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# pipelines

MAY 2018 | NUMBER 5



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

## Save the Date

### Soil, Water and Plant Relationships Workshop

Wednesday, May 16  
6 – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.  
Irvine

Learn about building up  
your soil, composting, plant  
development and proper  
watering.

### Tap Water 101

Tuesday, July 10  
6:30 – 8 p.m.

IRWD Operations  
Multi-Purpose Room  
3512 Michelson Dr., Irvine

Learn how IRWD treats and  
tests your water to meet or  
exceed safe drinking water  
standards. Participation is  
limited to IRWD customers.

**Sign-up required:**  
[rightscapenow.com/events](http://rightscapenow.com/events)

### IRWD Holiday Office Closing

Memorial Day  
Monday, May 28

## Is That a Real IRWD Employee?

If someone knocks on your door claiming to be an IRWD employee or contractor, don't be afraid to ask for identification. If you have any doubts, call 949-453-5300. Keep in mind:

- All IRWD employees carry photo I.D. badges and must show them on request.
- Most IRWD field crew members wear an IRWD uniform with the IRWD logo above the left-hand shirt pocket and the employee's name on the right side.
- IRWD water efficiency team members usually wear blue or white polo shirts with an IRWD logo embroidered on the left hand side.
- Many but not all IRWD employees will drive an IRWD vehicle when reporting to a customer's home for a service call or appointment.
- IRWD will never try to sell you anything.
- IRWD employees and contractors will not show up to your home without an appointment, except for emergencies, service starts or stops, and meter repair or replacement.
- IRWD works with several contractors that provide various services to the District's customers; no contractor should be on your property without an agreed-upon appointment.



**The real deal:** Look for the IRWD logo on uniforms and vehicles. Ask for I.D.



## Two New WaterStars Shine

IRWD recently honored **Hoag Hospital Irvine** and **Chapman University's Rinker Health Education Campus** as WaterStars – Certified Water-Efficient Businesses. Hoag installed low-flow fixtures and faucets and automatic flush valves, uses water-efficient instrument sterilization, and maintains low water use in its cooling towers and boilers. Hoag's recycled-water drip irrigation system is activated by weather-based controllers. Combined indoor and outdoor conservation measures save Hoag more than five million gallons of water annually. The Rinker campus installed efficient fixtures, swapped turf for drought-tolerant plants, and upgraded to smart weather-based irrigation controllers. Savings: two million gallons per year, with more anticipated as remaining turf is replaced.

Learn all about WaterStar at [rightscapenow.com/programs/waterstar-business-recognition](http://rightscapenow.com/programs/waterstar-business-recognition).



# Poster Contest Finalists

About 400 students entered the Water Awareness Poster Contest. Ten students have been recognized as finalists. Their posters move forward for a chance to be featured in the 2019 Water Awareness Poster Calendar published by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

- **Ayushi Das**  
7th Grade, Sierra Vista Middle School
- **Mikoto Eguchi**  
7th Grade, Sierra Vista Middle School
- **Tanvi Garneni**  
7th Grade, Sierra Vista Middle School
- **Sarah Ida**  
5th Grade, Vista Verde Elementary
- **Siyun Ke**  
7th Grade, South Lake Middle School

- **Chloe Kong**  
3rd Grade, Portola Springs Elementary
- **Athena Maldonado**  
6th Grade, De Portola Elementary
- **Vishwa Patel**  
2nd Grade, Deerfield Elementary
- **Mahima Wuppalapati**  
2nd Grade, Beacon Park Elementary
- **Rowan Yoo**  
1st Grade, Westpark Elementary



## Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System

Broken sprinkler heads and lateral lines waste a lot of water. Before you ramp up your watering times for the summer heat, make sure your home's irrigation system is in good working order by following four simple steps: **inspect, connect, direct and select.**

As an EPA WaterSense Partner, IRWD offers rebates for outdoor devices so you can "Spruce up Your Sprinklers" for less! To learn how you can save money on eligible weather-based irrigation controllers, spray nozzles, soil moisture sensors, and drip irrigation kits, visit [rightscapenow.com/rebates](http://rightscapenow.com/rebates).

## Fix a Leak Contest Winners

Thanks and congratulations to our customers who participated in the 2018 Fix a Leak week campaign in partnership with EPA WaterSense. We had over 300 submissions to our Water Efficiency Training Center and received proactive property repair photos of toilets, faucets, showers, irrigation valves, and sprinklers, IRWD presented the participation gift cards to **Leila Belkora** of Irvine (1st place), **Clinton Yap** of Irvine (2nd place) and **Karineh Arakelian** of Tustin (3rd place). Visit [irwd.com/liquid-news](http://irwd.com/liquid-news) to learn more.



(*Rosmarinus spp.*) are good choices. Lantana is also good. Always consider the exposures when selecting plants. Happy gardening!

Got a question? Ask Juan. Email [askjuan@irwd.com](mailto:askjuan@irwd.com) or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at [rightscapenow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan](http://rightscapenow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

**Q:** I have a small 6' x 9' patio. All of the plants are succulents. I would like a single pot with two to three flowering plants for some color. What would you recommend?

**A:** When it comes to growing plants in containers, remember to always check the soil moisture. Drought-tolerant plants or not, if the soil becomes too dry, the plants may go into shock, wilt and possibly not come back. Lavender (*Lavandula spp.*) and rosemary

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**Email:** [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)  
**Address:** 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618  
**Website:** [irwd.com](http://irwd.com)

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