

## 2025 Northern California Storms Have Improved State Water Supplies

Due to increased rainfall in Northern California, the state's reservoirs are experiencing significant improvements in water storage levels. For example, as of March 2025, Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta reported storage levels at 123 percent and 111 percent of historical average levels, respectively.

The bulk of this improvement in water storage levels is a result of large winter storms called atmospheric rivers. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, atmospheric rivers can carry tremendous amounts of water vapor, equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. These rivers can dump large volumes of water in a short amount of time.

However, while California water storage levels have increased, the Colorado River reservoir system remains only 43 percent full. As of March 2025, the Colorado River's flow is much lower than its historical average, with estimates as low as 20 percent of the long-term average. As a key source of water for OMWD customers, this serves as a reminder of the need to continue to use water efficiently.

To assist customers in making conservation a way of life, rebates are available for water-efficient devices such as weather-based irrigation controllers, high-efficiency clothes washers, rotating sprinkler nozzles, high-efficiency toilets, and turf removal. Visit [www.socalwatersmart.com](http://www.socalwatersmart.com) or call 888-376-3314 for more information about these rebates.



Lake Oroville 2022



Lake Oroville 2025

## OMWD Maintains AAA Bond Rating



Fitch Ratings reviewed OMWD's revenue bonds in March and determined that OMWD will maintain its AAA rating. Since 2016, OMWD's revenue bonds have held the AAA rating, which is the highest grade awarded by Fitch Ratings, a global rating agency that offers independent credit opinions. The AAA rating confirms that we are budgeting appropriately and managing our finances responsibly while providing a high level of service to our ratepayers.

The AAA rating will have lasting benefits for our customers, as it will allow OMWD to continue to finance improvement projects at lower interest rates. The lower interest rates will result in savings over time and help alleviate pressure to increase water rates from rising wholesale costs.



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

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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 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.

## My Water Use Tool - Saving You Money

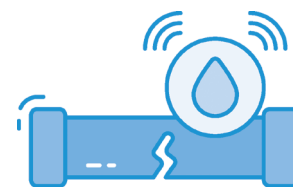
### Set leak alerts with the click of a mouse

Our My Water Use tool can notify you when your water usage exceeds a certain dollar amount each month. It also can alert you if your estimated bill is expected to exceed the dollar amount that you set. You specify how you want to be contacted: e-mail, text, or telephone.

While viewing your water bill online, select "View Bill and Usage," and then select "View Usage" to access this tool. Select "My Thresholds" to set alerts based on your water use each month.

In this example, the customer wants to be notified both when their bill exceeds \$500 at any time during the billing period ("Current") and if they are on track to exceed \$500 at the end of the billing period ("Projected").

You can also set up an alert if water is constantly flowing through your meter for a specific length of time. This could indicate a leak, and the alert can help prevent costly property damage and provide you peace of mind when you're away from your home.



Learn more at [www.olivenhain.com/MyWaterUse](http://www.olivenhain.com/MyWaterUse).

## Don't Forget to Check Your Pressure Regulator!

Does your faucet leak or toilet run constantly? Do the pipes in your home rattle or bang? A faulty water pressure regulator could be the cause.

Even in newer homes, pressure regulators can wear out and fail. Regulators may last as little as one year or as long as 20 years. When a regulator fails, toilets, dishwashers, washing machines, and other appliances can begin to leak, wasting water and money.

Be sure to maintain your pressure regulator to ensure proper water pressure (45-65 pounds per square inch) in your home. If you haven't tested your home's water pressure regulator recently, now is a great time to do so to ensure everything is in good working order. Pressure-regulating devices are also available for irrigation systems to reduce water waste from misting, evaporation, and wind drift.

Unsure how to test your home's water pressure? OMWD offers free water use evaluations on indoor and outdoor use that include a pressure reading.

Visit [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation) to learn more.



Pressure regulating devices are often located in a garage.

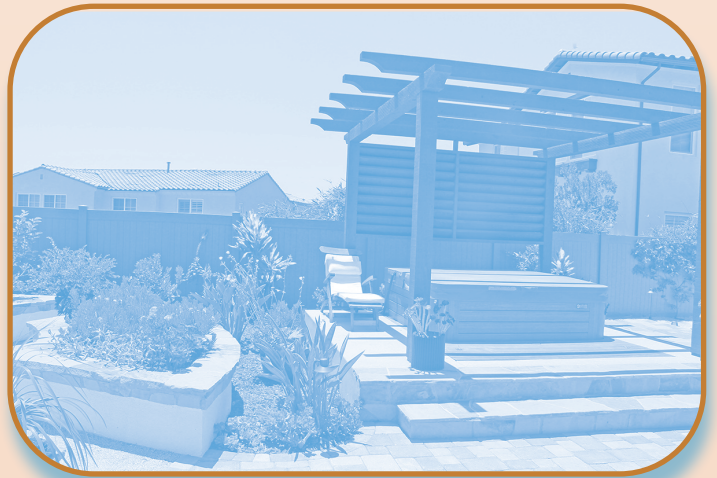


## Is Your Yard Beautiful AND Water-Efficient?

Enter our 2025 WaterSmart Landscape Contest for a chance to win a \$250 prize!

Share your story with us if you've transformed your yard into a California-friendly design using water-wise changes. This regional contest was designed to highlight landscapes that do not require as much water and maintenance as a traditional lawn. You can help us inspire others to make similar changes at their homes.

Visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com) for details and an application. Call 760-632-4213 if you have any questions. The deadline for entering is May 9.



## Water's Trip to Your Tap

*The value of a safe, reliable water supply*

Delivering a safe, reliable water supply every day is no small feat. The water that helps our communities thrive is part of the complex journey of California's water system.

Our water supply for drinking water is 100 percent imported. Our sources are the California State Water Project (Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta) and the Colorado River. The 444-mile-long California Aqueduct brings water from Northern California to Central and Southern California. The Colorado River Aqueduct is a 242-mile system that carries millions of gallons of water a day from the Colorado River across the desert to Southern California. Moving this water requires a lot of energy and billions of dollars of physical infrastructure. OMWD receives raw water from these two sources and treats it with ultrafiltration membranes at our David C. McCollom Water

Treatment Plant. On its way to your home or business, treated water will travel through our potable water system, consisting of 466 miles of pipeline, 17 water reservoirs, six pump stations, and over 29,000 water meters, which are continuously monitored and regularly maintained.

OMWD takes great pride in delivering high-quality water to your faucet every day of the year – at a cost of around a penny a gallon.





## Avoid using your toilet as a trashcan

Please avoid flushing items such as wipes, diapers, rags, and towels down the drain. They not only cause problems for wastewater facilities, but they can also back up the plumbing at your home or business.



### Toilet: Flushed Wipes

Flushing wet wipes, even ones that claim to be “flushable,” can clog home plumbing systems, leading to expensive repairs.



### Drain: Sewer Overflows

Once wipes make it to the sewer system, they can catch on roots that infiltrate pipes, weaving together to form large rags. These rags attract fats, oils, and grease in the system. This can result in blockages and sewer spills.



### River: Environmental Harm

Small microfibers and microplastics can shed off wipes and make their way into the environment.



### Pump: Damaged Sewer Systems

Most sewer systems rely on pumps to move wastewater to treatment facilities. Wipes can clog these pumps, resulting in spills, system failures, and damage to expensive equipment.



### Treatment Plant: Process Disruption

Masses of wipes manage to make it through the sewer system, ending up at wastewater treatment plants. This can result in significant damage to treatment infrastructure, requiring costly repairs and disruption of the treatment process.



- Safe
- Simple
- Secure



eBills make it easy to receive your monthly water bill in your email inbox on the same day paper bills are mailed. Newsletters that accompany paper bills are also available online. Sign up today at [www.olivenhain.com/ebill](http://www.olivenhain.com/ebill).