

Storms Provide Short-Term Relief to California's Drought

California has been experiencing wet and dry extremes attributed to a warming planet, resulting in more moisture in the atmosphere and intense atmospheric rivers and storms. The term "atmospheric river" refers to long and narrow bands of moist air and strong surface-level winds that accompany storms. Atmospheric river systems hold large quantities of water and typically last three to five days.

Local storms can provide short-term water conservation benefits as San Diegans turn off their irrigation systems until the soil dries out. However, California can't rely on atmospheric rivers to save us from drought long term without a way to store rainfall. California agencies are researching statewide storage opportunities to capture rainwater that currently is left to evaporate or run to the ocean when soils are too saturated to absorb it. OMWD has joined the "Solve the Water Crisis" coalition, a group of water providers from throughout the state, to prompt further action from Sacramento.



California also relies on water supplied by the Colorado River, which has been experiencing drought conditions for more than two decades. In recent years, approximately 90 percent of the water OMWD treats and supplies to customers has been supplied by the Colorado River.

The Colorado River supplies water to seven states and Mexico, and the US Bureau of Reclamation has called for the seven states to work together to conserve between two to four million acre-feet of water in 2023 to protect water levels. However, the states did not come to an agreement for voluntary cutbacks, and USBR must now decide how to ensure the Colorado River system can continue to support the 40 million people who rely on it each day.

While the other six states believe California should make the biggest cuts in water usage, this could heavily impact the farming industry that supplies food to most of the US. By law, California is the last state to receive water cuts, but if USBR does not call for cutbacks here, indoor water use restrictions may be required by other states. OMWD will continue to closely monitor USBR's evaluation of possible actions and potential impacts on our water supply.



Colorado River Aqueduct

Voice Your Opinion on Water Rates

Regional water wholesaler is proposing up to a 14 percent rate increase in 2024

OMWD's largest expense is the cost of purchasing raw water from the San Diego County Water Authority. SDCWA has proposed a rate increase of approximately 14 percent for next year, impacting future OMWD rates. SDCWA has asked for public input as it drafts its two-year budget and will hold board workshops at its headquarters in Kearny Mesa on May 16 and 18, at which customers may provide input. Visit www.olivenhain.com/sdcwa-rates to learn more.





Municipal Water District

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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.

Recycled Water Pipeline Completed in Encinitas

New "purple pipe" anticipated to reduce potable water demand by 27 million gallons annually

OMWD has completed installation of a new recycled water pipeline along Manchester Avenue and South El Camino Real from Via Poco to Tennis Club Drive. Westmont of Encinitas was the first customer to tap into the new pipeline, and the assisted living facility is now irrigating its property with a locally produced, sustainable, and cost-effective water source.

Additional customers along the Manchester Avenue and South El Camino Real corridor are working on converting their irrigation systems to accommodate the new recycled water supply, ultimately reducing demand for imported potable water by more than 27 million gallons every year. As drought conditions continue to challenge California, projects like this that help save potable water are critical.

The new pipeline is an element of the larger North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project—a collaborative effort among nine North County water and wastewater agencies coordinating across jurisdictional boundaries. While OMWD can produce up to two million gallons of recycled water daily at its 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility, we rely on partnerships with neighboring recycled water providers to serve recycled water to the western portions of our service area. San Elijo Joint Powers Authority in Cardiff produces the recycled water that OMWD serves through the new pipeline.



OMWD aggressively sought grant funding for the pipeline project to reduce costs for ratepayers and will receive \$1.4 million from California's Department of Water Resources for two separate segments of the pipeline. Additionally, the pipeline is part of a suite of North County recycled water projects that was awarded \$23.9 million in funds from the US Bureau of Reclamation.

This project was completed ahead of schedule with minimal disruptions to the surrounding community. OMWD pursues a sustainable and renewable approach to our water portfolio, and projects like this move us closer to our goal of meeting 20 percent of water demand with recycled water.



Save Money on Water-Efficient Devices

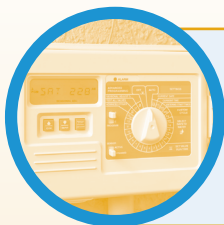
Water use efficiency is important to OMWD and our customers. That's why we offer information on a variety of water-efficient products and rebates at www.olivenhain.com/rebates. Here is a sampling of rebates available for residential and commercial customers.



HIGH-EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHERS use up to 55 percent less water and 25 percent less energy than conventional clothes washers. Get a rebate of up to \$85.



HIGH-EFFICIENCY TOILETS use less water than outdated models, and flush the same amount of waste. Up to 30 percent of indoor water use can be attributed to toilets. Receive a rebate of up to \$40 on qualifying 1.1 gallons per flush or less models.



"SMART" OR WEATHER-BASED IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS allow for more accurate, customized irrigation by automatically adjusting the schedule and amount of water in response to changing weather conditions. Receive a rebate of up to \$200 if your property is less than one acre, or \$35 per station if it is more than one acre, on select models.



ROTATING SPRINKLER NOZZLES use 20 percent less water than conventional spray heads by applying water more slowly and uniformly. Receive a rebate of \$4 per nozzle (30-nozzle minimum) on select models.



Collecting rainwater for future use not only conserves drinking water, but also reduces irrigation runoff that can carry pollutants into local waterways and beaches. Rebates on **rain barrels and rain cisterns** are determined by size. For example, a rebate of up to \$35 is available for a 50-gallon rain barrel (two-barrel maximum).

Visit Our California-Friendly Demonstration Garden

The California-friendly Demonstration Garden at OMWD headquarters provides tangible examples of water-efficient landscaping techniques that can save water and money. This year, we have added a model of hydroponic gardening.

Hydroponic systems grow plants in a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil. These systems can be used at homes, small farms, and large agriculture facilities. Hydroponic systems use less water than traditional soil-based growing systems and can allow for faster growth and higher yields. To get started at home, all you need are plants, a way to anchor the plants, water, nutrients, and a light source.

Customers can visit the garden and hydroponic gardening tower any day of the year, or online at www.olivenhain.com/garden. This demo garden hydroponic unit is fully functional and will be maintained by BCK Programs. BCK Programs will be mentoring local scout troops to conduct maintenance of the unit, and in turn, the scouts will earn conservation patches for their volunteer work. Crops harvested will be available for scout volunteers, employees, and/or donated to a local community food bank.



Graywater - Are you wasting good water?

Graywater is lightly used household water from showers, bathtubs, clothes washing machines, and bathroom sinks. By using graywater to water your landscape, you can reduce the amount of drinking water used for irrigation, reduce water entering our sewer system, and decrease your utility bills.

Depending on your landscape's needs and water usage, using graywater for irrigation can amount to 12,000 gallons of water savings a year.

Graywater may include some soap, but is clean enough to water plants in your landscape, especially ornamental and larger plants, such as trees, bushes, and shrubs. It does not include wastewater from toilets, kitchen sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water with soiled diapers.

One of the simplest and most common graywater systems in residential settings is Laundry-to-Landscape. A Laundry-to-Landscape system diverts

water used in your washing machine into your landscape and does not require a permit. When completed as a "Do-It-Yourself" project, the cost to install this system can be as low as \$200.

Learn more about installing graywater systems, including a Laundry-to-Landscape video and helpful resources, at www.olivenhain.com/graywater.

Is it Time to Check Your Pressure Regulator?

You may wonder why agencies build water reservoirs on the top of hills. Using gravity to feed water to homes and businesses reduces energy costs, which ultimately impact water rates. The many hills and valleys of our service area aid in the delivery of a safe, reliable water supply, but steep hills can create high pressure as elevation changes directly correlate to an area's water pressure.

In addition, to provide adequate water pressure for fire protection, water from the main line can come through the meter in some locations at a pressure that is higher than ideal for home appliances. For this reason, homes and businesses should have a properly functioning pressure regulator in order to maintain ideal water pressure coming into their property, protecting appliances and private water lines. Pressure-regulating devices are also available for irrigation systems to reduce water waste from misting, evaporation, and wind drift.

Pressure regulators have a limited lifespan and require periodic evaluation and maintenance. The purchase and maintenance of pressure regulators are the responsibility of the property owner. Learn more at www.olivenhain.com/meter.



**PRESSURE
REGULATOR**