

Worsening Drought Spurs New Water Cuts Along Colorado River

More than 70% of the western United States is experiencing severe or extreme drought conditions. This has led to historically low water levels in California's reservoirs and the Colorado River, including Lakes Powell and Mead, which provide water to our region. The Colorado River supplies water to seven states and Mexico, but it is experiencing its twenty-third year of drought, and the US Department of the Interior is implementing water cuts to Arizona by 21%, Nevada by 8%, and Mexico by 7%.

Lake Mead's water level is at its lowest since the lake was first filled in the 1930s, and the US Bureau of Reclamation is requiring that the seven states work together to conserve between two to four million acre-feet of water in 2023 to protect water levels. Currently, there are no water cuts for California, but US officials warn that there will be less water available next year, and reductions may become necessary.

In addition to water supplies that feed 5.5 million acres of land, the Colorado River provides hydroelectric power when there are adequate water levels in its lakes. Hoover Dam, which forms Lake Mead, is one of the nation's largest hydroelectric facilities. It can generate approximately 4 billion kilowatt-hours of hydroelectric power each year—enough electricity to serve more than 1.3 million people in Arizona, California, and Nevada. Worsening drought conditions also threaten the ability to generate this power.

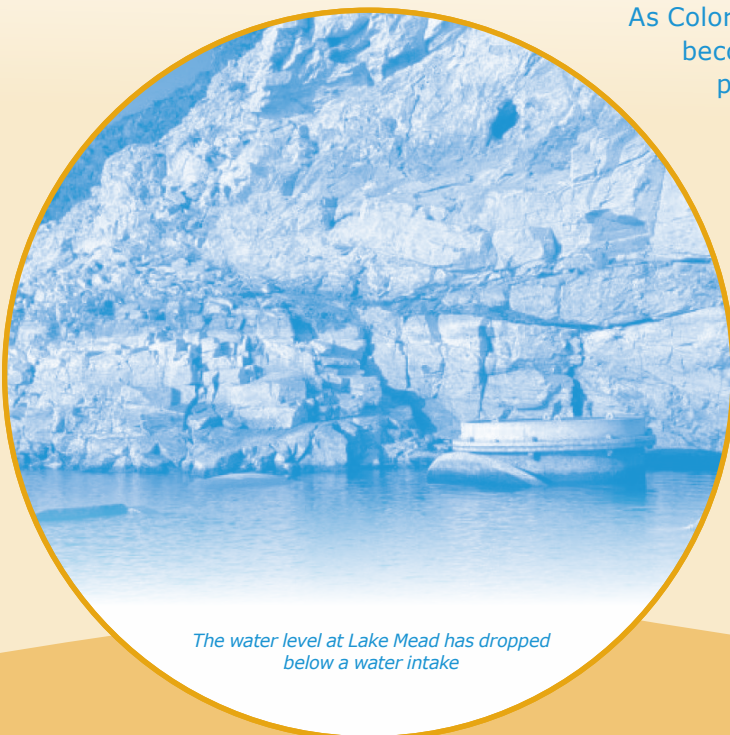


The Colorado River supplies water to seven states and Mexico

As Colorado River supplies are increasingly threatened, it has become more important to protect water supplies already in place. OMWD's Board of Directors pledged in August its support for the Delta Conveyance Project proposed by California's Department of Water Resources, which will ensure the long-term viability of water supplies from the Sacramento Bay-Delta.

The proposed project would address the effects of sea level rise, minimize water supply disruption caused by an earthquake, protect the ability of the state to deliver water reliably, and improve aquatic conditions in the Bay-Delta. A Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project is available at www.deltaconveyanceproject.com and is open for public comment through October 27, 2022.

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The water level at Lake Mead has dropped below a water intake



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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.

Water-Saving Tips for Fall

Daylight saving time ends on
November 6. While you are changing
the clocks in your home, consider
making a few other adjustments to
save water and money.

- ☐ Adjust your irrigation timer.
Shorter days and cooler
temperatures mean your landscape
doesn't need as much water as it did
during the summer. Be sure to check
the recommended irrigation schedule and
watering times at www.olivenhain.com/restrictions.
- ☐ Replace the backup battery in your controller. Without a fully charged
battery in place, irrigation timers can reset to their factory settings during a
loss of power, often causing an unexpected increase in water use.
- ☐ Check your pool's auto-fill levelers, which are designed to automatically
fill your pool when the level drops below a certain point. If not working
properly, your leveler may constantly be adding water to the pool.

- ☐ Test your toilets for leaks
by dropping free dye tabs
available from OMWD, or
food dye, in the tank. If
the color shows up in the
bowl after 15 minutes,
there is a leak.

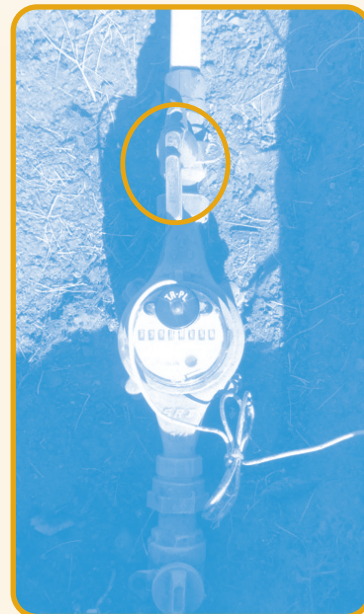


**A leaky faucet that drips at the rate
of one drip per second can waste
more than 3,000 gallons per year or
more than 180 showers. The average
leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons
of water per day or more than five
loads of laundry.**

- ☐ Check to ensure that the pressure regulator installed on your property is
working properly. The purchase and maintenance of pressure regulators are
the responsibility of the property owner, and OMWD recommends regular
maintenance and replacement of pressure regulators to avoid damage or
leaks caused by high pressure. View a video about water pressure and home
regulators at www.olivenhain.com/meter.

- ☐ Visit www.olivenhain.com/leaks for
information and short tutorial videos on
reading your meter and identifying possible
leaks on your property.
- ☐ Locate the valve that will shut off water flows
to your property if you need to perform
maintenance or in the event of an emergency.
Visit www.olivenhain.com/shutoff-valve
for instructions.

Do you need assistance programming your
irrigation timer? Let us help! OMWD offers a
free water use evaluation to assist customers in
determining optimal irrigation methods for plant
health. A certified landscape architect will provide
you with a custom list of ways to improve water
use efficiency, answer questions, and develop an
irrigation schedule specifically for your landscape.
Visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation to learn
more and schedule an evaluation.



*Water is flowing to your property when
the shutoff valve is parallel with the pipe*



Local Efforts to Combat Drought

Developing new water supplies will also help San Diego weather the drought, and OMWD continues to expand the use of recycled water. In August, the US Bureau of Reclamation awarded the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition, led by OMWD, a grant of \$17.8 million for the development of recycled water infrastructure in North County. The Coalition consists of nine water and wastewater agencies that are coordinating recycled water efforts across jurisdictional boundaries. Combined with the \$6.1 million in funding that USBR granted to the Coalition in 2021, a total of up to \$23.9 million will help cover costs for work performed on water reclamation and reuse projects through 2025. Upon completion of all long-term project elements in the Coalition's Regional Recycled Water Project, North County will have gained approximately 41 million gallons per day of recycled water and potable reuse water. Learn more at www.nsdwrc.org.

A portion of this regional network is currently under construction in Encinitas. Work began on our Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Project this summer, and as of October 1, more than half of the total 6,884 feet of recycled water pipeline has been installed. Once complete, irrigation customers connecting to the pipeline will reduce demand for imported potable water by more than 10 million gallons every year. Project updates can be found at www.olivenhain.com/projects and by searching for #ManchesterRecycledWater on Facebook and Twitter.

In the meantime, OMWD continues to strongly encourage voluntary water-saving measures. Visit www.olivenhain.com/drought to learn about statewide watering restrictions, and rebates on water-efficient devices.



More than half of the approximately 1.4 miles of pipeline for our Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Project in Encinitas has been installed

Save Money and Water with a Landscape Transformation

Turf grass is one of the most water-intensive plant materials in your landscape. If you've been considering replacing your thirsty lawn with a drought-tolerant landscape, this is a good time to do so. Not only is fall the ideal time to plant a variety of vegetation as the warm soil encourages root growth, but **rebates starting at \$2 per square foot of turf removed are currently available at www.socalwatersmart.com.**

From November through the spring, plants can benefit from free irrigation in the form of rainfall, and there are fewer pests and diseases during this time. When summer finally arrives, a fall-planted plant is far better equipped to deal with heat and drought than a spring-planted plant, largely due to its well-established root system.

Visit www.bewaterwise.com to find inspiration for your yard transformation with free online landscape workshops, California-friendly plant lists, and more.



Celebrating Our Sweet 16

Sixteenth Annual Photo Contest Kicks Off Next Month

Designed to be a fun and educational way to showcase the natural beauty at OMWD's Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, our annual contest for amateur photographers launches November 26 and will continue through April 22, 2023. Winners will be selected from five categories Water Scenery, Scenic View, Plants, Animals, and Youth (age 15 and under).

Located west of Escondido, the 784-acre reserve celebrates 30 years of recreational opportunities this year. EFRR's 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails offer views of the Pacific Ocean, Olivenhain Reservoir, Escondido Creek, and natural backcountry. These views make for engaging photos, so be sure to bring your camera or cell phone on your next visit.

Winning photographers are eligible for prizes from our sponsors, including \$100 cash from the Escondido Creek Conservancy, Zoo/ Safari Park passes from the San Diego Zoo, a 24" x 36" canvas print from PC Photo, gear from REI, and more! Select winning submissions will be displayed at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty in 2023.

For official rules and to upload your entry, please visit www.olivenhain.com/photo.



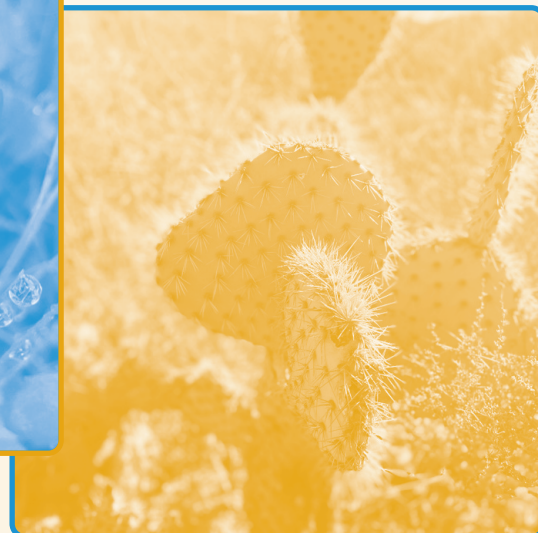
"Serenity" by Peter Montgomery



"Morning Reflections" by Brian McDonald



"In the Details" by Christie Lothrop



"Cactus" by Ashley Hahlen