

# Orchard Dale Water District

*Orchard Dale Water District started as a small, private water company in 1928. During the 1950s, residential development increased dramatically in the area. In 1954 in response to this growth the District was turned into a county district in accordance with the County Water District Act.*

*The first cooperative effort to supply water to the ODWD service area started when local wells stopped producing agricultural irrigation water due to over pumping. Later on, the farmers drilled deep wells on the banks of the San Gabriel River on the north side of Washington Boulevard. Groundwater from deep wells was pumped through large pipelines (some of the pipelines were made of redwood) to a tank at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Mills Avenue, and water was distributed to the users from this point. The first water company was called Hillside Distribution Company. Carl J. Kriesant purchased this company in 1947 and renamed it Orchard Dale Service Company.*

*With the influx of new customers in the early 1950s came the need for immediate and extensive upgrading of the system. Orchard Dale Service Company was neither financially able nor inclined to make these improvements. As a result, local citizens had a series of meetings to determine and implement the best way to effect this change. That local committee decided to put the formation of a County Water District to a vote of the people. The people voted formation by 364 to 102.*

*The District was formed May 20, 1954 and five months later a bond issue of \$500,000 for purchase and improvement of the water facility was approved by a vote of 349 to 47. The bond issue was for 30 years at 2% and 3% annual interest.*

*In 1954 the only storage facility was a part interest in one tank. Today there are six reservoirs with a total capacity of 4,826,000 gallons. In addition, a connection to the Metropolitan Water District's 78-inch water line on Imperial Highway was installed in 1957. This provided an important secondary source of supply to ensure continued availability of water. The water currently served by the District is usually 100% ground water. At times, circumstances require the District to purchase water from Metropolitan Water District, which is a blend of Colorado River water and water from Northern California via the State Water Project.*

*The District's service area is 2.02 square miles consisting of commercial areas for two cities, La Mirada and Santa Fe Springs, and the residential area of South Whittier and unincorporated area of Whittier in Los Angeles County. The District currently has 4,300 service connections, serving 20,000 people.*

