

All Eyes on the Colorado River

Winter storms in California have improved water supplies across the state. However, San Diego also relies on the Colorado River as a major source for drinking water. The Colorado River system remains at historically low levels. Negotiations on how to manage the river continue among the seven states that share the water source. Discussions include where cutbacks can be made on water use, legal uncertainties, longstanding tribal water rights on the river, and the need to improve aging infrastructure and water storage.

The current operating rules for sharing Colorado River water expire at the end of 2026. US Bureau of Reclamation gave a deadline of February 14, 2026 for the states to come up with an agreement. If the states are not able to agree upon new guidelines, then the federal government can impose its own plan for sharing Colorado River water between all parties.

While we await the outcome, we can continue to make water conservation a way of life. Since 1990, Southern California has cut its use of imported water by 50 percent, while our population has increased by four million.

Join Us For a Free Workshop on Native Plants and Waterwise Landscaping

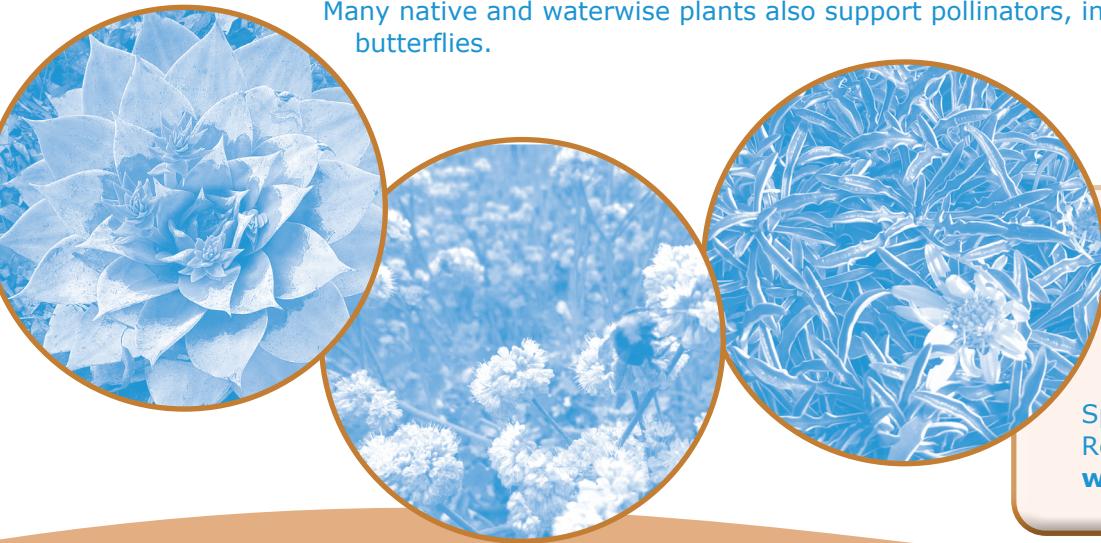
March 14

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

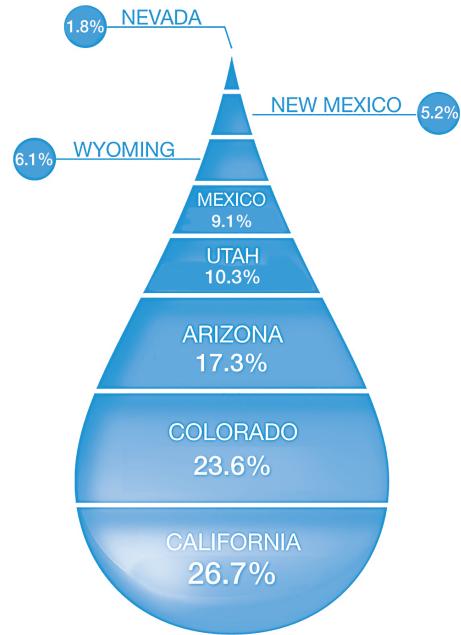
Does choosing plants that would look great in your garden and reduce outdoor water use feel overwhelming? If so, this workshop can help.

Instructor Steve Sherman of California Landscape Technologies will provide landscape-design tips and guidance on using attractive, drought-tolerant, and low-maintenance plants. Discover how native succulents like dudleya, small plants like red buckwheat, and ground covers like silver carpet could work in your landscape.

Many native and waterwise plants also support pollinators, including bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies.



Who Shares the Colorado River?



A total of 16.5 million acre-feet per year is shared among seven states, as well as Mexico.

The workshop will be held at OMWD headquarters, located at 1966 Olivenhain Road in Encinitas.

Space is limited.
Registration is required at
www.olivenhain.com/events.



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A Public Agency
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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.

OMWD is Always Ready to Respond, Rain or Shine



If you are experiencing a water-related emergency, call 760-753-6466 to reach us at anytime. Our after-hours personnel are ready to help. In addition to responding to leaks, OMWD proactively prepares our system for a variety of emergencies, including rainstorms, wildfires, and power outages.

For example, OMWD keeps our water reservoirs at optimal levels to maintain adequate water pressure for fire suppression needs. OMWD installed high-power generators at our critical facilities to ensure we can continue providing water during power outages. Additionally, OMWD's distribution system is continuously monitored with a network of sensors that alert operators of potential issues, such as a sudden drop in water pressure. **Whatever the emergency, OMWD is dedicated to ensuring a safe and reliable water supply.**



Fix-A-Leak Week is Right Around the Corner

March 16 - 22, 2026



It's an excellent reason to schedule a free water use evaluation.

There may be no use crying over spilled milk, but we could shed a tear over water leaks. For example:



A leaking toilet can waste more than 200 gallons of water every day.



Even a slow faucet leak of 12 drips per minute can waste over 50 gallons of water a month.

In 2009, US Environmental Protection Agency established Fix-A-Leak Week to serve as an annual reminder to check plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks. The educational campaign seeks to encourage ratepayers to repair even minor leaks before they become major problems.

OMWD customers can learn to identify leaks by scheduling a free water use evaluation. As part of this visit, the evaluator can explain the steps to determine if there is a leak on your property using the "leak detector" on your meter. They can also show you where the shutoff valves are to your home and landscape.

The evaluator is a certified landscape architect and can develop an irrigation schedule specifically for the landscape at your home or business. They will also provide you with a custom list of ways to increase water use efficiency. Visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation to learn more.



Monitor Water Use From Your Phone or Computer

As an OMWD customer, you can view your water use from a phone or computer. Log into your OMWD account for a breakdown of your monthly, daily, and hourly use.

You can also set alerts to notify you when you've reached a pre-set threshold. Examples include:

- Set an alert for when your usage looks like you might exceed a certain dollar amount on your monthly bill.
- Set an alert if the system detects continuous water use over a set time period, which can indicate a water leak.

Take the guesswork out of your water use with this free service.

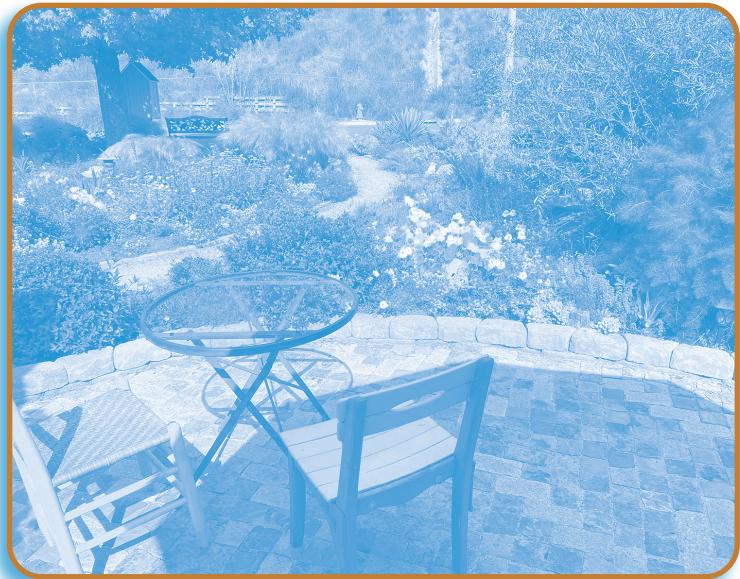
For more information, including tutorial videos, visit

www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse.

My Thresholds Account #

Account #	Meter #
Billing Period Thresholds (Account)	
Estimated Bill Alert Threshold	Water Use Alert Threshold
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current <input type="checkbox"/> Projected
\$200.00	Water Use (Gallons)
Water Use Thresholds (Meter)	
1 Hour	1 Week Water Use (Gallons)
1 Day	1 Month Water Use (Gallons)
10 gallons per hour for	24 Hours

Apply **Cancel**



Celebrating WaterSmart Landscapes

If you have transformed your grass lawn into a water-efficient landscape, why not enter the 2026 WaterSmart Landscape Contest? The top landscape wins a cash prize and will inspire others to toss the turf for the benefits of sustainable landscaping.

Entries will be scored on overall attractiveness, design, plant selection, and efficient irrigation methods. Visit www.landscapecontest.com for more information on the contest, including images of past winners. The deadline to enter is May 8.

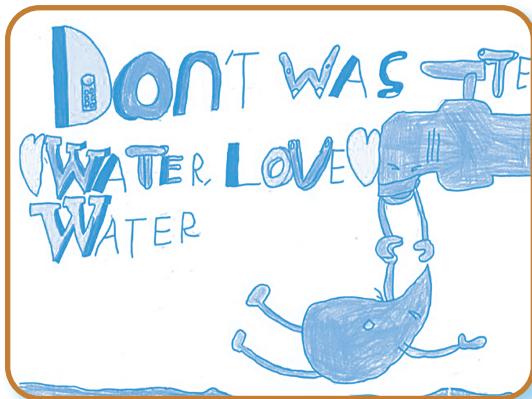
On the fence about removing your lawn and designing a California-friendly landscape?

Maybe this incentive will help. Turf-removal rebates, beginning at \$2 per square foot, are available to OMWD customers. Visit www.socalwatersmart.com to learn more.

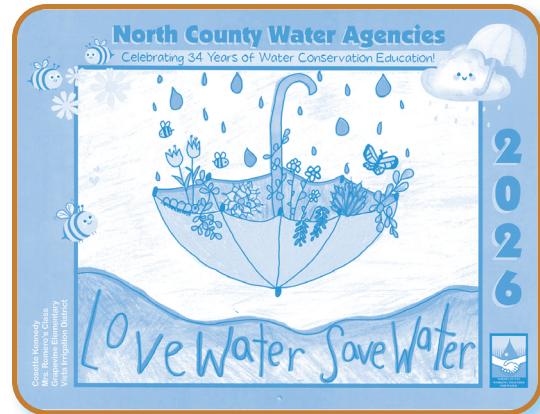
If the only time you spend on your lawn is when you are mowing it, perhaps it is time for a redesign that can reduce your monthly water bill and yard maintenance. Visit www.olivenhain.com/resources for free water-efficient landscaping tools and resources to help you design your new landscape.

OMWD Launches Annual Water Awareness Poster Contest

Calling all fourth-grade artists in our service area! Round up your art supplies and show off your creative talents in OMWD's annual poster contest. Students are encouraged to participate by creating a poster showcasing what this year's theme, "Love Water, Save Water," means to them. Entries will be judged for originality, artistic ability, and how well they express the theme.

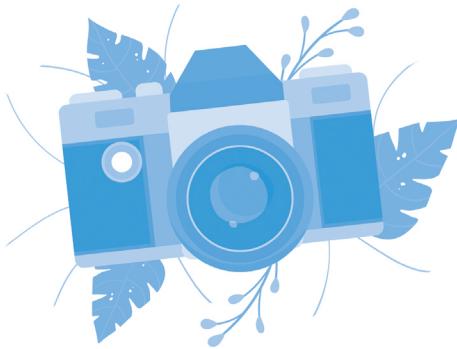


OMWD's top three posters not only win prizes for the artists, but also their teachers! The posters will also be featured in the 2027 water awareness calendar. Contest entries are due on April 10.



A 2026 "Love Water, Save Water" calendar, featuring 2025 winners, is available free of charge at our office.

For contest rules and guidelines, visit www.olivenhain.com/school.



Grab Your Camera and Head Out to Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Annual Amateur Photo Contest is underway!

EFRR trails offer opportunities to photograph Escondido Creek, native plant communities, the Laguna and San Bernardino mountain ranges, and even the Pacific Ocean and Channel and Coronado Islands.

Winners can receive prizes donated by local businesses, such as San Diego Zoo, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, California Wolf Center, PC Photo and Imaging, REI, and Escondido Creek Conservancy. Winning images will be displayed at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty from July through December 2026.

For more details and to submit, visit www.olivenhain.com/photo. There is no entry fee. The contest deadline is April 22.

