

## June 5, 2007: Sanchez Water Replenishment Legislation Passes House

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sanchez Water Replenishment

Legislation Passes House

Bill Increases Federal Funding to Complete Innovative Groundwater Replenishment System

WASHINGTON, D.C. - This week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the passage of H.R. 1175, introduced by Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA). H.R. 1175, amends the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the federal share of the costs for the Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project from \$20 million to \$51,874,849.

"The increased funding will ultimately allow Orange County to complete its innovative groundwater replenishment system, which is designed to reuse advanced treated wastewater to recharge the aquifer in northern Orange County," said Sanchez.

"This aquifer is the primary source of drinking water for over 144,000 families in Orange County each year, serving about 2.3 million residents from north and central Orange County. This reclamation effort has the potential of creating a new water supply of 72,000 acre-feet per year. The project is not just important to Orange County, California, but also to the entire western United States. By recycling our own water, we will not rely so heavily on the Colorado River Aqueduct or water from the San Francisco Bay Delta."

The OC Groundwater Replenishment Project is an innovative program which has drawn national and international attention. Many U.S. states and foreign nations - including Japan, Korea, Taiwan - have come to Orange County to look at our tertiary cleaning system. They have observed that reusing recycled water-especially important in the arid west- will help preserve and recharge overdrawn river and groundwater supplies, and will help protect our environment from unexpected scarcity of water.

Sanchez also thanked the Orange County Water District and the Orange County Sanitation District for their leadership in creating innovative technologies in groundwater treatment and recycling.

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