



Contact: Tiffany Baca, Public Affairs Manager, at (714) 593-5013 or tbaca@mwdoc.com

MWDOC AND WYLAND PARTNER AGAIN TO BRING THE NATIONAL CHALLENGE TO ORANGE COUNTY

Fountain Valley, CA (March 31, 2023) – This Earth Month, Orange County residents are invited to join citizens across the U.S. in pledging to use water wisely as part of the 12th annual Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation (National Challenge). The National Challenge, open April 1-30, sparks friendly competition between cities to earn the title of most water-wise in the nation by inspiring residents of all ages to take a series of water-smart pledges at <u>www.mywaterpledge.com</u>.

To encourage participation in the National Challenge, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is once again partnering with the Wyland Foundation to offer a breakaway competition exclusively for Orange County residents. The breakaway challenge will award the Orange County city with the highest participation in <u>MWDOC's service area</u> a visit from the newly renovated, state-of-the-art Wyland Clean Water Mobile Learning Experience (MLE). This 1,000 square-foot, immersive mobile science laboratory includes 270-degree surround video screens and interactive learning stations to educate multiple generations of water users on their role in preserving and protecting our water quality and supply, empowering them to become lifelong water stewards together.

"We're excited to offer the MLE in partnership with the Wyland Foundation this year," said MWDOC President Megan Yoo Schneider. "Newly renovated and highly interactive, this is an exciting resource that can help our community members see the value in improving water use efficiency by reducing water waste."

City standings are updated on the mywaterpledge.com webpage daily. Orange County water providers, residents, city leaders, teachers, and non-profit groups are encouraged to rally their community members to take the pledge in big numbers, increasing their city's chance to win the title and creating a unified stand for good water stewardship. MWDOC has developed a free communications toolkit for partners to use in their promotion of the breakaway competition.

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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 development, water use efficiency, public information, legislative advocacy, water education, and emergency preparedness.

MWDOC's service area includes all of Orange County, with the exception of Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Fullerton. MWDOC serves Orange County through 27 retail water agencies.

> Municipal Water District of Orange County | <u>www.mwdoc.com</u> 18700 Ward Street, Fountain Valley CA 92708 | (714) 963-3058