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**Otay Water District Affirms Efforts to Support Use of Municipal Tap Water
and Reduce Use of Bottled Water**

Spring Valley, CA – At its January 2018 meeting, the Otay Water District Board of Directors adopted a resolution to affirm the District’s continued efforts to support the use of municipal tap water through reducing the purchase and use of bottled water, to the maximum extent possible.

The District’s prior practice has been to purchase bottled water as a contribution to community events, large District staff-related events, or in the event of emergencies. The District recognizes the importance of bottled water when it is not practical to use municipal tap water and when municipal tap water is unavailable during emergencies. The District will continue to collaborate with the community, but will prioritize alternatives to purchasing bottled water.

“We’ve always tried to avoid or reduce the use of bottled water when it was practical and efficient,” said Board Member Mark Robak. “We took this vote to emphasize to our customers that the District’s tap water is safe, meets or exceeds strict water quality regulations, and is cost effective. We will continue to support the use of municipal tap water while reducing plastic bottle waste.”

Compared to bottled water, which the U.S. Federal Drug Administration regulates, municipal tap water is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board. The District’s water system continually meets or exceeds these agencies’ rigorous federal and state

water quality standards. The District vigilantly safeguards its water supplies, and, according to its 2017 water quality report, has never exceeded a health-related maximum contaminant level or any other water quality standard.

Tap water may also be less costly than bottled water for the District's customers. On average, a gallon of tap water in the San Diego region costs about three-quarters of a cent per gallon. Bottled water often costs more than an equivalent volume of gasoline, from 1,000 to 10,000 times the cost of tap water. Up to 40 percent of bottled water sold on the market originates from municipal water systems.

For more information on water quality and improving the taste of tap water, visit otaywater.gov/water-quality.

About the Otay Water District

The Otay Water District is a public agency distributing water to more than 223,000 customers within approximately 125 square miles of southeastern San Diego County, including the communities of Otay Mesa, Chula Vista, Jamul, Spring Valley, Rancho San Diego, and unincorporated areas of El Cajon and La Mesa. For more information on Otay Water District, visit www.otaywater.gov.

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