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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BEGINS CONSTRUCTION OF  
IRON AND MANGANESE TREATMENT FACILITY**

**Project has been Awarded \$4.21 Million in Federal Grant Funding from Department Of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation and \$2.5 Million in State Grant Funding from Department of Water Resources Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program**

Oxnard, CA February 28, 2022 – United Water Conservation District (UWCD), a leader in effective and efficient water management, begins construction of its new Iron and Manganese Treatment plant in Oxnard. Once operational, the first phase of the plant’s operation will have the capacity to treat approximately 3,500 gallons of groundwater per minute, while future phases can expand operations up to 8,500 gallons per minute, vastly improving water quality, water supply reliability and enhancing drought resiliency.

“Collaboration is the key to the Iron and Manganese Treatment project’s success,” stated UWCD Board President Bruce E. Dandy. “The District was able to secure the support of Congresswoman Julia Brownley, U.S. Naval Base Ventura County Commanding Officer Captain Jeff Chism and his successor Captain Robert Kimmach, the State Water Resources Control Board’s Division of Drinking Water and Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency. Each of the project’s supporters recognize the importance of providing safe, reliable drinking water to the communities that are home to many of our military personnel as well as civilians working at the base. Their support of this project was essential in securing the Department of Defense (DoD) federal grant of \$4.21 million, as well as the State’s Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant of \$2.5 million, eliminating what could have been a significant obligation on UWCD customers.”

“Sustained periods of drought have negatively impacted the water quality of UWCD’s El Rio wellfield and its Oxnard Hueneme (OH) pipeline system as well as wells of neighboring water mutuals,” added UWCD General Manager Mauricio E. Guardado, Jr., “By removing the iron and manganese from the wells in the lower aquifer system (LAS) and then using that water to blend with water from the upper aquifer system (UAS) wells, we’re able to utilize up to 11,757 acre-feet of local groundwater supply per year, and that’s a tremendous benefit to the entire region.”

The Iron and Manganese Treatment plant, expected to be fully operational by February 2023, will treat the groundwater from existing LAS wells at the El Rio Water Treatment and Groundwater Recharge facility. By reducing iron and manganese concentrations in the water from LAS wells, UWCD will then use that water to blend with water from the UAS wells that contains high concentrations of nitrate during periods of drought.

Significant grant awards from both the State of California’s Department of Water Resources (\$2.5 million) and the federal government’s DoD Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (\$4.21 million), offset some 65 percent of the estimated cost of building the Iron and Manganese Treatment plant, estimated to be \$10.32 million, thereby greatly reducing the financial burden on UWCD rate payers.

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## **About United Water Conservation District**

### **United Water Conservation District:**

Initially formed in 1927, United Water Conservation District serves as a leader in water sustainability by managing, protecting, enhancing and securing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain. The District works to protect the environment's natural attributes and conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River including Piru, Hopper, Sespe and Santa Paula Creeks. Additionally, the District collaborates with other water agencies, US Naval Base Ventura County, and others on the innovation and development of long-term water sustainability projects and partnerships all to bring Ventura County to water sustainability.

Committed to the effective and efficient management of the area's water supplies through groundwater replenishment and the construction and operation of resourceful water supply and delivery system infrastructure, the District manages the groundwater resources utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula and Fillmore, as well as several mutual water districts, farms and individual pumpers. United Water also provides surface water delivery for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

[UnitedWater.org](http://UnitedWater.org)

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