

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jim Herberg, General Manager Wins Excellence in Advocacy Achievement Award from WaterReuse

Fountain Valley, California – The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) announces that General Manager, Jim Herberg has been awarded the Excellence in Advocacy Achievement Award from The WaterReuse Association.

The WaterReuse Association presented the award at the 37th Annual WaterReuse Symposium on Tuesday, March 8 in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Herberg was awarded the recognition for his contributions to the water/wastewater industry, environment, and his advocacy efforts in water reuse.

“OC San is fortunate to have Jim Herberg as their General Manager. His knowledge, passion, and genuine concern for doing the right thing for the environment, the public, and the employees is reflected in his daily actions. This award is well deserved and confirms what we already know about Jim,” stated OC San Board Chairman John Withers.

Mr. Herberg is the General Manager for OC San and has been with the agency since 1986. Prior to becoming the OC San’s General Manager, Mr. Herberg rose through the ranks from Engineer to Supervisor, Manager, to Director of Engineering and Assistant General Manager. As Mr. Herberg continued to climb the leadership ladder, his involvement and guidance of the world-renowned Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) of which we are partners with the Orange County Water District (OCWD), became more prominent and significant.

During his tenure at OC San, he has been responsible for the long range operational and capital improvement planning including the construction of major projects and operational changes that had to be made to make GWRS a reality. “Jim is a great leader and collaborator who was instrumental in making the GWRS possible, “ said OCWD General Manager Michael Markus.

Mr. Herberg’s achievements include lobbying Washington and Sacramento to get the GWRS water bottled for educational and demonstration purposes. Assembly Bill (AB) 2022 authored by Assemblymember Rich Gordon and co-sponsored by both OC San and OCWD to expand use by others and to demonstrate the reliable source of water for our growing community in an innovative way.

In addition, through his leadership, Mr. Herberg helped OC San secure \$1.325 million from the United States Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act. OC San was selected to receive the funding for the expansion of GWRS. GWRS was one of 38 projects to qualify for funding through a competitive process. The project is to implement necessary OC San facility improvements to provide an adequate supply of highly treated wastewater needed for the operation of the GWRS Final Expansion. Mr. Herberg was also instrumental in moving OC San’s closer to its ultimate

goal of recycling 100 percent of its reclaimable flow which will allow GWRS to produce enough water for 1 million people in our service area by 2023.

“I am proud and humbled to be recognized for this award from WateReuse, said Jim Herberg.” “Being acknowledged for doing something I feel passionate about, for my advocacy efforts to protect the environment and in water reuse allows me to continue to push OC San forward in our industry. Thank you for this wonderful acknowledgement. I’m truly honored.”

Mr. Herberg has been instrumental in making OC San a recognized and respected agency. His leadership, vision, and guidance have fostered a long-standing relationship with OCWD which has allowed the two agencies to become leaders in the world of water reuse.

About OC San

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

<https://www.ocsan.gov/>