

pipeline

WINTER
2019

A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT



Dedicated to
Community Service



Capital Improvement Program is Critical to Sustaining High Quality Service, While Minimizing Rate Impacts to Customers



Before and after photos of the removal and replacement of the 571-1 Reservoir (36.7 million-gallon capacity) liner and cover with a new liner and cover. The before photo shows the reservoir construction of the geofabric layer and liner and the after photo shows the completed reservoir cover and liner. The 571-1 is located in the northeast corner of Otay Mesa.

Evolving needs of the community and the District's service area, water supply challenges, and changing regulations make infrastructure planning a critical part of the Otay Water District's overall strategic plan. The District provides water and sewer service to a population of more than 225,000, which is expected to increase to 308,000 by the year 2050. The District's Board and staff recognize the critical need of sustaining and providing quality service that comes with development and growth. One of the District's key elements in providing and sustaining this high quality service is the District's Capital Improvement Program. The District works diligently to replace, repair, maintain, and improve its water, recycled water, and sewer facilities

to assure reliable service to its customers along with efficient operations.

Replacement of aging infrastructure that is reaching the end of its useful life is essential to maintaining the District's systems and facilities. By maintaining the integrity and reliability of its infrastructure, the quality and safety of the District's water supply is preserved for residents and businesses, while at the same time minimizing rate impacts to customers.

As a customer of the District, it is valuable to be aware of the construction projects taking place in the District's service area to provide quality water and sewer service. One such project currently taking place is the Vista Vereda and Hidden Mesa

Road Water Line Replacement Project. The project, located in the Hillsdale area of Rancho San Diego, involves replacing and upgrading water mains. The project will also remove a main that can no longer reliably provide service to the area.

Other projects include interior and exterior recoating and upgrading of a 2-million-gallon-capacity reservoir in El Cajon and a floating cover and liner replacement of a 16-million-gallon-capacity reservoir in Chula Vista. The District is also working on replacing two of its pump stations with a new pump station in the northeast corner of Otay Mesa. The project also includes removing and replacing the existing 36.7-million-gallon-capacity reservoir liner and cover with a new liner and cover, and installing new piping for the reservoir.

Last, but not least, when completed, the Campo Road Sewer Replacement Project will replace 1.41 miles of a sewer main with a new pipeline along SR-94 in Rancho San Diego. The new pipeline will reduce the potential for sewer overflows, and its new alignment will allow the District to construct and maintain the pipeline without disturbing sensitive environmental areas.

These projects demonstrate the importance of standard maintenance to preserve the integrity of the District's facilities and are consistent with the District's mission to provide exceptional water and wastewater service to its customers and manage resources in a transparent and fiscally responsible manner.

For details about the District's construction projects, visit otaywater.gov/construction-projects.

Proud of Your Water-Efficient Landscape?

ENTER THE WATERSMART LANDSCAPE CONTEST!

The District is encouraging its customers to show off their water-efficient yards by participating in this year's WaterSmart Landscape Contest. Not only do customers get to demonstrate their outdoor water conservation practices, but the winner will win various prizes, including a \$250 gift certificate to the nursery of their choice.

The annual contest rewards customers who have created water-efficient landscapes throughout all of San Diego County. One lucky winner from District's service area

will be chosen as the "Best in District" for best exemplifying its outdoor water-wise features. The judging criteria is based on overall attractiveness, appropriate plant selection, design, maintenance, and irrigation methods. The deadline to enter is Friday, April 26, 2019.

For rules, requirements, application, and full details on the contest, visit otaywater.gov/landscape-contest-2019.



Otay Saves Water through Its Annual Leak Detection Program

As part of the Otay Water District's preventative maintenance program to safeguard its water supply and reduce water loss, the District is conducting annual leak inspections of its pipelines beginning March 5 through an estimated completion date of May 3. During this process, the District's contractor, Matchpoint Incorporated, will inspect approximately 165 miles of potable and recycled water mains within the District's service area.

Customers may see Matchpoint workers inspecting the meter in front of their home or business between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Workers will be wearing a Matchpoint Incorporated logo and will carry company identification. They will not need access to customers' homes or properties. If a leak is suspected on a customer's property, the District will contact the customer and advise them of the leak.

For more information on the District's annual Leak Detection Program, visit otaywater.gov or call (619) 670-2222. To find out what you can do to detect and fix leaks on your property, learn about Fix a Leak Week at otaywater.gov/fix-a-leak-week.



Otay Officially Launches Its Instagram!

Get the latest water-related content to your social feed by following the Otay Water District on its newly launched Instagram (IG) profile. The District's IG will feature the latest on Capital Improvement Program projects, history of Otay, water careers and opportunities, and more. All this is dedicated to connect you, the customer, with local water news, events, and other information related to the District.

Stay tuned for local IG contests with various giveaways and prizes in appreciation for

the District's IG followers and their engagement. Followers are also encouraged to submit ideas for future Otay Instagram posts to info@otaywater.gov. If an idea is chosen, the submitter will receive a water-saving goodie bag. To follow the District's IG, visit [instagram.com/otaywater](https://www.instagram.com/otaywater) or search "OtayWater" on Instagram! #OtayWater

Do it for the 'Gram and for Your Love of Water –
Follow
@otaywater on IG!



Get the Most out of the Rainy Season with a Rain Barrel or Cistern

REBATES AVAILABLE!



The rainy season has been in full force. Apply for a rebate on a rain barrel or cistern today. Both are great ways to save money and water. Rain collected in a barrel or cistern can be used for irrigation, reduction in runoff, and savings on your water bill. Otay customers can apply for a \$35 rebate on a rain barrel (maximum of two per customer) or up to \$350 for a cistern (maximum of one per customer). For more information, visit otaywater.gov/rebates.

For class information, visit thegarden.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Hillside Planting
Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Find beautiful solutions for planting in spaces such as hillsides and slopes. The FREE class is made possible by the San Diego County Watershed Protection Program. Register at thegarden.org or call (619) 660-0614, ext. 10.

ONGOING EVENTS

Free Docent-Led Tours
First Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.

Be inspired to create a water-wise landscape of your own while enjoying an informative walk through The Garden with a docent tour guide. Visit thegarden.org for special themed tours.

Professional Landscape Design Consultations

The Garden offers 45-minute landscape consultations for residents looking to make changes to their landscape with water-wise plants. Call (619) 660-0614 ext. 10 to schedule. Cost: \$60 for members; \$75 for nonmembers.

Ms. Smarty-Plants School Tours and Assembly Program

Become a Ms. Smarty-Plants Earth Hero. Join Ms. Smarty-Plants as she takes you on a magical, fun, and interactive journey through plant adaptations, the water cycle, conservation, and more. To book an educational tour of The Garden or a school assembly program, call (619) 660-0615 ext. 16.

Plant a Tree, or Two...

Climate change is a big issue that overwhelms most of us. We are all part of the problem, but what can we do to be part of the solution? There's no question that as individuals and as a society, we need to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas emissions primarily by reducing the amount of fossil fuels we burn. To do that, we need to drive less and switch to fuel-efficient vehicles, use solar power in place of electricity made by burning fossil fuels, make buildings more energy efficient, stop deforestation, use less water, and so on.

There's one additional thing we CAN do — we can plant trees.

Have you ever heard forests described as the "lungs of the earth?" Trees and plants, including marine plants, create the oxygen we breathe from sunlight, water, and CO₂. Through the process of photosynthesis, water and CO₂ become the tree, which includes —the wood, the leaves, and the roots. The process is referred to as "sequestering" CO₂. As long as the CO₂ remains bound up in the tree, it stays out of the atmosphere. Once the tree is cut down, it decays, and in the process, releases CO₂ back into the atmosphere. So the more actively trees growing on earth, the more CO₂ is removed from the atmosphere.

In fact, a single tree can absorb up to 48 pounds of CO₂ per year, and sequester a ton of CO₂ by the time the tree reaches its 40th birthday.

What trees should you plant? The best trees for sequestering CO₂ are big trees with big, green leaves. In rainier climates, that describes most of the trees. In San Diego County, trees native and those best adapted to our area tend to have smallish or narrow leaves. Still, planting any kind of tree helps.

Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in winter) planted on the south and west sides of your home shade your house to cool it in summer so you use less air conditioning. In winter, after the leaves fall, sunlight penetrating through the branches warms the house, thus reducing your need to run the heater. Not using your heater or air conditioner saves money, conserves energy, and reduces the CO₂ emissions from creating that energy.

Shade over concrete surfaces keeps the concrete cool, while planting a tree or large shrub to shade an air conditioner helps the unit run up to 10 percent more efficiently, which reduces its energy use.

In urban communities, properties might be too small for big trees, but several smaller trees can add up to the carbon sequestration job that a big tree would do. Also, choose a tree that is drought tolerant. Consider planting Mexican redbud (*Cercis mexicana*), crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*), pineapple guava (*Acca sellowiana*), fig trees, bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*), or citrus trees (not so drought tolerant, but they fruit).

Find places in your neighborhood for bigger trees like our native live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Chinese pistache (*Pistacia sinensis*), tipu (*Tipuana tipu*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), or kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*). In addition to sequestering carbon, these trees reduce the heat-island effect to cool the entire community. In a park, trees create welcoming shady spaces, and can do so on a hot summer day as well.

If you live in a rural area with lots of room, please feel free to plant lots of trees. In rural areas, trees offer the same advantages as in urban areas, plus they serve as windbreaks, slow runoff, and erosion to protect the soil, serve as habitat for wild animals and insects, and offer many other ecosystem services. If space is not a problem, plant native live oak along with other natives such as sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Engelmann oak (*Quercus engelmannii*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Add large native shrubs such as toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and 'Ray Hartman' California lilac (*Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman'*).

So this year, please, plant and care for at least two trees. Make it one of your goals for 2019 — two trees to cool the planet!

Nan Sterman
Waterwise Gardener



Nan Sterman is a garden expert, author, designer, and educator. Nan leads international garden tours, is the author of several books, and hosts the show *A Growing Passion* on KPBS TV, www.waterwisegardener.com

El Programa de Mejora de Capital es importante para mantener servicios de alta calidad y minimizar el impacto de las tarifas para los clientes



Fotografías de antes y después de la remoción y reemplazo del recubrimiento del Reservoirio 571-1 (36.7 millones de galones de capacidad) por un nueva cubierta y recubrimiento. La fotografía de “antes” muestra la construcción de la capa y recubrimiento geotextil y la foto de “después” muestra la cubierta y recubrimiento del reservorio completamente terminados. El 571-1 está localizado en la esquina noreste de Otay Mesa.

La planificación de la infraestructura es una parte crítica del plan estratégico general del Distrito de Agua de Otay debido a las necesidades cambiantes de la comunidad y del área de servicio del distrito; los desafíos del suministro de agua; y las regulaciones siempre en constante evolución. El distrito proporciona servicios de agua y alcantarillado a más de 225,000 habitantes. Se espera que este número aumente a 308,000 para el año 2050. La junta directiva y el personal del distrito reconocen la imperiosa necesidad de mantener y brindar un servicio de alta calidad que vaya de la mano con el desarrollo y el crecimiento. Uno de los elementos clave para proporcionar y mantener un servicio de alta calidad es el Programa de Mejoras de Capital del Distrito. El distrito trabaja diligentemente para reemplazar, reparar, mantener y mejorar sus instalaciones de agua, agua reciclada y alcantarillado para garantizar un servicio confiable con operaciones eficientes.

El reemplazo de la antigua infraestructura que está llegando al final de su vida útil es esencial para mantener los sistemas e instalaciones del distrito. Al mantener la integridad y confiabilidad de la infraestructura se preserva la calidad y seguridad del suministro de agua del distrito, tanto para los residentes como para las empresas, y al mismo tiempo, se minimizan el impacto de las tarifas para los clientes.

Como cliente del distrito, es muy importante estar al tanto de los proyectos de construcción que se llevan a cabo en el área de servicio del distrito para brindar un servicio de agua y alcantarillado de alta calidad.

Una de las obras que se está llevando a cabo actualmente es el Proyecto de Reemplazo de la Línea de Agua de Vista Vereda y Hidden Mesa Road. Este proyecto, ubicado en el área de Hillsdale en Rancho San Diego, involucra el reemplazo y la modernización de las tuberías de agua. El proyecto también

eliminará una tubería principal que ya no puede proporcionar un servicio confiable a esa área.

Otros proyectos incluyen la modernización y recubrimiento del interior y exterior del reservorio de 2 millones de galones de capacidad en El Cajon; así como una cubierta flotante; y el reemplazo del revestimiento del reservorio de 16 millones de galones de capacidad en Chula Vista. El distrito también está trabajando para reemplazar dos de sus estaciones de bombeo por una nueva estación de bombeo en la esquina noreste de Otay Mesa. El proyecto también incluye la eliminación y reemplazo del revestimiento y la cubierta existentes del reservorio de 36.7 millones de galones de capacidad por unos nuevos, así como la instalación de tuberías en el reservorio.

Por último, aunque no menos importante, es el Proyecto de Reemplazo de Alcantarillado de Campo Road que reemplazará 1.41 millas de red de alcantarillado por una nueva tubería a lo largo de la autopista 94 en Rancho San Diego. El nuevo ducto reducirá la posibilidad de desbordamientos de alcantarillado y su nueva alineación permitirá al distrito construir y mantener el ducto sin afectar las áreas ambientales sensibles.

Estos proyectos demuestran la importancia que tiene el mantenimiento estándar para proteger la integridad de las instalaciones del distrito y van de la mano con la misión del mismo que es brindar un excelente servicio de agua y aguas residuales a sus clientes y administrar los recursos de manera transparente y fiscalmente responsable.

Para más información acerca de los proyectos de construcción del Distrito de Agua de Otay, por favor visite otaywater.gov/construction-projects.

FOLLOW OTAY WATER ON... / SIGA AL DISTRITO DE AGUA DE OTAY EN...



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 Board meeting room. The public is encouraged to attend at 2554 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, Spring Valley, CA.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTAY WATER DISTRICT CALL (619) 670-2222 OR GO TO OTAYWATER.GOV