

Spring Brings a Fresh Look to California's Water Supply—Conservation Still Required by State

Though very strong El Niño conditions emerged in the Pacific in 2015, they have not produced the drought-busting effects that many had hoped for this winter. Consequently, it is still crucial that Californians continue efforts to use water efficiently, though recent developments have given us some cause for celebration.

First, winter storms in February and March added billions of gallons to state reservoirs and several feet of much needed snow in the Sierra Nevada.



California's Department of Water Resources measures snowpack in the Sierra Nevada.

investments OMWD ratepayers have made in developing local drought-resilient supplies such as recycled water facilities and the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant. Taking note of these investments, the SWRCB provided an 8% conservation standard credit for OMWD, reducing our state-required water use reduction target from 32% to 24% when compared to 2013 usage.

Luckily, OMWD customers have been role models when it comes to conserving water. Despite an unusually dry, hot February, OMWD customers have done a tremendous job reducing water usage by 26% cumulatively from June 2015 through February 2016. Since May 2015, when OMWD's Level 2 Water Supply Shortage was declared, customers have scheduled 196 water use evaluations for their home or business, and installed over 1,100 water-saving devices. Efforts like these will produce lasting savings well into the future.

Meanwhile, SWRCB directed its staff to report back on additional flexibility it may offer water suppliers once more complete water supply information is known in April. OMWD will closely monitor SWRCB actions and advocate on behalf of its ratepayers. For more information on the drought and the mandatory water use restrictions currently in effect, visit www.olivenhain.com/shortage.



OMWD General Manager Kimberly Thorne testifies on behalf of ratepayers.

Additionally, though California's State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) extended its statewide emergency drought regulations through October 31, the revised regulations included some common-sense changes to the benefit of local agencies. OMWD actively engaged the SWRCB (pictured above) over the last several months to demonstrate the significant



Municipal Water District

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BOARD MEETING DATES

Please visit our website at
www.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.

Free Recycled Water Available to All OMWD Customers



*Fill station attendants will provide stickers for your water-tight
containers once they have been approved.*



OMWD customers can
take advantage of the
benefits of recycled water
for landscape irrigation
by visiting our free
recycled water fill station.
Once issued a user card,
customers may transport
up to 300 gallons of
recycled water per visit,
and there is no limit to the
number of visits you can
make.

Recycled water is
wastewater that has
undergone purification
and disinfection processes
to meet strict water
quality standards. The
use of recycled water for
non-potable purposes
is a technique to assist
customers in complying
with statewide water use
restrictions, and while

statewide emergency drought regulations remain in effect, the fill station
will be temporarily offered to customers.

Located at Campana Avenue & Camino San Thomas in the 4S Ranch area
of San Diego, the fill station is currently open Wednesday and Friday from
12:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., excluding
holidays. Find out more information at www.olivenhain.com/fillstation.

Your Water Meter

Your water meter records the
amount of water used on your
property in the same manner
as an odometer records the
number of miles driven in your
automobile. The meter is never
reset.

OMWD is responsible for
equipment leading up to
your water meter, and the
customer is responsible for all
components beyond the ball
valve on the water meter. Visit
www.olivenhain.com/meter
for information and videos
on locating and reading your
water meter, detecting leaks,
and managing water pressure.



*OMWD has a full-size meter
display at its offices*



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

OMWD customers are encouraged to enter the annual landscape contest to gain recognition for a yard that is both beautiful and water-efficient. The winner receives \$250, is acknowledged at local ceremonies, and featured in OMWD publications. Hurry, the contest entry deadline is April 8! Visit www.landscapecontest.com for more information and an entry form.



2014 California-Friendly Landscape Winner



2015 California-Friendly Landscape Winner

OMWD to Reduce Expenses Through New Partnership

One of OMWD's key goals is to serve our customers while minimizing our operational costs. Our staff continually explores innovative and forward-thinking ways to accomplish this. One way to achieve new efficiencies is to partner with neighboring water agencies like Vallecitos Water District.

With the recent completion of a new pump station, OMWD is now providing VWD with water treatment services from the David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant via an existing interconnection.

DCMWTP is capable of treating 34 million gallons of water per day, and until recently, it ran at

approximately 60% of this capacity. As OMWD contends with reduced demands as a result of the drought, the completion of this connection allows us to operate our treatment plant at full capacity and take advantage of that efficiency. VWD will purchase a minimum of 2,750 acre-feet per year of excess treatment services, roughly the amount of water required to supply 5,500 households.

OMWD expects these sales to offset \$469,000 in costs per year while VWD customers receive a favorable rate, which helps protect customers of both agencies from the increasing wholesale cost of water.

Join Us for 2016 Earth Day Creek Cleanup on April 23

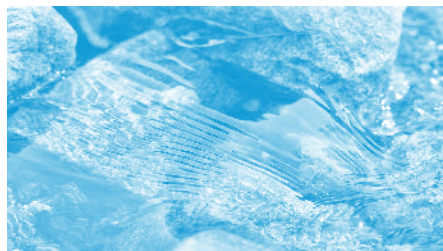
OMWD is seeking volunteers to help celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

Crews will remove trash and debris that is both unsightly and harmful to the sensitive riparian habitat. An educational and entertaining presentation by the San Diego Zoo will take place at 11:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.olivenhain.com/efrr.

Photographers Invited to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve for Eleventh Annual Photo Contest

Earth Day 2016 is also the launch of our eleventh annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Photo Contest! OMWD invites amateur photographers of all ages to enter our photo contest to showcase the natural beauty of the Reserve.

With 11 miles of trails that offer views of the Pacific Ocean, Olivenhain Reservoir, Escondido Creek, and natural backcountry, you will be inspired to capture a moment on your camera or cell phone. The contest runs April 22, 2016 to September 5, 2016. Please visit www.olivenhain.com/photo for official rules and to upload your entry. Good luck!



Ripples (2015 Best in Show, Eddie Trujillo)



Violet Surprise

Local Girl Scout Strikes Gold



La Costa Heights Elementary School celebrates new drought-tolerant garden.

When it came time for Hannah Lange to choose her Girl Scout Gold Award project, she decided to tackle a high-profile topic: California's drought. Representing the highest achievement in girl scouting, the Gold Award program challenged Lange to change the world, or at least her corner of it.

To engage the community about the drought, Lange reached out to La Costa Heights Elementary School in Carlsbad. Principal Christie Kay suggested she target third graders studying water, and provided campus space for a drought-tolerant garden.

Lange explained drought causes and effects to students before creating a landscape design for the students to replace 1,320 square-feet of turf with vibrant succulents, irrigated by the school's rain harvesting system. Students mixed in amendments donated by Home Depot and planted succulents donated by Weidners Gardens.

Hannah's project inspired students to make water-wise choices, and OMWD congratulates her for effecting positive change in our community.

April 5: WaterSmart Landscape Design Workshop

Join OMWD for a free workshop on Tuesday, April 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn how to transform your yard into a beautiful, water-saving landscape. Taught by a local landscape expert, this workshop will teach you how to convert your turf area to a water-efficient landscape, select plants that will thrive in our Mediterranean climate, identify soil, irrigate efficiently, and create professional landscape designs ready for installation. Register or learn more about upcoming workshops at www.olivenhain.com/events.

