

Southern California Water Supply Update

OMWD's drinking water comes from two main sources: the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta via California's State Water Project, and the Colorado River.

The State Water Project moves water from northern to southern California. Thanks to above average rain and snow last winter, many of the 24 reservoirs were filled with much needed water. Notably, Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta, two of the state's largest reservoirs, were at 100% of their historical average as of August 21.

The 1,450-mile Colorado River is also a major water supply source for OMWD customers. But unlike the California reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, which are located on the Colorado River, were only at 33% and 41% of their capacity as of August 21. There are rules that trigger water cuts when Lake Mead's levels drop too low, but so far, California has avoided these cuts.

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the seasonal outlook for this winter is above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation. If this prediction holds, then the coming winter won't be as wet as the last couple we've experienced. This could swing us back into drought conditions.

Looking ahead, the federal government is expected to announce larger water cuts for all users on the Colorado after 2026. This is in part due to hot and dry climate projections that predict Lake Mead's water levels will continue to drop.

Water is a limited resource, so it's important to use it efficiently in our daily routines. For tips on how to save water and to learn about rebates for water-efficient products, visit www.olivenhain.com/drought.



Lake Oroville



Your Water Bill: Less than 5 Percent Increase is Proposed for Average Residential Bill

OMWD's Board of Directors will consider formal approval in November of water charges for 2025.

If approved, the proposed water charges will begin January 1, 2025. The average residential customer bill would increase by less than 5 percent.

Visit www.olivenhain.com/rates for more information and a water bill estimator tool.

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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 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.

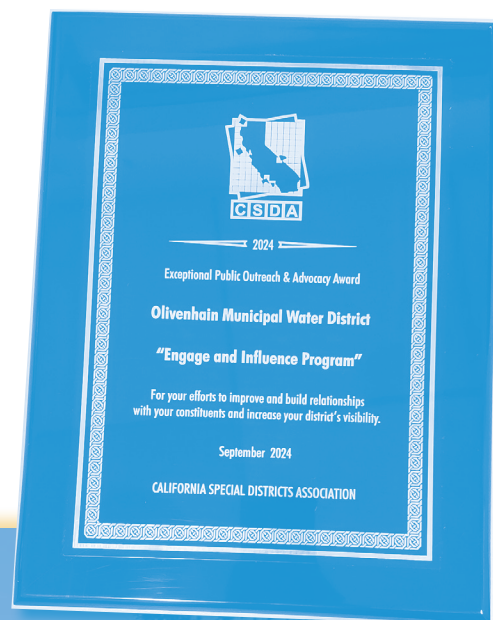
Award Winning Advocacy Efforts

OMWD is committed to protecting your interests in Sacramento and Washington, DC by working with lawmakers on water policies. This year, for example, OMWD fought a proposed bill that would have increased mandatory fees on your water bill. Fortunately, the bill did not pass.

In recognition of our efforts, California Special Districts Association has honored OMWD with its Exceptional Outreach and Advocacy Award. Only one large public agency in California is given this honor each year. The award acknowledges OMWD for effective communication with legislators and policymakers on water affordability, water use regulations, and reliable water supplies.

OMWD has also been collaborating with eight other local water and wastewater agencies that make up the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition. By teaming up, these agencies can combine their resources, share knowledge, and speak with a unified voice when advocating for policies and funding at different government levels. The CSDA award celebrates these efforts to expand water recycling, increase reliable water supplies, and lower costs.

OMWD educated state and federal policymakers on the need to invest in water infrastructure and the development of water supplies. Specifically, OMWD worked successfully with Congress to include grant funding in the federal budget for water infrastructure projects. The CSDA award showcases OMWD's successful efforts through these partnerships, which contribute to our mission to provide safe and reliable water while protecting your financial interests.



Spotlight on Sustainability

Recycled Water Pipelines on Manchester Avenue Project



Recently, the Manchester Avenue Recycled Water Pipeline Project was completed in Encinitas. It involved the installation of 7,000 linear feet of recycled water pipeline to provide locally produced recycled water. This project will save over 27 million gallons of drinking water each year by using recycled water instead. By switching from drinking water to recycled water for outdoor irrigation, OMWD is helping to preserve our drinking water supplies for the future.

Meet Sean Peterson, one of OMWD's Backflow and Cross Connection Coordinators. In his role, Sean reviews plans and conducts necessary health and safety tests to ensure that customers can safely use recycled water for irrigation. This saves an estimated 3 million gallons of imported water at MiraCosta College and the Grauer School alone.

OMWD meets up to 15 percent of its overall demand from recycled water and continues to identify additional ways to make recycled water available to eligible customers.

Fall into a Free Water Use Evaluation

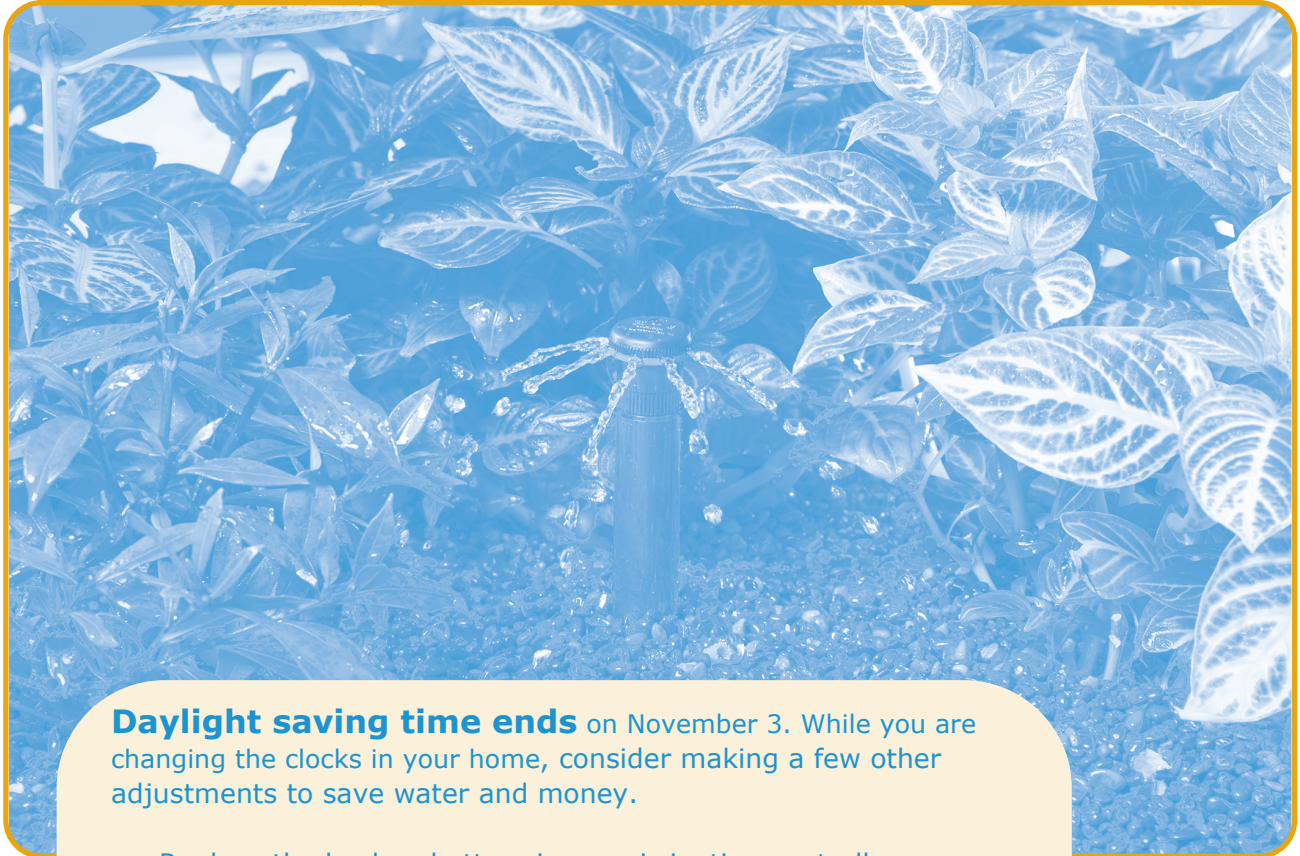
Now that fall has started, it's a great time to take advantage of a free water use evaluation. Cooler temperatures and shorter days mean that outdoor watering can be reduced. A water use evaluation can help identify where you can become more water-use efficient, and potentially save money.

A certified landscape architect will show you how to inspect your irrigation system for leaks or breaks. The evaluation also includes an assessment of your controller schedule to determine if it is appropriate for your plant material, irrigation equipment, and the time of year.



For more information on this program, visit www.olivenhain.com/evaluation.

Water-Saving Tips For Fall



Daylight saving time ends on November 3. While you are changing the clocks in your home, consider making a few other adjustments to save water and money.

- Replace the backup battery in your irrigation controller. Without a fully charged battery in place, irrigation timers can reset to their factory setting during a loss of power, often causing an unexpected increase in water use.
- Check to ensure that the pressure regulator installed on your property is working properly. The maintenance of pressure regulators is the responsibility of the property owner, and OMWD recommends regular maintenance and replacement of pressure regulators to avoid damage or leaks caused by high pressure. View a video about water pressure and regulators at www.olivenhain.com/meter.
- Visit www.olivenhain.com/leaks for information and short tutorial videos on reading your meter and identifying possible leaks on your property.