

## State of the Snowpack

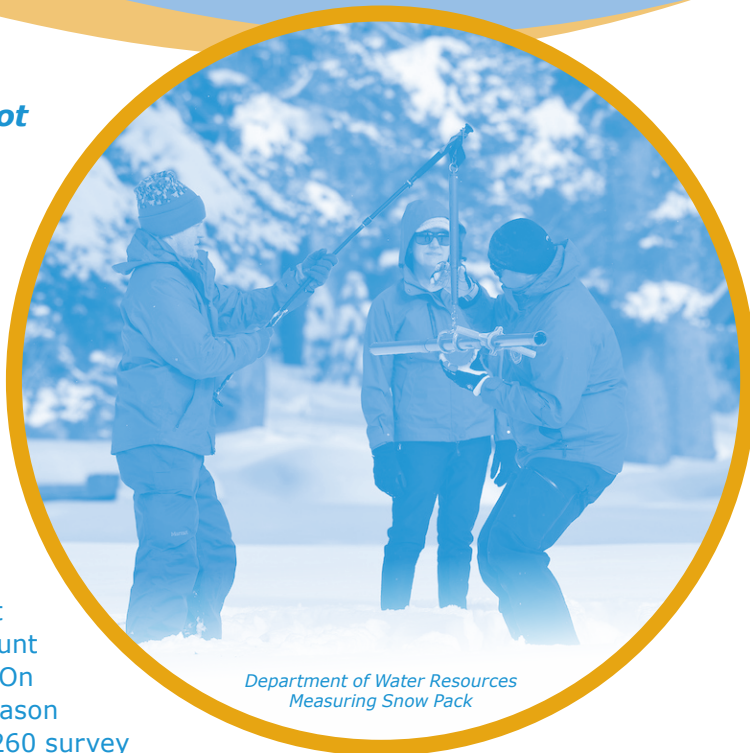
### ***Drought conditions improve, but drought is not over despite winter storms***

Snowfall is essential to replenishing California's water supply. Winter storms pack mountains with snow, which, as it melts, fills reservoirs, rivers, and lakes with much needed water. While rain and snow levels received thus far have been good news for California, our state will need continued above-average rain and snowfall to compensate for the multi-year drought's effects.

California's Department of Water Resources surveys snowpack levels monthly during the winter to gauge snow-to-liquid ratios to forecast anticipated water runoff levels later in the year. DWR conducts a survey measurement around April 1, usually when snowpack is at its highest of the season, to determine the projected amount of water that will be made available through the summer. On January 3, DWR conducted the first snow survey of the season at Philips Station in the Sierra Nevada (one of more than 260 survey sites), where snowpack levels reached 177 percent of average. Statewide snowpack measured 174 percent of the average. The second snow survey of the season, conducted in early February at the same locations, provides another snapshot of snowmelt data in the water supply forecast. While winter storms have contributed to a positive start to 2023, the coming weeks will be instrumental in determining how much water will be available over the summer months. The snowpack survey taken in January 2022 measured substantially above average yet was followed by the driest January through March period recorded in California.

Many of California's reservoirs remain well below average, and sustained, above-average rain and snowfall are necessary to alleviate drought conditions. While water-saving measures remain voluntary for OMWD customers, state officials have indicated that if statewide water supply conditions do not improve, local water agencies may be forced to implement mandatory water use restrictions in 2023. OMWD encourages customers to adapt to conservation as a way of life to make the most of our limited water supplies across the state.

For a complete listing of water use restrictions and more information on the drought, visit [www.olivenhain.com/drought](http://www.olivenhain.com/drought). Additionally, if you witness water waste, you can notify OMWD by filling out a water waste report at [www.olivenhain.com/waste](http://www.olivenhain.com/waste).



Department of Water Resources  
Measuring Snow Pack

## Love Water, Save Water - Annual Poster Contest for Fourth Graders

OMWD is inviting all fourth-grade students living or attending school in our service area to design a poster emphasizing the need to make water use efficiency a lifestyle. The contest's purpose is to increase awareness among our future community leaders about water supplies, distribution systems, and conservation.



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

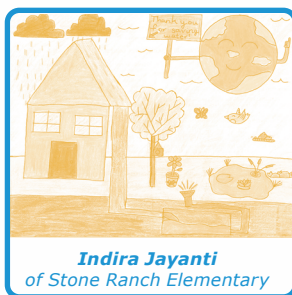
Complying with policies and  
procedures that adhere to local, state,  
and federal guidelines for national  
security and disaster preparedness.

### Sustainable Operations

Pursuing alternative and/or renewable  
resources with the most sustainable,  
efficient, and cost-effective approach.

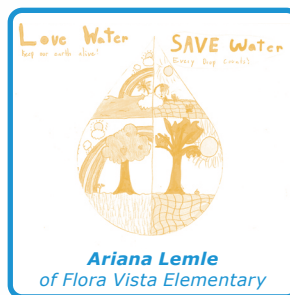
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## Annual Poster Contest for Fourth Graders



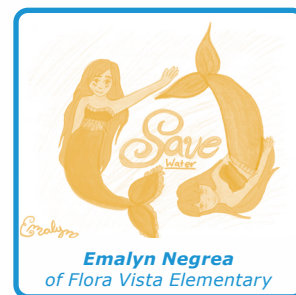
Indira Jayanti

of Stone Ranch Elementary



Ariana Lemle

of Flora Vista Elementary



Emalyn Negrea

of Flora Vista Elementary

Students who enter will be eligible to win prizes and have their posters featured in  
a 2024 calendar and on OMWD vehicles. The deadline to submit is April 3, 2023.  
For more information and an entry form, visit [www.olivenhain.com/school](http://www.olivenhain.com/school).

The 2023 calendar featuring last year's winners is available free of charge.  
Please call **760-753-6466** to request your copy.

## 16th Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Photo Contest

### Accepting entries through April 23, 2023

OMWD invites photographers of all ages to visit our 784-acre reserve, capture its  
natural beauty in creative and unique ways, and enter our online photo contest  
at [www.olivenhain.com/photo](http://www.olivenhain.com/photo). Judges will select winning photos from five  
categories—Scenic View, Water Scenery, Plants, Animals, and Youth, and an online  
vote will decide a People's Choice Award winner. Winning entries are eligible for  
prizes donated by local businesses, such as passes to the San Diego Zoo, a 24" x  
36" canvas print from PC Photo and Imaging, outdoor equipment from REI, and a  
\$100 cash prize from the Escondido Creek Conservancy.  
In addition, winning images will be displayed at our Elfin  
Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty from  
June through December 2023.

Developed by OMWD in partnership with San Diego  
County Water Authority and US Bureau of Land  
Management as an element of the Olivenhain Water  
Storage Project and the Authority's Emergency Storage  
Project, the reserve offers approximately 11 miles of  
hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. There  
are also picnic areas, scenic mountain viewing points,  
and native plant communities such as oak riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage  
scrub, and chaparral—all offering a variety of photo opportunities.



"In the Details" by  
Christie Lothrop

"Morning Reflections"  
by Brian McDonald



"Serenity"  
by Peter Montgomery



"Reservoir Dogs Sleeping"  
by CJ Edingfield-Murphy



"Cactus"  
by Ashley Hahlen



## Proud of Your WaterSmart Landscape?

**Enter our 2023 WaterSmart Landscape Contest for a chance to win a \$250 prize!**

Consider sharing your story with us if you've transformed your yard into a California-friendly design through water-wise changes. You can inspire others to make similar changes at their homes through this regional contest. OMWD features winning landscapes on social media and on our website, and our board will recognize the 2023 winners at its June 21, 2023 meeting.



Visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com) for details. **The deadline to enter is May 15.**

## Considering a WaterSmart Landscape Transformation?

**Join us for a free WaterSmart Landscape Design Workshop on April 3**

Learn how to transform your yard into a beautiful, water-saving landscape at this informative and interactive workshop at the Encinitas Community Center on April 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Topics to be covered include identifying and amending soil, removing turf, and methods to reduce outdoor water use and increase irrigation efficiencies. Gain the knowledge to convert turf areas to California-friendly landscapes, including the selection of plants that will thrive in our Mediterranean climate.

Since landscape irrigation accounts for over half of a typical household's water consumption, landscape transformations can also reduce monthly water bills. Learn more and register at [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).

**You may be a candidate for the 2024 WaterSmart Landscape Contest!**



## More Ways to Save \$

**Rebates are available for turf replacement, rain barrels, and other water-efficient devices**

Residential and commercial customers can receive up to \$3 per square foot of turf removed when they switch to a sustainable landscape. Studies indicate that California-friendly landscapes use 83 percent less water than traditional turf landscapes and require 68 percent less maintenance, making a landscape transformation one of the most effective ways to save water.



Rebates are also available for water-efficient devices such as rotating sprinkler nozzles, weather-based irrigation controllers, rain barrels, and more. Customers can apply online and learn more by visiting [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).

## Celebrate Fix-A-Leak Week with a Free Water Use Evaluation

Even tiny leaks can be huge water wasters. According to US Environmental Protection Agency, household leaks can waste nearly one trillion gallons of water annually. To serve as an annual reminder to check plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks, the EPA established Fix-A-Leak Week in 2009.

Customers can learn to identify leaks to save both water and money by scheduling a visit from one of our water efficiency specialists. As part of this visit, a certified landscape architect can check indoor devices for leaks, develop an irrigation schedule specifically for the landscape at your home or business, and provide you with a custom list of ways to increase water use efficiency. They can show you where the shutoff valves are to your home and landscape and explain the steps you would take to determine if there is a leak on your property using the "leak detector" on your meter. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation) to learn more.



March 20 - 26, 2023  
**Fix a Leak Week**



## Could You Take Advantage of Our Digital Dashboard?

Our MyWaterUse dashboard powered by AquaHawk provides access to water usage, consumption trends, and other conservation tools to help users manage their water use. Customers can set alert thresholds for spikes in usage to help detect potential leaks. Learn more at [www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse](http://www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse).

