



OMWD's Recycled Water Treatment Project Named Project of the Year

Ultraviolet disinfection system reduces operational costs, saving ratepayers money

Encinitas, CA—Olivenhain Municipal Water District's Ultraviolet Disinfection System Project was recognized today as a 2021 Project of the Year by American Public Works Association's San Diego and Imperial County Chapter at its virtual awards event.

The UV project replaced an outdated system at OMWD's 4S Ranch Water Reclamation Facility in order to continue serving high-quality recycled water. 4S WRF treats and disinfects wastewater for use as tertiary treated recycled water throughout 4S Ranch and the southeastern portion of OMWD's service area. It can produce up to two million gallons of this alternative water supply for irrigation at schools, parks, golf courses, streetscapes, and homeowner association common areas.

4S WRF utilizes UV technology in the final treatment stage as it requires fewer chemical disinfectants to be added. Newer UV technology increases energy efficiency by approximately 20 percent. Maintenance time by operators is also reduced as the new system contains 96 bulbs instead of 672.

Additionally, OMWD received an APWA Honor Award for its Unit AA Pipeline Rehabilitation Project. 2020 storms caused Escondido Creek to flood, eroding the river banks near OMWD's 48" Unit AA potable water pipeline. The quick completion of this project prevented property damage, adverse environmental impacts, and interruptions to our customers' water service. "Being honored by our peers in the public works community commemorates the consummate efforts by our board and staff to provide reliable deliveries of potable and recycled water to customers," said Larry Watt, OMWD Board President.

APWA is a professional association of public works agencies, private companies, and individuals dedicated to promoting public awareness through education, advocacy, and the exchange of knowledge. APWA's local chapter annually recognizes the best public works projects and professionals in San Diego and Imperial Counties. This award raises awareness of the necessary alliance between public agencies, contractors, and consultants, such as architects and environmental engineers, to complete public works projects.

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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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