

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Orange County Sanitation District Recognized as
Industry and Community Leaders in Solving Water Challenges**

Fountain Valley, CA - The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) was honored today by several national water sector organizations through the *Utility of the Future Recognition Program* (UOTF). This program celebrates the achievements of water utilities that are benefiting their communities and inspiring the water sector through innovative, future-focused, transformational programs. The recognition program is a collaborative effort that includes the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, and the WaterReuse Association with input from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Forty-seven public and private utilities from across the U.S., Canada, and Europe were selected for recovering resources from wastewater, engaging with their community, forming unique partnerships, and building an internal culture of innovation.

OC San was also awarded the Project Excellence Award from WEF for the completion of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS), a joint project with the Orange County Water District (OCWD). The GWRS world's largest water reuse facility takes highly treated wastewater that would have previously been discharged into the Pacific Ocean and purifies it using a three-step advanced treatment process. The Final Expansion project, completed in December 2022, added 30 million gallons per day (MGD) to the system's capacity, bringing the total to 130 MGD - enough water for 1 million people. Notably, this expansion achieved an unprecedented milestone: recycling 100 percent of OC San's reclaimable wastewater flows, a feat unmatched by other wastewater recycling initiatives.

"It is a true honor to be recognized by these national organizations for our efforts. We take our mission of protecting public and the environment beyond wastewater treatment and focus on contributions that will help improve the community and industry alike," stated Board Chairman Chad Wanke. "These two recognitions are indicative of the commitment our staff and Board of Directors make every day to Orange County."

About OC San

OC San is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OC San is a special district that is governed by a 25-member Board of Directors composed of 20 cities, four special districts, and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. OC San has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial sources. For more information, please visit www.ocsan.gov.

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