

Celebrating 65 Years of Pure Excellence

This year marked OMWD's 65th year of providing dedicated public service. Since incorporating in 1959, we have expanded our services so that we now provide drinking water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydro-electric power, and the operation of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. In 2024, OMWD served over 4.6 billion gallons of drinking water and 700 million gallons of recycled water.

Below are highlights from our 65th year. It has been an honor to serve you!

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility

- OMWD purchases 100 percent of our drinking water supplies from San Diego County Water Authority, which we then treat and deliver to your tap. SDCWA increased its 2025 wholesale water rates to OMWD by 14 percent. However, OMWD implemented cost-cutting measures to help keep the impact to our average residential customer's bill to less than five percent, remaining in the lower half of water rates across the region.
- OMWD continues to challenge employees to reduce costs. Efforts include pursuing grant funding and identifying alternative ways to increase revenue beyond water sales. In fiscal year 2024, these efforts offset well over \$2 million in operating costs.
- Employees also strive to find new and more efficient ways to accomplish their work, such as making custom tank drain strainers to increase efficiency at our David C. McCollom Water Treatment Plant. Fabricating our own strainers saves OMWD approximately \$10,000 per year.
- OMWD is proud to maintain an "AAA" rating from Fitch Ratings, a global rating agency that offers independent credit opinions. This rating highlights OMWD's strong financial profile, stable revenue sources, and low operating risks. AAA is the highest possible rating assigned by Fitch, which results in significant savings for our ratepayers in financial transactions.

Investing in Reliability and Efficiency

- OMWD expanded our recycled water system by completing two new pipelines and converting five new meter connections. The savings are so large that the conversion to recycled water at just one school will save up to an estimated 600,000 gallons of drinking water every year. Expanding our recycled water system reduces the need to import drinking water, improving sustainability.
- OMWD is a leader in preventing water loss in our distribution system and uses many proactive measures to minimize water loss. Measures include cathodic protection to prevent corrosion of pipelines, replacement of old pipelines and apparatuses, and replacement of underperforming meters. In 2024, OMWD replaced approximately 1,000 underperforming meters and 32 distribution system valves that were no longer operating efficiently. According to State Water Resources Control Board guidelines, our water loss is as low as is economically feasible to achieve.



**Installing recycled
water pipeline**

OLIVENHAIN

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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 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.

Investing in Reliability and Efficiency | Continued from page 1

- In 2024, OMWD completed upgrading all of our water meters to Advanced Metering Infrastructure technology. This allows all of our customers to view their water use in near real-time. Meter read data is transmitted to a "fixed-base" receiver so that technicians no longer need to drive along each street every month to collect data. Since the AMI system drastically reduces costs associated with meter reading, like labor and fuel, OMWD can better control our costs while reducing our carbon footprint.
- To satisfy a US Environmental Protection Agency requirement designed to protect communities from lead exposure, OMWD completed an inventory of private service lines in our 48-square-mile service area. No lead service lines were identified.
- OMWD continues to investigate the feasibility of San Dieguito Valley Brackish Groundwater Desalination Project to diversify local water supply. The development of a reliable, sustainable water source is becoming increasingly important as imported water costs continue to rise. Taking advantage of a \$959,752 grant from US EPA, which was sponsored by Representative Scott Peters, OMWD's board approved in 2024 several steps to advance the project. Steps include exploratory borings, pump tests, and the construction of monitoring wells to gather additional data and information.

Celebrating Achievements

- Government Finance Officers Association honored OMWD with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 29th consecutive year! The award recognized OMWD's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2022 and 2023. GFOA experts determined that our document accurately and fairly communicated OMWD's financial statements in a clear and transparent manner.
- OMWD received a Project of the Year Honor Award from the American Public Works Association's San Diego and Imperial County Chapter for our Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Pipeline Project. The project involved the installation of 7,000 linear feet of recycled water pipeline. The recycled water will serve the irrigation needs of MiraCosta College, homeowner associations, religious centers, and other customers in Encinitas, reducing drinking water demand by about 27 million gallons a year.
- OMWD achieved multiple grant awards this year, reducing the cost of major projects to our ratepayers. In addition to winning grants for OMWD-specific projects, OMWD also led successful grant efforts for the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition. The coalition is a group of nine water and wastewater agencies in San Diego County working beyond jurisdictional boundaries to reduce demand for imported water. US Bureau of Reclamation awarded over \$6 million for the coalition's Regional Recycled Water Program: 2020 Project. Upon completion of all components, the project is estimated to add 11 billion gallons of recycled water and potable reuse to San Diego's water supply portfolio. This is the third grant that USBR has awarded the coalition in the last three years. The three grant awards, totaling nearly \$30 million, will help cover costs for work performed through September 2025. For OMWD, this translates to over \$4.4 million for our recycled water projects.
- California Special Districts Association honored OMWD with its Exceptional Outreach and Advocacy Award. The award recognized OMWD as California's top agency for communication with legislators and policymakers on topics such as water affordability, water use efficiency regulations, and reliable water supplies.



- To inspire future water professionals, OMWD and partners Leucadia Wastewater District and San Elijo Joint Powers Authority hosted a Water Career Day event for nearly 100 high school and junior college students. Attendees participated in hands-on stations that introduced them to technology and engineering within the water industry.

Set Water Use Alerts to Save Money

This year, OMWD completed the rollout of Advanced Metering Infrastructure on all water meters in our service area. All customers are now able to view their water use in near real-time via the My Water Use dashboard.

My Water Use communicates with water meters on your property to detect abnormal usage, including potential leaks. You can set thresholds to be alerted of abnormal usage to help you avoid surprises on your water bill.

Visit our website at www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse for more

information on My Water Use, including step-by-step guides and tutorial videos.



My Thresholds

Account # 0000000-0000000 Meter # 00000000 (Water-Resider)

Billing Period Thresholds (Account)

Estimated Bill Alert Threshold	Water Use Alert Threshold
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Projected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Projected
<input type="text" value="Bill Amount (dollars)"/>	<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>

Water Use Thresholds (Meter)

1 Hour	<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>	1 Week	<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>
1 Day	<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>	1 Month	<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>
<input type="text" value="Water Use (Gallons)"/>	gallons per hour for	<input type="text" value="24 Hours"/>	<input type="text" value=""/>

Customize Your Dashboard – Set use thresholds to receive alerts based on your water use by hour, day, week, and/or month!



Consider Capturing Rain to Use in Your Garden

OMWD is hosting a free workshop on January 25 for customers to learn about the benefits of rain barrels and current best practices for rainwater collection. The workshop will be held at 10:00 a.m. at 1966 Olivenhain Road in Encinitas.

Topics to be covered include rain system installation, downspout and rain barrel connections, rain chains, and maintenance. Attendees will learn how to empty rainwater from barrels during the rainy season to improve storage capacity, and how to apply for rebates. After a presentation, attendees will tour our demonstration garden, which features a rain barrel and rain cistern.

Reserve your spot at www.olivenhain.com/events.



Consider Visiting Us in 2025!

Join Us for a Behind-the-Scenes Tour of OMWD Operations

Learn about OMWD by attending a public tour of our facilities. Customers can see first-hand how we treat our drinking water and transform wastewater into recycled water that is used for irrigation. Guests will also experience our 784-acre Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Visit www.olivenhain.com/events for more information and to register for our January 9 tour.



Enter Eighteenth Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Amateur Photography Contest

OMWD launched our annual photo contest on November 23. Contest submissions help promote the importance of protecting wildlife habitat at our reserve. There are five categories to submit photos in—Scenic View, Water Scenery, Plants, Animals, and Youth (photographers age 15 and under). Winning photographers are rewarded with prizes donated by local businesses.

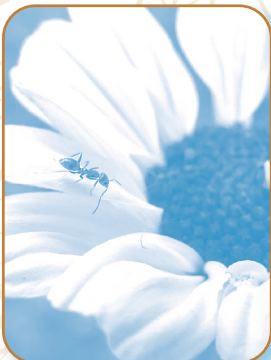
Prizes this year include passes to San Diego Zoo, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, and California Wolf Center; a canvas print from PC Photo and Imaging; outdoor equipment from REI; and a \$100 cash prize from the Escondido Creek Conservancy. Additionally, winning images will be displayed at our Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty late in 2025.

The reserve was 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 SDCWA's Emergency Storage Project. The reserve's 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails provide 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.

Learn more and enter at www.olivenhain.com/photo. The deadline to enter is April 27.

2024 Winners

YOUTH



"Overlooked Elegance"
by Ray Santiago

PLANTS



"Mushroom"
by Adrian Flores

WATER SCENERY



"Leaf Race"
by Keith Kelley

BEST IN SHOW



"Warbler with Bee"
by Keith Kelley