

In This Issue:

What a Water Year
It Was

New Video:
Recycled Water,
Green Communities

Be a GSI – Garden
Scene Investigator

Ask Juan

pipelines

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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Enter Our Where's WaterSense? Contest

This is the WaterSense label. Can you find it hidden elsewhere in this newsletter? When you've spotted it, visit RightScapeNow.com/contest to submit a contest entry form. Entries received by Feb. 14, 2019, will be included in a random drawing. One person will be selected to receive the prize kit full of water-efficient devices. The winner will be notified by email or phone on Feb. 15.



WaterSense is a voluntary program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The label makes it simple to find products and services that are certified to use at least 20% less water, save energy, and perform as well as or better than regular models. Learn more at epa.gov/watersense. Also, visit RightScapeNow.com/rebates to find out if a WaterSense-certified product is also eligible for an IRWD rebate.

2019 Water Efficiency Challenge



Back row (L–R):
Craig Irey
Enrique Zanetti
Rob Brown
Amy McNulty
Juan Garcia
Joey Baquerizo

Front row (L–R):
Michael Le
Melody Seesangrit
Allan Pascual
Nola Hastings
Luis Genis

The New Year is a time of renewal and reflection. For 2019, the IRWD **Water Efficiency** team encourages you to learn new ways to save. Here are a few of their ideas.

Amy McNulty, WE manager: Run an irrigation system check in your yard. Turn on all sprinkler stations to make sure the system is operating properly and that no irrigation lines or sprinklers are broken.

Melody Seesangrit, WE specialist: When shopping for toilets, showerheads, bathroom faucets, irrigation controllers, or spray sprinkler bodies, look for the WaterSense label. WaterSense-labeled products are backed by independent, third-party certification, and meet the Environmental Protection Agency's specifications for water efficiency and performance.

Luis Genis, WE specialist: Find the master shut-off valve for your home. Getting to it quickly will prevent damage and save water in an emergency.

Nola Hastings, WE supervisor: Go outside and get to know the plants in

your garden so you can water them appropriately. In Southern California, about 50% of our water use is outdoors. Often we water too much.

Joey Baquerizo, WE specialist: Are your neighbors giving you the stink eye because your sprinklers are overspraying, watering the cement, or too old to be adjusted? Then change those old, inefficient sprinkler heads! You might qualify for a rebate. Check our list of rebate-eligible rotating spray nozzles, RightScapeNow.com/rebates/residential-rebates.

Michael Le, WE specialist: Collect a full load of laundry before washing your clothes. Save water and energy!

Allan Pascual, senior WE specialist: Find a car wash with a reclaimed-water system. (Some advertise on their signs, online, or in local papers.) Such car washes capture the final cycle of water, process it, treat it, and reuse it. A normal car wash requires about 50 gallons of fresh water, but a good reclaimed-water system can cut that to 10, with 40 gallons of reused water.

Recycled Water, Green Communities



This is drought country. So how do we keep your faucets flowing while keeping the community so green and beautiful? In a fast-paced new video, real IRWD employees take you behind the scenes—showing how they transform your used water into recycled water for landscape irrigation and other surprising uses. Watch at irwd.com/services/recycled-water.

What a Water Year It Was

IRWD works hard to see that our customers get the best in drinking water, recycled water and sewer services. To that end, we seek out innovative and cost-effective ways to improve on what we do. Here are some of the District's top accomplishments for 2018.

Drinking water: We secured a \$67.5 million grant from the California Water Commission to enhance water banking projects in Kern County, which serve as emergency water supplies for our customers.

Recycled water: We provided recycled water to irrigate public landscape, saving more than 10 billion gallons of drinking water. We helped U.C. Irvine convert campus cooling towers to recycled water, which will save 80 million gallons of drinking water per year. We achieved

our milestone 100th dual-plumbed commercial building, in which toilets are flushed with recycled water.

Water education: More than 6,000 elementary and middle-school students participated in water-related assemblies, programs and field trips sponsored by IRWD with Discovery Cube and Sea & Sage Audubon.

Sustainability: We installed a network of high-efficiency Tesla batteries at District facilities to reduce energy costs by \$500,000 a year.

What's on tap for 2019? Major initiatives include programs to secure water supplies and expand sewage treatment capacity—plus ongoing implementation of water education and water efficiency programs.

Studying water? Apply for a scholarship! Details at acwa.com/about/scholarships.

Ask Juan



Q: Can I cover my new ¾-inch brown drip line with dirt or do I have to use mulch? I'm worried the holes might get clogged if I use dirt, but I have ice plant ground cover that doesn't like hardwood mulch.

A: Thank you for your question. You can lay the dripline on the ground and let the ice plant grow over it. Companies make inline emitter tubing for both types of applications, above or below ground. Follow manufacturer specifications when

installing the drip line to make sure you have all the necessary components. A couple of dripline manufacturers to look at are Rain Bird and Netafim.

Got landscape questions? Email 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.

Save the Date

Be a GSI – Garden Scene Investigator

Saturday, Jan. 26
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Use your powers of observation and trusted internet resources to solve garden problems, identify plants and deal with pests. Learn the steps Master Gardeners take when answering questions on their hotline.

Turf Be Gone

Wednesday, Feb. 6
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn the steps to remove your lawn and replace it with a water-efficient garden. Hear resident testimonials.

Sign-up required:
RightscapeNow.com/events

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