

## OMWD Board Votes to Not Increase Sewer Rates through Fiscal Year 2021



OMWD's Board of Directors is concerned about the financial impacts to customers due to COVID-19 and elected at its May 20 meeting not to implement the Fiscal Year 2021 sewer rate increase. A three percent increase in sewer rates, previously adopted by the board to pay for sewer capital needs and operational costs, would have gone into effect July 1, 2020. Sewer service fee increases through Fiscal Year 2021 were adopted at the June 15, 2016 board meeting after a public hearing on May 25, 2016.

Staff will reprioritize capital needs and delay noncritical projects to "hold the line" in Fiscal Year 2021. While operating costs and capital needs outside of OMWD's control continue to grow each year, OMWD's board remains dedicated to minimizing increases to cover only the costs needed to sustain operations and maintain OMWD's position to meet financial obligations. OMWD continues our commitment to long-term financial stability and excellent customer service through the replacement of aging infrastructure and maintenance of capital facilities, while complying with the State of California's evolving regulations.

Sewer service charges will continue to be billed on the County Property Tax Roll, as part of our customers' property tax bills.

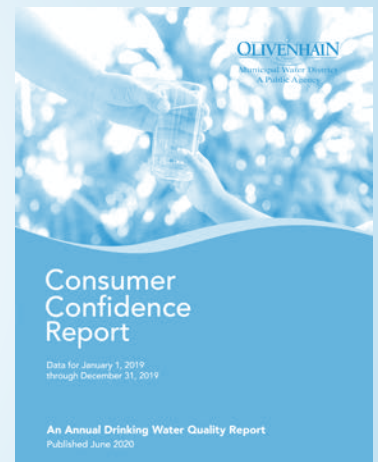
## Annual Water Quality Report Now Available



OMWD's 2020 Consumer Confidence Report is available online at [www.olivenhain.com/CCR](http://www.olivenhain.com/CCR). This annual water quality report explains how drinking water provided by OMWD meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards for your drinking water. It includes results of water quality tests, tips on how to interpret the data, and an explanation of where your water comes from. OMWD is proud to share this report with customers each year.

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Please call 760-753-6466 to obtain a printed copy.



## OMWD Recognized for Fiscal Responsibility

For the nineteenth consecutive year, OMWD is honored to receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The award recognizes OMWD's 2019-2020 fiscal year budget and exemplifies OMWD's continuing commitment to the values of fiscal responsibility, efficient business practices, accountability, and dedication to transparency.



Municipal Water District

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

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### GENERAL COUNSEL

Alfred Smith, Esq.

### BOARD MEETING DATES

Please visit our website at [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.

## COVID-19 and the Safety of Your Water



Our daily routines have changed due to COVID-19, but OMWD's great water quality and service has not. As a public agency, OMWD has been responding to the COVID-19 crisis by keeping your water safe, canceling

public events, initiating necessary closures, assisting our customers, and protecting our employees. OMWD is in daily communication with the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services to make sure we are able to respond promptly to the latest developments.

OMWD uses best industry practices to keep your water safe and deliver water of the highest quality.

- First, OMWD uses barrier filtration technology that utilizes specialized membranes to serve as a physical barrier against viruses, bacteria, and other contaminants.
- Second, in the unlikely scenario where pathogens, such as a virus, make it through the filtration process, they are disinfected when safe levels of sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) are added.

The tap water you drink and use to wash your hands is safe. For up-to-date information and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/COVID19Information](http://www.olivenhain.com/COVID19Information). You can also contact us by email at [customerservice@olivenhain.com](mailto:customerservice@olivenhain.com) or via telephone at 760-753-6466.



With the extended closures of **schools** and many **businesses** due to COVID-19, OMWD and the Center for Disease Control recommend flushing the water system prior to resuming normal operations. Water left sitting in pipes can become stagnant, and running faucets and showers will replace the old water with fresh water. Go to <https://bit.ly/CDCBuildingGuidance> to read CDC recommendations.



## Using Technology to Combat Leaks



OMWD technicians replace batteries in a leak detection system "alpha unit."

OMWD takes a proactive approach to detecting leaks in our distribution system. One tool utilized by OMWD technicians is the Gutermann leak detection system. Individual listening devices send readings to "alpha units" in our service area, which can be queried on a personal computer via satellite. Specific sound frequencies can confirm the presence of a leak in OMWD's pipelines, in which case correlators can be installed to pinpoint the leak's location, minimizing costs associated with emergency repairs and reducing water loss.

Consider taking actions at home to detect and repair leaks, saving water and money. Customers have reported saving water with devices such as "Flo" by Moen, Gizmode Innovations' "Water Alarm Puck," and Sensor Industries "SI-Toilet Sensors," just to name a few. Additionally, your water meter is a valuable tool that can help detect leaks on your property. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/leak](http://www.olivenhain.com/leak) for more information on leaks, including a video on using your water meter as a leak detector.

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## Prevent Plumbing Backups – *Avoid Using Your Toilet as a Trashcan*



When toilet paper is in short supply, customers turn to wipes as a substitute, but do not flush them down the toilet! Wipes and paper towels do not break down like toilet paper does. Many wipes also include plastics and materials like nylon, which negatively impact sewer systems.

To prevent backups in your plumbing or problems at your local reclamation facility, avoid flushing items such as baby wipes and diapers, rags and towels, wrappers, sponges, 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 have an impact on the environment. It is critical to keep household wastes such as chemicals and pharmaceutical products out of your toilet. Visit [www.nodrugdownthedrain.org](http://www.nodrugdownthedrain.org) to find local disposal sites.



## Partnership Increases Local Sustainability

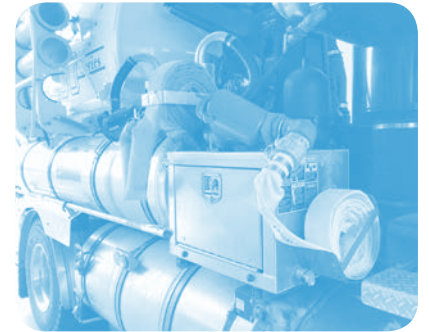


OMWD and Leucadia Wastewater District are working together to reduce potable water use and save ratepayers money. OMWD installed equipment that allows LWD to fill specialized, sewer-cleaning trucks with recycled water to flush sewer lines.

Regular flushing is important for sewer line maintenance. The process involves filling a specialized sewer-cleaning vehicle, known as a vactor truck, with water and jetting the water into a sewer main. Flushing the pipes extends their useful life by removing materials such as grease and roots, which can cause clogs and sewage overflows. Additionally, once flushed, technicians can inspect and assess the pipeline's condition and schedule necessary repairs.

Prior to this project, LWD did not have access to recycled water in OMWD's service area, instead filling vactor trucks with potable water. LWD identified the opportunity to reduce potable water use and approached OMWD about creating points at which LWD can fill trucks with recycled water. The agencies selected five locations throughout Encinitas and Carlsbad.

In addition to sewer line flushing, municipal street sweeping vehicles that were previously using potable water can also access recycled water.



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## Attention Fourth-Grade Artists!



North County water agencies hold an annual fourth-grade poster contest to increase awareness in future community leaders about water resources, treatment, and conservation. OMWD encourages all fourth-grade students attending school or living in our service area to participate. Students who enter will be eligible to win prizes and have their posters featured in the following year's calendar, in the press, and in OMWD's social media. The deadline to submit a poster is June 15. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/school](http://www.olivenhain.com/school) for more information and an entry form.

