

## Construction to Begin on a Recycled Water Project Along Calle Barcelona in Carlsbad

**Grant funding allows OMWD to further reduce dependence on imported drinking water**

In the coming weeks, construction is scheduled to begin on 5,600 feet of new recycled water pipeline in Carlsbad and Encinitas that will save more than 12.5 million gallons of imported drinking water every year.

This first phase of the project includes adding recycled water pipeline along Calle Barcelona, southeast of Rancho Santa Fe Road in Carlsbad. Work is scheduled to take place Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Additionally, restricted work hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, will be in effect for any work directly impacting Mission Estancia Elementary. No impacts to customers' drinking water supplies are anticipated.



OMWD is coordinating with the City of Carlsbad on a traffic management plan to mitigate construction traffic. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2024. Project updates can be found at [www.olivenhain.com/projects](http://www.olivenhain.com/projects), and by following OMWD on Facebook and X. Please email [projects@olivenhain.com](mailto:projects@olivenhain.com) with questions or comments.

Recycled water is a safe and sustainable source of supply that reduces reliance on imported water. OMWD currently delivers about 850 million gallons of recycled water annually, offsetting its drinking water demand by as much as 15 percent.

Homeowner associations along the pipeline that are currently using potable water for landscape irrigation will be able to take advantage of this lower-cost, drought-resistant source of water. OMWD was successful in achieving approximately \$900,000 in grant funding to make this project cost-effective for our ratepayers. Specifically, both the US Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources are contributing grant funds to offset project costs.

## OMWD Board Approved a Revenue Adjustment of 7.4% in 2024 Despite Double-Digit Increases in Wholesale Water Costs

In 2023, the San Diego County Water Authority voted to increase wholesale water rates by 11.8%, effective January 1, despite OMWD voting against the increase. To contend with these cost increases, OMWD's Board of Directors approved at its January 17 meeting a revenue adjustment of 7.4% that will take effect on March 1. The measure included drawing from OMWD reserves to lower the impact of wholesale cost increases to OMWD customers.



Municipal Water District

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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.

Rates: Continued from page 1

To further reduce this impact, OMWD's board approved in November 2023 increasing the existing Rate Reimbursement Credit from 6.9 cents to 11 cents per unit of potable water, effective March 1. This credit is a result of lawsuits filed by SDCWA between 2010 and 2018 that successfully challenged the legality of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California water rates and charges. OMWD's board created the Rate Reimbursement Credit to refund customers the \$3.6 million that OMWD received from the settlement. Customers have received the Rate Reimbursement Credit since March 2022.

For a full list of 2024 rates, fees, and rules affecting the terms of water service, view Articles 8 and 9 of OMWD's Administrative and Ethics Code at [www.olivenhain.com/code](http://www.olivenhain.com/code).

## Announcing Spring Contests for OMWD Students

### Are you a fourth grader who loves art?

OMWD encourages fourth grade students living or attending school within our service area to enter the North County water agencies' annual poster contest. Since 1992, the contest has taught students the value of water as a limited resource and the importance of using water efficiently. Participants will use their imaginations to illustrate ways to "Love Water, Save Water" at home or school by conserving water, reducing pollution, or depicting water-wise methods used by local ancestors.



A 2025 water awareness calendar will feature OMWD's top three winners, who will also receive prizes and certificates of excellence at our May board meeting. The deadline for entries is April 1. Find more information and download an entry form at [www.olivenhain.com/school](http://www.olivenhain.com/school).

### Looking for scholarship \$?

High school students are invited to create a fun and informative short video, one minute or less, highlighting the ways special districts make a difference in local communities. Have fun learning about special districts and expressing your creativity for a chance to win up to \$2,000 from the National Special Districts Coalition. Second and third place receive \$1,000 and \$500 respectively, and the teacher of each winning student will earn \$500.



OMWD is a special district that provides water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and recreational opportunities. OMWD asks that students submit footage shot within San Diego County, which reflects the importance of water to communities, the value of water in everyday life, or the efforts involved to ensure a safe and reliable supply of water.

The video entries will be scored on creativity and originality, entertainment value, accuracy and value of the information presented, and production quality.

Learn more at [www.olivenhain.com/school](http://www.olivenhain.com/school) or give us a call at 760-753-6466. The deadline to apply is March 31.





## Do You Have a Beautiful Landscape That Uses Less Water Than Traditional Turf Lawns?

**Show it off and inspire others to toss their turf by entering our 2024 WaterSmart Landscape Contest for a chance to win a \$250 prize!**

The annual WaterSmart Landscape Contest is an opportunity for our customers to showcase their water-wise landscapes that create beauty in their neighborhoods. It also allows us to recognize those who have swapped turf-heavy lawns for drought-tolerant landscaping, and raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable landscaping. Entries will be scored on overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, appropriate maintenance, and efficient methods of irrigation. For more information on the contest, including images of past winners, visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com). The deadline to enter is May 10.

### 2023 Contest-winning Landscape



## Considering a California-friendly Landscape Makeover?

Join us on March 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., for our California-friendly landscape design workshop. Taught by a local landscape professional, the workshop will give you the skills and knowledge to transform your yard into a beautiful and sustainable landscape that saves water and will thrive in our Mediterranean climate. The workshop will be held at OMWD's headquarters, located at 1966 Olivenhain Road in Encinitas. Learn more at [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).



### Savings Alert!

Turf-removal rebates, beginning at \$2 per square foot removed, are available to OMWD customers who are considering a landscape "upgrade." Visit [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) to learn more.

## Enter Our Seventeenth Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Amateur Photography Contest

**Enjoy a hike with your phone or camera, and you could be rewarded with San Diego Zoo passes, \$100 cash, or REI gear.**

Our 784-acre reserve was developed by OMWD in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority and the US Bureau of Land Management as an element of the Olivenhain Water Storage Project and SDCWA's Emergency Storage Project. The reserve's 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails provide plenty of opportunities to photograph Escondido Creek, native plant communities, as well as the Pacific Ocean, Channel and Coronado Islands, and Laguna and San Bernardino mountain ranges.

Photo Contest: Continued from page 3

Winning photos will be selected from five categories—Scenic View, Water Scenery, Plants, Animals, and Youth (photographers age 15 and under). In addition, there are also Best in Show and People's Choice awards. Winners are eligible for prizes donated by local businesses, such as passes to the San Diego Zoo, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, and California Wolf Center; a canvas print from PC Photo and Imaging; outdoor equipment from REI; and a \$100 cash prize from the Escondido Creek Conservancy. Additionally, winning images will be displayed at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty from July through December in 2024. Learn more and enter at [www.olivenhain.com/photo](http://www.olivenhain.com/photo). The deadline to enter is April 21.

### 2023 Photo Contest Winners



**Francis Bova / "Dewdrops"**  
**2023 BEST IN SHOW**



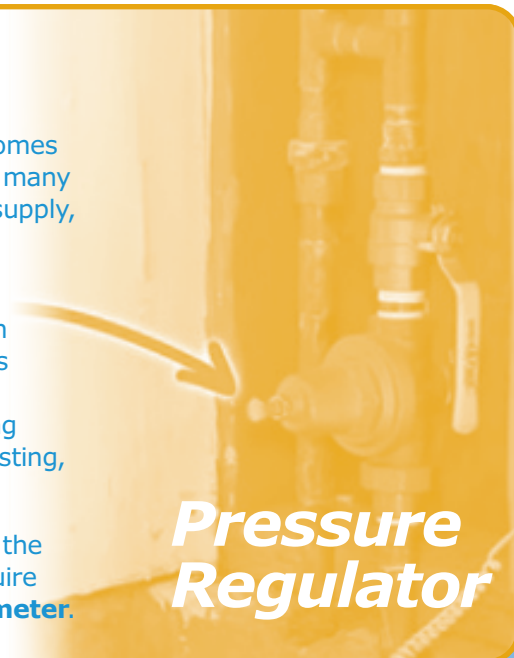
**Lauren Berg / "Pond"**  
**2023 YOUTH CATEGORY**

### Is It Time to Check Your Pressure Regulator?

Have you ever noticed water tanks located high on a hill in your neighborhood? Water agencies store water on the top of hills to use gravity to feed water to homes and businesses, reducing energy costs that 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.

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

The purchase and maintenance of pressure regulators are the responsibility of the property owner. Because pressure regulators have a limited lifespan, they require periodic evaluation and maintenance. Learn more at [www.olivenhain.com/meter](http://www.olivenhain.com/meter).



**Pressure  
Regulator**