

## Investing in Reliability

### *Proactive replacement of drinking water pipeline now complete*

Construction is now complete on the replacement of a drinking water pipeline on Rancho Santa Fe Road on the border of Encinitas and Carlsbad. The project replaced more than 1,500 feet of 12-inch drinking water pipeline that was originally installed in 1961 and was reaching the end of its lifespan.

OMWD continuously monitors the condition of our infrastructure, and we identify pipelines in need of replacement. These proactive measures help prevent unexpected main breaks that can require emergency repairs, which can be very costly and disruptive to customers' water service.

The replacement drinking water pipeline was constructed between Las Olas Court and Avenida La Posta on Rancho Santa Fe Road. It was completed on time and within the approved budget. OMWD coordinated with the cities of Carlsbad and Encinitas on a traffic management plan to minimize traffic impacts to our community.



## OMWD is Prepared

Our hearts go out to all those impacted by recent Southern California fires, and we are grateful for the efforts of firefighters and first responders. We want to reassure our customers that OMWD prepares for emergencies year-round to ensure the continuity of service to our customers.

Our Board of Directors has made strategic investments to keep critical infrastructure protected and operational in the event of a natural disaster. Water tank levels are constantly monitored in the event they need to provide water for firefighting, and backup generators are in place to keep vital pumps and operating systems running during power outages.

OMWD has experienced many fires, including fires in 1996, 2007, 2009, and 2014, with one fire burning 20 percent of OMWD's service area and some of our infrastructure. We have learned from every incident, and OMWD's emergency response program is continuously evolving to maintain the highest level of preparedness for our customers.

This program includes defined emergency response protocols, regular backup system inspections, ongoing employee training, and continued refinement of response plans in coordination with neighboring agencies. Action plans are coordinated with regional entities such as San Diego Gas and Electric, San Diego County Water Authority, and other local/regional government emergency services to provide mutual aid.

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 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 on Final Phase of New Recycled Water Pipelines Project



Recycled water is locally produced, disinfected wastewater that is used for irrigation. This drought-resilient supply reduces our dependence on imported drinking water from faraway sources.

OMWD has identified opportunities to connect more customers to our recycled water distribution system. A current project involves the construction

of 5,600 feet of new recycled water pipelines at three different sites in Encinitas and Carlsbad. The completion of these three project phases can save more than 12.5 million gallons of imported drinking water every year.

Construction is beginning on the third and final phase in Encinitas in the areas of Summerhill Drive and Village Center Drive. Once completed, homeowner associations in the area can convert to recycled water for irrigation of their properties.

Work is scheduled to take place Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Additionally, restricted work hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, will be in effect for any work directly impacting Diegueño Middle School. No impacts to customers' drinking water supplies are anticipated.

Two other phases of the project involved the construction of recycled water pipelines around Park Dale Lane and Gatepost Road in Encinitas, and along Calle Barcelona in Carlsbad. This final phase is anticipated to be completed in spring 2025.

OMWD was successful in achieving approximately \$900,000 in grant funding to make this project cost-effective for our 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](http://www.olivenhain.com/projects), and by following OMWD on Facebook and X.



# Celebrate Fix-a-Leak Week March 17-23

The United States Environmental Protection Agency developed Fix-a-Leak Week in 2009 to remind us that even tiny leaks can be huge water wasters. The nationally recognized week serves as an annual reminder to check plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks, and we can help!



## Free Water Use Evaluations

Customers can learn to identify leaks by scheduling a visit from one of our water efficiency specialists. As part of this visit, a certified landscape architect can check indoor devices for leaks, develop an irrigation schedule specifically for the landscape at your home or business, and provide you with a custom list of ways to save water.

You will also learn where the shutoff valves are to your home and landscape, and the steps to take to determine if there is a leak on your property using the "leak detector" on your water meter. Visit [www.olivenhain.com/evaluation](http://www.olivenhain.com/evaluation) to learn more and schedule an evaluation that fits your schedule.

## My Water Use Dashboard

OMWD's My Water Use dashboard allows customers to set up thresholds to be alerted to abnormal water usage.

**Receive timely leak alerts:** My Water Use can help prevent costly property damage and provide you peace of mind when you're away from your home. Set up an alert if your water use is continuous, indicating a leak, or if your use is higher than usual. You specify how you want to be contacted: e-mail, text, or telephone.



**My Thresholds**

Account # 0000000-000000 Meter # 00000000 (Water-Resider)

**Billing Period Thresholds (Account)**

Estimated Bill Alert Threshold:  Current  Projected  
Water Use Alert Threshold:  Current  Projected

Bill Amount (dollars) Water Use (Gallons)

**Water Use Thresholds (Meter)**

1 Hour Water Use (Gallons) 1 Week Water Use (Gallons)  
1 Day Water Use (Gallons) 1 Month Water Use (Gallons)

10 gallons gallons per hour for 24 Hours

Apply Cancel

**Monitor your water use:** See how much water you're using and get an estimate of your bill at any time during the billing cycle.

**Set up water use alerts:** Specify an amount of water (gallons) or a maximum amount (dollars) that you don't want your bill to exceed and receive an alert if you exceed that amount.

Visit [www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse](http://www.olivenhain.com/mywateruse) to get started, and to view tutorial videos and step-by-step guides.

**Not sure where to start?** This example will detect continuous water flow that can indicate a leak. See how the alert works, then you can adjust and set up others.

## Join Us For a Free California-Friendly Landscape Design Workshop on March 8

Learn how to transform your yard into a beautiful, water-saving landscape at this informative and interactive workshop on March 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Topics to be covered include landscape design, identifying and amending soil, and methods to reduce outdoor water use and increase irrigation efficiencies. Gain the knowledge to convert turf areas to California-friendly landscapes, including the selection of plants that will thrive in our Mediterranean climate.

Since landscape irrigation accounts for over half of a typical household's water consumption, landscape transformations can also reduce monthly water bills. Learn more and register at [www.olivenhain.com/events](http://www.olivenhain.com/events).

Attendees will also learn about our My Water Use alert system that allows you to monitor your water use and set thresholds to be alerted to abnormal usage that can indicate a leak.





## Calling All Amateur Photographers!

*There's still time to enter our  
Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve photo contest*

Bring your camera and discover your creative side while exploring our 748-acre reserve. The reserve offers approximately 11 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails that offer a wide range of photographic opportunities.



"Nature's Rainbow" by Melody Colombo



"Lilac Giraffe" by Teresa Chase

Winners will receive prizes donated by the San Diego Zoo, California Wolf Center, EcoVivarium Reptile Sanctuary, REI, PC Photo and Imaging, and the Escondido Creek Conservancy.

Visit [www.olivenhain.com/photo](http://www.olivenhain.com/photo) to enter our contest by the April 27 deadline.

### OMWD is Prepared *Continued from page 1*

OMWD coordinates regularly with local fire departments on fire flows and water pressure needs. OMWD tests fire flows for fire departments when new homes are built or modified, as occupancy is not allowed without adequate fire flows.

OMWD also has employees dedicated to regularly checking and maintaining fire hydrants and valves. We have over 3,500 fire hydrants alone in our system, and our maintenance program exceeds industry standards.

Through regular emergency drills at OMWD's Emergency Operation Center, our staff remains vigilant and prepared to respond to any future emergencies. Our command center is well-equipped, including emergency communication radios for monitoring fire and police channels during events. During an incident, we get regular updates from SDG&E and participate in regional meetings as conditions change.

Be prepared by ensuring your contact information is up to date with all your utility providers, including us! Call us at 760-753-6466 to check your contact information.