

**SECTION 2 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL PARTICIPATION****2.1 LIST OF PARTICIPATING WATER DISTRICTS AND CITY PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Descriptions of each Participating Water and Wastewater Utility (PWU) are provided below. This section is organized first by utilities that have regional management responsibilities that extend to several water districts or city utilities including: Municipal Water District of Orange County, Orange County Water District, Orange County Sanitation District, and South Orange County Wastewater Authority. Participating water and wastewater utilities are then presented in alphabetical order, including: City of Buena Park, El Toro Water District, City of Garden Grove, City of La Habra, Laguna Beach County Water District, Mesa Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, City of Newport Beach, City of Orange, Santa Margarita Water District, Serrano Water District, South Coast Water District, Trabuco Canyon Water District, City of Tustin, City of Westminster and Yorba Linda Water District.

**2.1.1 Municipal Water District of Orange County (Service Population: 2.2 million)**

MWDOC's Mission Statement is to provide reliable, high-quality water supplies from MET and other sources to meet present and future needs, at an equitable and economical cost and to promote water use efficiency for all Orange County.

MWDOC is a regional water wholesaler and resource planning utility, managing all of Orange County's imported water supply with the exception of water imported to the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, and Santa Ana. MWDOC serves more than 2.2 million residents in a 600-square-mile service area (see Figure 2-1). Its commitment is to ensure water reliability for the communities it serves. To that end, MWDOC focuses on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply, regional delivery infrastructure and emergency preparedness.

As a regional wholesaler, MWDOC's most significant roles are broadly applicable to all of its member utilities. A key goal of MWDOC is to provide broad-reaching services and programs that the retail utilities cannot reasonably provide as single entities.

MWDOC is governed by an elected seven-member Board of Directors, each board member representing a specific area of the County. Each director is elected to a four-year term by voters who reside within one of the seven divisions within the MWDOC service area.

**Figure 2-1  
MWDOC Service Area and Member Agencies**



**MWDOC Service Area  
and Member Agencies**

**Figure  
1-1**

Center for Demographic Research, CSUF 2011  
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**2.1.2 Orange County Water District (Service Population: 2.4 million)**

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages the large groundwater basin that provides reliable, high-quality groundwater to 20 cities and water utilities and their 2.4 million customers. OCWD was formed in 1933 by a special act of the California Legislature [Water Code App §40-1 *et seq.*], which authorized OCWD to represent water users and landowners in litigation (with upstream users) and empowered OCWD to protect the water supply and protect the groundwater basin. The mission of OCWD is to provide local water retailers with a reliable, adequate, high-quality water supply at the lowest reasonable cost in an environmentally responsible manner. With years of proper planning and investment, OCWD has more than doubled the output of the groundwater basin.

The groundwater basin, which underlies north and central Orange County, provides between 2/3rds and 3/4ths of the water needed in that area; imported water meets the balance of the water demand. Groundwater is pumped by water utilities before being delivered to customers. Groundwater is a great value at approximately one-half the cost of imported water. OCWD purchases through MWDOC some imported water supplies for recharge operations and for operating and maintaining the seawater intrusion barrier.

Today, OCWD is managed by a ten-member Board of Directors, with three appointed from the cities of Anaheim, Fullerton and Santa Ana, and the remainder of the Board publicly elected from geographic divisions within the OCWD service area.

OCWD is known internationally for its “tradition of innovation.” OCWD built the first advanced wastewater purification plant to provide water to prevent seawater intrusion into Orange County’s groundwater basin. Today, OCWD and OCSD are partners in the world’s largest advanced wastewater purification project, called the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) that is currently being expanded to provide 100,000 AF/yr of water for seawater barrier and groundwater replenishment purposes.

**2.1.3 Orange County Sanitation District (Service Population: 2.5 million)**

The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is responsible for safely collecting, treating, and disposing wastewater (sewage) and industrial waste in central and northwest Orange County. Owning 400 miles of wastewater pipeline, OCSD serves 2.5 million residents in 21 cities, three special districts and the unincorporated areas within north and central Orange County.

The District is governed by a board of 25 individuals; 24 board members are elected officials appointed by the cities and special districts served, and one is a representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

OCSD treats approximately 210 million gallons of wastewater each day and releases it into the ocean five miles from shore and approximately 200 feet below the surface. The one-mile-long diffuser section on the five-mile ocean outfall contains 503 portholes through which treated wastewater are slowly released. Up to seventy million gallons of treated wastewater is reclaimed each day for use by the Orange County

Water District to supplement the recharge of the groundwater basin, landscape irrigation, and injection into the sweater intrusion barrier along the coast.”

In addition to its primary role of managing wastewater for north and central Orange County, OCSD is also concerned about ocean water quality and protecting the coastline from urban runoff contamination. This is why OCSD charter was modified to allow OCSD to accept dry weather urban runoff contaminated with bacteria in the sewer system. The dry weather urban runoff is then treated with the raw sewerage entering the plants and disinfected before it is released to the ocean outfall system. Currently, OCSD recycles all biosolids produced for beneficial use by the agricultural industry and runs an award-winning ocean monitoring program that evaluates water quality, sediment quality and sea life.

#### **2.1.4 South Orange County Wastewater Authority (Service Population: 500,000)**

The South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) was created July 1, 2001 as a Joint Powers Authority. SOCWA was formed under and pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 and is the legal successor to the Aliso Water Management Utility, the South East Regional Reclamation Authority and the South Orange County Reclamation Authority. SOCWA is comprised of 10 member utilities including the City of Laguna Beach, City of San Clemente, City of San Juan Capistrano, El Toro Water District, Emerald Bay Service District, Irvine Ranch Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, Santa Margarita Water District, South Coast Water District and Trabuco Canyon Water District. SOCWA provides wastewater treatment, effluent and biosolids disposal, and water recycling at regional facilities in the southern part of Orange County.

SOCWA is governed by a Board of Directors. As members of SOCWA’s Board of Directors (one Director from each Member Agency) they each balance the interests of their own respective District or City while continuing the purpose and mission of SOCWA’s Project Committees.

#### **2.1.5 City of Buena Park (Service Population: 80,800)**

The City of Buena Park (Buena Park) was incorporated in 1953; Buena Park is situated in central Orange County, with a land area of 10.3 square miles serviced by the City’s water utility. Buena Park is a public municipality and is governed by an elected City Council consisting of a mayor and four councilpersons. The cities of La Mirada, Fullerton, Anaheim, La Palma, and Cypress bound Buena Park.

Buena Park has a water system with three pressure zones. The water system consists of eight active wells, one 20 million gallon reservoir, one booster pump station and numerous pressure reducing stations. In addition, there are four imported water supply connections with MET. Water supply is transported to approximately 80,800 consumers through 225 miles of pipeline and approximately 18,900 service connections.

Groundwater is the primary source of water for Buena Park, and historically has accounted for about 58 percent of total water supply. Groundwater is drawn from eight municipal wells that are drilled down to about 1000 feet into the Orange County Groundwater Basin. The second source of water is imported water from MET through MWDOC.

**2.1.6 El Toro Water District (Service Population: 51,000)**

The El Toro Water District (ETWD) was formed in September 1960 under provisions of the California Water District Law (Division 13, Section 34000 et seq. of the Water Code of the State on California). The District is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors consisting of five Board Members. The Board of Directors establishes District policies and Rules and Regulations. The District's service area, which is nearly completely developed, includes 5,350 acres in South Orange County. ETWD is bordered by the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) to the north, the Laguna Beach County Water District (LBCWD) to the west, the Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) to the west and south, and the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) to the south and east. The District also shares a small border with Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD) in the northern part of the District. The District provides water and sewer service to over 51,000 customers in the cities of Laguna Woods, Laguna Hills, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo and Aliso Viejo.

ETWD's responsibilities as authorized by the California Water District Law are:

- Treatment and distribution of potable water for domestic consumption, irrigation and fire protection.
- Collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater.
- Treatment and distribution of recycled water.

All of the District's domestic water demands are met from the supply imported from MET through MWDOC. ETWD receives imported (potable) water from MET via the Allen-McColloch Pipeline (AMP) and the East Orange County Feeder #2 (EOCF#2).

**2.1.7 City of Garden Grove (Service Population: 171,042)**

The City of Garden Grove (Garden Grove), recognizing the importance of the groundwater basin underlying the City, established a Municipal Water Department in 1958. The Department is the principle water retailer within the boundaries of Garden Grove. Imported water is purchased by Garden Grove from MET through MWDOC to alleviate over depletion of the groundwater basin. The percentage of import to well water changes periodically and is dependent upon OCWD groundwater projections.

Garden Grove has 12 wells strategically located throughout the City, with a pumping capacity of over 38,850 gallons per minute. In 2010, the sale of water bonds allowed the City to take on many capital improvement projects to provide a safe and abundant water supply for the citizens of Garden Grove. The improvements included building a new water supply well, two new reservoirs, and upgrades to the City's import water connections and water distribution system. Careful planning and management of utility services ensures that a reliable source of potable water is readily available to the City's water users, now at a population of 173,000.

The Water Services Division consists of a professional staff responsible for ongoing operation, maintenance, repair and improvements to the City's water system. Garden Grove is governed by a five member council. Each position is an elected position, including the position of mayor. Revenue is

collected through bi-monthly water rates. Since the LAFCO Reorganization No.141, City staff has also been responsible for the operation and maintenance of 320 miles of sewer lines, and three lift stations located throughout the City.

### **2.1.8 City of La Habra (Service Population: 58,974)**

The City of La Habra (La Habra) was incorporated under general law on January 20, 1925, with a population of 3,000. Today, La Habra is a bedroom community located in northern Orange County with a population of nearly 62,000 residents in 7.3 square miles. La Habra operates under a five member Council/Manager form of government who also act as the board of the Water/Sewer Division.

La Habra possesses 125 miles of all gravity sewer pipelines with a replacement cost of \$145,000,000 and 143 miles of water pipeline with a replacement cost of \$110,000,000. There are three water storage tanks, one water well, six booster stations, 57 pressure reducing valves and 21 pressure zones. La Habra receives water from MET through MWDOC and from California Domestic Water Company from the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin.

### **2.1.9 Laguna Beach County Water District (Service Population: 19,820)**

Laguna Beach County Water District (Laguna Beach) is well known as a unique beach community and artist's colony. The District provides water services to 19,820 people within an 8.5 square mile area, including portions of the City of Laguna Beach, a portion of Crystal Cove State Park and the community of Emerald Bay. Laguna Beach serves approximately 4,100 acre feet of water annually to its 8,488 customers. There are 21 water storage reservoirs with a total storage capacity of 33.5 million gallons. Laguna Beach staff operates and maintains 36 pumps in 11 pumping stations and 135 miles of distribution pipelines ranging in diameter from 4 to 16 inches.

The area's sewer and storm drain services are managed by the Water Quality Department of the City of Laguna Beach. The department is organized into two divisions: Wastewater and Water Quality. Wastewater is responsible for maintaining 95 miles of sewer lines, 26 pump stations and the four-mile North Coast Interceptor that transmits sewage to the regional treatment plant operated by SOCWA. Water Quality is a new division formed to implement the water quality permit approved by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board in 2002. The new permit identifies multiple tasks cities and counties must complete to comply with the permit and reduce water pollution.

### **2.1.10 Mesa Water District (Service Population: Over 100,000)**

Mesa Water District (Mesa) is a public utility serving more than 100,000 users within an 18 square-mile area, which includes Costa Mesa, part of Newport Beach and the John Wayne Airport. Mesa commenced operations on January 1, 1960 by acquiring the assets and obligations and assuming the responsibility of consolidating the City of Costa Mesa's Water Department, Fairview County Water District, Newport Heights Irrigation District and Newport Mesa County Water District. Mesa set a precedent with this merger as the first California water utility to consolidate two or more water utilities and assume both their assets and debts. Mesa is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors comprised of five directors. The Board of Directors establishes the water rates. Mesa strives to provide its customers with 100 percent groundwater, which is pumped from Orange County's natural groundwater basin via nine wells. Since its

formation in 1960, Mesa's goal has been to produce the highest quality drinking water for all of our customers.

### **2.1.11 Moulton Niguel Water District (Service Population: over 160,000)**

Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD) was formed in November 1960 under provisions of the California Water District Law, Division 13 of the Water Code of the State of California. The District is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors comprised of seven directors. The Board of Directors establishes the water and sewer rates. MNWD is located in the southern portion of the County of Orange and provides water and sewer service to over 160,000 customers. The District is almost entirely developed and encompasses almost all of the cities of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills, about half of the city of Mission Viejo, and a portion of Dana Point. All of the potable water is imported water from MET through MWDOC and approximately 20% of the District's demand is supplied by recycled water serving landscape irrigation services.

### **2.1.12 City of Newport Beach (Service Population: 64,465)**

The City of Newport Beach (Newport Beach) is a charter city established in 1906 and governed by a Council/Manager form of government. The City's current population consists of approximately 86,000 permanent residents, which can peak at approximately 100,000 seasonally. The City's current service area services approximately 64,465 residents according to 2010 Orange County Retail Water Agency Census estimates. The Utilities Division of the City's Municipal Operations Department is responsible for providing water service, wastewater collection, oil and gas production, electrical services, and street lights to the citizens of Newport Beach. All City rates for services are set by Municipal Ordinance.

Newport Beach has two sources of water: groundwater pumped from four wells in Fountain Valley and imported water from MET via MWDOC. At this time, Newport Beach pumps 65 percent of its water from wells and imports the remaining 35 percent.

### **2.1.13 City of Orange (Service Population: 138,000)**

The City of Orange is located in northern Orange County, serving an area of 23.6 square miles. The City of Orange's water system was established in October 1904 serving a population of 1,216 people. Since then, the water system has grown tremendously to support a current population of over 138,000 people. The City's water system is comprised of 16 groundwater wells, 8 connections to the imported water supply, 18 water storage tanks with a total storage capacity of over 42 million gallons, 18 pumping stations, 437 miles of pipelines, and over 34,000 service connections. Orange's water comes from two sources: the primary source is groundwater from OCWD, which makes up 64% to 75% of the supply; the second source is imported water purchased from MET through MWDOC. The city also utilizes local supply through an agreement with Serrano Water District who provides treated local runoff captured in Irvine Lake.

The governing body of the City of Orange is a five-member Council. Under a council-manager form of government, a mayor is elected every two years and four council members are elected to four-year terms alternating on a two-year basis. The City Manager, who is the administrative official of the City, is

appointed by the City Council. The water rate structure and all other regulations must be approved by City Council before becoming effective.

#### **2.1.14 Santa Margarita Water District (Service Population: 150,000)**

Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD) established in December 1964 under provisions of the California Water District Law (Section 34000 et seq. of the California Water Code), includes 62,674 acres in the southeastern corner of Orange County. SMWD is bounded on the north by El Toro Road in the City of Lake Forest, on the east by the Cleveland National Forest, on the south by United States Marine Corp Camp Pendleton and Orange County border and on the west by the City of San Juan Capistrano and Moulton Niguel Water District. SMWD is responsible for inter-utility coordination and long range planning to meet future water supply and wastewater treatment needs for its service area.

The Cities of Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, a portion of San Clemente and the incorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Las Flores and Ladera Ranch, as well as the remaining undeveloped portion of the Rancho Mission Viejo are within the service boundary of SMWD.

The governing body of SMWD (and all improvement districts therein) is a five-member Board of Directors, publicly elected at large for staggered four-year terms. SMWD's responsibilities as authorized by the California Water District Law are:

- Distribution of domestic water for consumption and fire protection.
- Collection and treatment of wastewater.
- Distribution of recycled water along with the collection and distribution of urban return flows for irrigation purposes.

Nearly 100% of the District's annual domestic water demands are imported from MET through MWDOC. SMWD receives imported (potable) water from MET via the regional distribution system located in Orange County (Allen-McColloch Pipeline and the East Orange County Feeder No. 2).

#### **2.1.15 Serrano Water District (Service Population: 6,500)**

Serrano Water District (Serrano) was formed in 1927 under the California Water Code and serves a population of 6,500 in the City of Villa Park and a small portion of the City of Orange. Serrano is an independent governmental body with an elected Board of Directors. It is separate and distinct from the City of Villa Park's Municipal Government. Serrano receives its water supply mostly from local surface water which is stored in Santiago Reservoir (Irvine Lake) and groundwater from three wells located within the City of Villa Park. Annually, Serrano provides about 3,500 acre-feet of water serving primarily large lot single family homes and one shopping center. About once every 10 years, Serrano supplements its local water supply with raw imported water from MET through MWDOC.

Serrano owns a percentage of the capacity of Irvine Lake and the dam forming the lake; Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) owns the balance. Serrano is the managing district for the Irvine Lake facility and its recreational aspects. The annual operation of Irvine Lake varies depending on the amount of local runoff.

The water Serrano receives out of Irvine Lake can be either locally generated runoff, imported water or some combination thereof. Water is supplied from Irvine Lake to the Serrano treatment plant, located about 1.5 miles away, through a 24" gravity flow supply line that has a capacity of about 17 cubic feet per second (cfs). Serrano's existing water treatment plant can produce about 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and its wells can produce about 4,000 gpm for a peak supply of about 7,000 gpm. In recent years, Serrano has been using their treatment plant to supply 1,000 to 1,500 acre-feet of water to the City of Orange through interconnections.

### **2.1.16 South Coast Water District (Service Population: 40,000)**

South Coast Water District (SCWD) is a public utility, formed by popular vote and owned by the people it serves. SCWD is a special district operating under state law, completely independent of county government. A Board of Directors, elected by the voters of the District, has the power to establish policies, fix rates, construct and maintain facilities and perform any other act necessary to provide water and sanitation service for present and future consumers. Day-to-day operations are administered by a general manager who is appointed by the Board of Directors.

SCWD has gone through several consolidations and reorganizations to accommodate the needs of the community, as well as to provide the most efficient water and sanitary services possible. At this time the District serves approximately 12,300 water and 17,800 sewer accounts. The area serviced by SCWD has an estimated population of 40,000 residents and two million visitors a year. The District purchases imported water from MET through MWDOC.

Due to the District's hilly terrain, much of the water must be pumped and stored in reservoirs to maintain constant pressure. The District's total water storage capacity of approximately 22 million gallons is maintained in 15 reservoirs. Water is moved to upper elevations through approximately 147 miles of local mains using a system of nine pump stations. As an additional safeguard to assure the water supply, the District maintains a series of "inter-ties" with neighboring water districts which can be activated in an emergency. Additionally, recycled water is used for landscape irrigation on parks, golf courses, playgrounds and greenbelt areas. Using recycled water for landscaping irrigation frees up imported drinking water for other uses.

In April of 2000, SCWD accepted the responsibility for operations and maintenance of what is now identified as the Joint Regional Water Supply System (JRWSS). The JRWSS provides water transmission over a 26 mile service area to approximately 200,000 residents. JRWSS operates two storage/regulating reservoirs located in San Clemente: Bradt Reservoir with a capacity of 48 mg, and the Schlegel Reservoir with a capacity of 12 mg.

### **2.1.17 Trabuco Canyon District (Service Population: 14,000)**

The Trabuco Canyon Water District (TCWD) is a county water district organized and operating pursuant to Section 30,000 and following of the Water Code of the State of California. The District was organized on February 26, 1962 under Division XII of the California Water Code. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected to alternating four-year terms at elections held every two years.

Trabuco Canyon Water District is located in the southeastern portion of Orange County at the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains and encompasses approximately 9,100 acres. The terrain within the District is generally steep hills and canyons throughout the central area of the District. The east and west sides consist of more gentle terrain made up primarily of rolling hills. Elevations within the District range from approximately 900 feet above mean sea level in the lower Aliso Creek area and the southern area of Dove Canyon, to nearly 2,400 feet in the northeasterly portion of the District adjacent to the Cleveland National Forest.

Prior to 2000, the District was entirely within the unincorporated area of Orange County. In 2000, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita was incorporated and now covers the eastern portion of the District. TCWD serves an estimated population of 14,907 in the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, and an unincorporated area of Orange County.

The District provides water, wastewater and recycled water service to major communities within the District's service area. The District's sources of water supply are imported treated water, imported surface water treated at the District's water treatment plant, and treated local groundwater. To provide reliability and redundancy, the District's system is interconnected with adjacent utilities including Santa Margarita Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, and El Toro Water District.

#### **2.1.18 City of Tustin (Service Population: 66,500)**

The City of Tustin is a General Law city, governed by a 5-member non partisan generally elected city council under the council-manager form of government. The City is staffed with approximately 285 full-time employees with approximately 22 full-time employees within the Water Services Division.

The City of Tustin (Tustin) bought the privately held Tustin Water Works in 1980. Tustin serves a population of approximately 66,500 people, with 14,500 service connections. The service area totals 8.4 square miles which includes most of the incorporated area of the City of Tustin and unincorporated areas north of the City. Currently, supply deliveries are 84 percent from groundwater and 16 percent from imported water. There are seven untreated or "clear" groundwater wells that pump directly into the distribution system. Two treatment plants treat groundwater from five additional wells to potable standards for delivery into the system. At several sites, water is blended with other well water or imported water to reduce nitrate concentrations below the State Maximum Contaminant level (MCL). The water system is divided into three pressure zones. The average ground elevations for Zones 1, 2, and 3 are 210 feet, 280 feet, and 400 feet above mean sea level, respectively.

Currently, Tustin has approximately 13.83 mg of storage capacity in its six existing reservoirs and three booster stations. Water is delivered through 170 miles of 1.5-inch to 20-inch water mains.

#### **2.1.19 City of Westminster (Service Population: 93,000)**

Westminster is located on eleven square miles of broad, flat coastal plain in western Orange County, 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean and 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles. It is a general law city that operates under the Council-Manager Form of government, which is responsible for establishing water rates.

The Westminster Water Division currently provides potable water to 90,000 residents and the business community using 20,290 service connections. At present, Westminster has 10 active wells and three import water connections. Two of the three imported water interties (OC-09 and OC-35) are owned and operated by the West Orange County Water Board. The third pipeline (OC-53) is owned and operated by the City. On average, 74 percent of drinking water is produced by wells and 26 percent is imported. The Water Division does not manage wastewater disposal or recycled water for the City. Wastewater is handled by the Midway City Sanitation District.

### **2.1.20 Yorba Linda Water District (Service Population: 77,000)**

Yorba Linda Water District (YLWD) is an independent special district that provides water and sewer service to residents and businesses within its service area. The District's history dates back to 1909, when local farmers and ranchers formed the Yorba Linda Water Company. In 1959, the voters elected to create a public utility with the assets of the Water Company, and the YLWD was formed under the California Water District Law, Division 13 of the Water Code of the State of California.

The District is governed by a publicly elected Board of Directors comprised of five Directors who serve four year terms. The Directors set District policies and programs, provide general oversight of District activities, set water and sewer rates, and employ the general manager to direct the activities of the District.

YLWD provides water and sewer services to most of Yorba Linda, and to portions of Placentia, Anaheim, Brea, and unincorporated Orange County. From 1959 through the mid-1970s, the District experienced a gradual transition from a rural, agriculturally orientated area to a suburban community. In 1978, YLWD Board of Directors agreed to annex lands to the east of then current boundaries that more than doubled the District's size. YLWD purchases imported water from MET through MWDOC to provide up to 50% of its demand for its more than 23,000 service connections. The remaining water comes from the District's local production wells which are pumped from the OCWD groundwater basin.