

Colorado River Drought Impacts Felt Locally

Continued voluntary water-saving measures are strongly encouraged

The Colorado River provides water to almost 40 million people in two countries, seven states, 29 federally recognized Indian tribes, and four million acres of farmland. The waterway stretches 1,450 miles from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of California. The Colorado River Aqueduct transports water from the Colorado River to Southern California. Since 2000, the Colorado River basin has been experiencing an extended drought. As temperatures rise and drought conditions persist, the mountain snowpack that feeds the Colorado River is diminishing. Additionally, water sources along the river, like Lake Mead and Lake Powell, have dipped to historic low levels that can prevent hydroelectric power generation. Ultimately, drought impacts along the Colorado River have a ripple effect on the 40 million people that depend on it, including OMWD customers.

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Historic low water levels on Lake Mead have exposed four 338-foot-high intake towers behind the Hoover Dam.



Carlsbad Landscape Transformation Brings Home the Honors

Congratulations to Mike and Cathy Godfrey of Carlsbad, our 2022 WaterSmart Landscape Contest winners! The Godfreys' water-efficient landscape design displays a variety of drought-tolerant plants and succulents that were selected to reduce yard maintenance and watering needs.

The annual contest was designed to showcase the diversity and beauty of California-friendly and water-efficient landscaping. Winning entries exhibit excellence in curb appeal, design, appropriate plant selection, and water-efficient irrigation.

Interested in saving money and water through your own landscape transformation? Take advantage of a rebate of up to \$3 per square foot for replacing grass with sustainable landscaping. For more information, visit www.olivenhain.com/rebate.



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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.

California snowpack levels are also extremely low for this time of year at zero percent of normal historical average levels. In addition, weather forecasters are predicting above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation through the summer as a result of a La Niña pattern in the Pacific Ocean. Although drought is not experienced uniformly across California, over time, and as drought conditions worsen across the state and the nation, all water users in San Diego County will be impacted.

California's State Water Resources Control Board has required that all urban water suppliers in California increase water-saving actions outlined in their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, and OMWD continues to strongly encourage voluntary water-saving measures, including:

Restricting outdoor irrigation to no more than three days per week under the following schedule:

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ODD Numbered Houses	X		X		X		
EVEN Numbered Houses		X		X			X

Restricting outdoor irrigation to no more than 10 minutes per watering station for systems not using water-efficient devices.



Repairing leaks within 72 hours of notification by OMWD.

For a complete listing of water use restrictions and more information on the drought, visit www.olivenhain.com/drought.

State officials have indicated that if statewide water supply conditions do not improve, local water agencies may be forced to implement and enforce mandatory water use restrictions.



New Recycled Water Pipeline Project in Encinitas to Save 10 Million Gallons of Drinking Water Annually

This month, groundbreaking will be taking place on the installation of a new recycled water pipeline in Encinitas, along Manchester Avenue and South El Camino Real from Via Poco to Tennis Club Drive. Once complete, customers connecting to the pipeline will irrigate with locally produced recycled water, reducing demand for imported potable water by more than 10 million gallons every year. With the entire state under an official drought emergency, expanding our recycled water distribution system is more important than ever.

This pipeline is an element of a larger North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project—a collaborative effort among nine North County water and wastewater agencies to coordinate recycled water efforts across jurisdictional

boundaries. The recycled water that OMWD will deliver through the new pipeline will be produced at San Elijo Joint Powers Authority's water reclamation facility in Cardiff.

OMWD has aggressively sought grant funding for this project to make it cost-effective for ratepayers. The efforts have been successful, with OMWD achieving \$1,350,000 in funding from California's Department of Water Resources for two separate segments of the pipeline, and approximately \$400,000 from the US Bureau of Reclamation.

The project is expected to be completed in 2023, and updates can be found at www.olivenhain.com/projects and by following OMWD on Facebook and Twitter.



Celebrate Pollution Prevention Week This September

OMWD invites you to be a part of Pollution Prevention Week, September 19–25, by incorporating activities into your daily routine that reduce water use and prevent pollution. Established by the US Environmental Protection Agency in 1993, Pollution Prevention Week is an opportunity for individuals, communities, and businesses to find ways to reduce waste, increase efficiency, or reduce energy consumption.

Tips to Reduce Outdoor Water Use and Pollution in Our Waterways

Irrigation runoff can carry pesticides, motor oil, and other contaminants into our waterways. The trick is to apply no more than your soil can hold. We can help! Visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation to schedule a free water use evaluation whereby a landscape contractor can determine the best irrigation schedule for your yard.



Consider installing a drip irrigation system, which delivers water directly to the plant's root zone with no runoff.



Water quickly evaporates from bare soil. **Mulch** minimizes water loss and irrigation runoff, helps control weeds, and returns nutrients to the soil as it decomposes instead of storm drains. Spread a two to three-inch layer of mulch in plant beds and around trees.





Free Nature Walks and Hikes at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

With its panorama of mountains, scenic viewing points, and 11 miles of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, consider placing Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on your list of local and free wonders to explore this summer.

The 784-acre open space park and recreational area was developed by OMWD, in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority and the US Bureau of Land Management, as an element of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project. Owned by the Authority and managed by OMWD, EFRR has been designed to unify the interests of domestic water supply development, natural resources management, and recreational opportunities.

EFRR rangers rely on our 60+ docents for a wide variety of activities and the operation of the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. This summer, take advantage of two free, docent-developed programs that help promote environmental awareness and preservation of local watersheds.

- Free interpretive nature walks are held on the second and third Sundays of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy a moderately paced walk along the beautiful lower creek trail and enhance your appreciation of EFRR's watershed community of native plants and wildlife.
- New in 2022 for nature lovers who appreciate a fast-paced, exercise-oriented hike, EFRR offers a guided, long-distance hike each month. Beginning at 8:00 a.m., hikes will last approximately three to five hours, depending on the route. Upcoming hikes are scheduled for August 28, September 25, October 23, November 6, and December 4.

Located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road in Escondido, EFRR's operating hours through September 2 are 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. To learn more about EFRR and our docent programs, visit www.olivenhain.com/efrr.

