



2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest Now Accepting Entries

Encinitas, CA—Olivenhain Municipal Water District invites residents with water-efficient gardens to enter the 2021 WaterSmart Landscape Contest. The winning landscape will receive \$250. The deadline to apply is May 14, and applications are available at www.landscapecontest.com.

Up to 80 percent of local household water consumption is outdoors. Upgrading to a water-efficient landscape can be one of the most effective means to reduce one's water use. The contest aims to inspire more residents to consider a landscape makeover by showcasing the beauty, variety, and functionality of water-efficient landscapes.

Landscaping for water efficiency has benefits that go beyond reducing water consumption and water bill costs. Water-efficient gardens can improve a home's curb appeal and they often require less maintenance than their water-thirsty counterparts. Additionally, many native plant selections have fire-resistant qualities and provide habitat for local wildlife.

"Transforming your landscape to a sustainable garden can make a big difference in your home's water use as well as its curb appeal," said OMWD Board Director and Conservation Committee member Christy Guerin. "We hope this contest will encourage more people to take advantage of the free resources and rebates that are available to them to help make their dream garden a reality."

Contest entries will be judged on a variety of criteria such as attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, functionality, and efficient irrigation methods.

In addition to a \$250 prize, the 2021 winner of the WaterSmart Landscape Contest will receive recognition at an OMWD Board of Directors meeting and in OMWD publications.

Several San Diego County water agencies are participating in this annual landscape contest. Visit www.landscapecontest.com for additional information and to see images of previous years' winning landscapes.

For those who have yet to convert their turf areas to a water-efficient landscape, a rebate of up to \$3 per square foot is currently available through www.socalwatersmart.com.

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Olivenhain Municipal Water District is a public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and operation of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Organized in 1959, OMWD currently serves approximately 87,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County.

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