



Community Calendar

24 Hour Service 949.453.5300

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

Pipelines published by
Public Affairs Department
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine, California 92618
949.453.5300
www.irwd.com

Twitter channels
@IRWDemergency
@IRWDnews
@AlwaysH2OSmart

e-mail:
customerservice@irwd.com

IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS

- Friday, Sept. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. - IRWD Residential Landscape Workshop (see page one)
- Saturday, Oct. 3 - IRWD Resident Tour

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Event scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17 starting at 8:30 a.m. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- Saturday, Oct. 24 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. - Annual Pancake Breakfast at the SJWS. This is a great way to start the weekend. Delicious pancake breakfast, bird walks in the marsh and a sale of used nature books. Advance reservations required.
- Class in Animal Behavior & Tracking - Friday, Oct. 30 at SJWS and Saturday, Oct. 31 at Fremont Canyon (near Irvine Regional Park). Learn about the animals who make or occupy the various holes, dens and cavities that are seen along the trail. Learn how an animal propels itself across the earth and what its various gaits and patterns can tell us. Learn to identify the prints. Advance reservations necessary; class size limited to 14. Fee: \$50.
- Sharing Nature With Children - Each year, the Sea and Sage Audubon Naturalists share their love of nature with thousands of school children. If you have some experience working with children and would like to make a child's field trip an exciting experience that he or she will remember for many years, then come join us. The next new naturalist training begins in September and October, and classes can be taken in any order. Training is easy, tour group sizes are small, and activities are fun for students and naturalists.
- Art in Nature - In the Art Meets Science program, elementary school children discover the relationship between art and science. They explore the trails and ponds of the marsh while writing and sketching about their experience in a personal nature journal. They also create a colorful group mural about the importance of wetlands. Looking for experienced, enthusiastic artists to help lead these 1½ hour programs during 2009-10. Learn how you can be involved in this vital program that teaches that "there is science in art and art in science."
- For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held at IRWD. Visit www.irvinegardenclub.com or send an e-mail to Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com.

MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their website at www.uccemg.com or send an e-mail to ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- Help End Hunger - The food bank is serving 75-120 families each week with groceries. Support these families through food donations as well as grocery and gas gift cards. Bring donations to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call (949) 552-2727 or visit www.families-forward.org.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- "Help Support Our Local Military Troops through Recycling" - The City of Irvine is partnering with the Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee to participate in an annual nationwide aluminum can recycling challenge called Cans for Cash. The goal of the contest is for each participating city to collect as many aluminum cans as possible during the month of October. If the City of Irvine wins in its division, then the award proceeds will be donated to the 2/11 Marine Battalion to support military personnel and their families. Save your aluminum cans and donate them to a designated drop-off site in October. For information about Cans for Cash or drop-off sites, please visit www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms or call (949) 724-6459.
- Eighth Annual Irvine Global Village Festival - Celebrating Irvine's cultural heritage. Make plans to travel the world on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Bill Barber Park located adjacent to the Irvine Civic Center on Harvard between Barranca and Alton in Irvine. This multifaceted festival features international cuisine, live entertainment, a kids village, cultural exhibits, demonstrations and an international marketplace. Boasting artistic performances symbolic of Irvine's diverse cultural community, the festival's entertainment is a mosaic of music and dance representing more than 50 cultures from Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America. Admission is free. Food tasting tickets are available for purchase at the event. For more information and parking locations call (949) 724-6606 or visit www.irvinefestival.org.

ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK

- Friday night dances and Saturday night concerts thru Sept. 26. Free admission, \$8 parking.
- Hangar Cafe - Friday and Saturday nights from 6 to 10 p.m.
- Comedy Corner outside Hangar 244 - Friday and Saturday nights from 7 to 7:30 p.m.
- Night Flights - Thursday thru Sunday nights from 7 to 10 p.m. Pre-register at 6 p.m.
- For more information visit their website at www.ocgp.org or call (949) 724-7404.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- Thrift and Gift Shop - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org.
- The shop will be moving soon - watch for their announcement.

ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY'S 4th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Meet your local firefighters and learn how to prepare for a wildfire at its Regional Fire Operations & Training Center located at 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree & Tustin Ranch Rd.) in Irvine. Bring your family and friends to see live fire demonstrations, put out make-believe fires, try on firefighter turnouts, and discover fire safety information in a fun-filled environment.



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Irvine Ranch Water District



pipelines

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IRWD Provides Rebates for Water Conservation Devices

Looking for a great way to be more water efficient? Purchasing a new washer or toilet can help and IRWD can help financially.

Effective August 1, 2009, IRWD rebates required reservation numbers prior to purchase of the eligible devices and a new electronic application format replaces the paper applications. The Rebate Reservation System is now in effect. Before purchasing a qualifying device, a reservation number is required.

To reserve a single-family home rebate (for customers living in detached homes or attached homes of four units or less) visit www.SoCalWaterSmart.com or call (888) 376-3314. To reserve a multi-family home rebate (for customers living in attached homes of four units or more) visit www.mwdsaveabuck.com or call (877) 728-2282.

Note: Rebate amounts are expected to change in Fall 2009. In the past, IRWD partnered with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to provide supplemental funding for customers. Co-funding from the MWD has been depleted and future funding is uncertain. As a result of these changes, the program is being re-evaluated and funding levels are likely to be adjusted. For the most up to date information, please visit www.irwd.com or call (949) 453-5581.



Join us for a FREE...

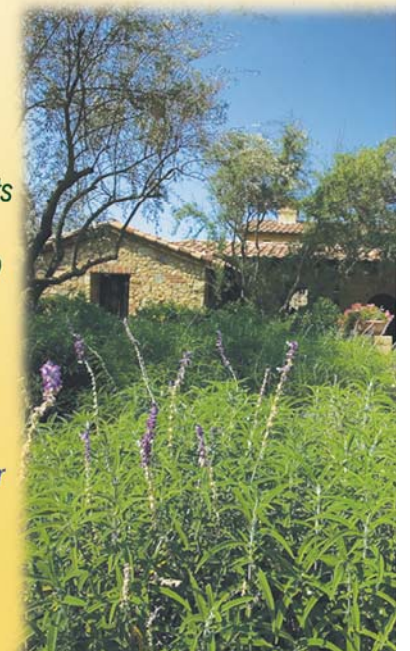
Landscape Workshop Sept. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How much to water your plants
- How to water to reduce runoff

To find out more and to RSVP, go to www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com or www.irwd.com or call 949-453-5327.



Free Water Awareness Tour (see page two...)

IRWD to Receive Federal Stimulus Funding for Local Water Supply Projects

The Irvine Ranch Water District will receive \$17.8 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for three local water supply reliability projects. These projects will provide IRWD service area businesses and residents with an additional 8,900 acre feet of drinking water, enough for 66,200 people per year and reduce IRWD's dependency on imported water. They illustrate IRWD's long standing commitment to the development of local water supply reliability projects that have insulated IRWD customers from the current regional drought caused by court-ordered restrictions in Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

In 1990 IRWD imported over 82% of its water supply. Since this time, IRWD's investment in water supply projects has reduced this number and today only 28 percent of IRWD's drinking water is imported and purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The remaining 72 percent of IRWD's water supply comes from local water wells, treated groundwater projects, and recycled water.

IRWD is Tweeting!

IRWD has developed three different Twitter channels for our customers who use Twitter. Follow us at:

- [@irwdnews](#) (IRWD news and information),
- [@irwdemergency](#) (emergency channel for IRWD situations and emergencies in the Orange County)
- [@always20smart](#) (all things water conservation).



For those customers who are not familiar... Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read each others' updates, known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters, displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to other users - known as followers - who have subscribed to them. To get your own FREE Twitter, log onto www.twitter.com.

Wonder Where Your Water Comes From? Join IRWD for a Free Water Awareness Tour to Find Out

IRWD is offering a free Water Awareness Tour for customers on Saturday, Oct. 3. Come learn about your drinking water, the water recycling process, and how urban runoff is cleaned before it reaches Upper Newport Bay. Participants will also learn how to read their water bill and how to save water both inside and outside the home. This tour is open to adults and students age 16 and older who live or work within the IRWD service area. Refreshments will be provided.

IRWD offers several tours annually. As the tours fill quickly, reservations are on a first-come, first served based on the date we receive your reservation. Customers may register on the IRWD website at www.irwd.com or by calling (949) 453-5500.



Go Green with eBill Service

IRWD encourages customers to "go green" and eliminate paper altogether by signing up for electronic billing, or eBill service. It's a convenient and secure way to view and pay your water bill at anytime from your computer. It's easy and environmentally friendly.

Sign up through IRWD's website or you may choose to sign up with an authorized eBill payment provider, such as a bank, credit union or other portal that offers you the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

For more information, please visit IRWD's website (www.irwd.com) or call IRWD's Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.

IRWD offers our customers several convenient payment options. In addition to eBill service, other payment options include: credit card payment, automatic payment (have your water bill paid by direct debit from your checking account each month - there's no charge from IRWD for this service), by mail or in person.



Smart Landscape Maintenance Tips for the Fall Season

As summer draws to a close, it's time to start cutting back on your outdoor watering. By the end of September, plants will need as much as one-third less water than they did in August, even though the days are still warm. Why? Because the days are shorter, so plants do not lose as much water during the day as they did in mid-summer.

In fall, plants are slowing their growth rate - the opposite of the spring growth phase. To ensure plants are getting enough water, watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees will need about half of what turf requires.

Additional fall landscaping tips that will help you increase water-use efficiency include:

- **Brown grass.** Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will overseed with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple of weeks - just enough to get the seeds wet.
- **Lower the mower blade.** If you increased the height during the warm months, return to the recommended height for your type of turf. Hybrid Bermuda: 1/2 to 3/8 inch; Tall Fescue: 2-2½ inches.
- **Plant the "California Friendly" way.** Choose native and California Friendly plants, (like those shown at right) which are well suited to our warm, dry summers and mild winters. Many are naturally pest-resistant and require little or no fertilizing. Fall is the best time of year for planting in Southern California. The soil is still warm, but the days and nights are cool. Winter rains are just around the corner to encourage good, deep root systems so plants will be ready for a surge of growth in the spring.

Suggested Weekly Autumn Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turf grass	Tree, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option***
September*	4 days, 2 cycles** of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%
October	3 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
November	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	40%

The above chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system before increasing the watering time.

*In September, plants water needs drop by approximately 30 percent even if the temperature remains warm.

**By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

***The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

Please remember that the suggested schedules may not be appropriate for your specific property. If you have questions, please call (949) 453-5300 or send an e-mail to customerservice@irwd.com.



California Fuschia

This native plant provides late year color, is highly drought-tolerant and will attract hummingbirds.



Society Garlic

From South Africa, this beauty grows from a bulb and loves the heat. It will continue blooming as long as the weather is warm. Its leaves remain green throughout the winter.



New Ways for Smart Landscape Watering
--Webinar tips for homeowners on irrigating efficiently