



For Immediate Release

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MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Fountain Valley, CA (December 18, 2019) – The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) Board of Directors has elected Satoru “Sat” Tamaribuchi as President and reelected Joan C. Finnegan to serve as Vice President for 2020.

Director Tamaribuchi was elected to the MWD OC Board in November 2014. He represents Division 5, which includes the cities of Newport Beach, Laguna Woods, portions of Irvine, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Aliso Viejo, and parts of Mission Viejo.

“It is my honor to serve and represent the interests of Orange County while fulfilling MWD OC’s mission of delivering a reliable supply of high quality water,” stated President Tamaribuchi. “Climate change underscores the importance of investments in water reliability projects such as Delta Conveyance, and I look forward to working on new programs to ensure reliable water supplies for future generations.”

Director Tamaribuchi’s extensive career in water began in college when he worked as a student engineer for the California Department of Water Resources. He then served three years on active duty as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer, then 27 years in the Navy Reserves, eventually retiring as a Captain. Following discharge, he returned to California to work as an engineer on water quality projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay.

In 1973, he moved to Orange County and began working to control sedimentation in Upper Newport Bay – an issue identified at the time as the top water quality problem in Southern California. In this role, he led the planning and construction of over \$100 million in facilities that reduced sediment load and restored the Upper Bay. He also worked with the Irvine Ranch Water District in preparing and implementing water resources master plans outlining an extensive wastewater recycling system and identified groundwater development as a priority to augment the district’s local water supplies.

Director Tamaribuchi has a long history of contributions to the Orange County community. He was a leader in establishing the Nature Reserve of Orange County, setting aside 37,000 acres of open space to protect sensitive species and habitats. He served for 17 years as a founding board member of THINK Together, a nonprofit providing after-school academic assistance to at-risk youth. In 2006, Director Tamaribuchi received the Coastal Protection Award from Orange County Coastkeeper. In 2012 he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from WaterReuse California in recognition of his many contributions in the field of wastewater recycling.

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The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) is a wholesale water provider and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.

MWD OC’s service area includes all of Orange County with the exception of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton. MWD OC serves Orange County through 28 retail water agencies.