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## **Orange County Public Works Announced as Winner of Inaugural 'Data Innovation Challenge'**

*Winning program will help continue keeping Orange County Watersheds clean by identifying possible dischargers*

SANTA ANA, CA – The State Water Resources Control Board (Stated Water Board) announced Orange County Public Works and CloudCompli as the winners of the inaugural Data Innovation Challenge.

The event was intended to challenge participants to create applications, visualizations and other tools to help harness publicly available water data related to climate change adaptation, regulatory oversight and water quality. Eight entries total competed in the challenge including other state agencies, consulting firms, students and one non-government organization based in Mexico.

First place was given to OC Public Works and CloudCompli for their work aggregating water quality from a municipal separate storm system in order to identify the source of water quality degradation. Team members from OC Environmental Resource's include Grant Sharp, Justin Grewal, Amanda Iaali, Kelvin Liu and Bryan Pastor.

"I was impressed by the ingenuity and innovation exhibited by the Orange County Public Works submission and its close connection to the core mission of the Water Boards to protect water quality," said Tam Doduc, State Water Board Member, who participated in the judging process.

OCPW's submission "Aggregating Municipal and State Open Data for Water Quality Investigations" uses its own open data and the State Water Board's California Storm Water Multiple Action and Report Tracking System (SMARTS) to identify possible dischargers responsible for exceedances of water quality thresholds within Orange County's watersheds. Using real-time sources, the application in the future may enable faster reactions to degradations in water quality.

For more information about OCPW's Watersheds division, visit [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com).