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A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT

◆ SPRING 2006

Keeping Your Water Safe

In this era of domestic security concerns drinking water professionals are working vigilantly to safeguard our most valuable natural resource: water. The following information is an update on the steps taken by water systems around the nation in coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies.

- The 2002 Public Health and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act required water utilities to evaluate system-wide vulnerabilities and develop emergency response protocols.
- Billions of dollars have been spent nationwide by water suppliers to address security needs, including improved fencing, lock systems, lights, alarms and other related measures.
- Scientists and manufacturers are working to bring improved water quality monitoring devices to the marketplace to bolster security throughout distribution systems.
- Drinking water professionals are continually undergoing training on such issues as vulnerability assessments and emergency response planning.

- Security protocols have been put in place to ensure that sensitive information shared between water utilities and Federal agencies does not fall into the wrong hands.

While much has been done regionally and nationally to safeguard your water supply, water utilities will continue to evaluate, monitor and reevaluate potential threats as well as the needs for greater physical protection and new technology to aid in this effort. All of these measures help to ensure drinking water will be safe from potential threats to the nation's water supply infrastructure.

We also encourage residents living near water facilities to be vigilant and to report suspicious activities to appropriate authorities. If you have any questions or need further information, please call us at (619) 670-2222 or visit our Web site at www.otaywater.gov.



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OTAY WATER DISTRICT
2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA 91978-2096
www.otaywater.gov

OWD Receives Distinguished Budget Award for 2005

The OWD has received the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its 2005 budget. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting, and it is the second year in a row the OWD has received this award.

To receive the award, the OWD had to satisfy recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. A panel of independent reviewers

examined the budget document and rated it on how well it serves as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 14,000 government finance professionals across North America. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting. The award-winning budget as well as the OWD's Comprehensive Annual Finance Report can be viewed at www.otaywater.gov.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service

The OWD was created from a 1962 merger of the Otay Municipal Water District and the La Presa County Water District.

The Otay Municipal Water District was first established in 1956, as a California Special District. The La Presa County Water District formed one year later to provide water service, specifically, to the communities of La Presa and south Spring Valley.

Since they shared a common service area, in 1962 the two newly formed water districts entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to make the best use of equipment, labor, management and operations.

The consolidation worked perfectly, resulting in savings for water customers and the construction of a joint use facility, located on the current site of OWD's headquarters.

Due to the success of the combined operations, the two district's boards of directors voted unanimously to officially dissolve La Presa in 1969, with OWD taking control of all its assets and resources.

As we celebrate 50 years of service to this community, few people may remember the La Presa County Water District. However, this pioneer utility served an important role in our region's history.



In 1963, the Otay and La Presa Boards of Directors celebrated the grand opening of their joint headquarters.

Save the Date!

Help us celebrate our 50th Anniversary at OWD's Community Day with food, fun, prizes, games and more...

DATE: June 17, 2006

TIME: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**PLACE: 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd.
Spring Valley, CA**



Otay Water District Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. in the Boardroom. The public is encouraged to attend at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley, CA

President

Jaime Bonilla, Division 2
jbonilla@otaywater.gov

Vice President

Jose Lopez, Division 4
jlopez@otaywater.gov

Treasurer

Mark Robak, Division 5
mrobak@otaywater.gov

Boardmember

Larry Breitfelder, Division 1
lbreitfelder@otaywater.gov

Boardmember

Gary Croucher, Division 3
gcroucher@otaywater.gov

Spring Garden Festival

May 20, 2006

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West

Free admission/parking.

Visit the Water Conservation Garden's *Spring Garden Festival* for a high-efficiency clothes washer giveaway, plant sale, garden tours, expert design advice, live music, food, workshops, children's activities, llama rides, prizes, crafts and more. For more information visit www.cuyamaca.net/springfest or call 619.660.0614.

Water Conservation Incentives

FREE!

Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers

Get your free weather "Smart" irrigation controller. These controllers are the latest in



irrigation technology and use either historic or real-time weather data to automatically adjust your watering schedule (a minimum of 2,000 square feet of irrigated landscape and an existing irrigation controller are required to qualify).

For details on future distribution events, call 619.670.2291.

Do you have tips or a story about conservation, gardening or anything else water related that you would like to share with your fellow Otay Water District Customers? If so, please email it to Armando Buelna at abuelna@otay-water.gov or mail to 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley, CA 91978

Give Your Landscape A Reward More than \$2,000 in prizes for homeowners

It's time to dust off your clippers, pull those weeds and nominate your yard for San Diego County's 3rd Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest.

The California-Friendly Landscape Contest was developed to reward homeowners who have explored the beauty of California-Friendly plants and installed water-wise landscapes.

The contest is open to all customers of the Otay Water District, the City of San Diego, Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, and the Sweetwater Authority. The winners will be announced during the 2006 Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden on May 20th.

Sites will be judged for overall attractiveness, efficient irrigation methods, appropriate plant selection and maintenance, and increased water efficiency. The region's best do-it-yourself homeowner and best professionally landscaped yard each will receive a \$500 gift certificate to an area nursery. A best-in-district winner chosen from each agency's service area will receive a \$250 gift certificate.

The closing date for entries is April 14, 2006. For information or to request an application, call 619.670.2291.

Gardening Tips and More...

Watch "Down to Earth"

Every Day at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
on Cox Cable Channel 24.

Award-winning host and horticulturalist, Tom Piergross shows you how to get the best from San Diego's soil, climate and vegetation for a beautiful, relaxing and California friendly, water-wise garden.



Take a Class at the Water Conservation Garden

The Water Conservation Garden is located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West in El Cajon. For more information go to www.thegarden.org or call 619.660.0614. Classes repeat periodically. Visit the Web site for the latest information.

Xeriscape: Beautiful Landscape on a Low Water Budget
Saturday, April 8, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Irrigation Design for Water Wise Gardens
Wednesday, April 19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Managing Your Irrigation Water
Wednesday, April 26, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Culinary Container Gardening
Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

