



# MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY

*Ensuring a reliable supply of high quality water  
to meet the needs of 2.2 million Orange County residents*

February 2006

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is a regional resource management and planning agency ensuring water supply and system reliability for more than 2.2 million Orange County residents. Last year the District conducted hydrogeology and water quality testing at Doheny State Beach, the first phase of a 2-3 year effort to determine the feasibility of locating subsurface wells at Doheny to collect ocean water.

South Orange County depends on water from Northern California and the Colorado River to meet approximately 95 percent of its drinking water needs, and MWDOC is seeking to improve water reliability in the area by possibly locating an ocean water desalination facility adjacent to San Juan Creek north of Pacific Coast Highway on property owned by South Coast Water District.

While literally hundreds of factors will need to be evaluated before we can determine if an ocean water desalination facility is feasible at this site, the results of our initial testing were encouraging. We are now conducting the next phase of feasibility studies to determine if an underground collector well system can provide enough high quality source water to support a desalination facility.

We're particularly interested in a slant well in-take system as it would lie completely underground, safeguarding the beauty of the shoreline and maintaining the beach as a popular recreational spot. Subsurface wells filter ocean water through the sand and are also protective of the marine environment.

MWDOC is working closely with the city of Dana Point, more than a dozen local, state and federal regulatory agencies, and the South Coast Water District, which is your local water retailer. We're also collaborating with local representatives from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure our work has minimal impacts to the beach-going public and recreational activities.

There will be some noise associated with our onsite work, but it will be no louder than the work we performed last year. There will be no significant impacts on air quality, geology and soils, and land use. We will conclude our drilling and be off of the beach in May before the Memorial Day weekend.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County works hand-in-hand with South Coast Water District and other local retailers to ensure you and your family have a reliable supply of high quality water. We also work closely with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of California, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, all of which are providing funds to support our feasibility studies at Doheny State Beach.

If you have a question about our water reliability efforts, please contact me directly at (714) 593-5014. We will be sending residents regular updates of our ongoing studies at Doheny State Beach. Information is also available on our website, [www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com).

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Director of Communications

