



*For Immediate Release*

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## **MWD OC'S LEAK DETECTION PROGRAM SAVES MEMBER AGENCIES AND CUSTOMERS WATER AND MONEY**

**Fountain Valley, CA** (September 1, 2022) – While everyone is looking for ways to conserve water amidst the current historic drought, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC) Leak Detection Program has helped plug nearly a thousand hidden leaks throughout Orange County (OC). MWD OC began offering leak detection services to OC water providers in 2019. To date, MWD OC has partnered with 18 different OC water retailers to detect leaks on their water distribution mains, meter connections, and other fixtures. The acoustic leak detection equipment being used by MWD OC technicians can locate leaks before they surface, shortening their runtime, avoiding collateral property damage, and saving hundreds of acre-feet (AF) of water per year.

MWD OC has surveyed 2,379 miles of water mains, located 764 leaks, and saved 508.3 AF a year, or roughly enough water to serve 1,500 OC households. Local water retailers have repaired these leaks, increasing the efficiency of their system and strengthening water supply resiliency. Stopping these leaks has also saved the agencies \$398,767 annually in imported water purchases and local groundwater production costs.

"MWD OC has conducted leak detection on 289 miles of Yorba Linda Water District's water mains over the last three years. This has helped us save over 35 AF of water per year," said Yorba Linda Water District President J. Wayne Miller, Ph.D. "We look forward to continuing our partnership with MWD OC to find leaks and reduce water loss for our customers."

The program has also located 190 leaks on customer property, helping OC residents and businesses save approximately 43 AF a year and \$59,765 annually.

"MWD OC has surveyed nearly 200 miles of Mesa Water's service area, helping save more than 33 AF of water per year and almost \$30,000 in avoided water costs per year," said Mesa Water District General Manager Paul Shoenberger. "Our customers have also benefitted from the program, saving nearly \$17,000 on their water bills after repairing leaks found by MWD OC. Mesa Water is a proud early adopter of this program and plans to continue to utilize MWD OC's leak detection services to provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water as efficiently as possible."

The Distribution System Leak Detection Program began its 4th year of surveys on 7/1/2022 and will complete over 1,300 miles this year for ten different OC water retailers, the program's biggest year yet. The program not only saves water, but it also saves water retailers and customers money. Additionally, the program helps OC agencies comply with upcoming water loss control regulations currently being developed by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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***The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)*** is a wholesale water provider and resource planning agency whose efforts focus on sound planning and appropriate investments in water supply, water use efficiency and conservation, public information and outreach, legislative advocacy, water education for all ages, and emergency preparedness.

*MWDOC's 27 retail water agencies, made up of both city water departments and water districts, provide retail water services to the public.*