

## OMWD Water Rates Remain in Lower Half Among San Diego Agencies

OMWD’s water rate study was completed in September 2019 and demonstrated the need to implement a 3.7 percent revenue adjustment in 2020. The study is available online at [www.olivenhain.com/rates](http://www.olivenhain.com/rates). OMWD’s Notice of Public Hearing, outlining proposed changes to the water rates and charges and demand reduction rate adjustments, was mailed to all customers in September to comply with California’s Proposition 218 requirements. Study results, as well as proposed water rates and adjustments, were presented at the November 13, 2019 public rate hearing.

**San Diego County Water Authority, OMWD’s sole potable water provider, increased its untreated wholesale water rate by 4.8 percent, effective January 1, 2020. This increase was taken into account when calculating OMWD’s overall 3.7 percent revenue adjustment in 2020.**

To accommodate increases in expenses such as wholesale water costs, infrastructure access fees, and inflation, OMWD’s board adopted adjusted water rates and charges at its December 11, 2019 meeting. Rates become effective with water consumption beginning March 1, 2020.

### How will this affect my water bill?

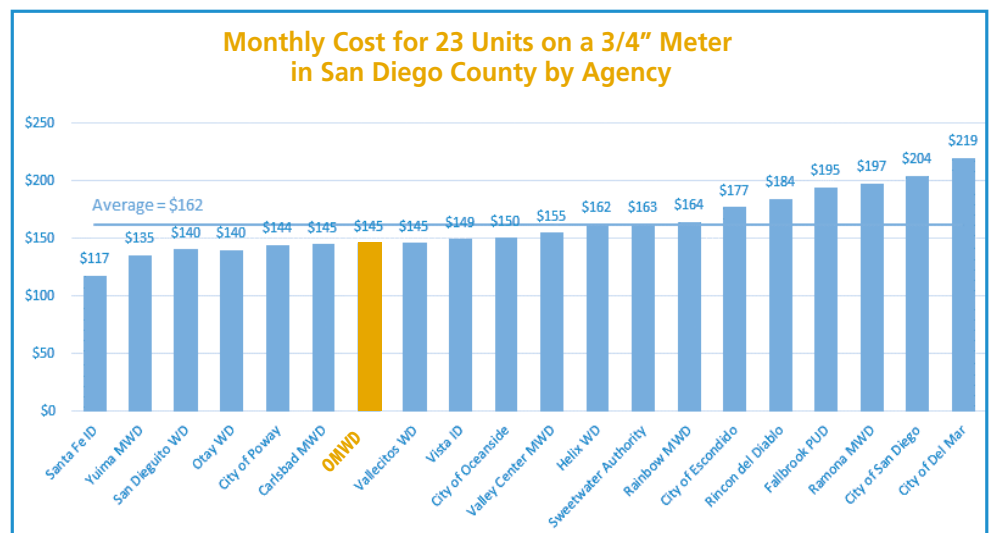
A typical OMWD customer’s billing statement includes an OMWD System Access Charge, a SDCWA Infrastructure Access Charge, and a Water Commodity Charge for each unit of water. Residential water rates are charged based on a four-tiered structure designed to encourage water conservation. A unit of water is 748 gallons.

The impact to each customer of the new water rates will vary depending on customer type, water usage, and meter size. The average residential customer with a ¾-inch meter, using 23 units of water per month, will see an increase of approximately \$7.50. A residential customer who has a ¾-inch meter and uses 6 units of water per month will see an estimated \$4.95 increase on their monthly water bill. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/estimator](http://www.olivenhain.com/estimator) to see how the change will impact your water bill.

OMWD’s average residential customer will continue to pay less than the average water bill across other agencies in the county for the same amount of water used.

### How am I charged for water?

OMWD performs a cost-of-service study every five years to calculate fair and equitable rates that comply with state law, ensuring that customers pay in proportion to the cost of providing services.



Note: Rates for other agencies last updated in October 2019 and are based on proposed or approved rates for 2020. Any subsequent increases are not reflected above.



Municipal Water District

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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 Water Rates... *continued from page 1*

OMWD's Water Commodity Charge is the price per unit of water, designed to recover variable, volume-related costs including the purchase, treatment, and distribution of water.

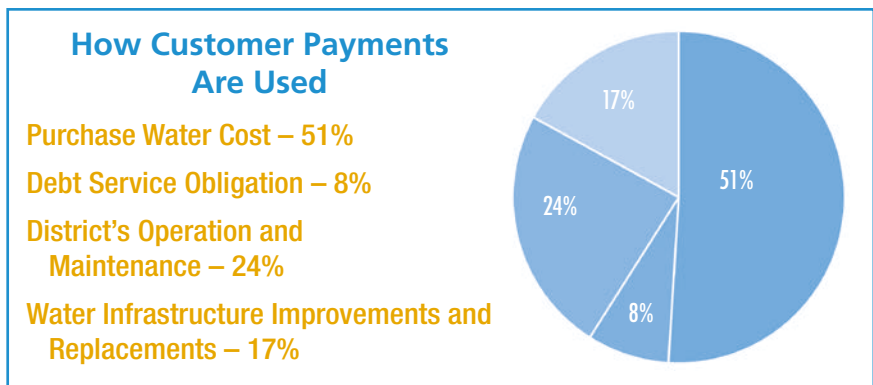
OMWD's System Access Charge is designed to recover a portion of the fixed costs of OMWD's operation. These costs include maintenance of meters and infrastructure, debt service, depreciation, and customer service costs such as meter reading, billing, and 24-hour emergency response.

OMWD's Fire Meter Charge is a monthly service fee on meters installed specifically for fire protection.

SDCWA imposes an Infrastructure Access Charge on all OMWD water meters (except construction, fire, and recycled water meters) as a condition of maintaining connections to SDCWA facilities. OMWD collects SDCWA's IAC, shown separately on OMWD customer billing statements, on SDCWA's behalf.

### **What does my water bill pay for?**

About half of an OMWD customer's water bill goes to wholesalers, SDCWA and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, for untreated water costs. The remaining funds are used for treatment, operations, and maintenance costs; debt service payments; and paying for OMWD's capital infrastructure needs, including replacement of aging water infrastructure.



### **What does OMWD do to mitigate cost increases?**

OMWD actively pursues funding opportunities, such as state and federal grants, to help achieve long-term goals. OMWD secured over \$1.25 million dollars in grant funding in 2019, and continues to pursue future grant funding. It also partners with other agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private entities to reduce operational costs.

The board also reviews developers' fees and other water service fees annually to maintain equitable treatment of all customers. OMWD's future customers, through developer capacity charges, are paying for their fair share of OMWD's water infrastructure needs.

While operating costs and capital needs continue to grow each year, OMWD's board remains dedicated to minimizing increases to cover only the costs needed to sustain operations and maintain OMWD's position to meet financial obligations. OMWD continues its long-term financial strategy: leveraging its AAA credit ratings to fund all capital replacement and improvement needs, and using cash or debt financing when appropriate to avoid rate spikes.



## OMWD Monthly Water Rates and Charges Effective March 1, 2020

(\$/Unit, where 1 unit equals 748 gallons)



| CUSTOMER TYPE  | COMMODITY CHARGE<br>BASE RATES | 10% DEMAND<br>REDUCTION RATES | 20% DEMAND<br>REDUCTION RATES | 30% DEMAND<br>REDUCTION RATES |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|  | 3/1/2020 (2)                   | 3/1/2020 (3)                  | 3/1/2020 (3)                  | 3/1/2020 (3)                  |
| <b>Potable:</b>  |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| <b>Domestic</b>  |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| Tier 1: 0-6 Units  | \$3.30                         | \$3.53                        | \$3.80                        | \$4.15                        |
| Tier 2: 7-23 Units   | \$4.90                         | \$5.13                        | \$5.40                        | \$5.75                        |
| Tier 3: 24-80 Units  | \$5.49                         | \$5.72                        | \$5.99                        | \$6.34                        |
| Tier 4: 80+ Units  | \$6.58                         | \$6.81                        | \$7.08                        | \$7.43                        |
| <b>Agricultural (1)</b>                                      | \$5.42                         | \$5.65                        | \$5.92                        | \$6.27                        |
| <b>Combined Agricultural/Domestic</b>                        |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| First 23 Units per month: Follow Domestic rate structure.    |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| Over 23 Units per month: Follow Agricultural rate structure. |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| <b>Commercial</b>  | \$4.59                         | \$4.82                        | \$5.09                        | \$5.44                        |
| <b>Irrigation</b>  |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| Tier 1   | \$5.20                         | \$5.43                        | \$5.70                        | \$6.05                        |
| Tier 2   | \$5.57                         | \$5.80                        | \$6.07                        | \$6.42                        |
| <b>Construction</b>  | \$6.65                         | \$6.88                        | \$7.15                        | \$7.50                        |
| <b>Recycled:</b>   |                                |                               |                               |                               |
| <b>Recycled Water</b>  | \$3.61                         | \$3.61                        | \$3.61                        | \$3.61                        |

| OMWD System Access<br>Charge (\$/Meter Size) |              |
|--|--------------|
| Meter Size                                   | 3/1/2020 (2) |
| 5/8"   | \$29.41      |
| 3/4" (*)                                     | \$38.46      |
| 1"   | \$65.60      |
| 1-1/2"                                       | \$101.79     |
| 2"   | \$159.10     |
| 2-1/2"                                       | \$288.78     |
| 3"   | \$315.93     |
| 4"   | \$524.03     |
| 6"   | \$1,094.04   |
| 8"   | \$1,968.66   |

| OMWD Fire Meter<br>Charge (\$/Meter Size) |              |
|---|--------------|
| Meter Size                                | 3/1/2020 (2) |
| 5/8"                                      | \$4.82       |
| 3/4" (*)                                  | \$4.82       |
| 1"  | \$5.42       |
| 1-1/2"                                    | \$6.21       |
| 2"  | \$7.48       |
| 2-1/2"                                    | \$10.34      |
| 3"  | \$10.93      |
| 4"  | \$15.52      |
| 6"  | \$28.09      |
| 8"  | \$47.37      |

| SDCWA Infrastructure Access<br>Charge (\$/Meter Size) |              |
|---|--------------|
| Meter Size  | 3/1/2020 (2) |
| 5/8"  | \$3.66       |
| 3/4" (*)  | \$3.66       |
| 1"  | \$6.96       |
| 1-1/2"  | \$11.35      |
| 2"  | \$18.30      |
| 2-1/2"  | \$34.04      |
| 3"  | \$37.34      |
| 4"  | \$62.59      |
| 6"  | \$131.76     |
| 8"  | \$237.90     |

| Irrigation Unit Allotments - Tier 1 allotment /<br>based upon water use by meter size |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Meter Size  | Winter<br>(Dec - May) | Summer<br>(Jun - Nov) |
| 5/8"  | 10                    | 15                    |
| 3/4"  | 20                    | 30                    |
| 1"  | 35                    | 50                    |
| 1-1/2"  | 50                    | 110                   |
| 2"  | 100                   | 200                   |
| 3"  | 200                   | 500                   |
| 4"  | 600                   | 3,500                 |
| 6"  | 3,100                 | 11,800                |
| 8"  | 5,600                 | 21,300                |

The 3.7 percent revenue adjustment includes the following pass-through increases:

1. A 4.8 percent increase in purchased water wholesale costs effective January 1, 2020
2. SDCWA Infrastructure Access Charge increases effective January 1, 2020
3. A 3.7 percent annual increase in the San Diego Consumer Price Index (based on over-the-year percent change in the San Diego-Carlsbad CPI-U for the second half of 2018)

### Notes to the Rate Table

\*Typical residential meter size

- (1) The Agricultural water rate is available only to those who meet program criteria. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/ag](http://www.olivenhain.com/ag) for details.
- (2) Rates will be effective with water consumption beginning on March 1, 2020.
- (3) Demand Reduction Rates would only be implemented by the General Manager or board action under the terms of OMWD's Water Supply Shortage Condition Ordinance. Such action by OMWD is generally triggered by the declaration of a specific level of water shortage by SDCWA and/or MWD.

March 8:

## Daylight Saving Time Returns



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward on March 8! The days are getting longer, and spring officially begins on March 19. Use this time to give your irrigation timer a check-up.

1. Ensure your timer has a fully charged backup battery. Without a backup battery, power outages can cause irrigation timers to return to their default settings, which can cause an unexpected spike in use.
2. Consider adjusting your irrigation run times for the warmer days ahead.

Before ramping up irrigation, it is important to inspect your irrigation system for any damage or wear that may have occurred over the winter. Issues like low-head flow, misaligned heads, and debris stuck in spray heads can lead to excess water use and other problems. OMWD offers a free water use evaluation to our customers to help improve their irrigation system's performance. During your evaluation, a professional trained in outdoor water use systems will show you how to inspect for leaks and troubleshoot common water use inefficiencies.

To schedule your free water use evaluation, call 760-942-3478 or email [cltlandarch@roadrunner.com](mailto:cltlandarch@roadrunner.com).



March 16-22:

## Fix a Leak Week

The average family in the United States loses 10,000 gallons of water a year to leaks. Many small leaks go undetected, but even a slow leak can waste thousands of gallons over time and dramatically increase your water bill.

Here are some helpful tips to check for leaks around your home:

- ◆ **Water Meter:** Look at your water meter when no water is being used, and write down the number on the dial. Wait 10-15 minutes, and check the number on the dial again. If no water was used during that time, the meter should display the same number. If the number increased, you may have a leak on your property.
- ◆ **Toilet:** Check for leaks in your toilet by using a leak detector dye tab (available for free in OMWD's lobby) or a drop of food coloring in the tank. Let the dye sit for 10-15 minutes without flushing the toilet. If the water in the toilet bowl starts to change color, you may have a leak. The most common cause of toilet leaks is an old or defective flapper. Flush your toilet after the experiment to prevent staining.
- ◆ **Pool:** Leaks from swimming pools can be especially difficult to detect. Use the "bucket test." To perform the test, turn off any fountains or devices that autofill. Place a five-gallon bucket on the top stair of your pool, and fill it so the water level in the bucket matches that of the pool. Mark the water level on both the inside and outside of the bucket. Let the bucket sit for 24-48 hours, and check the water levels. If the water level in the pool is lower than the bucket, you may have a leak. Note that rain or strong wind can make the test results invalid.

In addition to the steps above, there are many devices on the market that can help identify leaks before they might normally be detected. These leak detection devices can help reduce water loss and property damage from leaks. More information on leaks can be found at [www.olivenhain.com/leak](http://www.olivenhain.com/leak).



**WORLD  
WATER DAY  
CELEBRATION**  
MARCH 21

In honor of World Water Day on March 22, OMWD and other water agencies want to highlight the importance of issues such as water quality and conservation, while expressing gratitude for our customers. Join us for a day of fun, education, and customer appreciation on March 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Grape Day Park, located at 321 North Broadway in Escondido.

This free event will feature giveaways and activities for the whole family. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events) for more information.