



OCWA
Orange County Water Association
ESTABLISHED 1957

Water Matters

News for the Orange County Water Community

Second Quarter 2022

OCWD Lab First to Receive New PFAS Certification

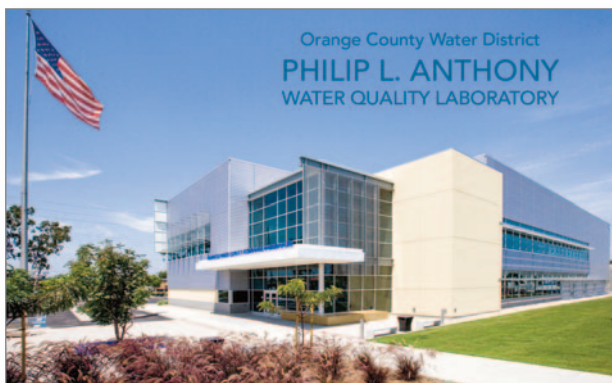
Orange County Water District's Philip L. Anthony Water Quality Laboratory is the first public agency laboratory in California to achieve state certification to analyze for per- and polyfluoralkly substances (PFAS) in drinking water by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method 533. Certification was granted by the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) administered by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The lab previously became the first public agency lab to receive ELAP certification for PFAS analysis via EPA Method 537. Together, these certifications enable the lab to analyze 29 PFAS targets in drinking water.

"This EPA certification is a testament to OCWD's ongoing commitment to exceptional water quality," said OCWD President Steve Sheldon.

"We've made significant investments to address PFAS and our technical staff have done an excellent job leading this effort. From monitoring and testing, to implementing the nation's largest PFAS pilot project, to building treatment plants throughout the county – we're doing everything we can."

PFAS are a group of thousands of manmade chemicals that are used to make items non-stick and/or resistant to water, oil, and stains. They are also used



in a number of industrial processes and firefighting activities. Chemical manufacturers are the original source of PFAS chemicals. Over the past several years, the science on PFAS and its impacts to the environment and public health have prompted regulatory actions.

PFAS have been detected in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, which supplies 77% of the

drinking water supply to north and central Orange County. Despite playing no role in releasing PFAS into the environment, cities and water agencies must find ways to remove it from their local water supplies. Water agencies in OCWD's service area

adhere to PFAS federal health advisory and state response levels and provide drinking water that meets all state and federal regulations.

The Philip L. Anthony Water Quality Laboratory supports OCWD's mission to provide clean, reliable groundwater to 19 cities and water districts. In addition to state certification to analyze both PFAS methods, the lab has received acceptance into the EPA Laboratory Approval Program to perform PFAS analyses under both EPA Method 533 and 537.1 for the UCMR 5 program, with monitoring set to begin in 2023.

For more information about how OCWD is addressing PFAS in Orange County, please visit the [PFAS education center](#).

Lake Oroville Water Level Shows Extent of Drought

An aerial drone view showing low water under the Enterprise Bridge at Lake Oroville with a water elevation of 743 feet on March 17, 2022.



Photo by: Kelly M. Grow / DWR

Sandy Scott-Roberts, P.E.

Determined Leadership for the OCWA Board

By TIM HOGAN, OCWA Communications

From her first days on the OCWA Board of Directors, it was understood by all that Sandy Scott-Roberts would bring substantial changes to the Association's monthly presentations.

Rebranded as "Industry Insight" presentations, Sandy infused the luncheon events with an energy they had not had in some years. Drawing on her extensive contacts within the industry, Sandy began bringing in an array of speakers on widely diverse topics. Presenters ranged from Deven Upadhyay, Assistant GM of Metropolitan Water District, to Rob Thompson, Assistant GM of OCS D. In between, the membership heard from speakers such as Rosanne Weston, Engineering Manager at Yorba Linda WD and Brad Coffey, Group Manager, Water Resources, with MWDSC.

And when Covid put an immediate halt to in-person meetings, Sandy worked with the Board to implement on-line luncheon webinar presentations, an innovation that brought dozens more viewers to the monthly events.

This year, as President of the Association, and with Covid restrictions easing, Sandy is working to implement the monthly presentations as a hybrid-event, opening the meeting to in-person attendees who wish to gather again, while retaining the on-line event for those more comfortable with that format.

Her inspiration continues to impact the Industry Insight presentations. For though others have stepped up to arrange for the monthly speakers, the commitment to retaining quality voices on timely topics remains the driving force.

When not active on the OCWA Board, Sandy is the Program Manager for the Groundwater Replenishment System at the Orange County Water District.

With 18 years of experience in project management, engaged in all aspects of planning, design, and construction for water treatment facilities, Sandy is uniquely qualified to manage the GWRS. Her experience encompasses the full range of production, from feasibility studies through final write-off and everything in between — pipelines, pump stations, recharge basins, and injection wells.

She started her career as a consulting civil engineer and has been with the Orange



County Water District since 2006. Currently, she is the Project Manager for the GWRS Final Expansion Project, an ambitious development which will see the treatment capacity of the facility increase from its current 100 million gallons a day to more than 130 million gallons a day.

A licensed Professional Engineer (PE), Sandy holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Environmental and Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

She lives in Tustin with her husband and two daughters.

SCWD Receives \$2M Grant for Recycled Water

The Bureau of Reclamation has selected the South Coast Water District's "Recycled Water Distribution Improvements Phase II Project" for a \$2 million grant. It is one of the Bureau's initial 2022 selection of 13 projects for \$20.5 million in grants to build long-term drought resiliency.

South Coast Water District's project will expand the District's recycled water system by enlarging the current recycled water pipelines. Replacing a pressure-reducing valve will provide a recycled water supply in place of the imported potable water supply within Dana Point.

The proposed Phase II Project includes installing approximately 5,700 linear feet of 14-inch diameter transmission main in Monarch Beach Drive and Stonehill Drive to replace the existing smaller diameter pipelines serving Dana Hills High School. It will also replace a pipe at the current Recycled Water Reservoir 2 site, producing an additional 347 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Drought Response Program is part of WaterSMART. It supports a proactive approach to drought by providing water managers assistance to implement projects to build long-term resiliency to drought and climate change while supporting President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.



April 20: Industry Insight Webinar

MODERN-DAY ALCHEMY

SMWD's Gate 5 and the plan to turn wastewater sludge into energy

Presenter: **Don Bunts**

Deputy General Manager, Santa Margarita Water District

Medieval alchemists dreamt of turning lead into gold. Visionaries today have equally profitable dreams, only now the transmutation is real, and it's turning wastewater sludge into renewable electricity.

Into one end of the machine sludge and other organic waste is funneled, while from the other end comes distilled water, a small amount of ash, and — electricity. And best of all, there's no methane by-product, the bane of traditional sewage and sludge treatment.

As futuristic as it might seem, this remarkable idea has attracted sufficient grant money to fund a demonstration project at Santa Margarita Water District.

And prospective clients are already lined up, anxiously waiting to see how this demonstration project works out.

Known as the Gate 5 System, the pilot plant is scheduled to begin operating in March 2023.

And should it meet expectations, it will create more energy than it needs to run. Plans call for the demonstration project to turn 5 wet tons of sewage into 1 dry ton of biofuel

daily. That dry ton of biofuel contains as much latent energy as coal, is not a fossil fuel, and can create between 500 kilowatts and 1 megawatt of renewable energy. A single megawatt can power between 400 and 1,000 homes.

Plan to join us, April 20, to learn more about this innovative, modern-day alchemy. It's a presentation guaranteed to give you an eye-opening glimpse at the future. Best of all, no magic wand required.

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

AECOM Imagine it.
Delivered.



About Our Speaker

Don 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, Don has successfully completed a number of alternative delivery projects that have resulted in substantial time and financial savings to the owners.

Don has also been involved with a number of alternative energy projects using biosolids, biomass and waste gas as the fuel source.

In his years with SMWD, Don 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.

Wednesday, April 20, 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, April 19 CANNOT be refunded.

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

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

2022 Golf Tourney Set for Strawberry Farms GC

Monday, June 6, 2022

7:15 am Check-In/Breakfast • 9:00 am Shotgun Start

Our 2022 Tournament is set! We appreciate the enthusiasm shown by all who have already signed up and encourage any golfers who haven't signed-up yet to act quick. We look forward to a great day of golf.

Sponsorship Opportunities are still available. If you or your company are interested in sponsorship, the details are below.



Sponsorship Opportunities!

Sponsorship pricing has remained constant at \$250, same price it's been for over six years. And in a year that's seen rapid price increases, we're pleased we could hold the line on this.

Your sponsorship helps buy the prizes for the event. It also pays for the planned breakfast and awards ceremony, where SFGC's famous barbeque and no-host bar will be provided. Your sponsorship also provides for a company tee sign and company name, contact and phone number on the reverse of the rules, which goes to every player the day of the event. Sponsors are also listed in the OCWA monthly newsletter to all association members starting in April, as well as on the OCWA website. What a great good marketing deal!



To become a priority sponsor, simply print the form, fill it out and send it in with a check for \$250.

Lastly, please check your OCWA Membership status as we will be reviewing your status more closely this year as

that is a requirement to be in the event. The benefits of membership far outweigh the modest \$70 per year cost. You can sign up for Membership on-line at www.ocwater.org/join-us.

For additional information, please e-mail Mike Sinacori at Msinacori@newportbeachca.gov or call him at (949) 644-3342.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD SPONSORSHIP AND REGISTRATION FORM](#)

43rd Annual Golf Tournament

June 6, 2022



Corporate Sponsors

The following companies joined with OCWA to sponsor this year's Golf Tournament.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| AES Water, Inc. | <i>Darik Walton</i> |
| American Flow Control | <i>Perry Phillip</i> |
| Bingham and Taylor | <i>Mark Delancellotti</i> |
| Black and Veatch | <i>Derek Kurtti</i> |
| Black and Veatch | <i>Derek Kurtti</i> |
| CAB Engineers, Inc. | <i>Cory Bersch</i> |
| Civiltec Engineering, Inc. | <i>Shem Hawes</i> |
| Cla-Val Company | <i>Monte Roberts</i> |
| Clow Valve Company | <i>Richard Ledesman</i> |
| DUDEK | <i>Mike Metts</i> |
| Ford Meter Box | <i>Blake Kidd</i> |
| General Pump | <i>Michael Bodart</i> |
| GCI Construction | <i>Terry Gillespie</i> |
| Golden Sun Marketing | <i>Josh Bolger</i> |
| Guida Surveying, Inc. | <i>Ralph Guida</i> |
| Hazen and Sawyer | <i>Dave Jones</i> |
| JCM Industries / TRIPAC | <i>Bill Foster, Sr.</i> |
| Leighton | <i>Jeff Hull</i> |
| McCarthy Building Companies | <i>Curtis Horner</i> |
| MISCO Water | <i>Tom Roberson</i> |
| Mueller Systems | <i>Kevin Cornejo</i> |
| Neptune Technology | <i>Andy Bohn</i> |
| Paulus Engineering, Inc. | <i>Jason Paulus</i> |
| PSOMAS | <i>Mike Swan</i> |
| Richard Slade & Associates | <i>Richard Slade</i> |
| SIP Industries | <i>Matt Segerstrom</i> |
| Stantec | <i>Jim Cathcart</i> |
| TE Roberts, Inc. | <i>Tim Roberts</i> |
| Tetra Tech | <i>Laurence Esguerra</i> |
| TRIPAC | <i>Bill Foster, Sr.</i> |
| TRIPAC | <i>Bill Foster, Sr.</i> |
| United Water Works | <i>Shaw Turnage</i> |

Opportunities remain for those who wish to participate as a Sponsor. To learn more, visit the OCWA Golf Tournament webpage, or email Michael Sinacori, Tournament Chairman, at msinacori@newportbeachca.gov

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
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 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:

- YLWD – General Manager (05-09)**
 - IRWD – Safety Manager (04-29)**
 - Fullerton – Principal Civil Engineer (Water)**
 - OCWD – Laboratory Intern**
 - IRWD – Senior Engineer (two positions) (04-25)**
 - EOCWD – Water Distribution Lead Operator
Open Until Filled)**
 - IRWD – Water Efficiency Specialist (04-19)**
 - IRWD – Recycled Water Specialist (04-12)**
 - IRWD – Accountant (Accounts Receivable and Revenues)**
 - IRWD – Cybersecurity Analyst**
 - SOCWA – Director of Engineering**
 - SOCWA – Electrical Instrumentation Tech**
 - SOCWA – Sr. Electrician SCADA Technician**
- and dozens of 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 of your listing to the OCWA webmaster. We'll post the listing to the website and, if space permits, advertise it in the member's-only monthly newsletter as well.

Board of Directors

President
Sandy Scott-Roberts
 (714) 378-3292
 sscott@ocwd.com

Vice President
Dave Jones
 (916) 769-8753
 drjones@hazenandsawyer.com

Secretary
Candice Espinoza
 (714) 765-5323
 CEspinoza2@anaheim.net

Treasurer
Bobby Young
 (949) 342-1440
 BYoung@lbcwd.org

Directors
Derek Kurtti
 (805) 550-9656
 dkurtti@gmail.com

Taryn Kjolsing
 (949) 541-1327
 tkjolsing@scwd.org

Tanner Bennett
 (818) 720-2922
 tbennett@mknassociates.us

Ex-Officio
Ryan Gallagher
 (714) 213-9758
 rgallagher@mknassociates.us

Key Contacts

Membership
Candice Espinoza
 (714) 765-5323
 CEspinoza2@anaheim.net

Golf Tournament
Michael Sinacori
 (949) 644-3342
 msinacori@newportbeachca.gov

Legal Counsel
Jeff A. Hoskinson
 (949) 453-4260
 jeff.hoskinson@aalrr.com

Public Outreach
Sandy Scott-Roberts
 (714) 378-3292
 sscott@ocwd.com

Programming
Dave Jones
 (916) 769-8753
 drjones@hazenandsawyer.com

Communications
Tim Hogan
 (714) 903-3991
 timhogan@socal.rr.com

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:

**April 20, 2022
 11:00 am to Noon**



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