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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill Increases Federal Funding to Complete Innovative Groundwater Replenishment System

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Last week, Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA) reintroduced (H.R. 383) a bill that would allow additional federal funds to be used on future phases of the Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project.

In 2007, Sanchez introduced HR 1175 - To amend the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act to increase the ceiling on the Federal share of the costs of phase I of the Orange County, California, Regional Water Reclamation Project. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives but did not make it out of committee in the Senate.

If approved by both the House and Senate, H.R. 383 would make an additional \$6 million available for the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to use on additional phases of the groundwater reclamation project. The text of H.R. 383 has been included in the Omnibus Public Lands bill that may come to a vote in the Senate this week.

"The Orange County Regional Water Reclamation Project is an international model for clean water," said Sanchez.

"The additional funding will help Orange County complete all phases of its innovative groundwater replenishment system, which is designed to reuse advanced treated wastewater and help create a new water supply of 72,000 acre-feet per year."

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.

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