



### **Statement from William M. Habermehl, Orange County Superintendent of Schools**

The water shortage that so many of us hear about these days, not only affects California, it has the potential to impact the entire world. It is imperative for educators, businesses, and community members to conserve water now and to develop solutions that will ensure an adequate water supply in the future. The Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) is pleased to collaborate with UCI-UNESCO, the Ocean Institute, Disney Environmental Challenge, and the Wyland Foundation to increase community awareness about this important issue and to encourage innovative solutions to deal with the water shortage. Through this collaboration, students will be empowered to share their creative ideas for water conservation with representatives and scientists from around the world, and they will be inspired to form a partnership for global stewardship of the environment. A partnership of this sort has the capacity to benefit the current generation and future generations to come.

Please join us in supporting the OCDE *Water Innovation Now* (WIN) contest and the UCI-UNESCO International Water Scarcity and Global Changes Conference.

Together with our future leaders, we can make a difference towards creating sustainable communities worldwide!