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A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2007

## Water Fluoridation to Begin in November

Beginning early November, the public drinking water supply will contain limited amounts of fluoride.

The Otay Water District (Otay) purchases drinking water from the San Diego County Water Authority that has been treated by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). Metropolitan is a consortium of Southern California cities and water districts that provides drinking water to residents in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. Metropolitan provides approximately half of all treated water consumed in San Diego County.

In 2003, the Metropolitan board of directors adopted a policy of converting its water treatment processes to add fluoride, a tooth cavity fighting agent to reduce and control tooth decay. This action was required by state law, the California Fluoridation Act of 1995, which mandates water systems with more than 10,000 service connections to fluoridate their water supply when outside funds are available to install and operate a fluoride system.

In addition to water purchased from Metropolitan, Otay also purchases drinking water from the Helix Water District (Helix) and the City of San Diego (San Diego). Helix has also converted its treatment process to add fluoride and will begin delivering fluoridated water at the same time as Metropolitan. San Diego, on the other hand, does not add fluoride to its water supply. As a result, most Otay customers will receive a blend of fluoridated water and unfluoridated water.

Some fluoride is already present in our water supply. Most water in San Diego County comes from the Colorado River or the Sierra snow pack. As water passes over the surface of the earth, from rain and snowmelt to streams and rivers, it picks up fluoride through the natural erosion process. Fluoride is present in our water at approximately 0.2 parts per million (ppm), with a range of 0.1 to 0.4 ppm. Metropolitan and Helix will supplement the existing fluoride in the water supply raising it to 0.8 ppm; the level optimal for dental health.

Due to the blending of waters, which varies by region and time of year, many communities served by Otay will receive fluoride at less than .7 ppm. Otay laboratory personnel will closely monitor fluoride levels throughout our service area and will post this information to our website on a monthly basis. We encourage customers who are already taking or are considering taking fluoride supplements to talk to their medical or dental professional.

Otay neither advocates nor opposes fluoridation. As a community water district regulated by state law, Otay had no part in the fluoridation decision. It is our guiding principle to keep our customers fully informed on issues affecting your water supply. For additional information regarding fluoridation please visit the following websites:

**The Otay Water District:**

[www.otaywater.gov/owd/pages/resources.Fluoridation.aspx](http://www.otaywater.gov/owd/pages/resources.Fluoridation.aspx)

**The American Dental Association:**

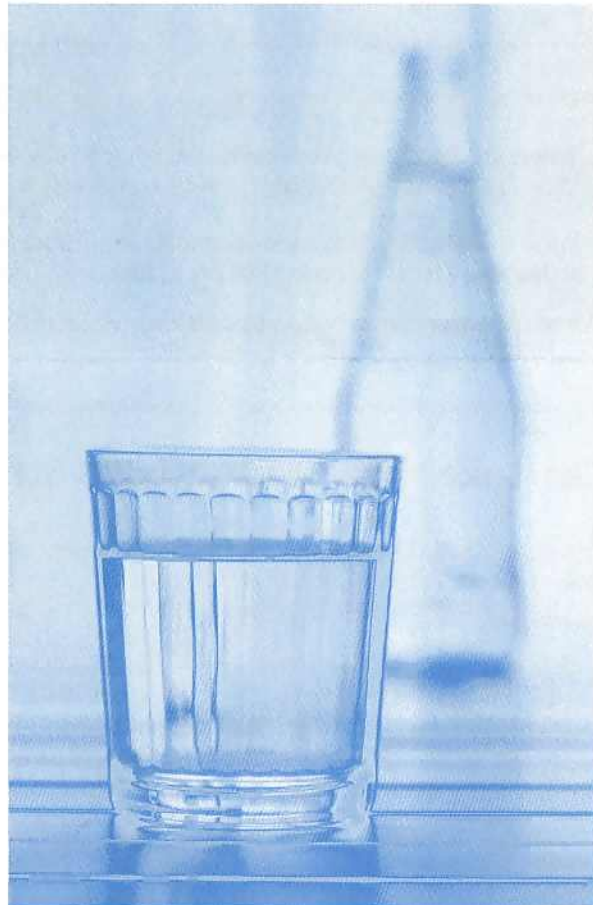
[www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/](http://www.ada.org/public/topics/fluoride/)

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention:**

[www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/factsheets/fl-background.html](http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/factsheets/fl-background.html)

**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California:**

[www.mwdh2o.com/fluoridation/index.html](http://www.mwdh2o.com/fluoridation/index.html)



*The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California will start adding fluoride to water beginning in November.*

## More Payment Options Now Available!

Debit and credit card customers now have more payment options and can pay their bill 24/7. Customers can call us at 619-670-2777, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In addition to VISA and MasterCard debit/credit card payments, our credit card service now accepts Discover and American Express. A \$3.60 fee is applied to credit card transactions.

**Web-Payments:** Web-payments can be made online 24/7 at no charge. Visit our website at [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov) and click on Pay Your Bill Online. We accept VISA and MasterCard debit and credit cards.

**Auto-Payment:** Using automatic payment service, your bank account will be debited each month on a pre-arranged date. An Auto-Payment application form is available online at [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov) and click on Customer Service.

**Secure 24 Hour Drop Box:** A 24 hour drop box is available to our customers at our business office located at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley.

**Postal Annex:** Payments can also be made at The Postal Annex in the Terra Nova Shopping Center, 374 East H Street, off I-805 in Chula Vista. Call 619-585-7400 for business hours.

**Mail Payments:** You can mail your payment directly to the Otay Water District, P.O. Box 51375, Los Angeles, CA 90051-5675

## Take the 20-Gallon Challenge!

*Saving water may be easier than you think.*

Historic dry conditions in California make it essential for residents and businesses to conserve water. If every person saves 20 gallons of water each day, this will help the region by allowing us to store more water for next year. Saving water is easier than you might think. Here are some useful tips for saving water around your home or business.

- Check and adjust your irrigation system and timers at least once a month. Promptly fix leaks, breaks, or misaligned sprinklers.
- Use the Landscape Watering Calculator at [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov) to create a water wise irrigation schedule.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours or after sunset when temperatures are cooler.
- When the weather is particularly hot, skip one day of watering during the week, or water on the weekend. Visit the Watering Index at [www.otaywater.gov](http://www.otaywater.gov), click on conservation to make sure plants are getting the right amount of water.
- Install a weather smart irrigation controller and replace thirsty unused turf with water wise plants and receive a rebate of up to \$1.00 per sq. foot.

**For more water conservation tips visit our website or call 619-670-2291.**

## EastLake High Grad Receives Scholarship

Otay is proud to award its 2007 scholarship to EastLake High School graduate Laura Nolan. Nolan was a graduating senior at EastLake High with a 4.4 GPA. In addition to her strong



Laura and her parents, Sharon and Dr. Tim Nolan, accept the \$1,000 OWD scholarship.

academic credentials, Nolan is a recognized leader among her peers, active in school clubs and competitive academics, an outstanding musician, and a community volunteer. This fall she begins her first college semester with the goal of earning a Ph.D. in anthropology or international relations.

Each year the OWD awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior living in its service area. For more on the next scholarship competition, visit our website beginning in February 2008.

## Otay Water District Board of Directors

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

### President

Gary Croucher, Division 3  
[gcroucher@otaywater.gov](mailto:gcroucher@otaywater.gov)

### Vice-President

Jose Lopez, Division 4  
[jlopez@otaywater.gov](mailto:jlopez@otaywater.gov)

### Treasurer

Jaime Bonilla, Division 2  
[jbonilla@otaywater.gov](mailto:jbonilla@otaywater.gov)

### Boardmember

Mark Robak, Division 5  
[OtayWater@cox.net](mailto:OtayWater@cox.net)

### Boardmember

Larry Breitfelder, Division 1  
[lbreitfelder@otaywater.gov](mailto:lbreitfelder@otaywater.gov)

