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Olivenhain Municipal Water District To Honor Local 4th Grade Artists and Local Gardeners

Encinitas, CA – Two contests, held by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District in partnership with other local water agencies, have provided opportunities to honor local residents in the community.

For the past sixteen years the District has sponsored a **Water Awareness Month Poster Contest** as part of the Water Awareness Month celebration. The annual contest is open to all fourth grade students within the boundaries of the District. It provides an important education opportunity for the students of local schools who will be our future community leaders. The contest includes a presentation given to each classroom by a District representative that teaches the students about the importance of water and how they can protect their water supply now and into the future. The District's top three winners, along with the top three winners of other participating North County Water Agencies, will be showcased in a water awareness calendar for 2009. All entries were judged on best expression of theme, poster design, creativity and artistic skill. Alexis Hale of El Camino Creek Elementary was awarded first place and Oscar Howe took second place and coming in third is Jenna Soenksen, the latter two being Mission Estancia Elementary students. All winners will be honored in front of their entire class.

This year also marks the fifth annual **California Friendly Landscape Contest** designed to showcase beautiful landscapes that use less water. Landscapes were judged on curb appeal, plant selection, design, irrigation and environmental considerations. This year's first place award went to Adele Selinger of Encinitas who completely transformed her front yard into a water-wise landscape utilizing a variety of drought-tolerant plants that display brilliant color. Selinger is also one of lowest water-using customers in the District. Photos of her landscape will be featured in upcoming District materials including the customer newsletter. The second place winner is Jeanette Bellisario and third place went to Linda and Don Laspesa. All winners will be receiving gift cards to various home good supply stores and nurseries.

These contests help promote the water conservation message that the District and other water agencies are communicating in order to protect our water supplies for the future. All of the District's imported water supply is a mix of Colorado River

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and Sacramento Bay-Delta water. Due to historic dry conditions on the Colorado River and a judicial reduction of Bay-Delta water, San Diego County along with the rest of California is facing some serious water supply issues. Although using water efficiently has always been a part of life in San Diego, current conditions make saving it even more crucial. The website 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 money on both water and energy bills. Developed by the San Diego County Water Authority, the website 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 for customers who make the pledge to conserve, and recognize the winners at a future Board meeting with a prize valued at \$100.

The District is a public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity and 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 63,000 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.

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