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A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT

WINTER 2006

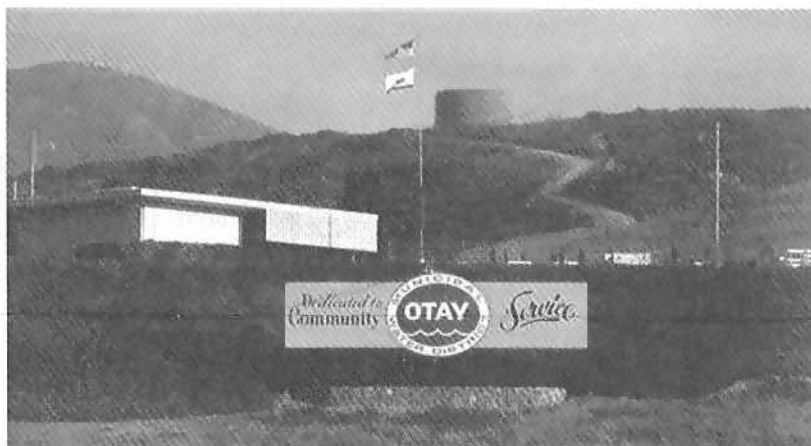
Celebrating 50 years of Quality Water

On an overcast summer day in 1955, a plumber, a civil engineer, an attorney, a newspaper publisher and two owners of large tracts of land gathered for lunch at Christie's Restaurant in Chula Vista. They met to discuss how together they could bring life-giving water to an arid region of southeastern San Diego County.

By the end of the day, the group had a recipe for success that included a common vision, about one thousand dollars in capital, and the framework for what would later become the Otay Water District (OWD). Their vision was realized on January 27th, 1956, when

the OWD was authorized by the State Legislature to an entitlement to imported water; and thus began a history of service to a growing customer base.

In the past 50 years, the population of OWD's service area has grown to more than 186,000 customers. The make up of the district's consumers has also changed from predominantly dry-land farming and cattle



Proudly serving the South County since 1956.

ranching, to businesses, high-tech industries and master-planned communities. The OWD has had to grow and change as well in anticipation of the needs of a changing service area.

This year, the OWD celebrates its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the anniversary, the OWD is planning activities and events including a community open house later this summer.

Christie's Restaurant is long since gone, but its memory will not soon fade into history. This restaurant is where the vision of the OWD began, and it is one recipe from Christie's that lives on.

The OWD's next 50 years promise to be as eventful and successful as its first. Still, one thing holds true today as it did 50 years ago; responsible resource planning, sound fiscal management, respect for the environment, and paying close attention to customers' needs

are necessary to ensure that OWD's future is as successful as its past.

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

OWD Unveils 50th Anniversary Logo

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, employees of the OWD selected a 50th anniversary corporate logo. The new logo will be used on the OWD stationary, at ceremonial events and on commemorative items throughout 2006.

The colorful new logo includes an image of San Miguel Mountain, a geologic feature located prominently in the center of the district and clearly visible from practically anywhere within its 125 square mile service territory. It also

includes images of life-giving water, which are essential to bringing growth and opportunity to the South County and streams of light representing the region's prosperous future.

The district celebrates its 50th Anniversary on January 27, 2006. The anniversary affords the OWD the opportunity to reflect on the past, celebrate the district's accomplishments and share its plans for the future.



Water Conservation and Scholarship Announcements

Homeowners, HOAs and other Large Landscape Customers:

Receive a free weather-based irrigation controller (WBIC) that uses the latest in technology to save water and money by automatically adjusting your watering schedule. To be eligible, you must have at least 2,000 square feet of irrigated landscape, an existing irrigation controller, and a sprinkler system in good working condition. Residential WBICs have been shown to reduce landscape water use by 15,000 gallons per year or 40 gallons per day. WBICs serving large landscapes of one acre or more have been shown to reduce water usage by more than 545 gallons per day or 200,000 gallons a year. Supplies are limited so call today.

The weather-based irrigation controllers will be distributed as part of a half-day class, on dates to be scheduled later this winter and in the early spring. Participants must turn in their old controller. To sign-up or to receive more information, please email prega@otaywater.gov or call (619) 670-2291.

Win a \$250-\$500 prize for being water-wise!

Though April 14, 2006, applications are being accepted for the 3rd Annual California Friendly

Landscape Contest. The contest rewards homeowners who have explored the beauty of California-Friendly plants and installed water-wise landscapes. Sites are judged on overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection and maintenance, efficient irrigation methods and overall water efficiency. To see examples from last year's winners or to obtain an application, visit www.otaywater.gov and click on conservation. Applications are also available by calling (619) 670-2291.

High School Seniors may receive up to \$2,000 in scholarships!

Graduating high school seniors living within the OWD service area are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 Otay Water District/California Special District Association (CSDA) Scholarship. The district's scholarship recipient becomes eligible to receive another \$1,000 scholarship from the San Diego Chapter of the CSDA or another affiliate organization. Information and CSDA applications are available by calling (619) 670-2291 or by visiting www.otaywater.gov and clicking on "education" then "scholarship winners." Applications must be mailed or delivered by February 24, 2006.

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

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@otaywater.gov or mail to 2554 Sweetwater Springs Blvd., Spring Valley, CA 91978

Otay Water District Flexes Its Power

By participating in the State of California's "Flex Your Power" campaign to promote energy efficiency and conservation, the Otay Water District (OWD) has cut energy use and produced approximately \$93,000 in annual energy savings.

Since 2003, the OWD has upgraded pumps, motors, lights, as well as heating and air conditioning equipment to improve efficiency and save energy. Energy savings from these actions now annually save 1.7 million kilowatt-hours of energy.

OWD also reduced electricity use by cutting demand during peak hours when energy supplies are tight. Through participation in the "Flex Your Power" demand response program, OWD was able to cut its peak demand by 56% through time-of-use metering and off-peak pumping. By using less energy to operate the district's large pumps and other equipment, the OWD reduces demand on the statewide power grid and helps keep energy affordable for everyone.

Across California the "Flex Your Power" campaign has reduced electricity demand by more than 2 million kilowatts, the equivalent capacity of two nuclear power plants.

Conservation and the efficient use of energy are critically important to the district's operations. The OWD is proud to do its part to reduce energy use, helping to keep California's electricity safe, reliable and affordable.



Otay Water District to Receive \$4 Million Grant for Recycled Water Pipeline

The Otay Water District (OWD) was recently awarded a \$4 million grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In a ceremony held at the district's headquarters, the SWRCB formally presented the OWD's board of directors with a Facilities Plan Approval letter outlining the Proposition 50 grant funding.

The grant money will be used for the district's recycled water supply link, a six-mile pipeline, reservoir and pump station project that connects OWD's recycled water network to the City of San Diego's South Bay Water Reclamation Plant (SBWRP).

"This is exactly the type of project voters had in mind when approving Prop. 50," said Gerald D. Secundy, a board member with the SWRCB. "This project required foresight and demonstrates the advantages of regional partnerships. It's a win-win for the environment, for water reliability, and all the parties involved."

Proposition 50, the Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water Projects, Coastal Wetlands Purchase and Protection Bond Initiative was passed by California voters in 2002. The bond measure includes funding for safe drinking water programs, water supply and reliability programs, and water recycling projects. The \$4 million grant,

the maximum amount being awarded by the SWRCB, will be applied to the \$40 million cost of the project.

In October 2005, the OWD broke ground on the recycled water supply project. It includes a six-mile long, 30-inch in diameter transmission pipeline, a 12-million gallon reservoir and 16-million gallons per day pump station. The pipeline will bring recycled water from the SBWRP to eastern Chula Vista.

When finished in 2007, the pipeline, pump station and reservoir will have the ability to deliver more than 6 million gallons per day of recycled water from the reclamation plant near the international border. Recycled water is used solely for landscape irrigation along street medians, parks, golf courses and large open space areas in communities such as EastLake and Otay Ranch.

The OWD currently operates one of the largest recycled water distribution systems in San Diego County with more than 77 miles of recycled water pipeline. When its system is completely built-out, it will have more than 175 miles of recycled water pipeline and approximately 15 to 20 percent of OWD's total annual water demand will be met with recycled water.



(Pictured from left to right) Front row - Director Jaime Bonilla, Director Larry Breitfelder, Director Jose Lopez, Director Gary Croucher, Director Mark Robak, and Gerald Secundy, SWRCB board member.

