

## ENVIRONMENT



PHOTOS BY JEFF GRITCHEN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Assemblyman Steven Choi, center, joins other officials as they toast to, and drink, water that has been filtered from wastewater during an expansion groundbreaking ceremony in Fountain Valley on Friday.

# WASTEWATER PROJECT GETS BIG EXPANSION

The virtually drought-proof program is touted as the largest of its kind in the world

By Martin Wiscol  
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Orange County's wastewater recycling program, a pioneering idea that's already touted as the largest of its type in the world, is about to get bigger.

Big enough, in fact, to serve the tap water needs of about 1 million residents, according to the Orange County Water District and Orange County Sanitation District. Dubbed the Groundwater Replenishment System, the project produces water that is half the price of imported water, and is virtually immune to both drought and reductions in imports.

The water and sanitation districts, partners in the 11-year-old project, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Friday to celebrate its expansion. The Fountain Valley event drew about 250 local, state and federal officials, consultants and employees. Actual construction is scheduled to begin next week and be completed in

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Jerry Vilander, general manager at Serrano Water District, walks among reverse osmosis filters before the start of an expansion groundbreaking ceremony at the Orange County Water District on Friday.

## COURTS

# Nanny accused of molesting 17 boys

Costa Mesa man faces 33 counts of abusing kids as young as 2-years-old

By Sean Emery  
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A male nanny who worked for families across Southern California is now accused of abusing 17 children who were in his care, including molesting boys as young as two years old, the Orange County District Attorney's Office announced Friday.

Matthew Antonio Zakrzewski, 30, of Costa Mesa is now facing 33 felony counts, including lewd and lascivious acts with a minor, oral copulation of a child and possession of child pornography.

Zakrzewski's attorney, Matthew B. Wallin, said his firm is investigating the allegations, and he could not comment until the review of the evidence is completed.

According to prosecutors, Zakrzewski — who describes

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## SANTA ANA

# Latest count shows Bacerra winning race for council

By Roxana Kopetman  
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Former Santa Ana Planning Commissioner Phil Bacerra, a land use consultant, appears to have won the race for the Ward 4 council seat.

The vote count released late Friday by the Orange County Registrar of Voters shows Bacerra leading urban planner Manny Escamilla by 157 votes, more than could be made up by any remaining ballots left to count.

Bacerra could not be reached for comment.

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Bacerra

## SCHOOLS

# Sanders, Gibbs to speak at Chapman event on media

By Jeong Park  
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Chapman University's Center for Freedom of Expression and Media Integrity is drawing some criticism for the choice of speakers for its inaugural event.

Sarah Sanders, former press secretary for President Donald Trump, and Robert Gibbs, press secretary for President Barack Obama from 2009 to 2011, will appear at the Nov. 20 event at the

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## MILITARY



KEVIN SULLIVAN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Orange High School Marine Corps JROTC unit pass by an American flag as they march down Schaffer Street to the Orange Elks Lodge to celebrate the Marine Corps' 244th birthday in Orange on Friday.

# In step with Marine traditions, JROTC cadets showcase their training

In formation, about 100 Orange High Marine Corps JROTC cadets marched through downtown Orange on Friday. The group went to a luncheon at the Elks Lodge to pay tribute to the Marine Corps' 244th birthday.

Lt. Col. Carl Lewke, who joined the program this year as its senior Marine instructor, has been leading the students in becoming cadets. After a few years of flagging interest in the campus' ROTC program, enrollment has rebounded, officials said. The cadets, they said, are learning leadership skills, personal responsibility and the pride of service.

— Staff report