Southern California.

Registration is now open and sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit [www.ocwatersummit.com](http://www.ocwatersummit.com) to sign up.

[Back to top](#)

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## **DESPERATE TIMES: THE MAKING OF SGMA**

The State of California is progressive

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## Golden Gate University Environmental Law Journal

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Volume 9

Issue 1: Symposium Edition: The Waste of Water in  
21st Century California

Article 4

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January 2016

# Desperate Times Call for Sensible Measures: The Making of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Tina Cannon Leahy

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 Part of the [Environmental Law Commons](#), and the [Water Law Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

Tina Cannon Leahy, *Desperate Times Call for Sensible Measures: The Making of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act*, 9 *Golden Gate U. Env't L.J.* 1 (2016).  
<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/egjv9i1/article14>

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when it comes to environmental legislation and standards. Yet, it was the last state in the nation to adopt groundwater regulation. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) passed in 2014, but its creation, and certainly its need, could be said to have begun as far back as 1903 when the Supreme Court put boundaries on groundwater withdrawal in *Katz v. Walkinshaw*.

In [Desperate Times Call for Sensible Measures: The Making of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act](#) by Tina Cannon Leahy, the Orange County Water District and the

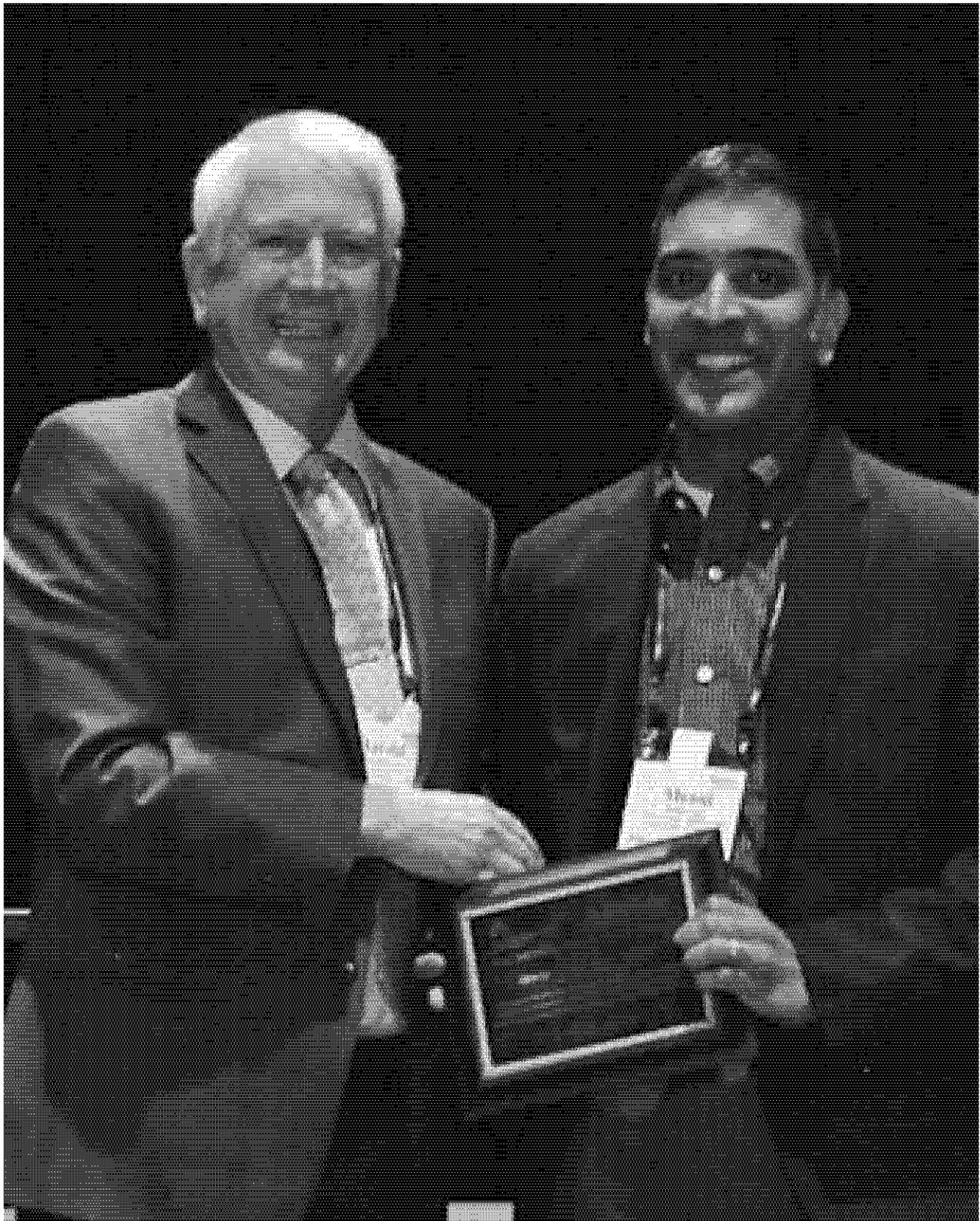
Water Commission Report were given credit for demonstrating how the state could manage its precious resource. In addition, the noteworthy document covers in detail how “The... authority was already there. But in the end it took another exceptional drought, a visionary Governor, and an extraordinary coalition to come together and make SGMA a reality.”

OCWD worked closely with Ms. Leahy and other staff working on the legislation to ensure that special act districts already managing groundwater, like OCWD, would be allowed to have the option to continue managing as they had been or to take on the powers and authorities granted to agencies formed under the Act.

[Back to top](#)

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## **OCWD RECEIVES AMTA/AWWA AWARD**



American Membrane Technology Association (AMTA) Executive Director Harold Fravel congratulates OCWD Director of Water Production Mehul Patel (right) as he receives the AMTA/AWWA (American Water Works Association) 2016 Membrane Facility of the Year Award on behalf of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) Initial Expansion.

The award recognizes an outstanding water/wastewater facility that uses any membrane technology with high efficiency in an environmentally friendly approach. It was presented “In appreciation of their dedication to the education of their operating staff and the public regarding the benefits of this innovative technology.” A joint project of OCWD and OCSD, the GWRS is the world’s largest water purification system for indirect potable reuse and helps increase north and central Orange County’s water independence by providing a locally controlled, drought-proof supply of high-quality water.

[Back to top](#)

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## **BECKY’S RUN TO ERADICATE CHILDHOOD CANCER**



Childhood cancer, the second leading cause of death in children ages 1-14 years, exceeded only by accidents, has slowly increased by 0.6 percent per year since 1975, when cancer registration began in the United States. An estimated 10,380 new cases are expected to occur in 2016 and 1,250 will die that same year.

Orange County Water District Community Outreach and Education Coordinator Becky Mudd is using her pastime of running to give meaning to the families and children that have been affected by this malignant disease. [Becky Mudd's Run for Gold](#) brings awareness and funding to the fight against pediatric cancer.

Running the equivalent of a marathon each day, Becky plans to run more than 450 miles over a 14-day period (May 28-June 10) in Utah to raise funds for the [Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation \(PCRF\)](#). **[Read More...](#)**

[Back to top](#)

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## **CALIFORNIANS OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT REUSED WATER**





After learning about the advanced treatment processes used to make pure, safe water for drinking, 89 percent of people are more willing to use reused water, according to a [statewide survey](#) released by Xylem Inc. The survey found that 76 percent of respondents believe reused water should be a long-term solution for managing water resources, and not just during droughts.

Nearly half of those surveyed are very supportive to use reused water as an additional local water supply. Forty-two percent are very willing to use recycled water in their everyday lives. According to Xylem Senior Vice President Joseph Vesey, “We conducted this survey in an effort to better understand public perception about recycled water...With overwhelming support from the public, California is well-positioned to lead the U.S. in accelerating the availability and acceptance of recycled water.” [Read More...](#)

[Back to top](#)

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## OUT IN THE COMMUNITY



As part of its standard to forge and maintain long-term, positive and proactive relationships with members of the local community and greater water industry and to be transparent about its operations and programs, OCWD board members and staff speak regularly before groups and at events. We participated in the following during February:

- President Cathy Green and Principal Engineer Sandy Scott-Roberts gave a presentation about OCWD and a water supply update at the Surf City Tea Party meeting in Huntington Beach.
- Recharge Planning Manager Adam Hutchinson participated in a planning meeting for the 9th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge to be held in Mexico City in June. Adam was invited to Mexico City at no cost to the District to discuss the meeting format and content with senior water officials in the Mexican government, who are scheduled to update their groundwater laws this fall.
- Staff from Engineering, Planning, Health & Regulatory and Hydrogeology met with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET) representatives to begin technical feasibility discussions on MET's proposed recycled water treatment and distribution project. Conceptually, the recycled water would replace raw imported water that OCWD has traditionally purchased from MET for basin recharge during non-storm periods.

**[Read More...](#)**

[Back to top](#)

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## OCWD IN THE NEWS

OCWD continues to be recognized for its leadership in the water industry. Below are a few of the District's recent media highlights:

- **KTLA morning news:** [From Toilet to Tap in a Matter of Minutes](#) by Rich DeMuro
- **The Sacramento Bee:** [Dan Walters: Debate over new supplies is microcosm of state's water war](#) by Dan Walters
- **Water & Wastes Digest:** [AMTA, AWWA Announce Awardees at Membrane Technology Conference](#) by AMTA and AWWA
- **Huntington Beach Independent:** [How would desalinated water be distributed? Water district decides to look at 5 of 8 options](#) by Anthony Clark Carpio
- Film students from Chapman University interviewed Principal Engineer Sandy Scott-Roberts about the GWRS and filmed footage of the plant for an upcoming project.

[Back to top](#)

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## OCWD EMPLOYEES

*OCWD's employees are its most valuable resources. It is committed to recruiting the best and enriching their lives to grow within the water industry and the District family.*

### ***New Hires***

***OCWD welcomes new employees:***





**Lane Krejcik**  
IS Intern

**Natalia Doshi**  
Natural Resources Intern



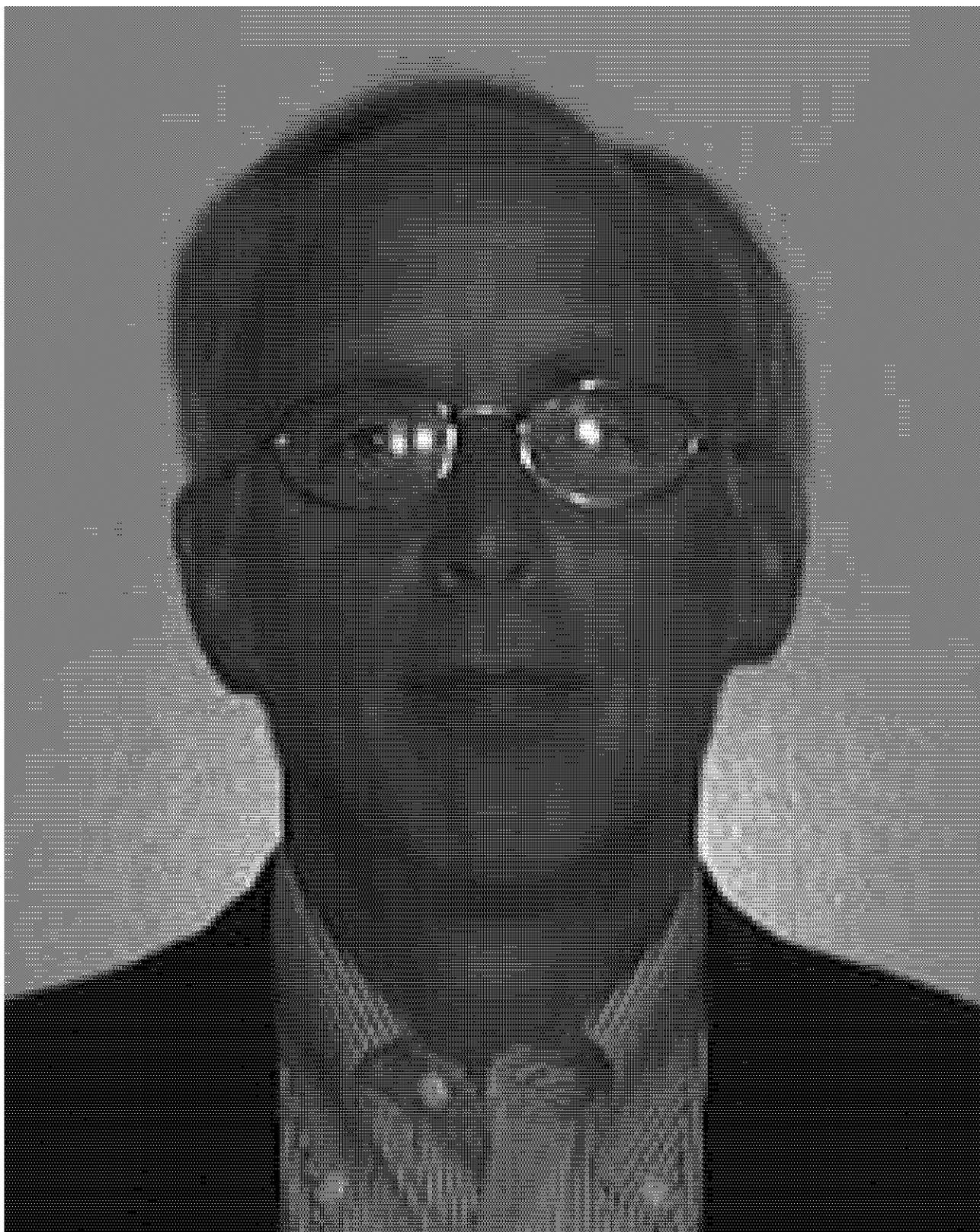


**Alec Mang**  
**Natural Resources Intern**

**Kim Nguyen**  
**Laboratory Intern**

## ***Retiree***

***Congratulations to Kevin Greene on his recent retirement from OCWD after 10 years of service.***



**Kevin Greene**  
**Accounting Manager**

[Back to top](#)

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## **FEBRUARY TOURS**

Thank you to the more than 400 guests that toured OCWD's facilities in February:



### *Cal State Long Beach Nursing Students*

Tours of the GWRS were given to EPA Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator Joel Beauvais; board members from the Orange County Sanitation District and the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority; a group of farmers from the Central Valley in association with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; members of Evoqua Water Technologies, the Hampton Road Sanitation District and Horshiba Instruments; attendees of the Certified Unified Program Agency Conference; a delegation from Turkey; students from Rancho Alamitos High School, a Cal State San

Bernardino hydrogeology class, San Clemente High School, Godinez High School in association with Orange County Coastkeepers, and Cal State Fullerton, Vanguard University and Cal State Long Beach nursing programs; and members of the public.

Public tours of the Groundwater Replenishment System are offered at 10 a.m. on the first Friday of every month; reservations are required. Tours may be scheduled for other days of the week, depending on staff availability. To schedule a tour, request more information or schedule a speaker, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).

## **CONTACT US**

[www.OCWD.com](http://www.OCWD.com)

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[Back to top](#)