

January 9, 2024

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

**GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE
ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT**

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Your participation is always welcome. Specific information as to how to participate in this meeting is detailed in **PUBLIC COMMENTS** on the **Agenda** on the following pages. In general, OC San offers several ways in which to interact during this meeting: you may participate in person at the address above or submit comments for consideration before or during the meeting.

The Regular Meeting of the General Legal Services Ad Hoc Committee of the Orange County Sanitation District will be held at the above location and in the manner indicated on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.



Clerk of the Board

- Serving:*
- Anaheim
 - Brea
 - Buena Park
 - Cypress
 - Fountain Valley
 - Fullerton
 - Garden Grove
 - Huntington Beach
 - Irvine
 - La Habra
 - La Palma
 - Los Alamitos
 - Newport Beach
 - Orange
 - Placentia
 - Santa Ana
 - Seal Beach
 - Stanton
 - Tustin
 - Villa Park
 - County of Orange
 - Costa Mesa Sanitary District
 - Midway City Sanitary District
 - Irvine Ranch Water District
 - Yorba Linda Water District

**ROLL CALL
GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: January 17, 2024

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Adjourn: _____

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (3)

Ryan Gallagher, Board Vice-Chair (Tustin)	
Jon Dumitru (Orange)	
Christine Marick (Brea)	

STAFF

Rob Thompson, General Manager	
Lorenzo Tyner, Assistant General Manager	
Wally Ritchie, Director of Finance	
Kelly Lore, Clerk of the Board	

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Complete Roster

Effective 12/17/2023

AGENCY/CITIES	ACTIVE DIRECTOR	ALTERNATE DIRECTOR
Anaheim	Stephen Faessel	Carlos A. Leon
Brea	Christine Marick	Cecilia Hupp
Buena Park	Susan Sonne	Art Brown
Cypress	Scott Minikus	Bonnie Peat
Fountain Valley	Glenn Grandis	Ted Bui
Fullerton	Bruce Whitaker	Nick Dunlap
Garden Grove	Stephanie Klopfenstein	John O'Neill
Huntington Beach	Pat Burns	Gracey Van Der Mark
Irvine	Farrah N. Khan	Tammy Kim
La Habra	Rose Espinoza	Jose Medrano
La Palma	Debbie Baker	Mark Waldman
Los Alamitos	Jordan Nefulda	Shelley Hasselbrink
Newport Beach	Brad Avery	Erik Weigand
Orange	Jon Dumitru	John Gyllenhammer
Placentia	Chad Wanke	Ward Smith
Santa Ana	Johnathan Ryan Hernandez	Benjamin Vazquez
Seal Beach	Schelly Sustarsic	Nathan Steele
Stanton	David Shawver	Carol Warren
Tustin	Ryan Gallagher	Austin Lumbard
Villa Park	Robbie Pitts	Jordan Wu
Sanitary/Water Districts		
Costa Mesa Sanitary District	Bob Ooten	Art Perry
Midway City Sanitary District	Andrew Nguyen	Tyler Diep
Irvine Ranch Water District	John Withers	Douglas Reinhart
Yorba Linda Water District	Phil Hawkins	Tom Lindsey
County Areas		
Board of Supervisors	Doug Chaffee	Donald P. Wagner



GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 - 1:30 PM
Conference Room A
Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE DISABLED: If you require any special disability related accommodations, please contact the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) Clerk of the Board's office at (714) 593-7433 at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested.

AGENDA POSTING: In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda has been posted outside the main gate of the OC San's Administration Building located at 10844 Ellis Avenue, Fountain Valley, California, and on the OC San's website at www.ocsan.gov not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All public records relating to each agenda item, including any public records distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting to all, or a majority of the Board of Directors, are available for public inspection in the office of the Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA DESCRIPTION: The agenda provides a brief general description of each item of business to be considered or discussed. The recommended action does not indicate what action will be taken. The Board of Directors may take any action which is deemed appropriate.

MEETING RECORDING: A recording of this meeting is available within 24 hours after adjournment of the meeting at <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or by contacting the Clerk of the Board at (714) 593-7433.

NOTICE TO DIRECTORS: To place items on the agenda for a Committee or Board Meeting, the item must be submitted in writing to the Clerk of the Board: Kelly A. Lore, MMC, (714) 593-7433 / klore@ocsan.gov at least 14 days before the meeting.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS ON THE AGENDA, BOARD MEMBERS MAY CONTACT STAFF AT:

General Manager: Rob Thompson, rthompson@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7110
Asst. General Manager: Lorenzo Tyner, ltyner@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7550
Director of Engineering: Mike Dorman, mdorman@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7104
Director of Environmental Services: Lan Wiborg, lwiborg@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7450
Director of Finance: Wally Ritchie, writchie@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7570
Director of Human Resources: Laura Maravilla, lmavilla@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7007
Director of Operations & Maintenance: Riaz Moinuddin, rmoinuddin@ocsan.gov / (714) 593-7269

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

Clerk of the Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Your participation is always welcome. You may participate in person at the address provided. You may also submit your comments and questions in writing for consideration in advance of the meeting by using the eComment feature available online at: <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> or by sending them to OCSanClerk@ocsan.gov with the subject line "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM # (insert the item number relevant to your comment)" or "PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEM".

You may also submit comments and questions for consideration during the meeting by using the eComment feature available online at: <https://ocsd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>. The eComment feature will be available for the duration of the meeting.

All written public comments will be provided to the legislative body and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

None.

NON-CONSENT:

1. REVIEW SOLICITATION OF GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES [2024-3432](#)

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Review and approve elements of the solicitation, scope of work, and contract structure for the upcoming General Legal Services procurement.

Originator: Lorenzo Tyner

Attachments: [Agenda Report](#)
[Draft General Legal Services Scope of Work - 01.08.2024](#)

OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEMS, IF ANY:

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn the meeting.



GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE

Administration Building
10844 Ellis Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(714) 593-7433

Agenda Report

File #: 2024-3432

Agenda Date: 1/17/2024

Agenda Item No: 1.

FROM: Robert Thompson, General Manager
Originator: Lorenzo Tyner, Assistant General Manager

SUBJECT:

REVIEW SOLICITATION OF GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend to the Board of Directors to:

Review and approve elements of the solicitation, scope of work, and contract structure for the upcoming General Legal Services procurement.

BACKGROUND

In December 2023, the General Legal Services Ad Hoc Committee discussed factors affecting the structure of the solicitation and contract.

RELEVANT STANDARDS

- Ensure the public's money is wisely spent

PROBLEM

Staff would like to review elements of the upcoming solicitation and contract structure for general legal counsel services, before finalizing documents.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Review elements of the solicitation and contract structure.

TIMING CONCERNS

N/A

RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT TAKING ACTION

Staff will use the information previously obtained to create the solicitation and contract package.

PRIOR COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTIONS

November 2023 - Board of Directors approved conducting an open competitive solicitation for general legal counsel services; and assigned the General Legal Services Ad Hoc Committee as oversight for the solicitation process.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Staff will present an overview of the solicitation and contract structure based on guidance and discussion from the December 2023 General Legal Services Ad Hoc Committee meeting. Areas of review will include:

- Method of solicitation
- Scope of work
- Contract term and duration
- Evaluation process

CEQA

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENT

The following attachment(s) may be viewed on-line at the OC San website (www.ocsan.gov) with the complete agenda package:

- Draft Scope of Work

**EXHIBIT A
SCOPE OF WORK
GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES
SPECIFICATION NO. CS-2024-1440BD**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/OVERVIEW

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) operates the third largest wastewater agency west of the Mississippi River. Since 1954, we have safely collected, treated, and disposed of and/or reclaimed the wastewater generated by 2.6 million people living and working in central and northwestern Orange County, California.

Each day we treat approximately 180 million gallons of wastewater, enough water to fill Anaheim stadium over two and a quarter times. About 80 percent of the wastewater comes from homes – sinks, toilets, showers, laundry, and dishwashers. The remaining come from businesses – retail stores, restaurants, manufacturers, hotels, offices, and other industries.

OC San is a special district, governed by a 25-member Board of Directors. For the Fiscal Year 2022-23, OC San’s total Operating and Capital Improvement Program budget was \$476.5 million.

We employ a staff of over 600 employees in professional, administrative, technical, and trade occupations, managing the day-to-day activities of OC San, including, but not limited to, in areas of public works, contracts, environmental, air quality, real estate, and utility rates. We have a diverse workforce in various job classifications including plant operators, mechanics, electricians, engineers, scientists, accountants, construction inspectors, among many others. Our facilities include 388 miles of sewer pipes, located throughout the county, and two treatment plants (one in Fountain Valley, CA and the other in Huntington Beach, CA) where wastewater is treated in accordance with strict state and federal standards. A future Headquarters Complex building to house OC San’s administrative support departments is slated for completion in early 2024.

Our employees are on duty protecting public health and the environment by ensuring the sewer system operates efficiently 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. We take pride in providing quality service to our ratepayers.

1 PURPOSE

OC San is seeking proposals from qualified legal firm(s) (hereinafter referred to as “Consultant(s)”) to provide legal services on an as-needed basis. Proposals are solicited in accordance with the terms, conditions, and instructions set forth in the Request for Proposal (RFP).

OC San intends to receive and evaluate proposals from Consultants (Proposals) and enter into a Professional Services Agreement(s) (Agreement) for the legal services to be provided. OC San expects the Consultants providing legal services to be service-oriented, actively involved in the business of OC San, creative in finding solutions to matters, proactive in assisting OC San’s officials and staff mitigate risk and avoid legal pitfalls, and tenacious in defending against claims and lawsuits.

OC San reserves the right to award an Agreement to a single firm for all the legal services requested or multiple Agreements to various firms for general services and/or specified areas of law listed in section 6, Areas of Law and Requirements, below.

2 BACKGROUND

OC San currently has one firm providing legal services in all areas listed in section 6, Areas of Law and Requirements, below. Over recent years, OC San has conducted an effort to competitively solicit all current legal services to ensure OC San is receiving the best value and service available. OC San currently spends between \$1.3 million to \$1.8 million annually for legal services outlined in this RFP.

In 2023, OC San conducted a solicitation to procure and award contracts for Human Resources legal services. The service covered under those agreements are not included in this solicitation.

The following are some data of interest for Consultants. OC San

- Has 49 active construction contracts valued at over \$750 million
- Annually issues over 5,000 purchase orders
- Has over 100 air quality permits
- Adopted 5-year rate increases in 2023
- Has a 10-year CIP budget of \$3.1 billion

3 DESCRIPTION

Through this RFP, OC San seeks qualified legal firms with local offices to act as OC San's outside counsel to provide legal advice and defense on matters, including, but not limited to, general counsel; special district law; public works construction; environmental law; general contracts; utility rate setting; water law; real estate and related matters; air quality law; and other legal advisory services on an as-needed basis.

OC San may continue to employ attorneys who leave a firm selected under this RFP to complete any matters that are pending at the time the attorney leaves the employment of the firm, and OC San may continue to work with such attorney in new matters. Firms selected under this RFP shall cooperate in this respect.

OC San may also hire attorneys outside this procurement when a legal matter requires specialized knowledge, experience, or capacity that the firms selected through this RFP do not possess. This RFP does not entitle any selected firm to obtain actual assignments from OC San. Whether or not a selected firm is given assignments depends on the nature of the matter, the qualifications of the selected firms, and the needs of OC San.

OC San seeks legal services from qualified legal firm(s) with expertise in the areas of law detailed in section 6, Areas of Law and Requirements, below. The services shall be provided under the direction of OC San's Board of Directors or the General Manager, or designee. Consultant shall be retained and compensated in accordance with the fee schedule attached to the Agreement. OC San reserves the right not to accept all terms of the fee schedule submitted by Consultant(s).

Should a conflict of interest arise on an assignment, OC San may engage an alternative firm for such assignment.

OC San makes no commitment or guarantee as to the services that may be requested or billable hours to be worked by Consultant.

4 QUALIFICATIONS

Consultant and its attorneys must possess all active licenses and registrations necessary to practice law in the State of California. Further, it is required that Consultant has the experience and abilities listed below.

- Consultants or their attorneys shall have at least 10 years' experience providing legal services for special districts, municipalities, or other local public agencies in the areas of law specified below and for which they are submitting a proposal, and the staff availability to meet OC San's needs in a timely manner.
- Substantial knowledge and experience in the interpretation of state, federal, and local laws and codes as they relate to special districts and wastewater agencies
- Substantial experience in working with agencies and public boards with multi-million-dollar annual budgets
- Substantial expertise and experience in all aspects of contract law as it pertains to the Public Contract Code and Government Code
- Substantial knowledge of the Brown Act, Political Reform Act, and Government Code section 1090
- Demonstrated ability to speak clearly, concisely, and effectively in public
- Skillful in relating easily and effectively with all members of the Board of Directors, General Manager, OC San staff, and the public

5 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Consultant shall:

- Adhere to the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and accountability
- Provide quality service that meets OC San's needs. This should be achieved through the Consultant's experienced legal team, who shall demonstrate proficiency in the applicable areas of law specified in section 6, Areas of Law and Requirements, below; efficient use of workforce; material resources; and technology to deliver the requested services
- Respond to inquiries from OC San within 24 hours of the initial contact and maintain reasonable availability to respond to requests and events of an emergent nature that expose OC San to serious potential legal liability
- Be promptly available for telephone consultation and to render written opinions on given issues related to OC San business in a timely manner
- Provide written or oral reports in a timely manner to the Board of Directors regarding status of any legal actions in which OC San is or may be involved.

6 AREAS OF LAW AND REQUIREMENTS

6.1 General Counsel

- Provide general legal advice
- Provide advice on
 - wastewater business and administration
 - consulting and training services
 - Board policies and procedures
 - California Public Records Act
- Provide interpretation of and advice on the Public Contract Code and Government Code as it pertains to business matters and public construction
- Provide advice and assistance with Intergovernmental agreements, partnerships, and complex contracts, including drafting, reviewing, negotiating, and related litigation
- Represent OC San in
 - inter-agency projects and other legal matters
 - administrative, litigation and court proceedings
- Maintain knowledge base of issues facing sewer and special districts and be prepared to offer advice and legal opinions in a timely manner
- Prepare, review, consult, and approve contracts
- Review and approve legislative documents for Board of Directors' action items
- Assess liability for Board of Directors and Elected official issues
- Work with other assigned OC San counsel as needed
- Attend work sessions and regular Board meetings (open and closed sessions) and special Board meetings/workshops with the Board of Directors and staff when requested
- Advise on Brown Act and Board agenda items
- Report to and receive assignments from the General Manager or designee
- Monitor or supervise litigation activity handled by other firms
- Review citations for violations of OC San ordinances in accordance with criminal/civil law and procedures; prepare and try infractions, misdemeanors, and ordinance violations as required and requested by the General Manager
- Represent and advise the Board of Directors as the governing body and all OC San officers in all matters of law pertaining to their offices
- Represent and appear in legal proceedings for any current or former OC San Officer and/or employee for which such officer or employee is entitled by law to representation furnished by OC San
- Investigate all claims and complaints by or against OC San and prepare civil cases and act as trial counsel as required and requested by the Board of Directors or General Manager
- Oversee and manage OC San's legal affairs, ensuring that OC San's policies and programs and activities of OC San's employees and agents are carried out in compliance with all applicable laws and that the best interests of OC San are otherwise protected to the fullest extent possible
- Attend, in-person or remotely, regular or special meetings of OC San and its duly appointed committees for which attendance is requested by the General Manager/Board Chair, unless excused by the General Manager/Board Chair
- Attend Board meetings and be prepared to advise the Board of Directors and staff on matters on the agenda as well as parliamentary procedure and substantive issues that may arise

- Attend in-person Executive Management Meetings twice per month, unless excused by the General Manager
- Conduct regular office hours at the OC San designated office. Preferred office hours are half a day four times a month, or as negotiated
- Review agendas and conduct related consultation with OC San staff and members of the Board of Directors regarding the proper placement and/or description of business items on agendas
- Review, analyze, redact, and/or develop written responses to California Public Records Act requests (Gov. Code section 6250 et seq.)

6.2 Public Construction

- Provide interpretation and advice on public works, including drafting, reviewing, negotiating, and litigating contracts in accordance with the Public Contract Code, Government Code, and other applicable codes
- Provide advice and guidance on competitive bid requirements in accordance with the Public Contract Code, Government code, and other applicable codes
- Provide advice on labor compliance and reporting obligations
- Provide advice and direction on public works and construction, including:
 - Liability
 - Construction claims and litigation
 - Bid and contractor compliance
- Provide advice and guidance as required on various construction and construction management delivery methods, such as CM, CM at Risk, CM Agency, Design-Build, Design-Bid-Build, etc.
- Advise OC San's Board of Directors, General Manager, and designated staff on various legal and construction issues
- Demonstrate a track record for preparing documents and legal advice that will limit OC San's exposure to litigation and change orders, and then minimizing the impact of change orders and effectively handling any potential post-construction litigation

6.3 Environmental Law

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- National Environmental Policy Act

6.4 Air Quality

- Rule Interpretation
- Permitting
 - Case precedent consultation
 - Rule applicability (i.e., Supercritical Water Oxidation and Sewage Sludge Incineration Rule)
 - Lowest Achievable Emissions Rate/ Best Available Control Technology
 - CEQA, specific to permit issuance
- SCAQMD/CARB/EPA Enforcement: Title V, non-Title V, and Mobile/Portable Sources
 - Notice of Violation Settlement Agreements
 - Supplemental Environmental Projects
 - Variances before SCAQMD Hearing Board
 - Order of Abatement
 - Compliance Risk Analyses

- Legal Guidance Memos
 - Auditing/self-reporting

6.5 **Utility Rate Setting**

- Taxes
- Assessments
- Fees
- Proposition 218
- Other financial advice

6.6 **Real Estate and Related Matters**

- Acquisition/disposal
- Leases
- Eminent domain
- Easements
- Right of Way
- Encroachments
- Permits
- Other related agreements and negotiations

6.7 **General Contracts**

- Risk transfer provisions
- Advice and counsel on contract term negotiation
- Contract form and template updates

7 DELIVERABLES

7.1 **Invoices**

- Consultant shall issue detailed monthly invoices to OC San, which shall include a detailed description of services, date(s) of service, billed hours, hourly rate, attorney's name, and details regarding any additional costs incurred. Consultant shall also include a summary page of the key areas reflecting the overall time and cost.
- Invoices shall be submitted electronically in a format that can be uploaded and sorted.

7.2 **Reports**

- Consultant shall prepare and submit to OC San monthly and as requested reports concerning the outcome of Consultant's performance of the services rendered.
- Consultant shall provide ongoing and as requested written status updates to the General Manager or designee on all litigated matters.
- Reports shall be submitted electronically in a format that can be uploaded and sorted.

7.3 **Meetings**

- Consultant shall attend quarterly meetings with OC San's General Manager or designee to review current status of open tasks.
- Consultant shall attend OC San's Committee and Board meetings as requested and provide updates and/or legal advice during the meetings.

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT COMMON ACRONYMS

ACWA	Association of California Water Agencies	LOS	Level Of Service	RFP	Request For Proposal
APWA	American Public Works Association	MGD	Million Gallons Per Day	RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
AQMD	Air Quality Management District	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	SARFPA	Santa Ana River Flood Protection Agency
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers	NACWA	National Association of Clean Water Agencies	SARI	Santa Ana River Interceptor
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	SARWQCB	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
CARB	California Air Resources Board	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	SAWPA	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
CASA	California Association of Sanitation Agencies	NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	SCADA	Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	NWRI	National Water Research Institute	SCAP	Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	O & M	Operations & Maintenance	SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
CIP	Capital Improvement Program	OCCOG	Orange County Council of Governments	SOCWA	South Orange County Wastewater Authority
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board	OCHCA	Orange County Health Care Agency	SRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
CWA	Clean Water Act	OCSD	Orange County Sanitation District	SSMP	Sewer System Management Plan
CWEA	California Water Environment Association	OCWD	Orange County Water District	SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
EIR	Environmental Impact Report	OOBS	Ocean Outfall Booster Station	SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
EMT	Executive Management Team	OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency	PCSA	Professional Consultant/Construction Services Agreement	TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
FOG	Fats, Oils, and Grease	PDSA	Professional Design Services Agreement	TSS	Total Suspended Solids
gpd	gallons per day	PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances	WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
GWRS	Groundwater Replenishment System	PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	WEF	Water Environment Federation
ICS	Incident Command System	PFOS	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	WERF	Water Environment & Reuse Foundation
IERP	Integrated Emergency Response Plan	POTW	Publicly Owned Treatment Works	WIFIA	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act
JPA	Joint Powers Authority	ppm	parts per million	WIIN	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission	PSA	Professional Services Agreement	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ACTIVATED SLUDGE PROCESS – A secondary biological wastewater treatment process where bacteria reproduce at a high rate with the introduction of excess air or oxygen and consume dissolved nutrients in the wastewater.

BENTHOS – The community of organisms, such as sea stars, worms, and shrimp, which live on, in, or near the seabed, also known as the benthic zone.

BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD) – The amount of oxygen used when organic matter undergoes decomposition by microorganisms. Testing for BOD is done to assess the amount of organic matter in water.

BIOGAS – A gas that is produced by the action of anaerobic bacteria on organic waste matter in a digester tank that can be used as a fuel.

BIOSOLIDS – Biosolids are nutrient rich organic and highly treated solid materials produced by the wastewater treatment process. This high-quality product can be recycled as a soil amendment on farmland or further processed as an earth-like product for commercial and home gardens to improve and maintain fertile soil and stimulate plant growth.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) – Projects for repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of assets. Also includes treatment improvements, additional capacity, and projects for the support facilities.

COLIFORM BACTERIA – A group of bacteria found in the intestines of humans and other animals, but also occasionally found elsewhere, used as indicators of sewage pollution. E. coli are the most common bacteria in wastewater.

COLLECTIONS SYSTEM – In wastewater, it is the system of typically underground pipes that receive and convey sanitary wastewater or storm water.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION (COP) – A type of financing where an investor purchases a share of the lease revenues of a program rather than the bond being secured by those revenues.

CONTAMINANTS OF POTENTIAL CONCERN (CPC) – Pharmaceuticals, hormones, and other organic wastewater contaminants.

DILUTION TO THRESHOLD (D/T) – The dilution at which the majority of people detect the odor becomes the D/T for that air sample.

GREENHOUSE GASES (GHG) – In the order of relative abundance water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone gases that are considered the cause of global warming (“greenhouse effect”).

GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM (GWRS) – A joint water reclamation project that proactively responds to Southern California’s current and future water needs. This joint project between the Orange County Water District and OCSD provides 70 million gallons per day of drinking quality water to replenish the local groundwater supply.

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) – Goals to support environmental and public expectations for performance.

N-NITROSODIMETHYLAMINE (NDMA) – A N-nitrosamine suspected cancer-causing agent. It has been found in the GWRS process and is eliminated using hydrogen peroxide with extra ultra-violet treatment.

NATIONAL BIOSOLIDS PARTNERSHIP (NBP) – An alliance of the NACWA and WEF, with advisory support from the EPA. NBP is committed to developing and advancing environmentally sound and sustainable biosolids management practices that go beyond regulatory compliance and promote public participation to enhance the credibility of local agency biosolids programs and improved communications that lead to public acceptance.

PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) – A large group (over 6,000) of human-made compounds that are resistant to heat, water, and oil and used for a variety of applications including firefighting foam, stain and water-resistant clothing, cosmetics, and food packaging. Two PFAS compounds, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) have been the focus of increasing regulatory scrutiny in drinking water and may result in adverse health effects including developmental effects to fetuses during pregnancy, cancer, liver damage, immunosuppression, thyroid effects, and other effects.

PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) – An ingredient for several industrial applications including carpeting, upholstery, apparel, floor wax, textiles, sealants, food packaging, and cookware (Teflon).

PERFLUOROCTANESULFONIC ACID (PFOS) – A key ingredient in Scotchgard, a fabric protector made by 3M, and used in numerous stain repellents.

PLUME – A visible or measurable concentration of discharge from a stationary source or fixed facility.

PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW) – A municipal wastewater treatment plant.

SANTA ANA RIVER INTERCEPTOR (SARI) LINE – A regional brine line designed to convey 30 million gallons per day of non-reclaimable wastewater from the upper Santa Ana River basin to the ocean for disposal, after treatment.

SANITARY SEWER – Separate sewer systems specifically for the carrying of domestic and industrial wastewater.

SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SCAQMD) – Regional regulatory agency that develops plans and regulations designed to achieve public health standards by reducing emissions from business and industry.

SECONDARY TREATMENT – Biological wastewater treatment, particularly the activated sludge process, where bacteria and other microorganisms consume dissolved nutrients in wastewater.

SLUDGE – Untreated solid material created by the treatment of wastewater.

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS) – The amount of solids floating and in suspension in wastewater.

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TRICKLING FILTER – A biological secondary treatment process in which bacteria and other microorganisms, growing as slime on the surface of rocks or plastic media, consume nutrients in wastewater as it trickles over them.

URBAN RUNOFF – Water from city streets and domestic properties that carry pollutants into the storm drains, rivers, lakes, and oceans.

WASTEWATER – Any water that enters the sanitary sewer.

WATERSHED – A land area from which water drains to a particular water body. OCSD's service area is in the Santa Ana River Watershed.