



OCWA
Orange County Water Association
ESTABLISHED 1957

Water Matters

News for the Orange County Water Community

First Quarter 2023

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Awards OCWD Funding for Water Treatment Research Projects

The Orange County Water District was awarded funding from the United States Bureau of Reclamation for two research projects to test innovative water treatment technologies.

“As a leader in water reuse, groundwater management and water quality, OCWD is committed to support research in these areas to enhance its operations and enable further advancements throughout the entire water industry,” said OCWD President Cathy Green. “Our research and development department is exemplary, and I would like to congratulate them for their ongoing work to evaluate promising new technologies that support our mission to provide a high-quality, reliable water supply to 2.5 million people.”

The two research projects support District priorities including the removal of PFAS from groundwater supplies and the enhancement of operations of its Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS). The GWRS is the world’s largest water recycling project.

The first project, “In-Situ Gravity Driven Removal of PFAS During Groundwater Recharge to Protect Drinking Water,” will evaluate the performance of an engineered adsorbent media when



installed into the ground for the passive removal of PFAS in impacted surface waters that are used to recharge groundwater supplies. Awarded \$199,430 in funding, OCWD is the project lead and will collaborate with technical advisors from Colorado School of Mines and Jacobs.

The second project, “Improving RO Recovery through Optimization of Flux and Pump Usage with Real-Time Sensor Connectivity, Data-driven Modeling, and Automation,” is in partnership with Hazen and Sawyer who was awarded \$197,294 in funding. OCWD is supporting the research on site as a test bed location. The project aims to develop predictive algorithms with automated process controls that can optimize reverse osmosis (RO) operational settings to reduce energy, maximize production, and minimize chemical costs while reducing membrane fouling and scaling. RO is the heart of the three-step GWRS advanced purification process.

The two research projects are among nine proposals chosen by Reclamation to receive funding.

2023 Board of Directors

The 2023 OCWA Board of Directors are:

Dave Jones, *President*;

Candice Espinoza, *Vice President*;

Bobby Young, *Treasurer*;

Derek Kurtti, *Secretary*;

Taryn Kjolsing, *Director*;

Tanner Bennett, *Director*;

and **Todd Dmytryshyn**, *Director*;

Sandy Scott-Roberts, *Ex-Officio*



2023 Board of Directors (from left to right): Sandy Scott-Roberts, Ex-Officio; Dave Jones, President; Candice Espinoza, Vice President; Derek Kurtti, Secretary; Taryn Kjolsing, Director; Bobby Young, Treasurer; and Todd Dmytryshyn, Director.



Volunteers and Presenters Needed for Children's Water Education Festival

Popular Event set to take place at UC Irvine on March 29 to 30

Your time and effort are needed to ensure the smiles of more than 7,000 students at the 23rd annual Children's Water Education Festival, taking place this year on Wednesday and Thursday, March 29 and 30, on the campus of UC Irvine.

The children, their teachers and chaperones are already scheduled to come. It will take a lot of industry involvement however to make sure their experience is enriching and memorable. Consider you or someone from your company appearing as a presenter for either or both days. Maybe you'd rather be a sponsor and receive prominent recognition for your contribution at one of many levels. Then again, you might want to volunteer your time. Hundreds of volunteers are needed for a variety of positions.

Since its inception, more than 130,000 Orange County children have attended the award-winning Children's Water Education Festival, which is recognized nationally as the largest event of its kind. Its mission is to educate students about water-related and environmental issues. Never has there been a more important time to teach our children that they can make a difference in protecting our water resources and environment for today, tomorrow and the future.

The event is presented by the Orange County Water District, the National Water Research Institute, and the OCWD Groundwater Guardian Team.

The longevity and success of this award-winning event is the result of gifts of time, talent and resources. The Festival wouldn't be possible without your help; we appreciate your commitment and time. Learn more and register as a presenter, sponsor or volunteer by visiting the [Festival website](#).



Dave Jones, P.E.

OCWA's Board of Directors' President for 2023



Dave Jones, P.E., has been serving water agency clients throughout California for over 35 years as a consulting engineer.

Some of his most recent clients include Moulton Niguel Water District, South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Water Replenishment District, West Basin MWD and City of Los Angeles.

Dave has been a Vice President for Hazen and

Sawyer for over 5 years. Previously, he was at CH2M Hill and Brown and Caldwell.

He earned his M.S. in engineering at Stanford University and M.B.A. at the University of Southern California.

Dave enjoys road bicycling (including the annual MS Bike Bay-to-Bay event from Irvine to San Diego), skiing, golfing, and spending quality time with his 2-year old granddaughter.



January 18: Industry Insight Simulcast

Water Supply/Demand Outlook and Planning Strategy for an Uncertain 2023 . . . and Beyond

Presenter: **Demetri J. Polyzos**

Resource Planning Team Manager, Water Resource Management Group,
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Our first webinar of the year promises to be a highlight of the year when Demetri Polyzos, Resource Planning Team Manager for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, shares his observations on the current state of water here in the Golden State with an emphasis on Southern California.

Some of the topics he may cover are current hydrologic conditions throughout the State, Metropolitan's projected 2023 supply demand balances, and the outlook and planning strategy for 2023 and beyond.

In past years, some of our most stimulating conversations have been inspired by speakers from MWDSC, and Demetri Polyzos is certain to continue this tradition.

Plan now to attend the inaugural webinar of 2023, and make reservations today to join us on January 18!



About Our Speaker

Demetri Polyzos is a Team Manager in the Water Resource Management Group of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Mr. Polyzos started his career at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California in 2006 forecasting water demands in the Water System Operations Group. He moved over to the Water Resource Management Group a few years later where he focused on Metropolitan's two imported water supplies from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Mr. Polyzos chaired the State Water Contractors (SWC) Water Operations Committee, where he led the coordination between the Department of Water Resources and the 27 participating SWP Contractors and discussions on key issues and decisions impacting water supplies.

In his current role, Mr. Polyzos leads the technical staff responsible for conducting the analysis for and the preparation of Metropolitan's Integrated Water Resources Plan, a long-term strategy to provide Southern California with a reliable supply of high-quality water to meet present and future needs.

He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from UC Davis.

We are Proud to Recognize Our Corporate Sponsors for the January 2023 Webinar

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Wednesday, January 18, 2023

In-Person at Dave & Busters, or Online ZOOM

In-Person Member: \$30 • Non-Member: \$45

Online Member: FREE • Non-Member: \$10

In-Person Sign-In: 11:30, Lunch: 12, Presentation 12:30

Online Simulcast begins at 12:30 (webinar opens at 12)

Cancellations received AFTER Tuesday, January 17 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 2022 Holiday Party was a Welcome Return to High-Flying Holiday Merriment

Our 64th Annual Holiday Gathering took off in a venue dedicated to the world of flight, and from all accounts, it was a roaring success.



A record number of guests turned out for the event, held this year at the Lyon Air Museum, on the back side of John Wayne Airport. The Lyon provided an impressive setting for the party. With its extensive array of authentic aircraft, rare vehicles, and related memorabilia, the museum highlights the important role our nation has played in shaping the modern world through captivating, thought provoking exhibits.

Two cash bars open throughout the evening ensured everyone had refreshments all through the night. And new to party this year was a special whisky tasting bar. Those who partook enjoyed a taste of three different blends all distilled in California, including one from Santa Ana. All agreed, it was a unique experience, one they thoroughly enjoyed.

However, as with previous parties, socializing proved the evening's most popular activity. The pandemic interrupted so many occasions the past few years, and attendees were eager to get reacquainted, as was evident in the many happy, animated discussions seen around the room all evening.

For a [complete account](#) of the evening's merriment, as well as [pictures of the festivities](#) and a list of our [many generous sponsors](#), please visit ocwater.org.



AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins Highlights 2022 Successes in Video



AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins has produced a [video](#) to share the association's 2022 successes with members and subscribers. He details legislative and regulatory achievements over the last several months, recounts the success of both the Water Policy and Executive Management Conferences, and touts the establishment of the Environmental Justice Committee and increased press placement, among other accomplishments.

AWWA Cover Story on OCWD PFAS Report

The *JournalAWWA* recently featured a cover article on PFAS treatment in groundwater written by a team from Orange County Water District

OCWD's **Dr. Megan Plumlee, P.E.**, Research Director; **Jason Dadakis, P.G., C.HG**, Executive Director of Water Quality and Technical Resources; **Patrick Versluis**, Director of Water Quality; and **Chris Olsen, P.E.**, Director of Engineering contributed to the report, *Groundwater Treatment to Remove PFAS: Restoring Local Drinking Water Supply in Orange County, California*.

The article may be accessed through the [JournalAWWA website](#).



2023 OCWA Corporate Sponsors

By their generous support, the following corporations and agencies have helped ensure the OCWA Board of Directors will be able to pursue its many goals for 2023.

On behalf of the membership, and the entire Orange County water community, we thank you.

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

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Civiltec ♦ Cla-Val ♦ Clow Valve

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MKN Associates ♦ Mueller WP

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SA Associates ♦ SPI Engineering

Stantec ♦ TE Roberts ♦ Tetra Tech

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 1,600+ 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:

Anaheim - Assistant General Manager, Water Services (02-10)

IRWD – Electrical & Instrumentation Technician

IRWD – Senior Accounting Clerk

OCWD – Water Quality Intern

Mesa Water District – Buyer / Senior Buyer (01-29)

City of Brea – Water Distribution Operator I

IRWD – IT User Support Manager

City of Anaheim – Water Quality Laboratory Supervisor

FVWD – Foreman – Sewer/Storm Drain

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 1,600 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.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

**January 18, 2023
10:30 am to 11:30 am**

Dave & Buster's Restaurant
Irvine Spectrum
Entertainment Center

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The OCWA Advertising Policy is available on request from the Association.