



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOVERNOR LIFTS DROUGHT EMERGENCY

Fountain Valley, CA (April 7th, 2017) – Today, in a press release, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. lifted the drought state of emergency for most of California. The move comes two months after the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Board of Directors unanimously declared an end to the emergency drought conditions in Orange County, and called on the state to do the same. The governor’s latest executive order, B-40-15, ends the state of emergency in most areas, but maintains water reporting requirements for urban water users and prohibitions on wasteful practices.

“We’re glad Governor Brown has come to this conclusion,” said MWDOC Board President, Wayne Osborne. “Now we must prepare for the next drought cycle. We need long-term solutions like the California WaterFix and EcoRestore. We need to enhance the state’s ability to take advantage of years when we get a lot of rain, and build more storage for the years when we do not.”

MWDOC’s 2016 Orange County Water Reliability Study determined that the Waterfix, also known as the Twin Tunnels, is the single most cost effective large-scale project to ensure long term reliability for Orange County and the region. The record breaking rainfall and precipitation in Northern California demonstrates the need for the Twin Tunnels.

Orange County residents have done their part in saving water. Today, Orange County residents use roughly the same amount of water as two decades ago, although the population has increased by more than one million.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County is a wholesale water agency serving 2.2 million OC residents.

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