



OCWA
Orange County Water Association
ESTABLISHED 1957

Water Matters

News for the Orange County Water Community

Fourth Quarter 2022

DWR Takes Actions to Support State's Future Water Supply Strategy

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has announced new steps that, if approved, could save enough water to supply 4.7 million Californians annually while making conservation more affordable through financial assistance and tax exemptions. The actions improve long-term water conservation and reduce wasteful outdoor water use as California adapts to a hotter, drier future driven by climate change.

"We have the tools to make it easier than ever for Californians to conserve water and we're taking action to get it done. It will take forward-thinking practices to ensure that we're managing our water resources resiliently now and for the future," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "From regulatory recommendations to funding for lawn replacement and water conservation, DWR is putting California on the path to achieve historic water savings."

The new actions will build on California's ongoing long-term efforts to make water conservation a way of life while advancing water efficiency efforts outlined in *California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future*. The plan, released by Governor Newsom this summer, sets a target of securing 500,000 acre-feet of additional water per year through increased efficiency and conservation.

DWR will be implementing and supporting actions that include:

Outdoor Water Use Recommendations

To help prepare for a hotter and drier future, DWR has submitted outdoor water use efficiency recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board. With outdoor water use accounting for 50 percent of urban resident water use on



average, the recommendations outline standards that would provide urban retail water suppliers with a framework to support more efficient outdoor residential water use. The framework will also include standards for the irrigation of large commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) landscapes in their service areas.

DWR's outdoor water use recommendations combined with indoor residential water use recommendations submitted in November 2021 would result in expected long-term water savings of 450,000 acre-feet per year starting in 2030 – enough water to supply about 1.6 million homes or about 4.7 million residents for both indoor and outdoor annual needs. The recommendations would also result in near-term savings of 100,000 acre-feet a year starting in 2023. DWR's recommendations will be evaluated by the State Water Resources Control Board through a formal rulemaking process, which will include additional analysis, engagement, and opportunity for public comment.

Indoor Water Use Legislation Signed

California also recently took additional steps to increase indoor water use savings with Governor Newsom's signing of Senate Bill 1157 (Hertzberg), which adopts recommendations made by DWR and the State Water Board last year to reduce indoor water use targets to 47 gallons per day by 2025 and 42 gallons by 2030. By adjusting indoor water use standards to reflect the joint recommendation of DWR and the State Water Board, the legislation

YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED!

2023 OCWA Board of Directors Election

The 2023 OCWA Board of Directors will be selected on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 during the November webinar. Plan to attend to ensure a quorum.

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American Water Works Association Poll Reveals 7 in 10 Americans Consider Their Tap Water to be Safe

Nearly three-in-four people perceive their home's tap water as safe, according to a survey conducted by data intelligence company Morning Consult on behalf of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and nearly 80 percent trust their water utility. The poll, titled "Public Perceptions of Tap Water," included 1,977 Americans served by water utilities.

With inflation on the rise in the U.S., the most recent survey showed that one-third of respondents were struggling to pay their water bill on time, an eight percent increase from June 2021.

This poll was conducted between June 22-23, 2022, and it reflects a sample of 1,977 U.S. respondents receiving water from a public water supply. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

"It's good to see the vast majority of people have confidence in both their tap water and their water utility," said AWWA CEO David LaFrance. "At the same time, we have work to do to gain and maintain trust in tap water, especially in communities where historical inequities have existed. With affordability challenges rising, focusing on disadvantaged communities is even more important."

Seventy-seven percent of respondents indicated they have "a



lot" or "some" trust in their water utility. Respondents who are aware of the frequent water quality tests at their utility indicated a much higher level of trust than those who are unaware. Three-fourths of respondents (73 percent) say they are generally satisfied with the water. However, that figure rose to 88 percent among those who said they are aware of frequent testing.

Approximately three-fourths of respondents say they are generally, very or somewhat satisfied with the water at their

faucet. Respondents' satisfaction with their water utility has increased by 4 percent since the June 2021 survey.

Three-fourths of respondents strongly or somewhat support continuing Congressional assistance to help with paying water bills for those who may not be able to afford it. Respondents across key demographics show support for this policy, with the most support expressed by Black respondents. The struggle to pay a water bill is most strongly expressed by lower-income, Black and Hispanic respondents.

Plans for State's Future Water Supply

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will help increase water conservation and water use efficiency, ensuring a more water-resilient future for California.

Financial Assistance for Turf Transition and Conservation

DWR has developed a set of funding programs that will help build resiliency in all communities including underrepresented communities and Tribes. The funding programs include financial assistance for projects that strengthen resiliency in urban communities, turf transition for residential and commercial landscapes and water conservation programs for urban water suppliers. DWR's programs will help to clear some of the hurdles that underserved communities face with direct install programs and support for local water agencies, while also helping build resiliency with equity in mind. DWR plans to release these grant programs in October. These new programs will build on the momentum created by the millions of dollars in grant funding that has been distributed by DWR in 2022.

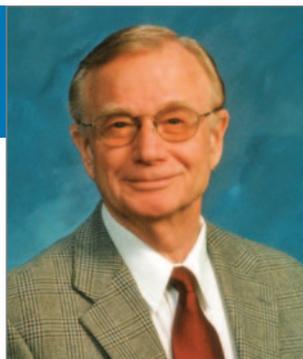
For more info on water use efficiency and the recommended standards, visit DWR's Urban Water Use Efficiency Standards webpage. For information about other DWR and State drought response efforts and funding programs, visit drought.ca.gov

Remembering Bill Mills

The Orange County water community mourns the passing of Bill Mills, who served as OCWD's general manager from 1987-2002.

Under his leadership, OCWD saw numerous improvement projects implemented, including the Green Acres Project, new recharge facilities infrastructure, groundwater cleanup programs, and a 20-year master plan to ensure future water reliability. He also worked with OC San to develop the partnership and concept of a project that would later be known as the Groundwater Replenishment System.

Bill's significant contributions to the District and to the entire water industry are to be commended and will be remembered.





November 16: Industry Insight Webinar

Update on OCWD's GWRS Final Expansion Project

Presenter: **Sandy Scott-Roberts, P.E.**

Groundwater Replenishment System Program Manager,
Orange County Water District

The \$310 million GWRS Final Expansion Project is currently in construction and scheduled to be complete in early 2023. The GWRS Final Expansion Project will increase the GWRS treatment facility to 130 million gallons per day (MGD) production.

An update will be given on the changes on the engineering design of the facility over the course of the design phase for this project – taking into account varying water quality and declining wastewater flows. There will also be an update on current constructions status of this project.



About Our Speaker

Sandy Scott-Roberts, P.E. is the GWRS Program Manager at the Orange County Water District. She has 18 years of experience in project management of the planning, feasibility, design and construction phases of water treatment facilities, including pipelines, pump stations, recharge basins, and injection wells.

Sandy started her career as a consulting civil engineer and has been at the Orange County Water District since 2006.

She is the Project Manager for the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) Final Expansion Project which will increase the treatment capacity of the facility from 100 MGD to 130 MGD.

She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Environmental and Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

We are Proud to Recognize Our Corporate Sponsors for the November 2022 Webinar



Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Online ZOOM Presentation

Webinar Open for Log-In: 12:00

Presentation: 12:30 – 1:00

OCWA Members with Reservation: **FREE**

Non-Members with Reservations: **\$10.00**

Cancellations received AFTER Tuesday, November 15 CANNOT be refunded.

Visit the OCWA website to make reservations:
www.ocwater.org

RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED.

OCWA's OpExpo 2022 was the Biggest Ever

Our Annual Event Returned with a Full Slate of Training Sessions, Multiple Teams in Competition, and the Largest Crowd Ever

As with past year's events before the pandemic, this year's **Operator Expo** had everything the Orange County water community has come to expect from OCWA: a strong slate of training sessions, a wide array of spirited competitions, and a delicious barbeque lunch. Everyone had a great time as they earned Certified CE training units, interacted with dozens of vendors, and enjoyed watching or participating in the contests. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

Special thanks are due to the many Sponsors and Exhibitors who participated in this year's event. **Twenty-two Vendors** joined us to display their products, demonstrate their uses, and answer all the operator's questions. In addition, **eleven Sponsors** stepped forward to help ensure the success of the day. *The names of all our*

Sponsors and the Vendors are listed on the next page.

Without the generous support of our Sponsors, and the dedicated attention of the Exhibitors, our event would have been nowhere near the success we all enjoyed. We are especially indebted to **Irvine Ranch Water District**, for

once again generously hosting our event at **Rattlesnake Reservoir**.

There was lot to learn and even more fun to be had at this year's annual event. We had a record number of participants sign up for this year's event, with **229 operators, representing 27 water agencies from Orange and Los Angeles counties** sign-up for the event, and the training sessions were well-attended. Each participant earned one contact hour for each training session attended.

In the first hour, **Stephen Bradbury** of **Advanced Valve**

Technologies, led the group through a wide-ranging discussion of *Why Insertion Valve Technology is the Future of Installing Distribution System Control Points*.

This presentation was followed by a

thorough overview of *Why Mix? The Key Benefits and Technology behind Reservoir Mixing: How Active Mixing and Disinfectant Boosting Can Improve Water Quality in Your Distribution System*.

Led by **Clint Freeman**, with **D&H Water Systems**, attendees were given a comprehensive overview of the technology.

At the conclusion of the Continuing Education classes, it was time for the day's competitions.

With the pandemic receding, the Pipe Tapping Contest was back to full participation. Five teams were prepped and ready to go. And two

scored high enough to earn a place on the OpExpo's list of all-time Championship Rankings.

The winning team, the **Huntington Beach Tappers**, came in **First Place** with remarkable time of 1:23.8. Close behind them, in **Second Place** with a time of 1:36.7, was the **Santa Ana West Coast Tappers**.

Both of these teams scored well enough for inclusion on the all-time Championship Rankings for OCWA's annual Pipe Tapping Contest. The Huntington Beach Tappers moved into Second Place on the all-time list, while the Santa Ana West Coast Tappers took over Sixth Place on the all-time list.

Other teams that competed included the **L.A. Tappers**, the **Anaheim Tappers**, and the **Irvine Tappers**.

It was a very spirited games this year, with all teams happy to be back in competition.

Special thanks to **Boyd Schultz** with **Laguna Beach County Water District** who organized and ran the **Pipe Tapping Contest**. Set up for the event was done the day before by crews from both **IRWD**

and **LBCWD**. Afterwards, teams from the **City of Santa Ana**, **City of Anaheim**, and **Irvine Ranch Water District** assisted with



2022 Operator Expo Proves a Resounding Success; Plans Already Underway for Next Year's Event

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dismantling and the final cleanup of the event.

In the morning's other event, 16 teams signed up for what turned into a spirited **Horseshoe Competition**. Aably organized and run by **Fred Ojeda** from **Yorba Linda Water District**, the event was a real crowd pleaser, with many close matches. **First Place** was taken by a team from **Irvine Ranch Water District**, while **Second Place** went to a team from **El Toro Water District**.

The women's team competition was smaller — only two teams — but no less exciting. **First Place** went to a team from **Leighton Engineering**, while a team from **Huntington Beach Water** captured Second Place.



The morning's educational sessions and competitions were capped off with a delicious lunch catered by **Blake's Place of Anaheim**, followed by an opportunity drawing with a great range of prizes donated by the sponsors and vendors, everything from tools to gift cards.

All agreed it was a great day of education and competition, and everyone left looking forward to 2023's event.

Should you have suggestions for improving next year's event, contact anyone on the OCWA Board. And make plans now to attend next year's event!

[Click here to view pictures of the day's events on the OCWA website.](#)



OCWA would like to thank our **Sponsors** for their generous support. Without their assistance, our event would not have been the great success it was.

As it is every year, it is our **Exhibitors** who make the day so very valuable for all attendees. We would like to extend our appreciation to the following companies that exhibited this year:

Clow Valve Co. ♦ **Farwest Corrosion Control Co.**
GSM ♦ **IXOM Watercare** ♦ **McWane Ductile**
Pacific Coast Bolt Corp ♦ **Romac Industries, Inc.** ♦ **Trenton**
Tripac ♦ **SIP Industries** ♦ **United Water Works, Inc.**
Advanced Valve Technologies ♦ **Aqua Metric Sales Co.** ♦ **B.E.S.T. Meter** ♦ **CLA-VAL**
Clow Valve Co. ♦ **D&H Water Systems** ♦ **Farwest Corrosion Control Company**
Ferguson Waterworks ♦ **GSM** ♦ **Hydropro Solutions** ♦ **IXOM Watercare**
Mainline Sales, Inc. ♦ **MISCO Water** ♦ **Pacific Coast Bolt** ♦ **Pacific Pipeline Supply**
Pres Tech Equipment ♦ **Romac Industries, Inc.** ♦ **Spears Manufacturing**
Specific Energy ♦ **Trenton** ♦ **Tripac** ♦ **VEGA**

2022 OCWA Corporate Sponsors

By their generous support, the following corporations and agencies were instrumental in helping ensure OCWA's success in its expanded mission for this year. On behalf of the membership, and the entire Orange County water community, thank you.

- AECOM ♦ AALR&R ♦ Black & Veatch
 Carollo Engineers ♦ CD Smith ♦ Civiltec
 Cla-Val ♦ Clow Valve ♦ DN Tanks
 Dopudja & Wells ♦ DUDEK
 Hazen and Sawyer
 Irvine Ranch Water District
 John Robinson Consulting, Inc.
 Leighton Group ♦ McCarthy
 Michael Baker International
 MKN Associates ♦ MWH Constructors
 Ninyo and Moore
 Peterson Structural Engineers
 Psomas ♦ SA Associates ♦ Stantec
 Tetra Tech ♦ United Water Works
 West Yost ♦ Woodard & Curran

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

OCWA Members and their organization can post unlimited job listings to the Association website for FREE. Listings are promoted with weekly e-blasts sent to our 1,500+ contacts, representing over 45 agencies and more than 120 companies county-wide.

This is saturation coverage throughout the County. What else would you expect from the only Orange County Association dedicated to the local water community?

If you would like to post a job opening here, and are a current member, please send a PDF, or a link to a web page detailing the position to the OCWA webmaster.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Mesa Water District – Field Services Supervisor (11-14)**
- Mesa Water District - Field CS Representative I/II (11-07)**
- Mesa Water District - Public Affairs Intern (11-07)**
- MWDOC - Sr. Engineer or Principal Engineer (10-28)**
- Project Partners - GIS Analyst**
- OCWD - Environmental Technician - Specialist (11-07)**
- OCWD - Maintenance Utility Technician (10-31)**
- Mesa Water District - Water Operations Supervisor (11-08)**
- IRWD - Senior Executive Assistant (10-31)**
- IRWD - Operator II/III (Recycling Operations) (10-30)**
- Project Partners - Water Construction Inspector**
- OCWD - Laboratory Intern**
- Garden Grove - Construction Inspector (10-24)**
- Mesa Water – Buyer / Senior Buyer**
- Project Partners - GIS Analyst**
- TE Roberts - Compliance Technician**
- and many more listings on the website . . .**

For further information on these and other currently open positions, please visit the "Opportunities" section of the OCWA website:
www.ocwater.org/Job-Opportunities

Members and their agency or company can post Opportunities to the OCWA website, free of charge, as often as they'd like. If you wish to post a job opening, and are a current member, please send a PDF or a link to your web listing to the timhogan@socal.rr.com. We'll post the listing to the website and send out a weekly jobs e-blast to over 1,500 people in the OC water community.

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise. At present, meetings are being held virtually. The next meeting is scheduled for:

**November 16, 2022
11:00 am to Noon**



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