

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OC San Secures Federal Funding For the Supercritical Water Oxidation Project

Fountain Valley, California – OC San was recently informed that we will receive \$3.45 million from the Federal Government to help support the Supercritical Water Oxidation Project. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Congressman Correa (CA-46) announced that over \$23 million in federal funding for nine projects across Orange County in the bipartisan FY 2023 appropriations package was secured and signed into law by the President on Friday, December 23, 2022.

“We are so very grateful for the federal funding assistance,” stated Chad P. Wanke, OC San Board Chairman. “Through Representative Correa’s and Senator Padilla’s continued support for OC San and this project, we will be able to bring this much-needed project to fruition. The Supercritical Water Oxidation pilot project will address the need to treat PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern in the wastewater and biosolids.”

OC San provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. As part of OC San’s mission to protect public health and the environment, OC San is working to explore treatment for Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) family of chemicals and microplastics. PFAS and microplastics are commonly found in the wastewater stream. PFAS are a class of chemicals that are commonly used in industry, firefighting foams, and in many consumer products like non-stick coatings, clothing, and paper food packaging. OC San intends to develop and demonstrate this new technology that would treat biosolids, a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process, to ensure that PFAS chemicals and microplastics are eliminated.

OC San has partnered with 374Water to build a six-ton-per-day demonstration project called AirSCWO Nix6. This process uses water at a high temperature and pressure to oxidize and break down complex compound materials like PFAS. Once treated, OC San expects that the compounds are transformed into more basic and benign compounds to enhance public health by reducing exposure PFAS and microplastics.

“Supercritical Water Oxidation also known as SCWO is a proven technology that has been around for over 30 years. 374Water has an innovative approach that offers an industrial scale solution to eliminate items such as PFAS and microplastics concentrated in the wastewater treatment process,” stated Rob Thompson, Assistant General Manager. “SCWO offers a reliable and sustainable solution for water and wastewater treatment to eliminate nearly all contaminants of emerging concern.”

Once operational, AirSCWO Nix6 may provide opportunities to solve other challenges facing OC San and other clean water agencies throughout California. The project construction will take place from March 2023-2024 with an estimated cost of almost \$8.7 million.

For more information about the Orange County Sanitation District, please visit www.ocsan.gov.

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.

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