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### **Olivenhain Municipal Water District Recognizes Water Conservation Efforts of Customer**

**Encinitas, CA** – The Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) recognized Encinitas resident Larry Watt Wednesday night for his family’s voluntary pledge to save more than 350 gallons of water per day through water conservation efforts. This pledge is part of the region-wide conservation program, 20 Gallon Challenge (Challenge), developed by the San Diego County Water Authority and its member agencies to help San Diego residents voluntarily save 10% of the water they use each day. Due to historic dry conditions and a judicial reduction of California Bay-Delta water which normally comprises 30% of the region’s supply, San Diego County along with the rest of California is facing some very serious water supply issues. If steps aren’t taken to conserve water now, mandatory cutbacks may become a necessity.

The website [www.20gallonchallenge.com](http://www.20gallonchallenge.com) provides tools and resources to assist consumers in finding ways to reduce water use in their home such as washing only full loads in the dishwasher and utilizing a high-efficiency clothes washer which will save them money on both water and energy bills. The site also makes recommendations on how to save water outdoors through efficient landscape and irrigation design. In an effort to support this regional program, the District will hold a monthly drawing of customers who make the pledge to conserve and recognize them at a future Board meeting. A District customer for 28 years, Watt was given a new water-saving device called a Waterbroom. A Waterbroom uses a combination of air and water pressure to clean decking, patios, tennis courts, exterior walkways, entryways, etc., saving 60 percent of the water used with a hose alone, and reducing urban runoff. Not having large areas of concrete, and already using a broom instead of a hose to clean areas such as his driveway, Watt donated his prize to the Theory in Practice School on the Ocean Knoll School campus in Encinitas.

After hearing about the Challenge from the San Diego County Water Authority, Watt was motivated to visit the website and take the pledge for the benefit of the region. “As a General Manager of a neighboring water district,” Watt reflected, “I know the importance of saving water and this program is a way to further spread the word.” Watt plans to decrease his landscape watering significantly and insure that only full loads are washed in the clothes washer and the dishwasher. The District commends Watt, his wife, their son and two daughters for choosing to make a difference by conserving our most precious natural resource – water.

The District is a public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity sources and the operation of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. The District was organized in 1959 and has been serving water to its customers since 1961. The District currently includes over 48 square miles, and services a population of approximately 60,000 residents. The District includes portions of the cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Diego, Solana Beach, and San Marcos as well as the communities of Olivenhain, Leucadia, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. For more information about the District visit [www.omwd.com](http://www.omwd.com).

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