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Gerald E. Varty Appointed to Olivenhain Municipal Water District Board of Directors

Encinitas, CA– At their September 9 meeting, Olivenhain Municipal Water District's (OMWD) Board of Directors appointed Gerald E. Varty as the director representing Division 4 within OMWD's service area. Varty fills the seat left vacant by the recent passing of his wife, Susan J. Varty.

Mr. Varty, 60, has lived in the San Diego area for over 35 years, holding a Bachelor's degree in Management from San Diego State University, and currently working as Director of Service for Retail Inkjet Solutions, a San Diego firm. Mr. Varty has been actively involved in District meetings and events for over 15 years. "I have always been impressed with how OMWD is run. There is a focus on economical administration, but that attention to the bottom line never prevents OMWD from doing the right thing. The awards it has received are impressive but not at all surprising. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the community as a member of the OMWD Board of Directors."

Mr. Varty is aware of the challenges facing leaders within the water community. "Water is the number one issue in the state, really," said Mr. Varty. "The situation has reached the point of crisis. While I strongly support the environment, there has to be a balance between the needs of the Delta smelt and Southern Californians. Likewise, conservation is absolutely necessary but it can only do so much; water supply diversification through such approaches as desalination is just as important. Our water needs can be met if compromise can be reached, and I will work with my fellow Board members to achieve that compromise."

Division 4 of OMWD's service area includes all or part of the communities of Olivenhain, Rancho Santa Fe, Elfin Forest, and Harmony Grove. The Division 4 seat on the Board was left vacant on August 20, 2009 with the passing of Susan Varty. Mrs. Varty was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1994 and was the longest-tenured of OMWD's board members. Mr. Varty will serve on the Board for the remaining, unexpired portion of Mrs. Varty's term, which expires in November 2010.

OMWD is a public agency providing water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and recreational opportunities to its customers since 1961. OMWD currently includes over 48 square miles, and serves a population of approximately 68,000 residents. OMWD includes portions of the cities of Encinitas, Carlsbad, San Diego, Solana Beach, and San Marcos as well as the communities of Olivenhain, Leucadia, Elfin Forest, Rancho Santa Fe, Fairbanks Ranch, Santa Fe Valley and 4S Ranch. For more information about OMWD, visit www.omwd.com.

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