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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Otay Water District Launches 2023 WaterSmart Landscape Contest**

*Program Demonstrates Benefits of Outdoor Water Conservation*

**Spring Valley, CA** – The Otay Water District has launched its annual WaterSmart Landscape Contest. Given that more than half of residential water use occurs on landscape irrigation, the contest aims to encourage outdoor conservation during the drought. The District awards the title “Best in District” and a nursery gift card, among other prizes, to one resident for their attractive, drought-tolerant garden. The deadline to enter is Friday, May 12, 2023.

“This contest recognizes the outdoor conservation efforts our residential customers have made during a time when it matters most,” said Otay Water District Board President Mark Robak. “Previous winners of this program have proven that it is possible to create low-water and low-maintenance landscapes with curb appeal.”

Otay is among 12 water agencies throughout San Diego County that host the contest. Prizes include a \$250 nursery gift card of the winner’s choice, a yard sign, a certificate, and a goody bag. The winner is selected based on design, overall attractiveness, efficient irrigation methods, and appropriate plant selection and maintenance.

To participate, residents must fill out an application and submit before and after photos of their landscape, a plant list, and a description of their landscape’s transformation. Nominations are also welcome. Front, back, and side yards are eligible.

For details on the contest, visit [otaywater.gov/landscape-contest](http://otaywater.gov/landscape-contest). For tips to improve applications and see photos of past winners, visit [landscapecontest.com](http://landscapecontest.com).

*The Otay Water District is a public agency providing water, recycled water, and sewer service to approximately 228,000 customers within approximately 125 square miles of southeastern San Diego County, including the communities of eastern Chula Vista, Bonita, Jamul, Spring Valley, Rancho San Diego, unincorporated areas of El Cajon and La Mesa, and eastern Otay Mesa along the international border with Mexico. For more information on the Otay Water District, visit [otaywater.gov](http://otaywater.gov).*

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