

## OMWD Wins Grants for Recycled Water Pipeline Extensions and Continues to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water



OMWD is preparing to break ground on a new project that will further reduce the region's reliance on imported water by expanding our recycled water distribution system in Encinitas and Carlsbad.

OMWD receives 100 percent of its drinking water supply from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the Colorado River. These sources are distant from OMWD and have become unreliable due to droughts and overuse. Recycled water is locally produced, disinfected wastewater that is used for irrigation. Not only is it a drought-resilient supply, but recycled water also costs less than potable water. In addition, using recycled water reduces the amount of treated wastewater discharged to the ocean and reduces our dependence on imported water from faraway sources.

OMWD has identified opportunities to connect more customers to its recycled water distribution system. Construction will take place at three different sites in the cities of Encinitas and Carlsbad to install approximately 5,600 feet of new recycled water pipelines. The completion of these pipeline extensions will result in the conversion of 28 water meters from potable to recycled water, saving more than 12 million gallons of imported drinking water every year.

OMWD was successful in achieving approximately \$900,000 in grant funding to make this project cost-effective for ratepayers. Specifically, both the US Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources are contributing grant funds to offset project costs.



Up to  
**15%**  
of OMWD's demand  
is met through  
recycled water

*Continued on page 3*



## October Is National Fire Prevention Month

Wildfires can happen at any time in San Diego County. The fall months pose an increased risk due to warm temperatures and strong, dry winds.

OMWD has taken several measures to ensure emergency preparedness. Reservoirs are full of drinking water, and backup generators are on standby to continue water deliveries even if power supplies are interrupted. Additionally, should imported water supplies be interrupted, OMWD connects to the regional system of reservoirs, pump stations, and pipelines that can provide continued water availability to our customers.

*Continued on page 2*

1966 Olivenhain Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
760-753-6466  
[www.olivenhain.com](http://www.olivenhain.com)



Published by Olivenhain Municipal Water District in the interest of an informed public.

### Board of Directors

Christy Guerin, President  
Matthew R. Hahn, Vice President  
Neal Meyers, Treasurer  
Lawrence A. Watt, Secretary  
Marco San Antonio, Director

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.

### GENERAL COUNSEL

Alfred Smith, Esq.

### 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.

National Fire Prevention Month provides a good opportunity for customers to consider actions at their homes and businesses to prepare for a wildfire emergency, such as:



Revisiting your emergency response planning to protect structures and your family from a fire or another emergency by planning to evacuate early and packing an emergency supply kit. According to American Red Cross, kits should include a three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day), a three-day supply of food for each person and pet, a first aid kit, medications, important documents, and contact numbers.



Helping protect homes and businesses from fires by installing a fire-wise landscape. In addition to providing fire protection benefits, fire-wise landscapes can require significantly less water for irrigation than traditional turf-heavy landscapes. Firewise techniques include:



- o Replacing plants that burn rapidly with fire-resistant ones, including many native species, that burn more slowly while adding diversity and beauty to our landscape designs. Drought-tolerant and native plants tend to retain their moisture, even in the face of flames, so they don't generate enough heat to burn structures. For example, plump-leafed succulents, such as various agaves, have proven to be a key defense due to their high moisture content.
- o Minimizing the risk of home ignition by carefully landscaping around residential structures, such as thinning trees and brush, and incorporating gravel and stone hardscape in your landscape design.
- o Selecting trees that are less likely to flare up when fire approaches. Wildfire specialists recommend avoiding species high in oils and resins, such as acacia, eucalyptus, juniper, and pines.

In the event of an emergency that has impacted your water service, please call 760-753-6466 or visit [www.olivenhain.com](http://www.olivenhain.com) for updates.





## Fall Is the New Spring for Southern California Gardening

Fall is considered the ideal time to plant and make landscape changes. It's important that new trees, shrubs, and other plants develop a strong root system during the fall and winter, and soil that is still warm from the summer's heat encourages root growth. Additionally, autumn days are cooler and shorter, so plants have less moisture loss through their leaves. Fall planting also allows you to take advantage of natural rainfall instead of relying solely on irrigation systems.

## Consider Replacing Thirsty Turf With California-Friendly Plants

Did you know that most residential water is used on our landscapes? You can save money and water by removing unused, water-thirsty turf areas. Rebates to replace turf with low-water-use plants are available and start at \$2 per square foot. Learn more at [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com).

Lose some  
Get some



## Time to "Fall Back"



Daylight Saving Time will end on November 5. Remember to adjust your irrigation controller while changing the clocks inside your home. As the days grow shorter and temperatures become milder, plants require less water.

It is also important to check the batteries in your irrigation controller at this time and replace them if not fully charged. Doing so ensures that your irrigation run times will not return to factory defaults after a power outage. Default settings often water for at least ten minutes per station daily, which can significantly increase water use.

Should you need any assistance in programming your irrigation controller, we can help! Through our free water use evaluation program, a certified landscape auditor and architect will develop an irrigation schedule specifically for your landscape, answer questions, and provide you with a custom list of ways to improve water use efficiency at your home or business. Learn more and schedule your evaluation at [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation).

*Recycled Water: Continued from page 1*

The project includes three components. One component is located on Calle Barcelona, southeast of Rancho Santa Fe Road in Carlsbad. Another component includes the installation of new recycled water pipelines on Park Dale



Lane and Village Park Way in Encinitas. The third component of the project will take place on Summerhill Drive and Village Center Drive in Encinitas. Completion of the project is expected in late 2024. OMWD will be coordinating with the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas on a traffic management plan to minimize the impacts of construction in these neighborhoods. For more details on construction and how OMWD is working to mitigate impacts to our customers, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/projects](http://www.olivenhain.com/projects).

For questions and comments, please email [projects@olivenhain.com](mailto:projects@olivenhain.com).

## Unlock WaterSmart Savings With the Latest in Irrigation Advances

*Join us on November 6, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., for a free WaterSmart irrigation workshop.*

This complimentary workshop is designed for individuals interested in the latest irrigation system advances that improve water use efficiency and save money. Participants will learn how to create a sustainable landscape through simple irrigation system retrofits, the installation of stormwater capture elements, and more.



OMWD will hold the workshop at the Encinitas Community and Senior Center, located at 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive in Encinitas. Registration is required at [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).

## Preparing for the Possibility of Another Wet Winter

El Niño is the periodic warming of water in the Pacific Ocean every few years. When it occurs, it means more energy is available for storms to form. El Niño conditions do not cause individual storms, but influence their frequency and characteristics, potentially bringing above-average rain to Southern California.

The development of El Niño may affect winter weather during the 2023-2024 season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts a 95 percent chance of El Niño conditions for December through February; however, the severity of the event is still unknown.

In anticipation of the potentially above-average rainfall this winter, consider installing a rain barrel or cistern on your property. A 1,000-square-foot roof has the potential to yield as much as 600 gallons per one inch of rain received. In addition to reducing your monthly water bill, capturing rainwater for irrigation is a great way to reduce runoff that can carry harmful pollutants into our waterways and ocean. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/rebates](http://www.olivenhain.com/rebates) to learn about rain barrel or cistern rebates.

