

Ways to Save Water This Summer

Rising summer temperatures can lead to increased landscape watering, which can lead to higher water bills. OMWD provides a free program to evaluate your water usage to help you save both water and money. A professional trained in landscape and home water use systems will provide you with a custom list of ways to improve water use efficiency and develop an irrigation schedule specifically for your landscape. Schedule your free water use evaluation at www.olivenhain.com/evaluation.

Rebates are available on water-saving devices to reduce water use outdoors, including:

- **Flow Monitor Devices** - Flow monitor devices monitor your home's water use and can help detect leaks. Select models can shut off water to the home remotely in the event a leak is detected. Receive a \$100 rebate for qualifying devices.



- **Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles** - Rotating sprinkler nozzles use 20 percent less water than conventional spray heads by applying water more slowly and uniformly. Receive a rebate of \$2 per nozzle (15 nozzle minimum) on select models.

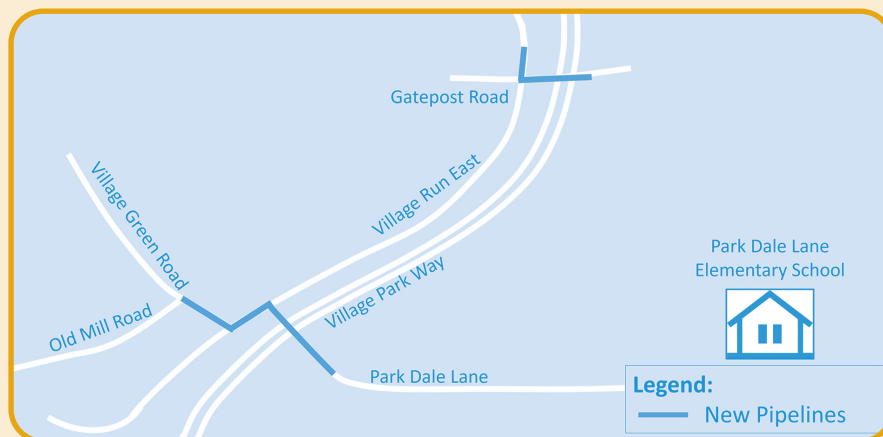
Rebate amounts are subject to change and are based on availability.

Visit www.socalwatersmart.com or call 888-376-3314 for more information.

During the summer, a 1,000-square-foot section of lawn can require 5,000 gallons of water. At about a penny a gallon, that's a \$50 a month increase.



Construction Underway on Recycled Water Project in Encinitas



Construction continues on new recycled water pipelines in Encinitas. The work includes adding recycled water pipelines in the areas of Park Dale Lane, Village Park Way, Village Green Road, and Gatepost Road. Once completed, the pipelines will allow homeowner associations in the area to convert to recycled water for irrigation of their properties.

Continued on page 2



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christy Guerin, President
Matthew R. Hahn, Vice President
Neal Meyers, Treasurer
Lawrence A. Watt, Secretary
Marco San Antonio, Director

GENERAL MANAGER

Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.

GENERAL COUNSEL

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 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.

Construction Underway | Continued from page 1

This phase of the three-phased project is expected to be completed in fall 2024. No impacts to customers' drinking water supplies are anticipated. Upon completion of all three phases, the project is estimated to save more than 12.5 million gallons of imported drinking water every year.



OMWD was successful in achieving approximately \$900,000 in grant funding to make this project cost-effective for ratepayers. Specifically, both the US Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources are contributing grant funds to offset project costs.

Project updates can be found at www.olivenhain.com/projects, and by following OMWD on Facebook and X.

Local Recycled Water Infrastructure Receives Boost From Federal Government

In June, the US Bureau of Reclamation recommended to Congress that the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition receive over \$6 million in additional grant funding to develop recycled water infrastructure in North County. The coalition is a group of nine water and wastewater agencies, including OMWD, working beyond jurisdictional boundaries to maximize recycled water use and reduce demand for imported water.

If approved by Congress, funding will support the coalition's joint effort to expand recycled water infrastructure and increase water reuse in North County. It includes connecting the agencies' recycled water systems, installing new pipelines, and increasing recycled water storage capacity.

For OMWD, funding would pay for several new recycled water pipelines, including the Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Pipeline Project in Encinitas. The new pipeline will serve MiraCosta College, homeowner associations, religious centers, and other customers, reducing drinking water demand by about 27 million gallons a year.

This would be the third grant that USBR has recommended for the coalition in the last three years. USBR previously committed \$6.1 million in funds in 2021, and another \$17.8 million in 2022. Completion of all coalition projects will drastically reduce reliance on imported water. Learn more about coalition efforts at www.nsdwrc.org.



OMWD Brings Home the Honors!

Our Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Pipeline Project has received the 2024 Project of the Year Honor Award from the American Public Works Association's San Diego and Imperial County Chapter. The award program celebrates large construction projects that increase a community's quality of life.

The project involved the installation of 7,000 feet of recycled water pipeline in Encinitas. This pipeline will ultimately serve the irrigation needs of up to 18 properties, including MiraCosta College, homeowner associations, and religious centers. Once all properties are connected, the project can reduce drinking water demand by about 27 million gallons a year. This allows potable water to be saved for other uses, such as drinking, bathing, and cooking.

Additionally, OMWD reduced costs of the project for our ratepayers by achieving over \$2 million in state and federal grant funding.



State Adopts New Water Use Efficiency Regulations

No Immediate Impacts to OMWD

California's State Water Resources Control Board has adopted new water use efficiency regulations that will affect the amount of water OMWD is allowed to supply to our customers. While OMWD does not expect any near-term impacts to our customers for the next decade, over time the regulations will become increasingly restrictive on the amount of water allowed to be used. For example, the amount of water allowed for irrigation decreases significantly in 2040, and OMWD may be subject to restrictions from the state on how much water it can supply to our customers by 2040. To learn more about how the regulations may impact you, visit www.olivenhain.com/drought.

Encinitas Resident Wins 2024 WaterSmart Landscape Contest!

Irrigating efficiently will always be important in Southern California, and replacing a lawn with a water-wise landscape can significantly reduce water bills. Water agencies throughout the county participate in an annual contest to encourage landscape transformations that reduce outdoor water use, are attractive, and often require less maintenance than turf-heavy landscapes. Each agency selects a winner within its service area that exhibits climate-appropriate plant selection, water-efficient irrigation, and appealing design.

OMWD selected Mr. Rick Whitney's California-friendly alternative to grass, which provides an attractive example of a sustainable, water-wise landscape. Mr. Whitney's water-efficient landscape uses rainwater capture in its design. Rainwater from the roof collects in a rock riverbed, keeping it on the property and reducing runoff that can carry pollutants to waterways and beaches. An in-line drip system irrigates all other areas of the landscape.

More photos of Mr. Whitney's landscape, as well as those of winners from throughout the county, are available at www.landscapecontest.com.



Winners Announced in Seventeenth Annual Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve 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. This year's winners are:

- "Warbler with Bee" by Keith Kelley - Best in Show
- "Leaf Race" by Keith Kelley - Water Scenery
- "Quack" by Keith Kelley - Animals
- "Mushroom" by Adrian Flores - Plants
- "Overlooked Elegance" by Ray Santiago - Youth
- "Winter color palette on the creek" by Sylvia Gaffney - Scenic View
- "Serenity by the Creek" by Sylvia Gaffney - People's Choice

San Diego Zoo, California Wolf Center, and EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary donated tickets as prizes. Prizes also included a canvas print donated by PC Photo & Imaging, outdoor equipment donated by REI, and a cash prize donated by the Escondido Creek Conservancy.

EFRR visitors can view winning photographs at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. The center is open daily, subject to decent availability. Current hours of operation are available by calling 760-632-4212.



BEST IN SHOW
"Warbler with Bee" Keith Kelley



WATER SCENERY "Leaf Race" Keith Kelley



ANIMALS "Quack" Keith Kelley



PLANTS - "Mushroom"
Adrian Flores



YOUTH
"Overlooked Elegance"
Ray Santiago



SCENIC VIEW
"Winter Color Palette
on the Creek"
Sylvia Gaffney



PEOPLE'S CHOICE
"Serenity on the Creek"
Sylvia Gaffney