

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**July 2011 IWA Specialty Conference Focuses on
Natural Organic Matter (NOM) in Water**

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – Registration is open for the 2011 International Water Association (IWA) Specialty Conference on “Natural Organic Matter: From Source to Tap and Beyond,” the fourth in a series of international conferences devoted to better understanding the dynamics and impacts of natural organic matter (NOM) in drinking water, wastewater, recycled waters, natural waters, and marine systems. “NOM” is a cumulative term used to describe broken-down organic material that originated from plants and animals, often giving water a dark or murky look.

The conference will be held July 27-29, 2011, in Costa Mesa, California. It is being organized by the International Water Association (IWA), Urban Water Research Center at the University of California Irvine, and National Water Research Institute (NWRI). The conference website is www.regonline.com/NOM2011.

At the conference, scientists and engineers from around the world will examine the importance of organic matter in water and wastewater treatment, including:

- Control strategies for NOM removal in water treatment processes.
- Advances in membrane processes for water and wastewater treatment.
- The formation of disinfection byproducts.
- Water management and sustainability.
- Impacts on ecological drivers and biogeochemical processes.
- Potential effects of land use and climate change.

The composition of NOM (or, its “quality”) will also be a conference topic, with presentations on analytical methods such as excitation-emission matrix fluorescence spectroscopy, ultrahigh resolution electrospray Fourier transform ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry, and high-resolution nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, among others. Because of the importance of water reuse, conference discussions will also extend to effluent organic matter (EfOM) as well.

Altogether, the conference will feature over 150 presentations and 40 poster presentations, divided into multiple sessions over 3 days. Sessions include:

- Molecular characterization.
- Environmental fate and transport.
- Monitoring.
- Removal strategies.
- Advanced oxidation processes.
- Disinfection byproducts.
- Extracellular polymeric substances.
- And many others.

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Three keynote presentations will be given by the following:

- **Dr. Philip Singer**, the Daniel A. Okun Distinguished Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA)
“Fifty Years of Research on Dissolved Organic Material and Drinking Water (1960-2010)”
- **Priv. Doz. Dr. Philippe Schmitt-Kopplin** of the Department of BioGeoChemistry and Analytics at Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health (Germany)
“Environmental Metabolomics: An Integrated Bio-Geo-Analytical Approach to Unravel NOM on a Molecular Level”
- **Dr. Norbert Hertkorn** of the Department of BioGeoChemistry and Analytics at Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health (Germany)
“NOM and Our Current Capacity to Depict Molecular Dissimilarity in Complex Mixtures”

As part of the conference, an optional pre-conference tour will be available of the Groundwater Replenishment System at the Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley, California. This system is an advanced treatment process that removes NOM using microfiltration and reverse osmosis.

The conference is also being sponsored by numerous water industry organizations and agencies, including:

- Ahlstrom Filtration LLC
- Centre for Water Science, Cranfield University
- Consulate General of Canada
- Hazen & Sawyer
- Orange County Water District
- National Science Foundation
- Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University
- Trojan Technologies
- University of California Center for Hydrologic Modeling
- University of California Office of the President
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Water Research Foundation

For more information, including sponsorship or registration, please visit the conference website at www.regonline.com/NOM2011.

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The International Water Association (IWA) is a global network of 10,000 water professionals spanning the continuum between research and practice and covering all facets of the water cycle. Through IWA, members collaborate to promote the development and implementation of innovative and effective approaches to water management. More information may be found at www.iwahq.org.

The Urban Water Research Center at the University of California, Irvine, is a partnership of faculty members and departments who are working together to advance the understanding of the distinct characteristics of the urban water environment in order to promote health, enhance the efficient use of water resources, and protect environmental values. More information may be found at www.uwrc.uci.edu.

The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) is a nonprofit research organization founded in 1991 to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies and to protect the freshwater and marine environments through the development of cooperative research work. More information may be found at www.nwri-usa.org.

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