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Students Use Art to Highlight the Value of Water

Otay Water District Announces the 2026 Student Poster Contest Winners

Spring Valley, CA – Six student artists have been recognized as the winners of the Otay Water District’s 2026 “Being Water Wise is...” Student Poster Contest for their creative artwork promoting the importance of water-use efficiency. The annual contest invites K-12 grade students attending schools within the District’s service area to create posters that highlight the value of water and encourage water conservation.

“It is encouraging to see the level of creativity that students showcased this year to promote the significance of water conservation and stewardship,” said Eileen Salmeron, Otay’s communications assistant and contest coordinator. “This program helps inspire younger generations to better understand the importance of protecting our water resources every day.”

While no high school submissions were submitted this year, winners were selected in the elementary and middle school categories.

The District recognized the winners during its board of directors meeting on July 1. Each student received a gift card, certificate, art kit, and a goody bag in recognition of their achievement.

Winners include the following:

Elementary School Category:

- First place: Gabriel M., Fifth Grade, Liberty Elementary School
- Second place: Kathlyn Clarie M., First Grade, Liberty Elementary School
- Third place: Julianna R., Fourth Grade, Sweetwater Springs Elementary School

Middle School Category:

- First place: Chloe K., Eighth Grade, Rancho Del Rey Middle School
- Second place: Delilah T., Seventh Grade, Rancho Del Rey Middle School
- Third place: Zoe C., Eighth Grade, Rancho Del Rey Middle School

The winning posters have advanced to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California’s regional contest for an opportunity to be featured in MWD’s 2027 Student Art Calendar. The winners will be announced later this year.

To view the winning posters, visit otaywater.gov/poster-contest-winners-2026.

The Otay Water District is a public agency providing water, recycled water, and sewer service to approximately 242,155 customers within approximately 125 square miles of southeastern San Diego

County, including the communities of eastern Chula Vista, Bonita, Jamul, Spring Valley, Rancho San Diego, unincorporated areas of El Cajon and La Mesa, and east Otay Mesa along the international border with Mexico. For more information about the Otay Water District, visit otaywater.gov.

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