

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Chad P. Wanke, City of Placentia Mayor Pro Tem, to serve as Board Chairman  
for the Orange County Sanitation District**

**Fountain Valley, California** – The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) announces Chad P. Wanke, Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Placentia, to serve as Board Chairman of the OC San Board of Directors. The position is currently held by John Withers of the Irvine Ranch Water District. Mr. Wanke was nominated and elected as Chairman at the May 25 OC San Board of Directors meeting, and his service will take effect on July 1, 2022.

“I’m honored to be elected as the Board Chairman for the Orange County Sanitation District and I thank the members of the Board for their vote of confidence in my abilities.” stated Chad Wanke. “The stated mission of the Orange County Sanitation District is to protect public health and the environment. This is more than just words; it is truly what guides this agency to continue as a global leader in our industry.”

Mr. Wanke has been a member of OC San’s Board of Directors since 2014. He previously served as the OC San Board Vice Chairman 2021 to present. As a member of the OC San’s Board leadership, Mr. Wanke has been a standing member of the Steering Committee since 2017 to present; Operations Committee 2015-2016 and 2021-present; Legislative and Public Affairs Committee 2017-2019; and Administration Committee 2017 to present where he served three of those years as Committee Chairman. Additionally, he serves on the OC San/Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Joint Policy Committee 2021 to present.

Mr. Wanke is the Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Placentia. He was elected to the City Council in 2010 and reelected to the City Council in 2014 and 2018. His fellow Council members elected him Mayor in 2014 and 2017. He graduated from California State University of Fullerton with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a minor in Anthropology. Mr. Wanke lives in Placentia with his wife, Léonie, and their four children.

Current Board Chairman, Mr. Withers has been a member of OC San’s Board of Directors since 2009 and Board Chairman since 2021. “I am truly honored to have served as the Board Chairman for OC San,” stated John Withers. “OC San is committed to serving the community and providing a quality service and I am confident that under Chad’s guidance, it will continue to excel,” stated Withers.

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Through his leadership, the third and final phase of the Groundwater Replenishment System (GWRS) expansion began. The GWRS Joint Steering Committee between OC San and OCWD oversees this project with Mr. Withers serving as the Chairman. His commitment and vision has allowed OC San to move in the direction to recycle 100 percent of its reclaimable flow. Upon completion of this project in 2023, GWRS will produce 130 million gallons of high-quality water every day, which will be enough water for 1 million residents in north and central Orange County.

During his time on the Board, Mr. Withers and the Board of Directors understood the gravity of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community and the financial hardship it created for many of our ratepayers, so they took action to forego the publicly noticed and board approved regional sewer service fee increase for the 2020-21 fiscal year, keeping it at \$339 for the year.

John Withers has been an Irvine Resident since 1984 and has served on the Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District for 30 years. OC San thanks Mr. Withers for his contributions as Board Chairman and looks forward to continuing to benefit from his participation as a member of OC San's Board of Directors.

For more information about the Orange County Sanitation District, please visit [www.ocsan.gov](http://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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