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OCSD Urban Runoff Diversion Program Receives 2017 “Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet” Honorable Mention

Fountain Valley, Calif. (November 20, 2017)- The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) has won an *Honorable Mention* from the Orange County Business Council (OCBC) *Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet Award* for the Urban Runoff Diversion Program.

At a special reception this past Thursday night, OCSD was presented with the *Honorable Mention* for the Sustainable and Green Development category, which recognizes Orange County’s most innovative programs that help the environment. The Urban Runoff Diversion Program minimizes the number of contaminants that reach the creeks, rivers, and beaches, and thus reduces harm to the environment and the public while maintaining the high quality of OCSD’s primary function: collection, treatment, and recycling of wastewater.

“The Urban Runoff Diversion Program not only helps protect Orange County’s beaches, it also helps provide water to the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS),” stated Greg Sebourn, PLS OCSD Board Chair. “The OCSD staff involved in the Program, from plant operators to environmental specialists to scientists and engineers, all work tirelessly every day to do their best work for the public and the environment. This award is proof of their hard work.”

Since 1999, OCSD has treated a total of 9 billion gallons of dry weather runoff, and OCSD expects to receive between 350 and 500 million gallons per year if current discharge trends remain unchanged. As a result of the Urban Runoff Diversion Program, Heal the Bay’s annual beach water quality report card found 97 percent of OC’s beaches scored A and B grades. The County’s beaches also performed well overall during winter dry weather, with 93 percent of locations receiving A and B grades.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the Orange County Business Council,” said Jim Herberg, General Manager. “The Urban Runoff Diversion Program not only helps protect the environment, it provides an important benefit to the Orange County economy by maintaining the coastline’s reputation as a world class tourist destination. “

For more information about the Orange County Sanitation District, please visit www.ocsd.com.

About OCSD

OCSD is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OCSD is a special district that is governed by a 25 member Board of Directors comprised of 20 cities, four special districts, and one representative from the Orange County Board of Supervisors. OCSD has two operating facilities that treat wastewater from residential, commercial and industrial sources.

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