

Investing in Reliability

Celebrating 20 Years of Recycled Water Service



San Diego County faces many water supply challenges due to such factors as droughts, population growth, and regulatory hurdles. For these reasons, OMWD has long pursued alternative water supplies like recycled water, a reliable, drought-proof approach for complementing existing water sources.



In 1998, OMWD annexed the 4S Ranch and Rancho Cielo sanitation districts from the County of San Diego and took ownership of a small wastewater treatment facility in 4S Ranch. OMWD expanded the facility, and our 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility began serving high-quality recycled water for irrigation in August 2003. The facility can treat up to two million gallons of wastewater every day.

Since 2003, OMWD has significantly increased its recycled water purchases through connections with neighboring agencies, including the City of San Diego, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, Rancho Santa Fe Community Services District, and Vallecitos Water District. Each year, OMWD installs additional recycled water pipelines and converts more customers from potable water to recycled water. In fact, OMWD can now serve up to 15 percent of its total water demand with recycled water.

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Outdoor Water-Saving Tips for Summer

Rising summer temperatures can lead to an increase in landscape watering. Reviewing your water bills to compare your winter water use with your summer use can show how much additional water you are using outdoors when it's hot. For example, a 1,000-square-foot section of lawn can require 5,000 gallons a month in the summer. At about a penny a gallon, that's a \$50 a month increase alone.

OMWD provides a free program to evaluate your water usage to help you save both water and money. A professional trained in landscape and home water use systems will provide you with a custom list of ways to improve water use efficiency and develop an irrigation schedule specifically for your landscape.



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Municipal Water District

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Municipal Water District in the
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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.

Tips: Continued from page 1

Our consultant can also explain the steps
you would take to determine if there is
a leak on your property using the "leak
detector" on your meter, show you where
the shutoff valves are to your home
and landscape, and inspect your irrigation
system for leaks and broken or clogged
sprinkler heads. Visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation to schedule your free
water use evaluation.



Customers can also take advantage of our **My Water Use** dashboard.
This digital tool provides access to your water meter reads to help you detect
abnormal usage, including leaks or breaks in your irrigation system. My
Water Use also allows you to set up email or text alerts to help you avoid
surprises on your water bill. Visit www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse to
learn more.

In addition to OMWD's free programs, consider these five tips for saving
water outdoors this summer:

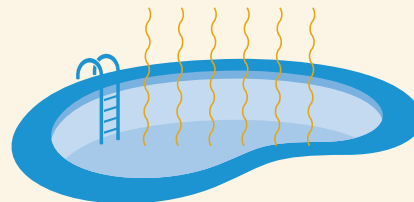
1. Water your lawn only when needed. If you
step on the blades and they spring back up,
there is no need to water. ***(Bonus tip: longer
grass promotes deeper root growth,
resulting in a more drought-resistant
lawn and reduced evaporation.)***



2. Consider upgrading to a weather-based
irrigation controller that uses local weather
data to determine when and how much to
water, reducing water waste. According to
the US Environmental Protection Agency,
replacing a timed controller with a weather-
based controller can save an average home
up to 15,000 gallons of water annually.

Rebate\$ available at
www.socalwatersmart.com

3. Give your hose a break by
sweeping driveways, sidewalks,
and steps rather than hosing
them off.



4. Cover your pool when not in use.

5. Consider retrofitting conventional
spray heads with rotating sprinkler
nozzles that use 20 percent less water.

Rebate\$ available at
www.socalwatersmart.com



Encinitas Home Wins 2023 WaterSmart Landscape Contest

Congratulations to Brad Lefkowits of Encinitas, whose water-efficient landscape was the winning entry in our annual WaterSmart Landscape Contest. Mr. Lefkowits captures rainwater in a 530-gallon cistern and sends overflow into a series of connected swales that can hold over an inch of rain without a drop leaving the property. Minimizing water runoff into the streets reduces the number of pollutants that are carried down into storm drains and eventually into the ocean.



In addition to planting many native species, Mr. Lefkowits included plants from other Mediterranean climates in his landscape. He also installed a 300-square-foot lawn for his kids and dog, using a mix of California Buffalo Grass and native *Carex praegracilis* that only needs to be watered once a week. While he uses high-efficiency rotating sprinkler nozzles for the small lawn, all other areas are irrigated with an in-line drip system.

This annual contest was designed to inspire landscape transformations by highlighting colorful and lush landscapes that use less water than turf-heavy landscapes and often require less maintenance.

OMWD Offers Turf Removal Rebates To Encourage Landscape Transformations

OMWD encourages customers to continue to increase outdoor water use efficiency, and replacing large turf areas with drought-tolerant plants could cut a home's outdoor water use in half. Rebates starting at \$2 per square foot of turf removed are available at www.socalwatersmart.com.



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OMWD is also a founding member of the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition, comprised of nine northern San Diego County water and wastewater agencies working across jurisdictional boundaries to reduce the impact of water supply shortages on San Diego County's \$268 billion economy. This regional approach has proven successful in developing local projects as well as obtaining grant funding, significantly reducing the costs of water recycling projects for North County water ratepayers. The Coalition has secured over \$9 million for recycled water projects through the state's Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Additionally, Coalition efforts at the federal level have secured \$23.8 million to help cover costs for water reclamation projects through 2025.

This summer, OMWD is utilizing grant funding to begin construction on three recycled water pipelines near Calle Barcelona in Carlsbad and in Village Park in Encinitas. Once complete, OMWD can convert up to 27 meters to recycled water, offsetting 12.7 million gallons of potable water used annually for irrigation.



Congratulations to the Winners of Our Sixteenth Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Photo Contest

OMWD is proud to operate Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve and holds an annual photo contest to help promote the recreational opportunities it offers and showcase the importance of protecting open space. Winners were chosen from nearly 100 entries in five categories, and EFRR Facebook followers also selected a People's Choice award winner. This year's winners are:



"Itsy Bitsy Momma"
by Francis Bova
People's Choice



"Dewdrops"
by Francis Bova
Best in Show



"Pond"
by Lauren Berg
Youth (under 15 years of age)



"Me-xal Overlook"
by Jeff Shearer
Scenic View



"Night Heron"
by Kay Wood
Animals



"Color Bloom"
by Jaena Reyes
Plants



"Reflection?"
by Sabine Kurz-Sherman
Water Scenery

Through December 31, winning photographs are on display at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty, located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road near Escondido. The interpretive center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., subject to docent availability. Visit www.olivenhain.com/efrr to view the current schedule.