

OMWD Efforts Assist in Defeating a Water Tax Initiative

California's legislature began its final recess of the year at the end of August. Senate Bill 845 was one of many bills that failed to receive the legislative votes needed to pass. This bill would have required water agencies to add an optional tax to all water bills. Proceeds from the tax would have funded groundwater contamination cleanup and other safe drinking water projects in other areas of the state.

While OMWD agrees with the goal of assisting disadvantaged communities that do not have safe drinking water, it vehemently opposes the legislature adding a statewide tax or "voluntary remittance" to each water bill as a solution. OMWD is concerned that adding taxes to your utility bills sets a dangerous precedent.

Every year, OMWD actively works with state legislators on behalf of our ratepayers to support or oppose measures. In 2017, Senator Monning introduced Senate Bill 623, which proposed a mandatory statewide tax on water. OMWD opposed SB 623 and engaged legislators to vote against it. SB 623 conflicted with Proposition 218, a landmark ratepayer protection measure. Ratepayers have the right to vote on legislation that will impose a tax



on local water bills that would benefit only a segment of the population.

SB 623 failed to pass last year, but Monning and other water tax supporters revived the campaign in 2018. Given the overwhelming opposition from both water agencies and the public alike (three out of

four Californians opposed a water tax), it became apparent that the bill would again fail to receive the required two-thirds majority vote. Governor Brown re-introduced the water tax as part of his proposed 2018-19 budget, and OMWD engaged legislators once again to make its opposition to the proposal known. The water tax again failed to receive the necessary legislative support to pass.

As an eleventh-hour proposal, Monning amended SB 845 to rebrand the water tax as a "voluntary remittance." Released just three weeks before the end of the legislative season, there was little opportunity for public testimony before any policy committee. OMWD immediately voiced to state representatives concerns with collecting funds that would provide no direct benefit to OMWD ratepayers assisting in efforts to defeat this latest water tax initiative.

Learn How to Protect Your Home from Wildfires at Our Fire-Smart Landscape Workshop

October is National Fire Prevention Month. Wildfires have become an increased concern after California experienced the largest fires in its history during back-to-back years.

To encourage fire prevention and preparedness, OMWD is offering a free workshop to discuss fire-smart landscaping on Thursday, October 18, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The workshop will take place in the interpretive center at OMWD's Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road in Escondido. Workshop attendees will learn about protecting their home from fires while reducing water used for irrigation by installing fire-resistant landscapes.



Local native plant expert and author, Greg Rubin, will cover the basic principles of

landscape zoning and hydration, with an overview of plant selection, installation, watering, and maintenance. Register for this free event at www.olivenhain.com/events.



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

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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.

Preparing for the Possibility of Extreme Weather Conditions



El Niño is the periodic warming of water in the Pacific Ocean every few years. When it occurs, it means more energy is available for storms to form. El Niño conditions do not cause individual storms but rather influence their frequency and characteristics, potentially bringing heavy rain to Southern California.

The development of an El Niño trend may affect winter weather during the 2018–2019 season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a 70 percent chance of El Niño conditions for January, February, and March; however, the severity of the event is still unknown.

In previous strong El Niño events, California has seen a 150 percent to 200 percent increase in rainfall compared to average years. Heavy rainfall can improve water supply reliability by reducing overall water consumption and by filling reservoirs across the state. However, regardless of how much rain falls this winter, state-mandated water use efficiency measures do not consider local water supply conditions and will remain in effect, as required by the state.

Unusually high rainfall also carries risks, especially in areas affected by fire. The three tips below can help protect your family from a strong El Niño's potential impact:

- ◆ Find your flood zone and risk using FEMA's Flood Map at msc.fema.gov.
- ◆ Register your cell phone and email to receive emergency or disaster notifications with Alert San Diego or www.readysandiego.org/alertsandiego.
- ◆ Pick up free sand or sandbags to prevent flooding and soil erosion. View San Diego County's website for pickup locations.

In addition to protecting your home or business, protect your family from a flood, fire, or other emergency by planning to evacuate early and packing an emergency supply kit. Kits should include a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day), three-day supply of food for each person and pet, first aid kit, medications, important documents, and contact numbers.

OMWD has taken several measures to ensure emergency preparedness. Reservoirs are full of drinking water, and backup generators are on standby to continue water deliveries even if power supplies are interrupted. OMWD connects to the regional Emergency Storage Project, a system of reservoirs, pump stations, and pipelines that can provide continued water availability should San Diego County imported water supplies be interrupted. In the event of an emergency impacting water service, please call 760-753-6466 or visit www.olivenhain.com for updates.



What Is the Value of Water?

The quality of life San Diego residents enjoy each day would not be possible without water. OMWD's rates remain in the lower half of San Diego County water agencies, and a gallon of water still costs less than a penny a gallon.



1 LOAD
15 GALLONS
\$0.06



1 LOAD
6 GALLONS
\$0.02



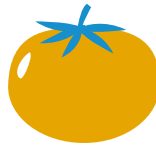
10 MINUTE
20 GALLONS
\$0.07



6 FLUSHES
18 GALLONS
\$0.07



70 GALLONS
\$0.26



It costs about
ten cents
a month
to grow a
tomato plant.

Administrative Changes Which May Affect You

OMWD's Board of Directors approved at its July 25 meeting amendments to OMWD's Administrative and Ethics Code that affect the terms of your water service. The amendments provide clarity, lower the threat of identity theft, protect assets, and assist in recovering costs of services, such as passing through to the customer any fees imposed on OMWD to file a lien on a delinquent account. The current Administrative and Ethics Code is available at www.olivenhain.com/code.

Time for a Landscape Makeover? Turf Replacement Rebate Now Available.



Put on your gardening gloves and grab a trowel because fall is here! In Southern California, fall is considered the ideal time to plant and make landscape changes. To inspire and assist you in your landscape project, OMWD offers free water-wise landscape advice, design templates, instructional videos, and more at www.olivenhain.com/resources. OMWD also provides year-round, water-wise guidance for your home, landscape, and sprinkler system. Schedule a free home water use evaluation at your convenience by calling 760-753-6466 or visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation to learn more about this free program.

Additionally, OMWD customers considering upgrading their turf landscapes to water-efficient, sustainable

gardens might be eligible to participate in a new landscape transformation rebate offered by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Rebates of \$1 per square foot of turf removed are available for both residential and commercial customers, for up to 1,500 square feet and 10,000 square feet respectively.

The landscape transformation rebate program requires a landscape plan, an efficient irrigation system, rainwater capture, mulch, and a minimum planting area. This program does not allow for the use of synthetic turf or grass-like plants and is available on a first come, first served basis until funding is exhausted. Learn about additional program requirements and application procedures at www.socalwatersmart.com.



Time to “Fall Back”

Daylight Saving Time will end on November 4. While changing the clocks inside your

home, don't forget to adjust your irrigation controller. As the days grow shorter and temperatures become milder, plants require less water.

It is also important to check the batteries in your controller at this time and replace them if not fully charged. This ensures that your irrigation run times will not return to factory defaults after a power outage. Default settings often water for at least ten minutes per station every day, which can lead to a significant increase in water use.



Can We Reach You During an Emergency?



Is your contact information up to date so we can reach you in the event of an emergency, or if your meter read shows a large spike in water usage, which may

indicate a leak? Please call 760-753-6466 or visit www.olivenhain.com/update so we can update our records. Additionally, it is the customer's responsibility to notify OMWD of any extraordinary conditions that may exist in which a disruption in service or a change in water chemistry could result in harm, damage, or a life-threatening condition.

Register Now to Tour OMWD Facilities This Fall

Join us for a behind-the-scenes look at OMWD facilities on Thursday, October 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. During the tour, attendees will learn how OMWD ensures safe and reliable water and wastewater treatment and provides recreational and educational opportunities. Tour stops include the David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant, 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility, and Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

For more information or to register, please visit www.olivenhain.com/events.



Board to Honor Outgoing Director Jerry Varty and Appoint Replacement



At its October 17 meeting, OMWD's Board of Directors will honor past Division 4 Director Jerry Varty. Mr. Varty announced his resignation from the board on September 12, 2018 as he is moving out of OMWD's service area.

The board will appoint at its November 7 meeting a new director to represent Division 4 through 2020. Individuals interested in completing the unexpired portion of the Division 4 directorship shall submit a completed application package to OMWD's General Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 18. Candidates must reside in OMWD's Division 4. Applications, a map of Division 4, and additional information about the appointment process are available at www.olivenhain.com/division4.