



## 2019: Looking Back on a Successful Year

*OMWD celebrated our 60th anniversary this year, and it has been an honor to serve you. We look forward to the next sixty years of providing you with high-quality water in the most cost-effective manner.*

### Significant accomplishments in 2019 include:

**Property Owners to Save \$2.8 million** - OMWD refinanced Reassessment District 96-1 bonds, reducing repayment costs to property owners within our service area by approximately \$2.8 million. Issued in 1997 to finance the Olivenhain Water Storage Project, the bonds are to be repaid through special assessments on 23,299 parcels within Reassessment District 96-1. These property owners will see the reduction on their property tax bill.



**Water Tax Defeated Again** - Governor Newsom proposed a new water tax to fund safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities. While OMWD agrees with the goal of assisting communities without access to safe drinking water, it opposes adding a statewide fee to each customer's water bill. Adding taxes to utility bills can set a dangerous precedent and could cost millions of dollars in administrative costs at the state and local levels.

**OMWD Remains Fiscally Responsible** - OMWD maintained its AAA bond rating from Fitch Ratings, the highest rating possible by the global rating agency. Higher bond ratings equate to a lower risk of default, so achieving this exemplary bond rating affords OMWD lower interest rates.

Fitch's rating report contained praise for OMWD's manageable borrowing plans, conservative financial forecasting, and equitable and disciplined rate-setting. OMWD water rates remain in the lower third among San Diego County water agencies.

To offset costs for its ratepayers, OMWD continues to explore funding opportunities, such as state and federal grants. In 2019, OMWD was awarded \$1,256,800 in grant funding and applied for an additional \$3,673,017 to support its programs and projects.

**Ratepayer Investments at Work** - In addition to improving efficiencies through new technology, OMWD consistently monitors infrastructure, evaluates system integrity, and prioritizes repairs. Early detection and preventative maintenance programs help OMWD protect district assets and avoid emergency water outages.

#### ■ Advanced Metering Infrastructure Technology

- As part of a multi-year plan, OMWD is converting to Advanced Metering Infrastructure technology. Through AMI, meter read data is transmitted to a nearby receiver instead of to our truck. Since the AMI system drastically reduces costs associated with meter reading like labor and fuel, OMWD can better control our costs while reducing our carbon footprint. This year, OMWD upgraded an additional 2,000 customers to AMI.





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](http://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.

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■ **Valve Replacement** - Valves throughout the water distribution system allow for the isolation of sections of pipeline in the event of leaks, hit hydrants, or other damage. Valves are exercised regularly to ensure proper operation, and replaced when they are no longer reliable. OMWD proactively replaced 91 valves to avoid emergency replacements.



■ **Increasing Sustainability** - OMWD expanded our recycled water system by converting eight new connections this year. The savings are so large that the conversion to recycled water at just one sports park will save up to an estimated 100 million gallons of potable water per year. Expanding our recycled water system reduces imported water demand and improves sustainability.

OMWD was also instrumental in securing \$2.6 million in state grant funding to expand recycled water infrastructure for four North County water and wastewater agencies. The recycled water project is a collaborative effort by Olivenhain Municipal Water District, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, City of Oceanside, and Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District. It will add about 86 million gallons of recycled water to the region's supply portfolio annually, offsetting the potable water demand of approximately 660 households per year. The project will also reduce ocean discharge and urban runoff.



In addition to expanding recycled water infrastructure, OMWD continues to investigate the feasibility of a San Dieguito Valley Brackish Groundwater Desalination Project. OMWD completed the installation of a pilot test well this year. Aquifer testing is underway and is a crucial next step to determine whether this project should move forward.

■ **OMWD's commitment to excellence is evidenced by the following recognition received this year:**

- Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and Distinguished Budget Presentation awards from the Government Finance Officers Association
- Special District Leadership Foundation's Transparency Certificate and Districts of Distinction re-accreditation

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- American Public Works Association Project of the Year for Avenida La Posta Recycled Water Project & Villanitas Homeowners Association Extension Project



4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility Crew

- California Water Environment Association 2019 Plant of the Year (Small) for the 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility

- WaterReuse Association California 2019 Agency of the Year (Medium)

- Association of California Water Agencies "Most Effective Agency on Federal Issues" Outreach award

### Spotlight on Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

Our Fourteenth Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Amateur Photo Contest garnered creative and beautiful images.



Animals – K.Wood  
Western Fence Lizard

Best in Show – F. Hummler  
Paint Brushes

OMWD celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. Located at the staging area of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, the center provides educational opportunities for the public and promotes land stewardship.



### Ensuring Pipeline Reliability

OMWD conducts water pipeline condition assessments to help determine the structural status of pipelines. Understanding the current state of our pipelines enables OMWD to identify potential threats and schedule preventative repairs or replacements. Replacing equipment before it breaks avoids costly emergency repairs and keeps customers in water service.

In early January, OMWD's team will inspect a pipeline under Rancho Santa Fe Road to ensure water supply reliability for the surrounding Encinitas neighborhoods.

### Water Pressure Regulators: Preventing Water Loss

To provide adequate water pressure for fire protection to all service connections in OMWD's service area, water from the mainline can come through the meter at a pressure that is higher than ideal for home appliances (45-65 PSI). For this reason, many homes have a regulator to reduce pressure inside the house, protecting appliances and water lines. Pressure-regulating devices are also available for irrigation systems to reduce water waste from misting, evaporation, and wind drift.

The purchase and maintenance of pressure regulators are the responsibility of the property owner. OMWD recommends regular maintenance and replacement of pressure regulators as part of a plan to use water wisely and avoid damage or leaks caused by high pressure.

Go to [www.olivenhain.com/meter](http://www.olivenhain.com/meter) to view a video about water pressure and home regulators.



January 9:

## Tour OMWD Facilities

Learn about OMWD's water treatment processes and wide variety of services on our upcoming public tour. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events) to find out more and reserve your spot.

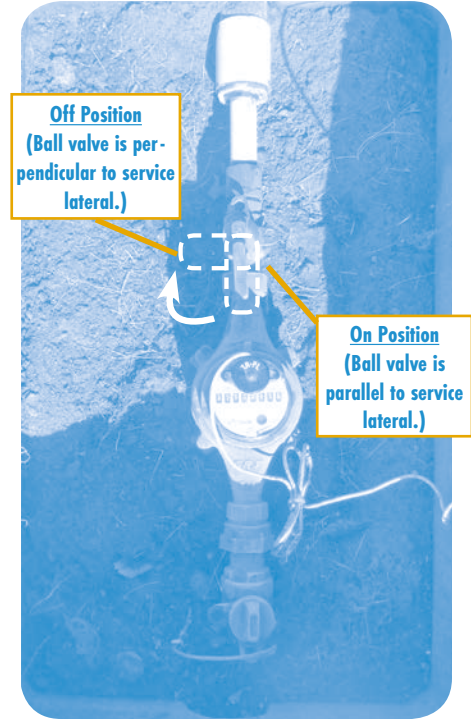


## Guard Your Home Against Silent Leaks

Household leaks are a common source of water waste that can increase your water bill. Research has shown that the typical home loses 2,000 to 20,000 gallons of water per year due to leaks. Unfortunately, many leaks go undetected for years because the source of the leak is not visible such as a deteriorated toilet flapper valve or cracked irrigation line.

To detect leaks, turn off all water-using fixtures and check your water meter. There should be no flow measured through the meter.

Learn how to read your meter and identify possible leaks on your property at [www.olivenhain.com/leaks](http://www.olivenhain.com/leaks).



A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year or more than 180 showers. The average leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day or more than five loads of laundry.

## Administrative Changes Which May Affect You

Due to changes in California state law, OMWD's board recently approved amendments to OMWD's Administrative and Ethics Code that affect the terms of your water service. The majority of the changes pertain to customer notifications prior to disconnection for nonpayment in order to comply with newly passed statewide laws. The current Administrative and Ethics Code is available at [www.olivenhain.com/code](http://www.olivenhain.com/code).

