



Olivenhain Water and Encinitas Fire Offer Free Online Firewise Landscaping Workshop October 13

Workshop to introduce landscape improvements that can reduce water use and protect homes from wildfires

Encinitas, CA—Olivenhain Municipal Water District and Encinitas Fire Department invite the public to attend a free online workshop on October 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will cover how to landscape homes and businesses in a way that protects them from fire damage and improves water efficiency.

California is experiencing yet another destructive wildfire season. Many experts are concerned that the state will continue to see an increase in frequency and intensity of fires in the years to come. To enhance public safety, OMWD and Encinitas Fire aim to increase public awareness of the benefits of firewise landscaping practices.

The workshop will feature representatives from Encinitas Fire and OMWD as well as a presentation by Greg Rubin, a San Diego area native plant expert and author with extensive firewise landscaping experience. Rubin designed and installed the fire demonstration garden at Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District's fire station in Elfin Forest. Topics to be discussed during the workshop include landscape zones, irrigation, and plant selection.

In addition to providing fire protection benefits, firewise landscapes can feature climate-appropriate plants and plants native to Southern California that require significantly less water for irrigation than traditional turf-heavy landscapes.

Fire departments and water districts work together closely for the protection of the communities they serve. In particular, OMWD partners with neighboring fire agencies to provide training opportunities at its Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. OMWD also has built a reliable system of water infrastructure that ensures adequate pressure and water for fire protection throughout its service area.

OMWD's fall workshop series is traditionally hosted at OMWD's Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's workshop will be held online.

To register for this event, visit www.olivenhain.com/events.

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Located at 8833 Harmony Grove Road in the community of Elfin Forest, Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve provides a wealth of opportunities for recreation, outdoor education, and environmental appreciation. The 784-acre open space reserve was developed by OMWD in partnership with the San Diego County Water Authority and the US Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management.

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 86,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County.

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