

## OMWD Demonstrates Adequate Water Supply, Even if Drought Conditions Persist

*Customers Encouraged to Continue Water-Smart Practices*

The State Water Resources Control Board has confirmed that OMWD will not be required to meet a water reduction target through the winter, recognizing that San Diego has adequate water supply to meet its demand even if drought conditions continue over the next three years. However, over the next several months, state officials will meet to determine future conservation standards for water agencies and possible permanent water use restrictions.



desire to continue minimizing water use while also being fair to end users. It is critical that water agencies provide input as the state develops formalized, reasonable guidelines and goals so that individual communities are able to implement policies appropriate to their local supply conditions.

OMWD customers have been making great strides in their commitment to using water efficiently, developing a lifestyle that avoids

the wasting of any water. Residents are encouraged to continue practicing good water use habits and voluntarily complying with OMWD's Level 1 Water Supply Shortage restrictions.

View a full list of voluntary restrictions and state-mandated prohibitions at [www.olivenhain.com/restrictions](http://www.olivenhain.com/restrictions).

OMWD managers and board members continue to attend State Board hearings and workshops, meet with legislators, and provide comments on proposed water efficiency framework in hopes of ensuring that long-term regulations ultimately accommodate the state's

## OMWD no longer requires day-of-the-week or time-of-day irrigation restrictions.

### OMWD's Bond Rating Upgraded to AAA

Global rating agency Fitch Ratings has upgraded the rating for Olivenhain Municipal Water District's revenue bonds from "AA+" to "AAA" with a stable outlook, citing historically high liquidity, manageable borrowing plans, conservative financial forecasting, and equitable and disciplined rate-setting. AAA is the highest possible rating assigned by Fitch, and OMWD is currently the only water agency in San Diego County that has achieved this pinnacle of financial excellence.

Higher bond ratings equate to a lower risk of default, and achieving an upgraded bond rating will help to alleviate the upward pressure on water rates resulting from increasing wholesale water costs. It affords OMWD lower interest rates when issuing bonds to finance critical new water facilities. Since the debt will be repaid over many years, any improvement in the interest rate for repayment of these bonds will result in significant savings. This protects ratepayers from bearing undue financial burden as OMWD moves forward with water supply projects designed to ensure customers enjoy reliable, high-quality water well into the future.





Municipal Water District

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**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 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.



**Can We Reach You in an Emergency?**

Please be sure your contact information is up-to-date so we can reach you in the event of an emergency or if there will be system maintenance in an area that may interrupt your water service. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/update](http://www.olivenhain.com/update) to update your phone number and email address.

This October,

**WATCH OUT FOR URBAN DROOL**



Did you know that Escondido Creek, which passes through OMWD's Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, flows year-round irrespective of rain or snow? If you have ever wondered where all of that water comes from, you may be surprised to find out that irrigation runoff is significant enough to maintain a steady flow in the creek, even during a drought. While the flowing water may appear serene and offer a picturesque view, it affects the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

Irrigation runoff, also known as urban drool, alters the natural state of a watershed and adds pollutants into the environment. Urban drool often contains fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, animal feces, cigarette butts, and other trash and pollutants that flow into the watershed, impacting native ecosystems. By preventing runoff, residents comply with statewide water use prohibitions and reduce pollution in our waterways and beaches.

Capturing rainwater in a rain barrel or cistern, or diverting it into a swale garden, not only benefits your landscape, but also reduces the amount of rainwater entering storm drains. Even just a little rain can flush pollutants across impermeable surfaces in urban areas directly into the ocean, causing beach closures due to poor water quality. Find out about rebates for rain barrels and cisterns, as well as incentives for sustainable landscapes, at [www.olivenhain.com/rebates](http://www.olivenhain.com/rebates).

## Financing Program Facilitates Recycled Water Expansion

OMWD's Board of Directors is dedicated to the expansion of recycled water. One method of facilitating this effort is our recycled water no-interest loan program that aids eligible customers such as schools, homeowners associations, and golf courses to pay for necessary equipment and system upgrades to take advantage of this less expensive, drought-proof water supply.

Rancho Santa Fe Farms Homeowners Association is the first customer to take advantage of this unique program which allows them to pay back the loan over the next five years through their water bill. Participants in the loan program will continue to pay the potable water rate, even after their common areas are irrigated with recycled water, and OMWD will credit the cost difference between recycled water and potable to their loan balance. Once the loan is paid off, they will enjoy the benefit of a lower cost per unit of water and a water supply that is not subject to mandatory use reductions by the state.



*Irrigating with recycled water reduces reliance on expensive, imported water, saving ratepayers money*

## Fall Landscape Tips

### Turn Clocks Back

Daylight Saving Time will end on November 6. As you set a reminder to change the clocks, don't forget the clock on your irrigation controller. A change in seasons is the perfect time to adjust your irrigation schedule as plants take in less water as the days grow shorter. Replacing the batteries in your controller is another important step. This ensures that your irrigation run times will not return to factory defaults if power is lost for any reason.



*A free water use evaluation provides a custom list of ways to improve efficiency at your home or business*

### Time to Plant

November is a great time to install water-smart plants as winter rains can provide extra water that young plants need to become established. To assist you in your landscape project, OMWD offers free design templates, instructional videos, fire-wise and water-smart landscape advice, and more at [www.olivenhain.com/resources](http://www.olivenhain.com/resources).

OMWD also provides year-round, water-wise guidance for the home, landscape, and sprinkler system. Call to schedule a free home water use evaluation at your convenience by calling 760-753-6466 extension 1678, or emailing [cltlandarch@roadrunner.com](mailto:cltlandarch@roadrunner.com). Visit [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation) for more information about this free program.

## GO GREEN!



eBills make it easy to receive your monthly water bill in your email inbox. Sign up for eBills and you will receive your bill by email 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 each month. Newsletters that accompany bills are also available online. Sign up today at [www.olivenhain.com/ebill](http://www.olivenhain.com/ebill).

## Keep Non-Flushable Items out of the Toilet

When toilets are misused as trash cans, 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, syringes, candy and food wrappers, clothing labels, sponges, toys, plastic items, aquarium gravel, kitty litter, latex gloves, cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, hair, underwear, 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.



## You Are Invited to Tour OMWD Facilities This Fall

OMWD cordially invites you to a behind-the-scenes tour of its service area and operations on Thursday, October 13, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Attendees will learn how OMWD treats water with ultrafiltration membranes, disinfects recycled water using ultraviolet light, generates hydroelectric power, offers recreational opportunities at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, and more.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).



View videos of OMWD facilities at [www.youtube.com/OMWD](http://www.youtube.com/OMWD)

## Small Leaks, Big Losses

Household leaks are a common source of water waste that can increase your water bill. Research has shown that the typical home loses 2,000 to 20,000 gallons of water per year due to leaks. Unfortunately, many leaks go undetected for years because the source of the leak, such as a deteriorated toilet flapper valve or cracked irrigation line, is not visible.



*A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year, or more than 180 showers*

To detect leaks, turn off all water-using fixtures and check your water meter. There should be no flow measured through the meter. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/leaks](http://www.olivenhain.com/leaks) for information and short, tutorial videos on reading your meter and identifying possible leaks on your property.