

## OMWD Customers Decrease Water Usage During Drought

With our state enduring another year of drought conditions, it's critically important that Californians minimize their water consumption. Thankfully, when it comes to conserving water, OMWD customers have been role models. During the years 2010 through 2014, OMWD customers have decreased water consumption by 14%! Thank you for doing your part to conserve water – let's keep up the good work!



## OMWD CUSTOMER SCORE CARD

We would like to thank each and every one of our customers for their efforts to use water efficiently as California's drought continues through the winter months!

- OMWD customers used an astounding 36% less water in January 2015 in comparison to the January prior.
- 1,372 customers have had a water use evaluation.\*
- 130,538 square feet of turf removed from customer yards and replaced with water efficient landscape.\*
- 22,228 rotating sprinkler nozzles installed.\*
- 108 weather-based irrigation controllers installed.\*
- 117 rain barrels installed.\*

\*Based on 2010-2014 OMWD statistics.

## Effectively Managing Limited Water Resources and Protecting Ratepayers

One of OMWD's key goals is to serve our customers while minimizing our operational costs. Some of the ways we continue to limit the burden upon our ratepayers are by leveraging new technologies, partnering with neighboring agencies to explore new efficiencies, operating with a lean yet highly productive workforce, and seeking grant funds with which to fund our important maintenance and construction projects.

As a result of these strategies, OMWD has been able to keep rate increases in the single-digits for eight straight years. OMWD only passes onto ratepayers those costs that it cannot effectively absorb. Consequently, our rates are among the lower half for median and average water users throughout the county.

Wholesale water rates continue to increase, however, and these costs are OMWD's single largest expense—OMWD's potable water supply is purchased entirely from the San Diego County Water Authority and now constitutes over 50 percent of OMWD's operating budget each year.

To contend with these rising wholesale costs, at the March meeting our Board of Directors approved new water rates which will take effect with the April 1 bills. The new rates, which have been carefully vetted by the board over the last several months with valuable input received from customers, will encourage water efficiency and help to address the increasing cost of imported water.



*Rising imported water costs are the leading driver of OMWD rate increases.*



Municipal Water District

1966 Olivenhain Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
760-753-6466  
[olivenhain.com](http://olivenhain.com)



Published by Olivenhain Municipal Water District in the interest of an informed public.

**Board of Directors**

Edmund K. Sprague, President  
Robert F. Topolovac, Vice President  
Lawrence A. Watt, Treasurer  
Christy Guerin, Secretary  
Gerald E. Varty, Director

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Alfred Smith, Esq.

**BOARD MEETING DATES**

Please visit our website at [olivenhain.com](http://olivenhain.com) for dates.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Olivenhain Municipal Water District is a multi-functioning public agency that is dedicated and committed to serving present and future customers in a service-oriented manner by:

**Water**

Providing safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water while exceeding all regulatory requirements in a cost-effective and environmentally responsive manner.

**Recycled Water**

Providing recycled water and wastewater treatment in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsive method.

**Parks**

Safely operating the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve and providing all users with a unique recreational, educational, and environmental experience.

**Emergency Management**

Complying with policies and procedures that adhere to local, state, and federal guidelines for national security and disaster preparedness.

**Sustainable Operations**

Pursuing alternative and/or renewable resources with the most sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective approach.



Scan and read this on your tablet or mobile device!



**Carlsbad Desalination Plant Nearing Completion**

San Diego County features an arid climate that periodically experiences the challenging effects of drought. Anticipating the return of a drought to our region, OMWD and many neighboring agencies began work several years ago on completing the permitting and environmental studies for a seawater desalination facility along the coast in Carlsbad.



*The Carlsbad Desalination Project is expected to produce drinking water in fall 2015*

The San Diego County Water Authority, recognizing the regional benefit of the project, worked with Poseidon Water to assist with financing the project and to launch the historic joint venture. Construction of the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and Pipeline began in early 2013.

The desalination conveyance pipeline is a 10-mile, 54-inch water delivery pipeline that will travel eastward from the seawater desalination plant through Carlsbad and Vista to connect to SDCWA's Second Aqueduct in San Marcos.

Construction continues to proceed as scheduled, and the Carlsbad Desalination Project will begin delivering water to San Diego County by November 2015. It will provide a new drought-proof water supply by producing 50 million gallons a day of potable water. This supply will account for about one-third of all the water generated in San Diego, and will meet approximately 7% of the county's water demands.

**Kimberly Thorner Honored as Recycled Water Advocate of the Year**

OMWD General Manager Kimberly Thorner was recently named California's Recycled Water Advocate of the Year for 2014 by the WaterReuse Association of California. Ms. Thorner was commended for her work over the years to spearhead efforts, projects, and programs dedicated to water recycling and reuse.



**NORTH SAN DIEGO WATER REUSE**  
coalition

After intensification of California's last drought in 2008, Ms. Thorner revived cooperative recycled water efforts among northern San Diego County water and wastewater agencies. The 10-agency group, known as the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition, is currently working on a collective venture termed the North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project. Upon completion, this project will result in production of 31,500 acre-feet (~10 million gallons) of recycled water each year, offsetting the demand for potable water and nearly doubling the coalition's deliveries of recycled water. Under her leadership, the group has achieved nearly \$5 million in grant funding via the California Department of Water Resources' Integrated Water Resource Management (IRWM) program, and the partners continue to seek up to \$50 million in federal funds to aid in the project's construction. Ultimately, these efforts will provide a more secure water supply for OMWD customers at the lowest possible cost.

Continued from page 1

### OMWD Revised Rate Structure

The new rates differ from existing rates, but perhaps the most significant change to our residential customers is that a fourth “tier” has been added. Previously, Tier 3 rates applied to all water usage over 43 units in a given month. With the new fourth tier, all domestic water use exceeding 80 units in a given month are subject to the new Tier 4 rates. Though our heaviest users may find a portion of their water use subject to these higher rates, all of our residential customers will enjoy the benefit of lower rates in the first tier. These first tier rates apply to the first six units of water used by all domestic customers.

These rates are developed to encourage water efficiency, and are calculated on the basis of the cost of providing water and infrastructure; water purchases from our wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA); and management of our water resources.

### Tools and Activities to Reduce Water Consumption

Fortunately, if you find your water use regularly reaching higher tiers, there are multiple opportunities to reduce your water consumption and mitigate the impact to your monthly bill of the change in our rate structure. These tools and activities include:

- **Rebates** – There are a number of rebates and financing programs geared toward reducing consumption that are offered to customers by OMWD’s wholesalers and institutional partners. To see a list of available rebates, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/rebates](http://www.olivenhain.com/rebates)
- **Water Use Evaluation** – Free of charge, OMWD will dispatch a professional trained in landscape and home water use systems to evaluate your current water use practices both inside and outdoors. To sign up or view more information, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation).
- **Turf Removal** – A rebate of \$2.00 per square foot of turf removed is available on a first-come, first-served basis for all OMWD customers. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/turf](http://www.olivenhain.com/turf) for more information.

- **Free Water-Saving Workshops** – OMWD offers free workshops throughout the year to instruct individuals on best practices for conserving water. To see a list of upcoming events, go to [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).
- **Instructional Videos** – OMWD has produced several videos demonstrating how to determine if leaks exist on your property, to manage water pressure, and more. To view these quick, helpful videos, visit [www.youtube.com/omwd](http://www.youtube.com/omwd).



*Before utilizing the turf rebate program.*



*After utilizing the turf rebate program.*

Meanwhile, OMWD is also doing our part to reduce our reliance on increasingly expensive imported water. We continue to explore options to diversify our water supply and will soon be starting construction on the Village Park Recycled Water Project, which will ultimately offset up to 350 acre-feet per year (over 114 million gallons) of potable water use by bringing recycled water to the Village Park community of Encinitas. We are also exploring the feasibility of a brackish groundwater desalination facility in our service area, which would further reduce our need to import water from outside San Diego County.

In addition, OMWD’s Board of Directors has taken a proactive approach to increasing developers’ fees and other charges to ensure those pursuing growth in OMWD service areas pay their fair share for projects.

## Last Chance to Win \$250 for Your California-Friendly Landscape

In an effort to recognize residents who have realized that their yard can be beautiful and water-efficient, as well as educate others on attractive landscape options, OMWD customers are encouraged to enter the annual landscape contest. Winners receive \$250, are recognized at local ceremonies, and featured in OMWD publications. Hurry, the contest entry deadline is April 10! Visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com) for more information and an entry form.



*2014 California-Friendly Landscape Winner*

## Village Park Recycled Water Project Set to Begin This Spring

Beginning in spring 2015, OMWD will commence construction of the Village Park Recycled Water Project. Ultimately, this project will supply greenbelts, HOA-maintained areas, and schools in the community with a drought-resistant and lower-cost recycled water supply. The project is consistent with OMWD's long-term goal of diversifying our water supplies and reducing our reliance on imported water.

Prior to construction, OMWD will distribute detailed information about the project to area residents, including how OMWD is working to minimize the construction impacts of the project to the community. For more information on the Village Park Recycled Water Project, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/villageparkrw](http://www.olivenhain.com/villageparkrw). Once construction begins, regular updates about the project will also be available on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/olivenhainwater](http://www.facebook.com/olivenhainwater)) and Twitter feed (@OMWD) with the hashtag #VillageParkRW.



## Reduce Your Use with a Free Water Use Evaluation

OMWD water use efficiency experts are available to meet with you to help determine the best ways for you to save water. This house call can be designed specifically to your needs and interests.

### Common Evaluation Components:

- **Check for leaks:** Did you know that a silent leak in a toilet can waste 40 gallons of water per day? Learn how to use your water meter as a leak detector.
- **Pressure reading:** High or fluctuating water pressure can cause sprinklers to mist or fog, poorly irrigating your yard and wasting water. Low water pressure can also lead to areas that do not get proper water coverage. Learn how your water pressure is affecting your irrigation system.
- **Identifying house and landscape shut-offs:** Know where to shut off water flows in case of an emergency.
- **Irrigation inspection:** Irrigation systems should be checked regularly as older components wear out, plant materials grow, and the seasons change. Any areas of concern will be flagged and a list of recommendations and maintenance tips will be provided.
- **Watering schedule:** The current irrigation controller program will be reviewed and recommendations made to improve water efficiency and plant health.
- **Lawn & plant recommendations:** Planning to remove an area of thirsty lawn with more climate-appropriate materials? Let us provide resources for landscape design, rebates, and programs available to assist you.

Call 760-942-9320 or email [cltlandarch@roadrunner.com](mailto:cltlandarch@roadrunner.com) to schedule a visit at a time that is convenient for you.

