



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

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Community Calendar

IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS

- Friday, March 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. - IRWD Landscape Workshop
- Friday, April 10 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- Saturday, April 25; Saturday, May 2; and Saturday, May 16 - IRWD Resident Tours.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- Sunday, April 12 - Monthly bird walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.
- General meetings - April 17 and May 15.
- For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

CITY OF IRVINE

- Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. - The Great Egg Hunt at Woodbridge Community Park, located at the corner of Lake Road and Alton. Open to children ages 2-12, the event features age-divided prize hunts, games, crafts, photos with Mr. Bunny, and food available for purchase by Sprouts Farmers Market. Pre-registration is recommended, and a parent or guardian must attend with an enrolled child. For more information or to register, call (949) 724-6611 or visit www.irvinequickreg.org and search for class #67790.
- The City of Irvine, in partnership with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC), Internal Revenue Service, Orange County United Way, Orange County One-Stop and Coastline Community College, is offering free tax preparation services for taxpayers who earned less than \$56,000 in 2008. Qualifying taxpayers who live, work or attend school in Irvine can receive help filing their taxes at the Orange County One-Stop Center and the Lakeview Senior Center in Irvine through April 15. IRS-trained volunteers will help complete and electronically file returns at no cost. The One-Stop Center is open Tuesday through Thursday from 4 to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is located at 125 Technology Dr., Suite 200, Irvine. The Lakeview Senior Center is open on Mondays from 5 to 8 p.m. and is located at 20 Lake Rd., Irvine. For more information or to schedule an appointment call (888) 434-8248. Walk-ins are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

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 about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at www.irvine.assistanceleague.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.

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Events are scheduled for Saturday, April 25 and May 2. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

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

- Due to the current economic crisis, the number of families coming to Families Forward for assistance increases weekly. Families Forward's mission is to help families in need, achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. Currently 100+ families receive groceries each week from the food assistance program. Help support these families through financial donations as well as food donations. Grocery and gas gift cards are also needed. Donations can be brought 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. Call (949) 552-2727 for further information or visit their website at www.families-forward.org to learn more about the work of Families Forward.

LAKE FOREST GARDEN CLUB

- Annual Spring Boutique and Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Beach and Tennis Clubhouse, 22921 Ridge Route Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630. They will have fresh flower arrangements and baskets, healthy plants, handmade crafts, collectibles and gifts ideal for Mother's Day. Great raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions about your garden. Proceeds from this event support their scholarship fund, a butterfly program, and other community outreach programs. Come early for best selection. For more information check out their website at www.lakeforestgardenclub.net

CELEBRATE UCI 2009 - Saturday, April 18

- One Day. One Campus. Many Options. Come to UCI's 31st annual Open House, one of the campus' oldest and most festive traditions. This event features games and rides for children, an Earth Day celebration, academic information, classic car show, campus tram tours, Wayzgoose Medieval Faire with food booths, demonstrations, rides, games, three stages of entertainment and much more. Everyone is welcome. It's an excellent opportunity to bring family and friends to visit and see what's new with the UCI campus. Join the alumni, staff, faculty, and students as they Celebrate UCI! Events and parking are free. For more information, visit their website at www.students.uci.edu/celebrate or call UCI at (949) 824-5182.



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Irvine Ranch Water District

Always Water Smart

pipelines

MARCH | 2009



Nine More Ways to be "Always Water Smart" Indoors

We at Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) thank our customers for doing a great job at saving water! Now, more than ever it's important to be "Always Water Smart."

In addition to taking advantage of IRWD's rebates* for high efficiency toilets (up to \$265 rebated per toilet), and high efficiency clothes washers (\$285 rebated), here are nine ways to save water indoors:

1. Fix leaky toilets and save, on average, 30 to 50 gallons per day per toilet.
2. Fix leaky faucets and save 15 to 20 gallons per day per leak.
3. Install aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen and bathroom faucets and save about 4.7 gallons per day. Visit our Sand Canyon Avenue headquarters to pick up three bathroom faucet aerators and one kitchen faucet aerator, free of charge.
4. Wash only full loads of clothing and save 15 to 20 gallons per load.
5. Run the dishwasher only when full and save 2 to 4.5 gallons per load.
6. Turn off the water when rinsing dishes or brushing teeth and save 2 to 2.5 gallons per minute.
7. Shorten showers and save 2.5 gallons per minute.
8. Fill the bathtub half full while bathing and save 15 to 25 gallons per bath.
9. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket and save at least 1.6 gallons per flush.

*For full rebate program details and applications, visit www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com. All rebate amounts are subject to funding availability and may fluctuate without notice.

Irvine Ranch Water District Receives 2008 Flex Your Power Award

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was recognized as a 2008 Flex Your Power Award recipient in the electricity Peak Demand Response category. Flex Your Power is California's energy efficiency campaign. The campaign honors recipients in this category for their efforts to reduce peak power use and protect California's power grid during times of high demand by shifting loads, shutting down systems and taking immediate conservation action.

Recognizing the high energy requirements of pumping water, IRWD has taken steps to become more energy efficient through implementation and installation of solar power and motor upgrade projects. Cumulative energy efficiency projects over the last year provided IRWD with more than \$529,000 in energy efficiency incentives, 4.05 million kilowatts in avoided cost savings, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to removing more than 8,000 cars from the road.

"IRWD's efficiency projects not only help conserve California's valuable natural resources, but ultimately reduce the cost of water and sewer service for our customers," said IRWD General Manager, Paul Jones, "We are proud to be honored by Flex Your Power."

IRWD has installed nearly 700 solar panels on the roof of its headquarters building on Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. The 100 kilowatt system provides up to 20 percent of the total energy needs for the building. In addition, IRWD installed four solar mixers at its Los Alisos Water Reclamation Plant to help reduce peak demand. Using the Consumer Powerline

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Natives Abound at the Marsh

This is a part of a continuing series designed to better familiarize our customers with Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

If you have been thinking about re-landscaping your yard with California native drought-tolerant plants but aren't sure what they look like, visit Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh where many plants are awakening from winter dormancy.

In the spring, there are lupine, encelia, goldfields and southern honeysuckle, to name just a few of the more than 60 plant species at the marsh. The 320-acre fresh water marsh contains about 96 percent native plants. When IRWD began rehabilitating the marsh in the late 1990's, crews faced a daunting task of eradicating many unwelcome, non-native species, such as artichoke thistle and yellow mustard. Landscaping crews continue to monitor for any appearance of these plants and they are removed immediately. The artichoke thistle has a tap root that can reach down to eight feet.

During the spring, the marsh is a riot of color and fragrance. Check out the Mexican elderberry, or the Matilija poppy. The poppy blooms on a large shrub and has delicate, tissue-like white petals and a yellow button-like center. The fragrance is sweet.

Many of the plants along the Fledgling Loop Trail closest to the Duck Club have identification cards with a photo, the name and information about the plant. If you are interested in attracting butterflies to your yard, take a walk through the butterfly garden in the marsh's meadow. Tiles located on poles depict different types of butterflies. The plants in the garden have been found to attract the butterflies shown on the tiles.

There is no charge to visit the marsh, which is open 365 days a year, from dawn to dusk. Visit www.irwd.com for directions.



Matilija poppy

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. The Spring tours will be held on April 25, May 2 and May 16.

These tours, open to those who live or work within IRWD boundaries, are an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about the water system, wastewater treatment, recycled water use, and conservation tips. The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. Customers may register on the IRWD website at www.irwd.com or call (949) 453-5500.

IRWD in the Community



IRWD personnel Malorie Sturges and Julie Bendzick-Sin staffed an IRWD booth at a Green Day event at Irvine Valley College.

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Flex Your Power Award

and the Southern California Edison Base Interruptible Programs, IRWD is able to provide the California Independent Systems Operator with up to 4,087 kW of demand reduction when needed and a maximum peak demand savings of 26 percent at these facilities.

In addition to the California Public Utilities Commission, Flex Your Power Award winners were selected by representatives including: The Silicon Valley Leadership Group; the CA Energy Commission; Sacramento Municipal Utility District; CA Independent System Operator; the Building Owners and Management Assoc.; League of CA Cities; and Southern California Edison.

About Flex Your Power:

Flex Your Power is California's statewide energy efficiency marketing and outreach campaign. Initiated in 2001, Flex Your Power is a partnership of California's utilities, residents, businesses, institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working to save energy. The campaign includes a comprehensive website, an electronic newsletter and blog, and educational materials. Flex Your Power has received national and international recognition, including an ENERGY STAR Award for excellence. For more information, please visit <http://www.fypower.org/feature/awards/>.

Suggested Weekly Winter/Spring Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
March***	3 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
April***	3 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%
May***	3 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	80%

*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.

***March/April is the most active growth period for turfgrass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately.

Always remember to turn water off before rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.



Water-wise Vegetable Gardening

Water conservation begins with garden planning. Plant shallow rooted vegetables, such as beans and greens, in proximity to each other as they will need to be watered more frequently with lighter applications than deep rooted crops like sweet corn and tomatoes.

As your vegetables mature, do not stand in the garden and spray the plants lightly every day. This is the worst possible way to water. Instead, water thoroughly to encourage roots to seek water and nutrients deep in the soil. With an extensive, deep root system, plants are better able to withstand dry periods. When irrigating vegetables grown in our heavy clays, soak the soil thoroughly to a soil depth of at least 6 to 8 inches every five to eight days, depending on climatic conditions, in the absence of rainfall.

One way to determine when to irrigate is to take a soil core sample from the plant root zone and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball holds together in the palm of your hand, the soil has sufficient water. If it crumbles, apply water. Most vegetables in the garden need at least one inch of water per week for steady growth. Their water needs will gradually increase to up to 1 ½ to 2 inches of water per week during hot weather, then taper off as the weather cools. Adequate moisture is more critical as crops begin to flower and fruits mature.

Growing vegetables need moisture, but over watering is harmful. Over watering not only wastes water, it also prevents the roots from getting air. Watering early in the day reduces evaporation loss and allows plant foliage to dry quickly. Also, do not water when there is wind; you can lose up to 50 percent of the water due to wind drift and evaporation.

Vegetable Garden Irrigation Methods

Sprinkler irrigation is most common among home gardeners. Apply sprinkler water uniformly and at a rate slow enough to prevent runoff. A sprinkler should not produce a mist that is subject to drifting. Consider replacing your vegetable garden sprinklers with soaker or drip irrigation. These two latter methods conserve water by allowing water to be placed closer to the plants' root zone. They also allow the plants' foliage to remain dry, which helps eliminate disease problems.

A soaker usually consists of a canvas hose, of 20 feet or more, which attaches to the garden hose at one end and is sealed at the other. It minimizes evaporation and applies uniform coverage. It's use should be timed or closely monitored to prevent over watering.

Drip irrigation, also known as trickle irrigation, uses flexible capillary tubing to convey water to individual plants. When properly installed and operated, drip irrigation minimizes both evaporation and the loss of soil nutrients due to erosion and runoff caused by water being applied to plants at an excessive rate.



Soaker Irrigation

A porous soaker hose, made of flexible recycled rubber, is arranged to allow water to slowly permeate the soil above the root zones of each plant.



Drip irrigation and mulch

Drip wastes less water than other types of irrigation. As shown above, a drip "bug" is anchored in place to supply water closely above the root zone of a single plant. The use of 3 to 4 inches of mulch on top of the soil greatly increases the soil's ability to retain water efficiently. Mulch also acts as a natural weed deterrent.



Trickle hose, a flexible alternative to sprinklers

This brown drip hose was punctured to allow water to trickle down to the root zone of an individual plant. When vegetable plants grow and their roots and water needs increase, additional strategically placed punctures can be added to the hose.

For more water-and-money-saving suggestions, visit "Residential Water Use Efficiency Tips and Tools" at www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com.