



## Thankful for the Orange County Groundwater Basin

'Tis the season of giving thanks, and in our business, we are thankful for a safe, reliable water supply. Around the world, access to clean drinking water continues to be a challenge for some countries. We are fortunate that California prioritizes the safety and delivery of high-quality water to our communities.

In addition to water quality, water quantity, otherwise referred to as supply, is a top priority for local agencies as we must remain steadfast in our ability to meet the needs of our communities. Statewide supplies continue to be impacted by ongoing drought conditions. The last three years has been the driest three-year period on record, breaking the old record set by the previous drought from 2013 to 2015. State officials remain concerned and are preparing for a fourth dry year.

In Orange County, we have planned for decades to face these types of conditions through the development and management of local water supplies. We are blessed with a local groundwater basin that is protected and managed by the Orange County Water District (OCWD) of which 19 cities and retail water districts, such as the city of Fullerton, draw 77% of their drinking water supplies to serve 2.5 million people. Over the years, OCWD has managed the basin in a sustainable manner and has more than doubled its annual output. In fact, since the previous drought from 2012 to 2016, OCWD has worked hard to substantially refill our groundwater basin. At this time, the Basin can provide water for two consecutive years at current pumping levels even if drought conditions persist.



*A recharge basin in Anaheim holds water that percolates into the Orange County Groundwater Basin and eventually gets pumped out and distributed to homes and businesses.*

This would not be possible without our amazing partners including Orange County residents and businesses and the many public and private entities who collaborate with us to enhance water supply for the region. From making smart water choices to supporting necessary water infrastructure investments to the retailers who distribute water—we all play an important part in making sure we have a reliable, high-quality water supply.

If you're looking for actions that you can implement in your home or business, we encourage you to learn more about rebates and other water-saving programs available to you through the

[city of Fullerton water service department](#). If you would like to learn more about Orange County's water supply, virtual tours, and education programs offered by OCWD, please visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com). For an extensive library of water-saving tips and resources, you can also visit [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com).

Let's all be thankful for the many water programs we have in place that ensure clean, safe water flows from our taps. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season ahead!

*In collaboration with Orange County Water District staff, this article was provided by Orange County Water District Director Bruce Whitaker, who represents Division 10, which covers the city of Fullerton. Contact Director Whitaker at [BWWhitaker@live.com](mailto:BWWhitaker@live.com).*