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For Immediate Release
February 13, 2009

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The Olivenhain Municipal Water District is seeking volunteers for the 4th Annual Tree Planting at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

Encinitas, CA. – The Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District) is teaming up with The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and Tree of Life Nursery, to hold the 4th Annual Tree Planting at its Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve (EFRR). The tree planting will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Tree of Life Nursery has generously donated 20 Coast Live Oak trees to be planted throughout the EFRR. There will be something for all ages to do, so bring the entire family. “This is a wonderful opportunity for folks in the community to get involved with beautifying the Park. Not only does it add to the natural beauty but planting of these trees provides a healthy balance to the area by keeping non-native species out, provides food and shelter for the native animals, and the trees being planted are fire resistant and re-grow with no problems if they are overtaken by fire.” Stated Board Director Susan J. Varty who represents the section of the District where the Park is located.

Volunteers will meet the EFRR Rangers at the staging area of the Reserve located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road, Escondido, CA. 92029. It is suggested that volunteers wear long pants and long sleeve shirts. **Volunteers are asked to please carpool as parking is limited. Anyone who would like to volunteer must register by calling (760) 632-4212 or by sending an email to efrrfriends@olivenhain.com. All volunteers will be asked to sign a volunteer waiver form.** Bottled water will be provided.

Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve (EFRR) is an 800-acre open space park and recreational area that was developed by the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (District), in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority (Authority) and the U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management, as an element of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project.

The EFRR currently offers approximately 14 miles of hiking, mountain biking, equestrian trails, primitive picnic areas, and scenic mountain viewing points. In addition, the natural beauty of the EFRR includes such native plant communities as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

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Owned by the Authority and operated and managed by the District, the EFRR has been designed to unify the interests of domestic water supply development, natural resources management and recreational opportunities. Park Rangers conduct guided group tours and student exploration programs to help promote environmental awareness and preservation of local watersheds. All wildlife and natural resources at the Reserve are fully protected so that future generations may also enjoy these wonders.

Located on Harmony Grove Road, near the rural Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove communities, the EFRR provides a wealth of opportunities for recreational use, educational research and environmental appreciation. For more information on the EFRR call (760) 632-4212.

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 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.

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