



Water Matters

News for the
Orange County
Water Community

JANUARY, 2020



OCWD Launches Nation's Largest PFAS Pilot Program to ID Local Removal Remedy

The Orange County Water District recently announced the launch of its pilot program that will test various treatment options for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, a family of manmade heat and water resistant chemicals found in numerous everyday consumer products that have infiltrated groundwater

supplies over several decades. While the levels of PFAS in Orange County groundwater wells are relatively low, OCWD and its retail water agencies are exploring long-term solutions to ensure that water supplies continue to meet all state and federal water quality standards.

The goal of the pilot program is to help retail water agencies in Orange County determine the best treatment methods available to them. Through the program, OCWD will be testing

different types of granular activated carbon (GAC) and ion exchange (IX) products, as well as novel adsorbents just emerging in the

market, to determine which applications are best suited for Orange County's diverse aquifer water quality and geochemistry. All of the treatment methods are expected to remove PFAS from groundwater to below detectable levels.

"The pilot testing will help us design and implement the best project for Orange County to safeguard the basin and meet the needs of OCWD and its retail agencies and ratepayers," said OCWD President Vicente Sarmiento.

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Save the Date!

Jason Dadakis

will speak on PFAS

at the

March 18, 2020

OCWA

Industry Insight

Luncheon

Your 2020 OCWA Board of Directors



The new Board of Directors were presented to the membership at the 62nd Annual Holiday Party. From left, they are: **Sandy Scott-Roberts**, Vice President; **John Robinson**, Director; **Candice Espinoza**, Director; **Dave Jones**, Director; **Gregorio Estrada**, Ex Officio; **Michael Sinacori**, Director; **Ryan Gallagher**, President, and **Bobby Young**, Treasurer.

January 15 Industry Insight Topic:

California's First Recycled Water Swimming Lake

Speakers: Donald H. Bunts and Tricia Butler

Santa Margarita Water District

Join us this month for an update on the Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Purified Water Treatment Facility, a national award-winning project which provides a reliable source of recycled water to the lake, ending almost 40 years of the controversial use of drinking water for refill.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Dave & Buster's Restaurant

Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

11:30 am: Registration

12:00 – 1:30: Lunch & Presentation

To Learn about
this month's
Industry Insight
event,
see Page 3

To make reservations, please go to www.OCWater.org

Reservations must be made by EOB, Tuesday, January 14, to qualify for the Reservation Rate. Cancellations received AFTER this date CANNOT be refunded.

For more information, contact Leticia Villarreal at
(714) 378-3201

Please identify yourself by name and membership number.
RSVP IS A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT. NO-SHOWS WILL BE BILLED

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION, SEE PAGE 3 OR VISIT OCWATER.ORG

OC Register Named SCWD 2019 Top Workplace

By SONJA WASSGREN MORGAN

Public Information Officer, South Coast Water District

South Coast Water District has been awarded a Top Workplaces 2019 honor by *The Orange County Register*.

The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by research partner Energage, LLC, a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools. The anonymous survey measures several aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution and connection, to name a few.

“The Top Workplaces award is about much more than recognition and celebration,” said Eric Rubino, CEO of Energage. “Our research also shows that these organizations achieve higher referral rates, lower employee turnover and double employee engagement levels. It just goes to show that being intentional about culture delivers bottom-line results.”

“The District chooses to invest in our employees,” said South Coast Water District Board President Dennis Erdman. “Our employees are our greatest asset; they take pride in completing their jobs with confidence and great care. As a result, our customers appreciate the positive attitude and engagement by the staff.”

“Our District employees feel appreciated and part of a greater good,” believes General Manager Rick Shintaku. “We, as part of this community, are determined to provide outstanding customer service and high quality, reliable water and wastewater service at the best cost possible.”

Former Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer Rick Shintaku became General Manager only last year. However, Board Vice President Rick Erkeneff believes that Rick’s dedication and Ohana spirit have helped bring about meaningful change. “Rick’s

**SOUTH COAST
WATER DISTRICT**
Partnering With The Community



ability to include District employees at all levels to collaboratively lead sets an example for all our employees to follow,” says Erkeneff. “Our decisions are made with an interest to enhance

the operational efficiency and standing of the District while holding in the highest regard the satisfaction of the District’s customer base.”

As a result, the District’s employees provide outstanding customer service through dedication, respect, courteous and open communication, and timely response. This current fiscal year, our customer service department received a 99.4% “Excellent” rating from customer service surveys.

“Our staff takes immense pride in our ability to form personal relationships with our customers while supplying a quality product and service,” believes Customer Service Manager Cassandra Garcia. At a recent public hearing, one of our customers complimented the District by sharing that he feels

“pampered” by the District. “Comments such as his make me proud to be a member of the District family,” smiles Cassandra.

“When tallying notably positive facts and figures for the District scoreboard, we as a team have accomplished so much this past year,” exclaimed Rick Shintaku. “But, as the general manager, those facts and figures are meaningless without leading in a way that leaves a positive, lasting impression with the District’s employees and our customer base.”



Sponsorship Opportunities for Monthly OCWA Presentation

Would your company like to sponsor one of our monthly Industry Insight Presentations? Sponsorships are available for \$250, and sponsors must be a current OCWA member. A table is made available at the meeting for the sponsor to display their company or agency information, and the sponsor receives two free lunches. Sponsors will be provided announcement space in the newsletter and will be verbally recognized before and after the luncheon.

If you are interested in participating, please contact

Sandy Scott-Roberts, (714) 378-3292,
or you may email her at sscott@ocwd.com

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

There are a number of new positions listed on the OCWA website. Click the titles to download the information:

EOCWD - Wastewater Supervisor (02-03)

LBCWD - General Manager (01-19-2020)

OCWD - Director of Public Affairs (01-17-2020)

Genterra Consultants – Civil / Geotechnical Engineers

For further information on these and other currently open positions, please check them out in the “Opportunities” section of the OCWA website:

www.ocwater.org/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 of your listing to the [OCWA webmaster](mailto:OCWA@ocwater.org). We’ll post the listing to the website and, if space permits, advertise it in the member’s-only monthly newsletter as well.



January 15: Industry Insight Event

California's First Recycled Water Swimming Lake

Presenters: **Donald H. Bunts**, *Deputy General Manager, SMWD*
Tricia Butler, *Chief Engineer, SMWD*

Join us this month for an update on the Advanced Purified Water Treatment Facility owned and operated by Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD).

The Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Treated Water Facility is a national award-winning project which provides a sustainable, reliable source of water to the Lake, ending almost 40 years of the controversial use of drinking water for refill. In just nine months, the project was designed, constructed and operational as a result of a unique private/public partnership.



The Facility produces an effluent for direct discharge and use in Lake Mission Viejo, in addition to other existing uses within SMWD's service area. Designed to produce up to 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of treated recycled water, the treatment processes include ultra-filtration, reverse osmosis and ultraviolet-light disinfection. It is believed that this is the first use of recycled water for this purpose in the State.

About Our Speakers

Mr. **Donald H. Bunts** has over 35 years of experience in the environmental engineering field, including the master planning, design and construction of multimillion-dollar municipal water and wastewater facilities. In addition, Mr. Bunts has successfully completed a number of alternative delivery projects that have resulted in substantial time and financial savings to the owners.

Before he came to work for the Santa Margarita Water District, Mr. Bunts was one of the founders of a consulting engineering firm. Between 1996 and when he left in 2012, the firm became recognized leaders in providing innovative solutions to project challenges in the water and wastewater field throughout the southwest, including Arizona and Texas, and had the distinction of being involved with the implementation of a significant number of recycled water retrofit projects in the southern California area.

In his years with SMWD, Mr. Bunts was the District's Chief Engineer before his promotion to Deputy General Manager.

He is a graduate of Cal State Polytechnic University at Pomona, where he earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Civil/Environmental Engineering. He has served on the board of directors of the California Water Environment Association and the American Water Works Association.

Tricia Butler has nearly 30 years of experience in the water industry including over 25 years in private sector water engineering. She spent 3 years early in her career as a water and sanitation technology volunteer with the United States Peace Corps.

As the Chief Engineer for the Santa Margarita Water District, Tricia has led several large projects including the nationally recognized Lake Mission Viejo Advanced Treated Water Facility. She specializes in designing drinking water, recycled water, and sewage facilities.

Tricia is a graduate of Northern Arizona University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Engineering. She holds a Master of Science in Engineering from Arizona State University as well as a Masters in International Management from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

Tricia balances her rewarding career and heart for volunteerism with the joy of raising three sons.

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Dave & Buster's Restaurant • Irvine Spectrum Entertainment Center

11:30 am: Registration • 12:00 – 1:30: Lunch & Presentation

OCWA Members with Reservations..... \$30 Non-Members with Reservations..... \$45

OCWA Members without Reservations..... \$45 Non-Members without Reservations..... \$45

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It was a Sure Bet:

The 2019 Holiday Party was an Unforgettable Evening

The 62nd Annual OCWA Holiday Party was an evening of entertaining elegance and excitement. From tasteful table settings to high stakes gaming tables, everything was geared for a memorable event. And our venue — the **Marconi Automotive Museum** — decked out in holiday splendor, provided a wonderful backdrop for the festivities.

Throughout the evening, guests were delighted to wander through an amazing display of classic automotive excellence — everything from exotic racing cars to rare luxury sedans, muscle machines to limited production prototypes. For those who appreciate cars or craftsmanship, or who just admire the beauty of fine engineering, it was a rewarding experience.

A special treat for the evening was a bright yellow 2012 McLaren P1 hybrid sports car, on loan to the Marconi by a private collector. It was for sale, but despite some partygoers winning big at the gaming tables, its \$1.2 million price tag remained slightly out of budget, even for the most avid admirers.

Unsurprisingly, the evening's most popular activity was socializing. So engrossed were most in the pleasures of each other's company dinner service was held-up while the OCWA Board tried in vain to corral guests to be seated. Hard to fault anyone, however, for the festive holiday atmosphere made for especially happy discussions among the Orange County water community.

After a sumptuous meal prepared by **White House Catering**, it was time for the evening's "business." Outgoing OCWA President Gregorio Estrada passed the gavel to Incoming President Ryan Gallagher. Ryan reciprocated with a commemorative award for Gregorio, a

beautiful engraved rosewood plaque adorned with a brass gavel. Ryan then introduced OCWA's 2020 Board officers: Vice President Sandy Scott-Roberts, Treasurer Bobby Young, and Secretary Dave



Jones, along with returning Board Directors Michael Sinacori and John Robinson, and the Board's newest member, Candice Espinoza.

And then it was time for the evening's first opportunity raffle.

We were blessed this year to have a wide array of Sponsors. With their support, a great many prizes were awarded to the raffle winners. Electronic prizes ranged from HP Chromebook and Samsung Galaxy laptops to a Google Home mini voice-activated assistant, an iWatch, and wireless headphones. Other prizes included a Nutribullet drink blender, a Yeti premium cooler, an Ellia aromatherapy diffuser, a Bobsweep robotic vacuum, and a high-end electric kettle by Smeg. There were also gift certificates for Fleming's Steak House, Amazon.com, and tickets for Angels, Clippers, and Padres games, with parking!

Visit the OCWA webpage to view or download dozens of photos from the 2019 Holiday Party.

Gifts for our guests weren't the only presents distributed. Through the generosity of our attendees, a record number of toys were collected for the Marconi Foundation to distribute to disadvantaged children throughout the county. The Orange County Water Association is very grateful to all our guests for their generous support in this worthy endeavor.

After the raffle, guests hit the

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OC Water Community Took a Gamble – and It Paid Off!

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gaming tables to test their luck and skills. A special treat for the evening, however, were Slot Car races on a classic track, complete with computerized scoring. Many guests were heard to declare it took them back to their youth, as the excited look on so many faces would attest.

At the end of the night, a second raffle was held to benefit the winners at the gaming tables. **Casino del Sol**, the company that operated the gaming tables, rewarded successful players with prizes that ranged from an afternoon at the Del Mar Race Track to a trip to Laughlin.

We were happy to see so many new faces at this year's event. After enjoying an evening of merriment with us, we hope many of you will join OCWA, to take advantage of the many networking and educational opportunities our Association offers.

With wishes for all for a happy and prosperous New Year, we hope to see you again at next year's Holiday Party!



Holiday Party Sponsors



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... to foster advancement in the Water Works Industry...

ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THE WATER INDUSTRY IN ORANGE COUNTY?

If yes, then consider becoming a member of the Orange County Water Association (OCWA).

OCWA mission is to foster advancement in the Water Works Industry, set high standards for potable water, exchange ideas and work for standard policies and procedures of mutual help during water emergencies, disseminate information for the education of the general public in the use of water and its value to civilization and aid in water research.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION BY THE NUMBERS

OVER
230
MEMBERS
.....
45+
AGENCIES
REPRESENTED
.....

120+ Companies Represented
.....
SAVE \$100+/yr
with membership event discounts
.....
50+ YEARS
OF SERVICE TO ORANGE COUNTY
.....

AS A MEMBER OF OCWA YOU WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS

Build Your Network

- **Monthly Meetings:** Reduced fees for our monthly meetings which provide an opportunity to hear from local leaders on new and innovative projects, and meet other local water industry professionals.
- **Annual Holiday Party:** The annual holiday party brings together over **200+ members and guests.**
- **Annual Golf Tournament:** This member only event draws 100+ water professionals. The event features prizes and a non-scramble format.
- **Expand Your Contacts:** Members gain access to OCWA's vast member directory.

Advance Your Career

- **Board Positions:** Earn a position on the Board to gain leadership.
- **Gain Visibility:** Gain opportunities to present your agency/company's projects or programs to our local network.
- **Committee Positions:** As a member, consider joining one of various committees.

Education and Training Opportunities

- **Monthly Newsletter:** Jobs, projects, local water news, regulatory and legislative updates each month.
- **Safetyfest:** Earn CEUs from State approved training sessions.
- **Annual BBQ:** This Operator Training Event, offers CEUs, over 20 vendor exhibitions, and a Pipe Tapping Contest.

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To join OCWA visit our website at:
ocwater.org/join-us

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OCWA's Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of each month, unless notified otherwise. The next meeting is scheduled for:

January 15, 2020
10:30 am to Noon

Dave & Buster's Restaurant
 Irvine Spectrum
 Entertainment Center



Unless otherwise noted, all articles in this newsletter reflect the views or opinions of the authors and not the official opinion of OCWA, its membership or Board of Directors. All Advertisements contained in the newsletter are subject to the OCWA Advertising Policy. The OCWA Advertising Policy is available on request from the Association.

Pilot PFAS Program Seeks to Removal from Local Water

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After a competitive bid process, OCWD selected Jacobs, a leading water and infrastructure engineering company, to review candidate PFAS treatment remedies and support OCWD in the design of the pilot. OCWD has installed the pilot system, provided by Evoqua Water Technologies, and will operate the pilot to draw water from an OCWD-owned well near Warner Basin in Anaheim that has low concentrations of PFAS. The pilot will test GAC, IX, and novel products from various providers including Cabot Corporation, Calgon Carbon Corporation, Evoqua Water Technologies, ECT2, Jacobi Carbons, Puro-lite, Minerals Technologies Cetco, and CycloPure. Jacobs is also completing related laboratory-scale testing for a subset of the same products (GAC and novel adsorbents) with their laboratory partner Battelle, using an established procedure known as Rapid Small-Scale Column Testing (RSSCT). The lab testing will run on OCWD's pilot test well water supply and on nine individual retailers' well water sources.

Additionally, OCWD has selected Carollo, a leading water engineering firm, to assist OCWD with a regional planning study to evaluate how such treatment would be rapidly implemented and conduct pre-design work. OCWD is investing approximately \$1.4 million in the pilot and related study.

"The most important thing is that Orange County water meets state and federal drinking guidelines," added Patrick Versluis, OCWD's director of water quality. "PFAS contamination is a



To learn more about PFAS click the image above to watch an OCWD video.

pervasive problem throughout the nation, and we are doing everything in our power to be a part of the solution."

Water is just one of many ways that people come in contact with these substances, with food and dust also considered potentially significant sources. These chemicals are resistant to heat, water and oil and have been used for decades in hundreds of industrial applications and consumer products such as furniture fabrics, food packaging, clothing and water, grease or stain resistant materials. PFAS have been found both in the environment and in blood samples of the general U.S. population. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has also detected PFAS chemicals in the U.S. food supply.

Due to the prolonged use of PFOA and PFOS in many common consumer products, the chemicals have been known to enter the water cycle through conventionally treated wastewater discharges from sewage treatment facilities, landfills and locations where the substances were used outdoors. Most people have been exposed to these chemicals through consumer products, but drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have entered water supplies.

OCWA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event/Topic	Location
February 19	SCWD Tunnel Project Joe McDivitt	Dave & Busters
March 18	OCWD PFAS Update Jason Dadakis	Dave & Busters
April 15	MWDSC Update Tentative	Dave & Busters