

Orange County Water District



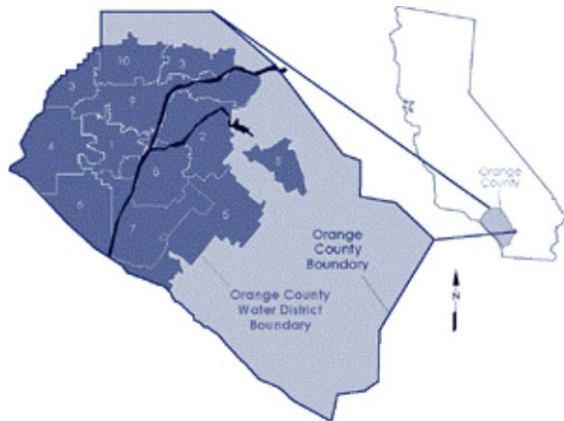
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Budget Report FY 2015-2016

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

HISTORY AND CHARACTER

The District receives an average of only 13 to 15 inches of rainfall annually, yet sustains a population of approximately 2.4 million people. The residents and businesses within the District have two primary sources of drinking water. One source is a natural underground reservoir, called the Orange County groundwater basin. The other source, referred to as imported water, comes from Colorado through the Colorado River Aqueduct and from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta in Northern California through the State Water Project.



The groundwater basin was used by early settlers to supplement flows from the Santa Ana River.

As the area developed into a thriving agricultural center, the increased demand upon the subsurface water by the county's many wells resulted in a gradual lowering of the water table. In response, the Orange County Water District was formed in 1933 by a special act of the California State Legislature. OCWD manages the groundwater basin that underlies the northwest half of the county, supplying a significant percentage of the District's total water demand. The remaining demand is obtained through the Colorado River Aqueduct and State Water Project via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS

Date of Enactment: 1933
Form of Government: Special District of the State of California
Area (square miles): 358
Employees (full-time equivalent): 218.5

Major Groundwater Producing Agencies:

Anaheim, City of
Buena Park, City of
East Orange County Water District
Fountain Valley, City of
Fullerton, City of
Garden Grove, City of
Golden State Water Company
Huntington Beach, City of
Irvine Ranch Water District
La Palma, City of

Mesa Water District
Newport Beach, City of
Orange, City of
Santa Ana, City of
Seal Beach, City of
Serrano Water District
Tustin, City of
Westminster, City of
Yorba Linda Water District