



## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Governor Brown Signs Law Allowing Californians To Taste Their Water Future as Drought Enters Sixth Year**

**FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif.** (Oct. 5, 2016) — In a move to diversify our states water portfolio and ensure water security for our growing population, Governor Brown recently signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2022 into law, allowing Californians to conveniently taste-test recycled water in their communities.

Authored by Assemblymember Rich Gordon (D-24) and co-sponsored by the Orange County Water District (OCWD), the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) and WaterReuse, [AB 2022](#) will take effect in January 2017 and will allow the bottling of advanced purified drinking water to support educational outreach efforts. The bottled water will be used as a means to further educate audiences about the cutting-edge technology that is being used to purify reused water to near-distilled water quality in their community. Public understanding of the purity of this water is seen as a key requirement for more widespread acceptance of potable reuse in California.

OCWD and OCSD have partnered for over 20 years to plan, design, build and operate one of the world's most advanced water reuse facilities, the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). AB 2022 will allow GWRS water to be bottled and both districts are gearing up to make this happen.

"We commend the Governor's efforts to foster support for water reuse—it's a big part of the state's future and its potential is tremendous," said OCWD President Cathy Green. "To garner widespread support for these types of projects, it is critical that people see the process first hand and taste the water. Since the GWRS began operating, more than 32,000 people from around the world have toured the project which has brought more than 200 billion gallons of new water to the region. We are proud to operate the GWRS which serves as a global model for water reliability. In fact, I'm excited to announce that the board just approved a final expansion of the project that will take ultimate production capacity to 130 million gallons a day (MGD)—that's a lot of water," she added.

"We are pleased that the Governor has signed this important piece of legislation into law," said Orange County Sanitation District Board Chair John Nielsen. "Until now, only those fortunate to tour the Groundwater Replenishment System facilities were able to sample the purified water. Now, this legislation allows the bottling of small amounts of advanced purified water, which will help to teach the importance of water reuse and the technology used to recycle the water."

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Advanced purified water is becoming a common tool for water suppliers as we diversify water portfolios to improve reliability. The GWRS currently produces 100 MGD and is the world's largest indirect potable reuse project of its kind. GWRS water is used as a primary source to replenish the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which is managed by OCWD and provides 75 percent of the water supply to 2.4 million people in north and central Orange County. The GWRS takes highly treated wastewater and purifies it through a three-step process that includes microfiltration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide. Ultimate capacity for the GWRS is projected at 130 MGD after infrastructure is built to increase wastewater flows from OCSD to the GWRS.

Water reuse projects like the GWRS and other alternative water supply projects are critical to developing a reliable water supply and will help California better weather cyclical droughts and water supply challenges. AB 2022 will help support an educational outreach effort, which is a critical step in the process of gaining the public's approval for water reuse projects. Before this legislation passed, agencies were not allowed to bottle reused water because of the source, even though the end product met or exceeded all state and federal drinking water standards and undergoes more testing than other drinking and bottled water supplies. Consumers had to visit an advanced purification facility in person to taste this clean, safe reused water.

To read the full bill text for AB 2022, please visit <http://bit.ly/2dvjZDE>. To learn more about the GWRS, visit [www.ocwd.com/gwrs](http://www.ocwd.com/gwrs).

#### **About OCWD**

*The District 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 and receive approximately 75 percent of their water supply from it: 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. For more information about the Orange County Water District and its Board of Directors, call (714) 378-3200 or visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com).*

#### **About OCSD**

*OCSD is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.5 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OCSD is a special district that is governed by a 25 member Board of Directors comprised of 20 cities, four special districts, and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. OCSD has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources. For more information, about the Orange County Sanitation District visit [www.ocsd.com](http://www.ocsd.com) or call (714) 962-7411.*