

What is a “Super El Niño”?

The anticipated Super El Niño is flooding news headlines. You may have asked yourself what it means for San Diego.

Scientists use El Niño and La Niña to describe climate patterns that can affect our weather. There is often a focus on changes in sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. If the water is warmer than usual, it can trigger an El Niño effect on our weather. Colder-than-usual sea surface temperatures can lead to a La Niña effect.

La Niña conditions can lead to colder, wetter winter weather in Northern California and warmer, drier conditions in the southwest. An El Niño winter can bring more rain than usual to Southern California, and create warm, dry conditions that produce less snow in the northwest.

Over the past year, a large “marine heatwave” has created very warm ocean waters, breaking temperature records in the Pacific Ocean. For San Diego, that could mean a wet winter with a higher chance of strong storms. As the name implies, a Super El Niño would mean even more rain and potential damage from flooding, landslides, and coastal erosion.

While rain allows us to keep our sprinkler systems off, it does not increase OMWD’s water supply. We still depend on water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River, so snow and rain in those locations matters more.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted that the developing El Niño will increase in strength through the end of 2026. While El Niño predictions are not guaranteed, they give San Diegans time to prepare for potential storms.

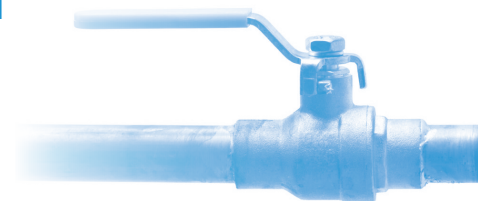
Investigating a Water Outage

OMWD works hard to ensure that water is ready to flow when you turn on your faucet. However, there are times when something outside of OMWD’s control prevents the water from flowing out of your faucet.

Here are common issues reported to OMWD that can help you troubleshoot a water outage.

The first thing to check is the valve where the water line enters your property. Make sure it hasn’t been turned off. Sometimes, someone (such as a neighbor) discovers a leak and turns off the water without notifying the property owner.

Do you have a smart flow-monitoring device (such as Moen Flo or Phyn) installed in your plumbing system? These devices detect unusual water usage and have automatic water shut-off capabilities. Some insurance companies promote and/or require homes to have them. Please check whether your water has been turned off by your smart device. To do so, check the device’s phone app, which should be kept up to date with the latest software.



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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

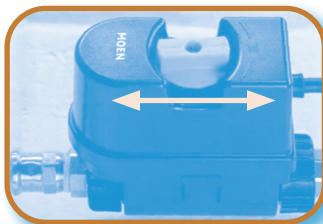
Complying with policies and procedures
that adhere to local, state, and federal
guidelines for national security and
disaster preparedness.

Sustainable Operations

Pursuing alternative and/or renewable
resources with the most sustainable,
efficient, and cost-effective approach.

Investigating a Water Outage | Continued from page 1

You can also inspect the device itself to see if the knob or the valve position
indicator light shows that the valve is closed. Contact your manufacturer if
the examples below do not match the device at your property.



*Water ON position =
knob is parallel to pipe*



Water ON = valve button indicates "OPEN"

You should be able to turn your water back on manually or with your
device's app if there is no legitimate reason for it to be shut off. Otherwise,
you may need to contact a private plumbing or leak-detection service to
help you troubleshoot the issue.

September 19

Free Fire-Resistant Landscape Workshop

As wildfires continue to shape California's landscape, it's a good time to
consider making your yard fire-resistant. Join us for a free workshop on
Saturday, September 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Instructor Greg Rubin of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.
is an award-winning landscape
designer, author, and expert
in native and fire-resistant
landscaping. Mr. Rubin designs
landscapes that provide year-
round curb appeal, water
efficiency, wildlife habitat, and
fire resistance. He will share his
water-efficient and fire-resilient
landscaping practices.

The workshop will be held in
our boardroom, located at 1966
Olivenhain Road in Encinitas.

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



Rate Reimbursement Credit to End in 2026

In 2021, OMWD received \$3.66 million from our wholesaler, San Diego
County Water Authority. This payment was a result of lawsuits won by
SDCWA that challenged rates and charges set by Metropolitan Water
District of Southern California. OMWD's board utilized that money to create
a fund to give our customers a credit on their water bills.

The current Rate Reimbursement Credit is 11 cents per unit of potable
water. As of July 2026, OMWD has returned over \$3.39 million to our
customers. With less than \$270,000 remaining in the fund, OMWD
anticipates the program will be fully refunded to customers this fall.





OMWD Honored with “Hat Trick” of Awards

Improving water supply reliability

The American Public Works Association’s San Diego and Imperial County Chapter named our Unit A Rancho Santa Fe Road Pipeline Replacement Project as a 2026 Project of the Year. The award program celebrates large, innovative construction projects that increase a community’s quality of life.

OMWD used a high-tech video surveillance tool called a “See Snake” to determine that the original Unit A pipeline had reached the end of its useful life. Replacing aging infrastructure before it fails helps OMWD avoid emergency outages, which are more costly and disruptive for customers.

The project was completed on time and within budget and replaced approximately 1,600 feet of the 12-inch pipeline under Rancho Santa Fe Road.



Maintaining fiscal responsibility

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada awarded OMWD with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the 31st consecutive year that the GFOA has recognized OMWD for the quality of our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

GFOA determined that OMWD’s ACFR for the period ending June 30, 2025, met rigorous standards in accounting practices. The document provided the public with transparent and reliable information on OMWD’s financial health.

The ACFR is available for review at www.olivenhain.com/acfr.

Providing a rewarding volunteer experience

The Coast News Group announced its 2026 Best of North County contest winners, which included our Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. EFRR took third place in the “Best Place to Volunteer” category after an online vote.



EFRR Trail Patrol volunteers improve trails and guide visitors through the 11-mile trail system. Volunteers also take part in outdoor education programs and interact with the public at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty.

Volunteers are encouraged to develop their own programs, such as nature walks, guided hikes, or concerts. EFRR volunteers also engage in social events, environmental presentations, and educational field trips.

Call 760-632-4212, or visit www.olivenhain.com/docent or www.olivenhain.com/trailpatrol, for more information on volunteering at EFRR.

New Display: Winners of 19th Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Amateur Photo Contest

Each year, amateur photographers of all ages visit our 784-acre reserve located near Escondido and submit photos featuring the reserve's natural beauty. The contest promotes stewardship of our area's natural landscapes.

This year's winners are:

Best in Show – Keith Kelley "**Pollination**"

Scenic View – Benjamin Woo "**Last Light in Elfin Forest**"

Water Scenery – Bowie Moldovan "**Open Flow**"

Plants – Keith Kelley "**Spring Milkmaid**"

Animals – Atticus Williams "**Flame Skimmer**"

Youth – Nathan Hainley "**Ducks**"

People's Choice – Kyan Starr "**Solitude in Peace**"

Winning photographers received prizes donated by local businesses. Prizes include passes to the San Diego Zoo, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, and California Wolf Center; a canvas print from PC Photo and Imaging; outdoor equipment from REI; and a cash prize from the Escondido Creek Conservancy.

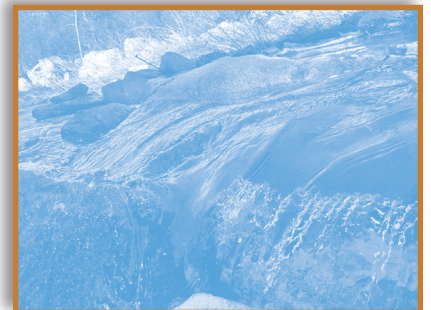
EFRR visitors can view winning photographs at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty through December 31, 2026. Visit www.olivenhain.com/efrr or call 760-632-4212 for current hours of operation.



"Flame Skimmer"



"Last Light in Elfin Forest"



"Open Flow"



"Solitude in Peace"



"Ducks"



"Pollination"



"Spring
Milkmaid"