

Essential, Reliable, Invaluable - Water

Water keeps our communities healthy, our cities running, and our economy growing. It's a cup of coffee in the morning, a hot shower, the entire produce aisle at the grocery store, production lines, and safety from wildfires.

The quality of life San Diego residents enjoy each day would not be possible without water, and the infrastructure that provides it. While there is no system more critical to our survival, water infrastructure is largely invisible. The processes required to treat and deliver drinking water every day, as well as the procedures to reclaim wastewater into recycled water used to irrigate landscapes, are not well known by the average customer. Additionally, operating behind the scenes is the workforce necessary for daily operations such as maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure, complying with more stringent water quality regulations, and providing customer services.

According to US Environmental Protection Agency, a water main breaks every two minutes across the US, and the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that \$4.8 trillion needs to be invested in water infrastructure over the next twenty years to maintain a state of good repair.



OMWD offers public tours four times a year for a behind-the-scenes look at our daily operations. Please visit www.olivenhain.com/events for details.

OMWD's infrastructure has worked around the clock for nearly 60 years, and thanks to progressive monitoring and maintenance programs set by our Board of Directors, OMWD's system water loss is less than 4.3 percent annually, well under the national average. Proper upkeep of our system is crucial to keep water flowing to our taps. To join OMWD on a behind-the-scenes tour of our daily operations, contact our office by calling 760-632-4641 or sending an email to watersaver@olivenhain.com.

OMWD is committed to keeping water affordable, particularly for essential indoor water use that is vital for drinking, cooking, bathing, and sanitation. Currently, OMWD water rates are in the lower half of San Diego County water agencies.

In a 2017 public opinion poll by our regional water wholesaler, San Diego County Water Authority, 67 percent of ratepayers believed water to be a good or excellent value compared to other utilities such as gas and electric, cable TV, trash collection, and telephone. With the average cost of water served by OMWD being less than one cent per gallon, it's easy to see why the majority of ratepayers consider water to be a good value.

Water is an Excellent Value

OMWD's high-quality water treated through ultrafiltration membranes at its David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant costs less than one cent per gallon.





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.

Seven Ways to Keep your Yard Looking Beautiful all Year Long and Maximize Water Efficiency.

Spring is upon us, and it's the perfect time of year to follow these seven tips to improve your irrigation system's efficiency.

- 1. Schedule a Tune-up** - Irrigation systems should be given a tune-up each year, preferably before summer. Over time, foot traffic or lawn mowers can damage valves and sprinklers, and trapped dirt and debris can prevent devices from working properly, wasting water. Turn on each valve to closely inspect for malfunctioning equipment, overspray, and low head flow, and realign any sprinklers that are leaning or causing overspray. Replace malfunctioning nozzles with the same brand as other nozzles in the same valve circuit. **Rebates for high-efficiency rotary nozzles are available at www.socalwatersmart.com.**
- 2. Timing is everything** - The ideal time to run an irrigation cycle is in the early morning or in the evening when less water is lost due to evaporation or wind.
- 3. Ease the pressure** - High water pressure can result in damage to irrigation equipment and water loss due to misting. Installing pressure regulators or pressure-regulating irrigation spray heads can mitigate the effects of high water pressure.
- 4. Due for a system upgrade?** - Irrigation technology continues to make advancements that help ensure healthy plants and maximum water efficiency. Smart irrigation controllers use weather forecasts and plant-care databases to optimize your irrigation schedule. Rain sensors shut off irrigation and in-ground soil moisture sensors communicate with an irrigation controller to prevent irrigation when soil remains adequately moist. **Rebates on both smart irrigation controllers and soil moisture sensors are available at www.socalwatersmart.com.**
- 5. Back it up** - Make sure your controller has a backup battery. This will prevent a timer resetting to a default setting, which can turn sprinklers on for up to ten minutes per station, seven days a week, creating an unexpected spike in water use.
- 6. Mulch, it does a garden good!** - Reduce watering demands by adding mulch and enjoy the added benefits of healthier root zones and richer soils. Three inches of mulch is recommended for most gardens.
- 7. A little goes a long way** - Adjust your lawn mower to leave grass at least three inches long. This reduces water loss due to evaporation by up to 80 percent!



Consider scheduling a free water use evaluation to ensure your irrigation system is operating as efficiently as possible. Find out more at www.olivenhain.com/evaluation.

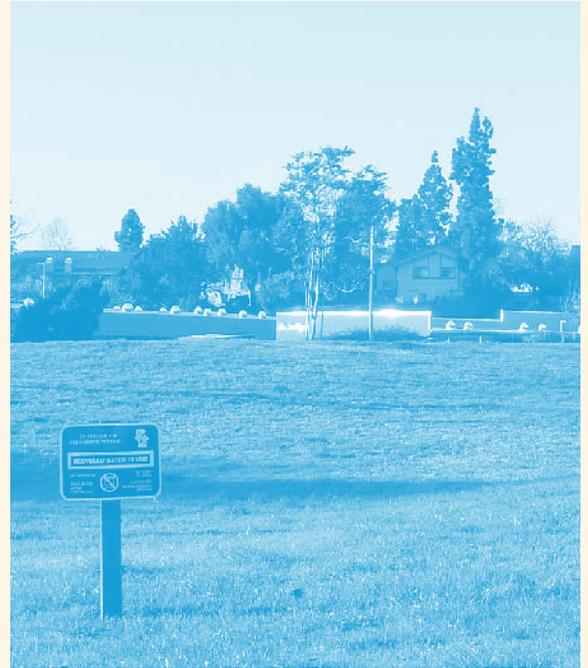


Recycled Water – A Sustainable Means of Improving Supply Reliability by Meeting Irrigation Demands

Recycled water is the ultimate form of water conservation and every drop of recycled water decreases the demand on potable water. This lessens the strain on the environment, provides a cost-effective means to increase local supply, and reduces energy demands associated with transporting water from Northern California or the Colorado River.

OMWD is working with large irrigators in our service area to convert to recycled water, especially in those areas served by our award-winning Village Park Recycled Water Project. This project enables OMWD to serve an additional 114 million gallons of recycled water in Encinitas each year, reducing imported potable water demands.

So far in 2018, Village Creek HOA, Village Park Recreation Club #2, and Villanitas HOA have all taken advantage of this drought-resistant water supply by taking steps to convert their sites to irrigate with recycled water. Several more sites will follow this year and OMWD encourages anyone interested in utilizing recycled water on their HOA common areas to contact us at 760-632-4642 to check availability in your area.



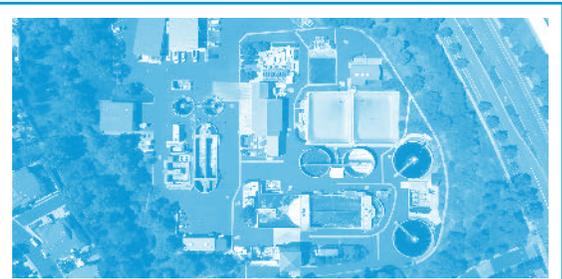
“Fill ‘er Up” - Free Recycled Water for Landscape Irrigation



All OMWD residential 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 reducing their water use and saving money on their monthly bill.

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



OMWD's 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility Takes Home Safety Plant of the Year Honors

OMWD's 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility was recognized by California Water Environment Association as "Safety Plant of the Year" in its statewide awards program. OMWD has an exemplary safety record of over 11 years without a preventable lost-time accident. This commitment to safety not only minimizes workers compensation costs for our ratepayers, but it helps our employees return home to their families safely.



April 21 – Earth Day Creek Clean-Up

Join us on Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at OMWD’s Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve to help celebrate Earth Day at our Earth Day Creek Clean-up. Volunteers will remove trash and debris from in and around Escondido Creek, which is both unsightly and harmful to sensitive riparian habitat within the Reserve.

Our annual Earth Day Creek Clean Up provides an opportunity for all ages to do something meaningful for our planet by giving back to our parks and communities. An educational and entertaining presentation by the San Diego Zoo will take place at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, visit www.ilacsd.org/event/creek-bay-cleanup.

Photographers Invited to Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve for Thirteenth Annual Photo Contest

OMWD invites amateur photographers of all ages to capture a moment on one of the 11 miles of trails that offer views of the Pacific Ocean, Olivenhain Reservoir, Escondido Creek, and natural backcountry. Designed to showcase the natural beauty of EFRR, the photo contest runs April 21 to September 3.

Please visit www.olivenhain.com/photo for official rules and to upload your entry.



Join Us at a Garden-Friendly Plant Fair this Spring



Home Depot stores throughout the county will once again host fairs this spring, offering savings on varieties of low-water-use plants. Located in OMWD’s service area, the Encinitas store will host a fair on Saturday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Bring your landscaping questions for on-site expert advice! Details are available at www.olivenhain.com/events.

Last Call for 2018 WaterSmart Landscape and Fourth-Grade Poster Contests



Enter our WaterSmart Landscape Contest to win prizes while inspiring others to make water-wise changes to

their yards. Deadline to enter is April 30. Visit www.olivenhain.com/events for details.

Enter our fourth grade poster contest to increase awareness about water resources, treatment, and conservation. Students who enter will be eligible to win prizes and have their posters featured in the following year’s calendar, in the press, and on OMWD vehicles.

The deadline to submit is April 10. For more information, visit www.olivenhain.com/school.

