

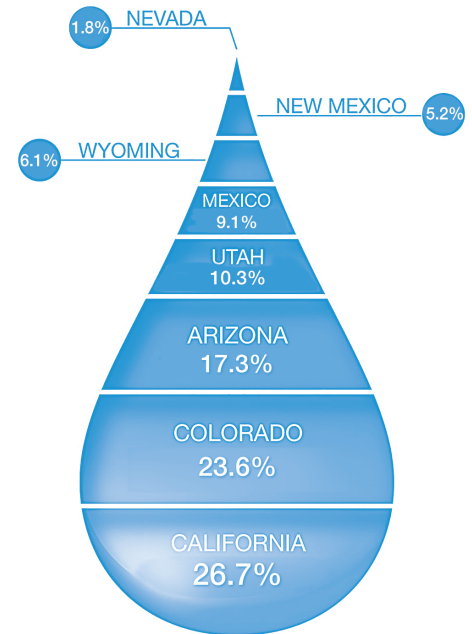
## All Eyes on the Colorado River

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.

### Who Shares the Colorado River?



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

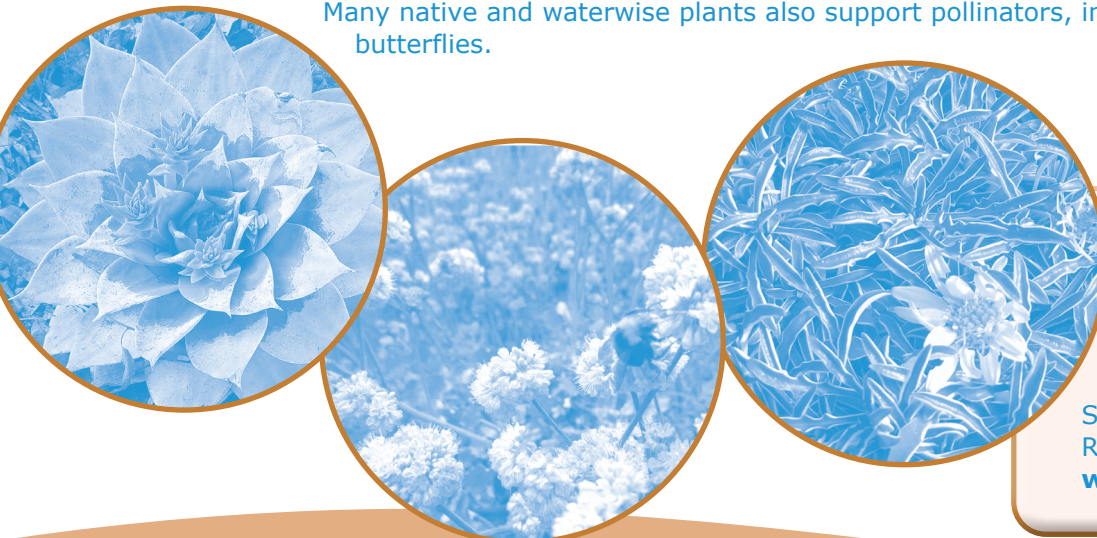
## Join Us For a Free Workshop on Native Plants and Waterwise Landscaping

**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.



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](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).



Municipal Water District  
A Public Agency  
1966 Olivenhain Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
760-753-6466  
[www.olivenhain.com](http://www.olivenhain.com)



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[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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse).

**My Thresholds** Account #  Meter #

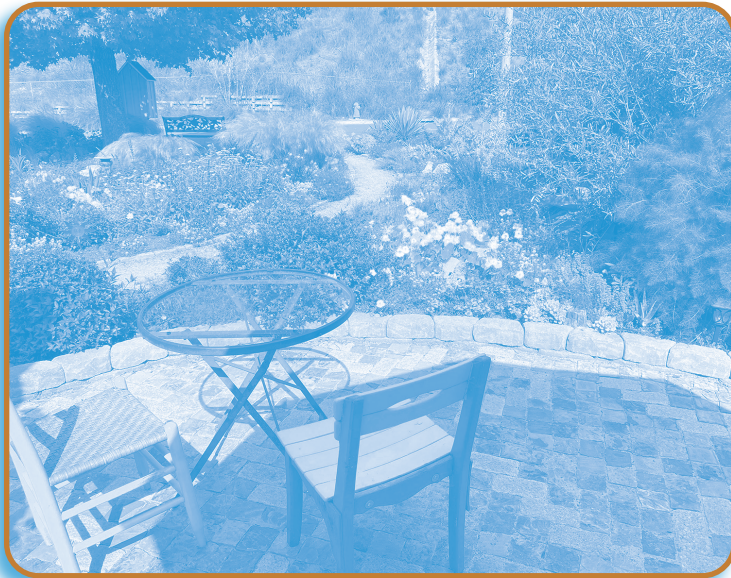
**Billing Period Thresholds (Account)**

**Estimated Bill Alert Threshold**  
☒ Current ☒ Projected  
 loading

**Water Use Alert Threshold**  
☒ Current ☐ Projected

**Water Use Thresholds (Meter)**

**1 Hour**   
**1 Day**   
 gallons per hour for **24 Hours**



## 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](http://www.landscapecontest.com) for more information on the contest, including images of past winners. The deadline to enter is May 8.

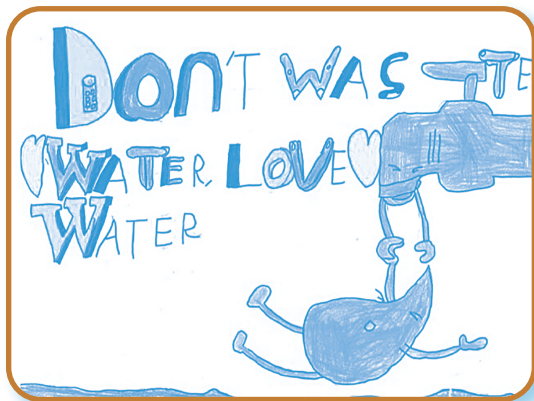
## On the fence about removing your lawn and designing a California-friendly landscape?

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

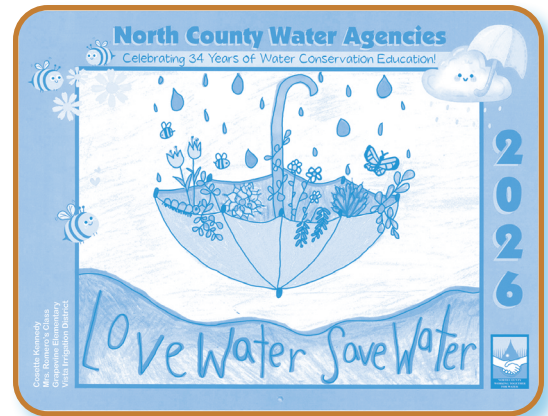
If the only time you spend on your lawn is when you are mowing it, perhaps it is time for a redesign that can reduce your monthly water bill and yard maintenance. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/resources](http://www.olivenhain.com/resources) for free water-efficient landscaping tools and resources to help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

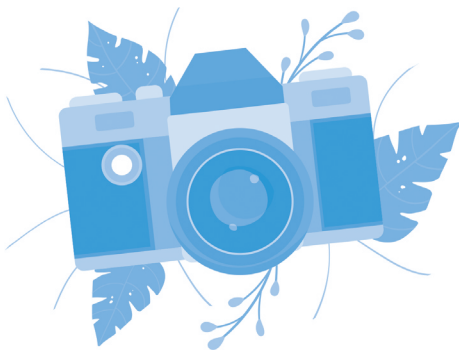


OMWD's top three posters not only win prizes for the artists, but also their teachers! The posters will also be featured in the 2027 water awareness calendar. Contest entries are due on April 10.



*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](http://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](http://www.olivenhain.com/photo). There is no entry fee. The contest deadline is April 22.

