

OMWD Recognized as “District of Distinction” and Awarded Transparency Certificate of Excellence

OMWD received its fifth “District of Distinction” biennial accreditation by the Special District Leadership Foundation at the California Special Districts Association conference in September. This accreditation recognizes sound fiscal management policies and practices in district operations. OMWD was the first water district in San Diego County to achieve this accreditation, and remains one of only 32 other agencies in California designated as a District of Distinction.

In addition to the Districts of Distinction accreditation, OMWD received SDLF’s District Transparency Certificate of Excellence in recognition of its efforts to promote transparency and good governance. This is the third consecutive time OMWD received the biennial certification. OMWD demonstrated outreach best practices that engage and inform the public in its governance and operations, as directed by its Board of Directors.

SDLF, a non-profit organization formed to promote good governance, provides an independent audit review of the last three years of the district’s operations to ensure prudent fiscal practices. In order to receive

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Diversifying Water Supplies

Ensuring reliability through conservation and potable water alternatives

Conservation has been a key component of OMWD’s supply diversification strategy for the past two decades. OMWD offers programs that improve water use efficiency for residential, commercial, and agricultural users and promote conservation as a way of life.

OMWD has been at a voluntary conservation level with no mandatory restrictions since July 20, 2016. During that time, our customers have continued to use water mindfully, consistently keeping consumption well below pre-drought levels. Summer 2017 usage was down 14 percent when compared to usage in the same months in 2013. This continued reduction has resulted from several factors including replacing appliances for newer, more efficient versions, updating irrigation devices, and reshaping our water use habits.

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OMWD customers saved over 100,000 gallons this summer!

100,000 Gallons of Water Equals

- 30,000** Toilet flushes
- 8,000** Dishwasher cycles
- 4,000** Loads of laundry
- 2,000** Showers



Municipal Water District

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

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Alfred Smith, Esq.

BOARD MEETING DATES

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 the 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 Recognized as "District of Distinction" : Continued from page 1

the recognition, OMWD's website must meet transparency requirements including election procedure and deadlines, board meeting schedule and agendas, current district budget, most recent financial audit, and compensation data of board members and staff.

Furthermore, OMWD's Board of Directors and executive staff must prove compliance in public governance, ethics, and harassment prevention training.

Diversifying Water Supplies: Continued from page 1

Using water efficiently is an important strategy to ensuring we have enough supplies to support San Diego's \$222 billion economy, but another important component is developing new water supplies of our own. OMWD is executing a long-term strategy to diversify its water sources, including conducting a feasibility study on a brackish groundwater desalination plant and expanding recycled water efforts.



**San Dieguito Groundwater Study:
An OMWD Sustainable Supplies Project**

COMMUNITY MEETING

Join us for a community meeting to discuss the findings of a feasibility study investigating the potential for a groundwater desalination project in the San Dieguito Valley Basin.

Tuesday, October 17, 2017 | 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

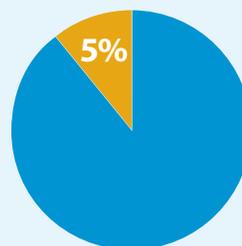
Solana Santa Fe Elementary School
6570 El Apajo, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067

www.olivenhain.com/groundwater

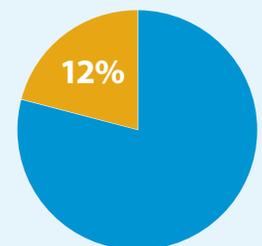
Recycled Water Is The Ultimate Form Of Conservation

With the completion of our Village Park Recycled Water Project at the close of 2016, Encinitas schools and homeowner associations in the project area can now irrigate their landscape with recycled water instead of drinking water. So far this year, these newly converted sites alone have already reduced potable water demand by 2.6 million gallons by using locally treated, recycled water. The development of recycled water not only increases local supply, it lessens dependence on imported water that is susceptible to drought conditions, and is an efficient use of water equivalent to other water efficiency measures such as conservation. OMWD is actively expanding its recycled water system and dedicated to working with the legislature to keep recycled water exempt from water use restrictions, protecting ratepayers' investment in this sustainable water supply.

**2007 OMWD
Recycled Water Supplies**



**2017 OMWD
Recycled Water Supplies**



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Happenings at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve



Visit our new exhibit: First Peoples of the Escondido Creek Watershed

This new interactive exhibit highlights some of the lifestyles, customs, and beliefs of indigenous peoples of the region, providing a glimpse into their modern ways of life. Featuring artifacts, photos, illustrations, and audio of a rich and vibrant culture, the exhibit is on display through December 31, 2017. The interpretive center is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., subject to docent availability.

Learn about the beauty and benefit of native plants at our upcoming workshop

Join speaker, landscape contractor, and California's Own Native Landscape Design president Greg Rubin at EFRR's interpretive center as he discusses how and why we should incorporate more plants that are native into our gardens. Author of two books about beautiful, low-water landscapes and plants native to Southern California, Mr. Rubin is a highly reputable instructor who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his presentations. This free workshop will take place Thursday, October 19, at 5:00 p.m. Visit www.olivenhain.com/events to learn more and register.



How did my water district get into the parks business?

In the 1980s, OMWD identified the valley where Olivenhain Dam and Reservoir are currently located as an ideal location for an emergency water storage site. Foreseeing land management demands, OMWD pursued park and recreational services authorization from San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission in 1985. As the project progressed into the 1990s, OMWD procured land from the United States Bureau of Land Management to build the dam and reservoir and initiated environmental review processes.

OMWD approached our regional water wholesaler, San Diego County Water Authority, with the idea to maximize the potential of the reservoir by making it emergency water storage for the entire county. OMWD then collaborated with SDCWA to increase the height of the proposed dam from the original design of 140 feet tall to 318 feet. Dam construction commenced in 2000 and was completed in 2003.

In exchange for use of BLM land, OMWD and SDCWA were required to create, operate, and maintain an open space reserve as mitigation for habitat lost to the dam and reservoir project. Offering an excellent opportunity to unify the interests of domestic water supply development, natural resources management, and recreational opportunities, Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve became accessible to the public in 1991.

EFRR is now the hub of an over 2,000-acre, open-space corridor that connects to county parks and lands preserved by the Escondido Creek

Conservancy. Each year, more than 100,000 visitors enjoy over 11 miles of trails for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use.



Recycled water is the ultimate form of conservation:
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OMWD serves nearly two million gallons of recycled water daily for landscape irrigation on HOA common areas, street medians, parks, and recreational fields. Besides reduced water rates, the benefits of using recycled water include the reduction of ocean discharge, resource conservation, and the enhancement of wildlife habitat.

OMWD continues to offer free recycled water for residential customers to supplement their landscape irrigation at our Residential Recycled Water Fill Station in the 4S Ranch area of San Diego. Excluding holidays, the station is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Learn more about OMWD's recycling efforts and the fill station at www.olivenhain.com/fillstation.



Daylight Saving Time Ends November 5

Be sure to adjust your irrigation timer when you adjust your clocks on November 5, as your landscape requires less water as the days get shorter and cooler. If you would like assistance with your irrigation system, consider scheduling a free home water use evaluation with a landscape expert. Visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation for more information.

Clock ▶
Turn back an hour



Irrigation timer ▶
Turn back minutes



GO GREEN!

eBills make it easy to receive your monthly water bill in your email inbox on the same day paper bills are mailed. If you still want a paper copy, you can print it from your computer or save it to a file. Newsletters that accompany paper bills are also available online. Sign up today at www.olivenhain.com/ebill.



Prevent Backups by Keeping Non-Flushable Items out of the Toilet

When toilets are misused as trashcans, unfortunate consequences can occur including backups in your plumbing or problems at your local reclamation facility. To prevent these problems from occurring, avoid flushing items such as baby wipes and diapers, rags and towels, cotton swabs, candy and food wrappers, clothing labels, sponges, toys, plastic items, aquarium gravel, kitty litter, latex gloves, cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, hair, or "disposable" toilet brushes.

In addition, whatever ends up in your toilet can potentially have an impact on the water environment in your community, so it is critical to keep household wastes such as chemicals and pharmaceutical products out of your toilet. Visit www.nodrugsdownthedrain.org to find local disposal sites.