

Beware of Roots Near Your Water Meter

Trees and other vegetation can beautify your yard, but their roots can lead to major headaches if they disturb the underground pipes in your private plumbing system.

The majority of private water lines are constructed of PVC. While PVC is a durable material, it is not impervious to damage from tree roots. Roots can exploit existing cracks, seams, or weak points in pipes and joints, exerting pressure that makes these pipes more susceptible to cracks and breaks.

To prevent a costly plumbing bill, consider these measures to prevent root damage to your pipes.

- Plant new trees at least 10 feet from your water meter box.
- Consider installing root barriers that can protect roots from damaging piping, sidewalks, or nearby structures.
- Use deep-soaking irrigation methods to encourage roots to grow downward in search of moisture, making plants more drought-tolerant and avoiding shallow, surface roots that can impact piping.
- Consult an arborist who can trim large plant and tree roots impacting nearby piping.



OMWD Board to Consider Current Fluoridation Practices



OMWD's Board of Directors will consider at its January meeting whether to request an exemption to the requirement to add fluoride to the drinking water OMWD supplies.

OMWD currently fluoridates its water to comply with state law (Health & Safety Code §§116409-116415). The annual cost to fluoridate is nearly \$160,000.

Due to lack of outside funding, the board will decide to either request an exemption, or to continue to fluoridate its water using ratepayer funds.

More information is available at www.olivenhain.com/fluoride.

Public comments may be submitted by mail to OMWD, "Attn: Fluoride," 1966 Olivenhain Road, Encinitas, CA 92024. Comments may also be submitted electronically by visiting www.olivenhain.com/fluoride and following the link at the bottom of the page. Written comments received by January 12, 2026 will be provided to the board for its consideration. Comments may also be made in person at the January 21, 2026 meeting.



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Municipal Water District in the
interest of an informed public.

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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.

Fall Is Ideal for Planting a Water-Wise Garden

Now that the fall season has started, it's a great time to consider making 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. Although, as discussed on page 1, be sure to plant trees and other vegetation away from meter boxes and infrastructure that could be damaged by roots.

Shorter days and cooler temperatures in autumn also mean that plants have less moisture loss through their leaves. Fall planting also allows you to take advantage of natural rainfall, rather than relying solely on your irrigation system.

Resources to help you swap your traditional lawn for a California-friendly landscape design are available at www.olivenhain.com/resources. These resources include free workshops, design plans, and a plant database.

Additionally, customers can find rebates on water-saving devices, including a turf removal program starting at \$2 per square foot.

Visit www.socalwatersmart.com.



A water-wise garden after turf removal

Rebates Start at \$80



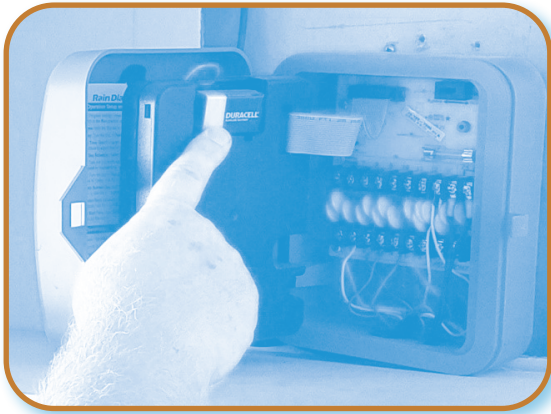
Unlike standard irrigation system timers that turn on sprinklers at set intervals, "smart" controllers use weather data and site information such as plant type and sprinkler system output to adjust watering times and frequency.



Save the Date!

Daylight Saving Time Ends November 2

While you are changing the clocks in your home, consider making a few other adjustments to save water and money.



Replace the backup battery in your irrigation controller.

Without a fully charged battery in place, irrigation timers can reset to their factory setting during a loss of power, often causing an unexpected increase in water use.

Take advantage of a free water use evaluation.

This can help adjust your irrigation controller schedule and identify areas where you can become more water-efficient, potentially saving you money. The evaluation includes an assessment of your controller schedule to determine if it is appropriate for your plant material, irrigation equipment, and the time of year. A certified landscape architect will also show you how to inspect your irrigation system for leaks or breaks.

For more information on this program or to schedule, please visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation or call 760-809-3241.



Understanding Cross-Connection Control

A cross-connection is any link between the drinking water supply and a source of contamination, such as chemicals or non-potable water, which could compromise water safety. To prevent "backflow" – the unwanted reverse flow of contaminants into the potable water system – backflow prevention devices ensure the safety of our water.

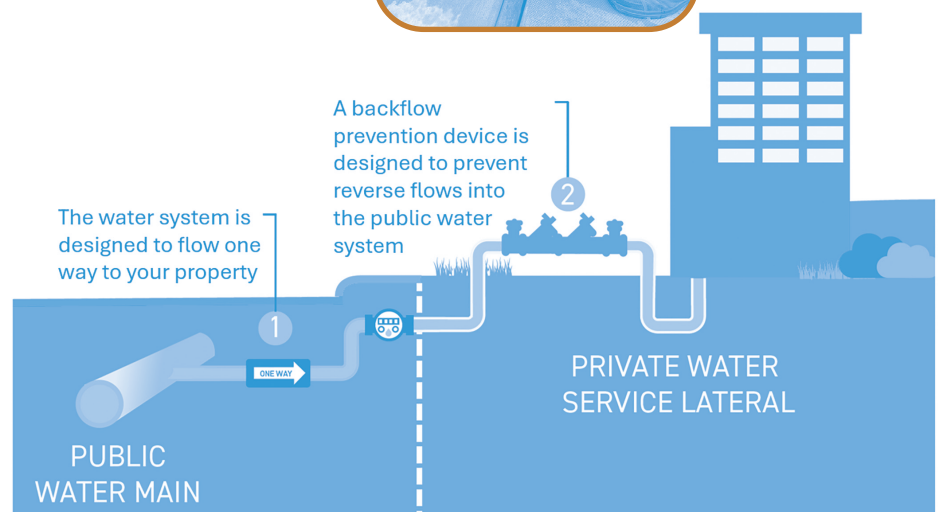
Our team conducts hazard assessments to identify and mitigate risks, protecting your drinking water. To further protect your water system from potential cross-connections with customers' private plumbing systems, backflow prevention devices are required for certain OMWD customers. All such devices must be tested annually.

For questions or to report concerns, contact our Cross-Connection Control Program at 760-632-4201 or backflow@olivenhain.com.

Learn more at www.olivenhain.com/backflow.



Backflow and Cross-Connection Coordinator Tim uses specialized equipment to test backflow device effectiveness.



Calling All Amateur Photographers!



OMWD's Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve 19th Annual Amateur Photo Contest launches on November 22!

Winners are eligible for prizes donated by the San Diego Zoo, PC Photo and Imaging, REI, California Wolf Center, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, and Escondido Creek Conservancy, including a cash prize.

Visit www.olivenhain.com/photo for official contest rules and to enter up to four photos. There is no entry fee.



"Welcome to the Jungle"
Brice Folkert
Contest Winner, 2025



"Nature's Heartbeat"
Vanessa Rivera
Contest Winner, 2025



"Duck Squad"
Sienna Schwarz
Contest Winner, 2025

Simplify Your Life with Electronic Billing

To avoid late fees and save time, OMWD's free online payment and billing system is always just a click away. Customers can view account balances, access electronic billing statements, and make one-time payments. In addition to viewing and paying bills online, customers can also view their water use and set up high bill and leak alerts.

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.

