



## Local Agencies Team Up to Offer Water and Fire-wise Landscape Workshop at New Demonstration Garden in 4S Ranch

**Encinitas, CA**— Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD) and Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) are co-hosting a free water and fire-wise landscape education event on Saturday, July 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The event will celebrate the newly completed fire-wise and water-smart garden at Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District's Station 2 which OMWD helped create and was installed by Blue Skies Landscape Maintenance. Guests can learn steps to make their properties better prepared for fire, as well as how to maximize water use efficiency. RSFFPD's Station 2 is located at 16930 Four Gee Rd, San Diego, CA 92127 and the demonstration garden is free and open to the public every day.

Due to the multiple years of drought conditions California has experienced, the local threat of wildfires this year is very real. To help alleviate concerns and increase awareness of home fire protection, a brief presentation from landscape professionals and the fire district's urban forester will begin at 9:30 a.m. Topics to be discussed include landscape zones and hydration, plant selection and installation, and landscape maintenance. The mini-workshop will be followed by a tour of the fire station and demonstration garden, and experts will be on hand to address questions or concerns.

"Defensible space around your home or business can save lives and property," said Ed Sprague, President of OMWD's Board of Directors, "and it is vital that our customers learn and employ workable fire protection goals while also minimizing the amount of water required to do so. We want people to know that there are many drought proof plant options that can help protect your home from wildfires."

"It is vital that residents start thinking about switching their landscaping to one that is drought-tolerant and fire-resistant," advised Conor Lenehan, Fire Prevention Specialist/Urban Forester for RSFFPD. "The compounding years of drought and water restrictions will continue to take its toll on people's ability to properly water their landscapes. This event is a great opportunity for the public to interact with professionals and learn some pointers on landscaping."

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*Olivenhain Municipal Water District is a public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and operation of Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Organized in 1959, OMWD currently serves approximately 84,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County.*

*The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 38-square miles and protects over 29,000 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, and 4S-Ranch.*

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