

Ensuring Safe, Reliable Water at the Twist of the Tap!

Annual water quality report now available

As part of our commitment to providing high-quality drinking water, OMWD performs routine water quality sampling and analysis throughout our service area. The water we serve to your home or business meets or exceeds all health-related state and federal water quality standards for your drinking water, and this past year was no exception.

Our 2024 Consumer Confidence Report on drinking water quality is available online at www.olivenhain.com/ccr. We are proud to present you with the test results for water served between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Please call 760-753-6466 or stop by our office to obtain a printed copy.



OMWD Board Considers Budget for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 Which Includes Internal Cost Control Measures in the Face of Impending Extraordinary Cost Increases From Its Wholesaler

At its April board meeting, OMWD's Board of Directors reviewed a draft budget for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026 which reflected board direction for OMWD to control its internal costs in order to mitigate the impact to customers of an impending wholesale water price increase expected next year. OMWD staff presented a budget that includes freezing hiring for vacant positions and delays in previously planned positions, a reprioritization of spending on critical capital projects, and delays in select projects.

Capital projects to be funded over the next two years are those needed to sustain operations such as replacing aging pipelines and making improvements at OMWD's water treatment plant and water reclamation facility. Additionally, over \$4 million in costs for these projects will be offset by state and federal grants. There will be no cuts or impacts to the level of customer service for OMWD ratepayers. The board is scheduled to approve the final budget at its June 19 meeting.

What is still unknown is the cost of water OMWD will be required to pay its wholesaler, the San Diego County Water Authority.

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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 initially assumed a 5% increase in SDCWA's wholesale rate for 2025, based on direction that SDCWA provided in 2023. However, in April, SDCWA announced that it expects to hike its prices as much as 39% over the next three years, and up to 20% alone in 2025.

OMWD purchases 100% of its drinking water supply from SDCWA. As OMWD has prepared a budget that controls its own costs, approximately 90% of any rate increase ultimately imposed by OMWD for 2025 will be attributable to SDCWA's wholesale rate.

SDCWA will host on June 27 its public hearing, where public input is invited, on this wholesale rate increase for 2025. Public comments may be made at any time prior to the meeting up until the public hearing closes on June 27 by submitting a comment to publiccomments@sdcwa.org or in person at the meeting at 4677 Overland Avenue in San Diego.

State Water Board is Proposing New Water Regulations

California's State Water Resources Control Board is developing water use efficiency regulations that would affect how much water OMWD can provide to customers. The proposed regulations would impose limits that would be in effect whether it's a wet or dry year, regardless of water supply conditions. Further, the regulations could have an impact on water rates. What can OMWD customers do to stay informed?

- Visit www.waterboards.ca.gov/conservation to learn more about the proposed regulations and how they may impact you.
- Visit www.olivenhain.com/drought to view the concerns OMWD has expressed to SWRCB.
- Provide your feedback to SWRCB at commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov.



Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty Celebrates Its 15th Birthday!

This year, Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty celebrates fifteen years of educating and inspiring visitors to feel connected with nature. First opened in June 2009, this one-of-a-kind facility is the result of the collaborative efforts of OMWD and the Escondido Creek Conservancy to provide visitors with educational and environmental experiences.

The facility was designed by the late James Hubbell, known for his art and architecture inspired by nature. The building features green design elements such as recycled building materials, solar panels powered by photovoltaic cells, and a green "living" roof. The center was named after former OMWD board member Susan J. Varty, who was a fierce advocate of the environment and who was instrumental in the partnership that led to the center being built.

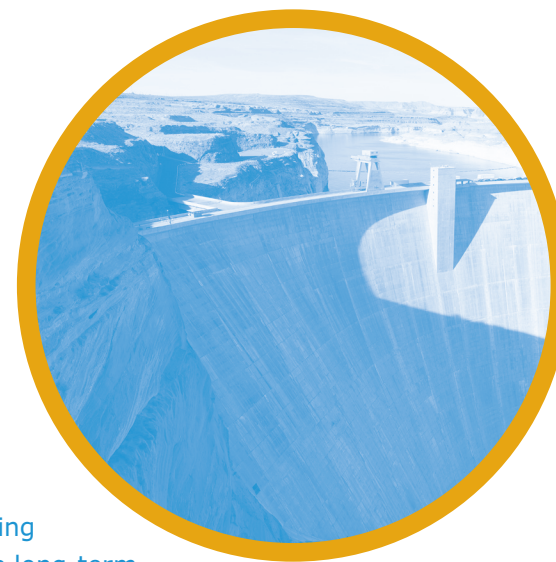
Volunteer docents provide visitors with information about the local watershed and natural habitat. The center is open daily, subject to docent availability. To learn more, visit www.olivenhain.com/center.



Trouble on the Colorado River

The Colorado River is a major source of water for Southern California, including OMWD customers. Supplies on the river have been declining for decades due to perennial drought conditions. As a result, reservoirs along the river that support Southern California, such as Lake Powell, are now at low levels. Further complicating things, damage has been discovered on outlet pipelines on the Glen Canyon Dam that could limit the amount of water being released downstream of Lake Powell, potentially impacting water supply to San Diego County.

The damaged pipelines are used for water releases only when Lake Powell's volume falls to very low levels. The damage has caused thinning in the pipeline walls and continued use could cause further deterioration. The pipelines are being relined as a short-term fix, and state and federal agencies are working to find a long-term solution for the damaged water outlets. The dam's ability to release water when at low levels is vital to help ensure water reliability for the millions of residents who live downstream.



Rebates Now Available for Flow Monitoring Devices

OMWD customers can now apply for rebates on flow monitoring devices. Select models can automatically shut off water to the home when a leak is detected, potentially preventing costly damage and an unexpectedly high water bill. OMWD customers can receive a \$100 rebate on qualified devices by applying at www.socalwatersmart.com.

If you're interested in keeping tabs on water consumption at your home or business, did you know that OMWD customers already have access to the My Water Use dashboard? This free service allows you to see your water usage online, and also allows you to set up alerts if leaks are detected. More information can be found at www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse.



Winners Announced in Fourth Grade Water Awareness Contest

Each May, OMWD celebrates Water Awareness Month. At its May 15 meeting, OMWD's Board of Directors recognized the top three entries in the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest, which teaches students the value of water as a limited resource. Fourth grade students who live or attend schools in OMWD's service area participated in the 31st annual contest showcasing the theme "Love Water, Save Water."



Clara Brigden



Aria Drelich



Maia McAllum

The winning entries were submitted by Clara Brigden from Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary School, Aria Drelich from Stone Ranch Elementary School, and Maia McAllum from La Costa Heights Elementary School. The artwork will be featured in a 2025 calendar and help OMWD highlight the importance of using water efficiently.