

## Legislators to Reconsider Statewide Drinking Water Tax in 2019

Governor Gavin Newsom has released a state budget that calls for a new tax on drinking water to fund water quality projects. This proposal is similar to the tax on water proposed by previous failed initiatives like Senate Bill 623 (2017), SB 845 (2018), and budget trailer bills under former Governor Brown.

While OMWD agrees with the goal of assisting disadvantaged communities that do not have access to safe drinking water, it opposes adding a statewide fee or tax to each water bill and continues to engage legislators on alternatives. OMWD is concerned that adding taxes to utility bills sets a dangerous precedent, will cost millions of dollars in administrative costs at the state and local level, and is not the appropriate mechanism to fund statewide water solutions.

As an alternative, many water agencies statewide are supporting SB 669 (Caballero) to create a Safe Drinking

Water Trust to address this need. The trust would initially be financed with a one-time payment from California's General Fund during a budget surplus year. The trust's principal would be invested, and the net income would be transferred to a fund used to finance water quality projects. OMWD is in support of this proposed use of the state's general fund as an alternative to a water tax or fee.

Learn more about this alternative solution by visiting the Association of California Water Agencies' website at [www.acwa.com/no-water-tax](http://www.acwa.com/no-water-tax). Information on Governor Newsom's budget trailer bill is available at [www.dof.ca.gov/budget](http://www.dof.ca.gov/budget).

OMWD encourages ratepayers to voice their opinion on a water tax or alternative funding source by contacting their representatives, who can be found at <http://findyourep.legislature.ca.gov>.

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## OMWD Brings Home Honors in 2019



In February, the Association of California Water Agencies recognized OMWD with its "Most Effective Agency on Federal Issues" award. The award gives credit to the efforts made by our board and staff to ensure our customers' voices are heard at the federal level. In 2018, OMWD engaged federal legislators and regulators on the Title XVI program that facilitates water reuse. The program has been an important funding mechanism for the development of recycled water infrastructure that ultimately

improves the reliability of California's water supplies.

In March, the WaterReuse Association of California named OMWD as its 2019 Agency of the Year (Medium). This award honors OMWD's development of local and regional recycled water resources that reduce the use of potable water for outdoor irrigation. OMWD now meets 14 percent of its demands with recycled water.

OMWD's 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility will be recognized in April by California Water Environment Association as "Plant of the Year" for its continued efforts to conserve potable water by providing high-quality recycled water for irrigation and commercial use, as well as effective outreach programs highlighting the value of this renewable resource.



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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.



## OMWD is Celebrating 60 Years of Pure Excellence

In the early 1800s, the area now defined as Olivenhain was in Mexican territory. Through Mexican government land grants, a group of 67 German settlers, 25 families in all, settled on a tract called Rancho Las Encinitas. On that land, the settlers established the farming colony of Olivenhain in 1884. The name "Olivenhain" is of German origin, meaning "olive grove."

The gradual decline of farming activity during the 1950s and the importation of water to Southern California slowly transformed the Olivenhain area into a residential community. OMWD was originally incorporated on April 9, 1959 to develop a water supply for landowners and residents. 2019 marks OMWD's sixtieth anniversary.

Currently, OMWD includes over 48 square miles and serves a population of approximately 86,000 residents.

OMWD is proud to continue providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and the operation of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve in an efficient, sustainable, and cost-effective manner.





Artist Rendering of Renovated Headquarters

## Upcoming Construction at OMWD’s Headquarters

OMWD’s service area has expanded considerably during the sixty years since it was established in 1959, and facilities at its main campus are in need of upgrades to meet demands. Plans are underway to renovate and join the two existing administration buildings, which will provide improved access, a larger-capacity boardroom for public meetings, and a new lobby to better serve you.

Beginning in mid-April, OMWD’s lobby will be located in temporary trailers accessible from OMWD’s main driveway. Construction activity is expected to last approximately 12 months. At all times during construction, OMWD and Carter’s Hay & Grain will remain open during normal operating hours. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/headquarters](http://www.olivenhain.com/headquarters) for more information.



### April 11 – Public Tour

*Have you ever wondered how water arrives at your tap, clean and ready to drink? Or how wastewater is recycled into a valuable resource?*

Join OMWD on a free tour of its facilities on April 11. Attendees meet at OMWD’s Encinitas office and visit Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant, and 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events) to learn more and register.





## April 27 – Earth Day Creek Clean-Up

Celebrate Earth Day at our annual creek clean-up on April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at OMWD’s Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve! This annual event provides an opportunity for all ages to do something meaningful for our planet by giving back to our parks and communities.

Volunteers will remove trash and debris from in and around Escondido Creek. If not removed, this debris can be harmful to sensitive riparian habitat and eventually end up in the ocean. An educational and entertaining presentation by San Diego Zoo Global will take place at 11:00 a.m.

For more information, visit [www.creektobay.org](http://www.creektobay.org).



## Show Off Your WaterSmart Landscape

Enter the 2019 WaterSmart Landscape Contest for a chance to win a \$250 prize! Highlight your beautiful, water-efficient yard, and inspire others to make water-wise changes at their homes. Deadline to enter is April 26. Visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com) for details.

## Fourteenth Annual Photo Contest Launches April 27

### Now Open to Amateur Photographers

Be sure to bring your camera or cell phone on your next visit to Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve to capture a moment on one of the 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails.

Trails offer views of the Pacific Ocean, Olivenhain Reservoir, Escondido Creek, and natural backcountry that make for captivating photos. Designed to highlight EFRR’s natural beauty, the photo contest runs April 27 to September 2 and is open to all amateur photographers.

Please visit [www.olivenhain.com/photo](http://www.olivenhain.com/photo) for official rules and to upload your entry.



“Branching Over the Water” by Isual Lopez



“Just Around the Corner”  
by Daniel Tomczak



“Water. Fall.”  
by William Arboleda