



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

- Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27 - IRWD Thanksgiving Holiday (IRWD offices closed)

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Events scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17 and Nov. 21 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). Advance reservations necessary; class size limited to 14. Fee: \$50.
- Sharing Nature With Children** - The next new naturalist training begins in 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.
- For more information** call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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 in mid October** to 2452 Alton Parkway in Irvine, between Jamboree and Von Karman. Hours and phone number will remain the same.



Don't Get Spooked by High Water Bills this Fall

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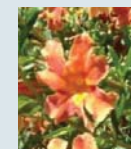
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Irvine Ranch Water District

pipelines

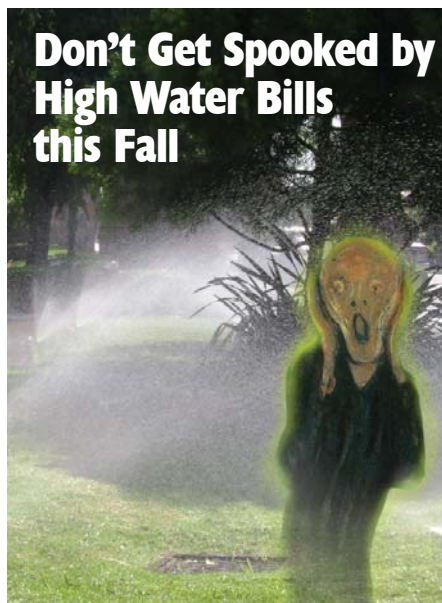
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Always Water Smart

Forgetting to reduce the amount of water applied to your plants during October and November may result in some "scary" water bills when your outdoor usage exceeds your allocation. During these autumn months the days continue to get shorter, so solar radiation and evaporation decrease, which also decreases your allocation. Also, plants are entering or into a dormant phase where they need less water.

Another way in which you might get unexpectedly "spooked" by high water bill this fall is by forgetting to replace a weak or dead back-up battery in your irrigation controller with a fresh, fully-charged one. To help yourself remember, IRWD recommends that you replace your irrigation controller's back-up battery with a new one every time you change your clocks in and out of daylight saving time. This year, Daylight saving time ends this year at 2 a.m. on November 1. So when you turn back your clocks this fall, don't forget to also replace the back-up battery in your irrigation controller.

continued inside...



Don't Get Spooked by High Water Bills this Fall

IRWD Selects New Meter Reading Contractor

IRWD's Contract Meter Reading (CMR) service with Southern California Edison (SCE) expires in January 2010. SCE is implementing a new metering solution known as "SmartConnect" to replace approximately five million electric meters for residential, commercial and industrial customers utilizing Zigbee technology which is not currently compatible with water meters.

In preparation for the end of our existing CMR contract, IRWD has contracted with Alexander's Contract Services (ACS). ACS has considerable experience reading water meters and currently provides this service to several other cities and water companies. ACS uses an automated, hand-held meter reading system which is downloaded into a web interface and transferred electronically to IRWD's billing system.

IRWD's mission is to provide services in an efficient, cost-effective manner. Though the District is a public agency, many operations have been privatized to take advantage of fast-changing technology and an up-to-date pool of resources and skills.

ACS will be taking over meter reading from SCE village by village until the end of December. During this transition, customers may receive a bill with a short or long usage period if their meter reading date changes. Water usage allocations have been adjusted to account for the number of days in the usage period and fixed monthly service charges apply for the month the bill is produced.

If you have any questions regarding meter reading, please call IRWD's Customer Service Department at (949) 453-5300 or e-mail customerservice@irwd.com.

...customers may receive a bill with a short or long usage period if their meter reading date changes.

WILD ABOUT THE WETLANDS

AT SAN JOAQUIN MARSH

Saturday, November 7th, 2009
Stop by between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm

Discover our interactive learning stations
Explore Irvine's hidden natural wonders

Address:
21 RIPARIAN VIEW, IRVINE, CA 92612

Directions:
When driving south on the San Diego Freeway, (#405), exit on Jamboree and turn right. At the first signal, which is Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the 4th signal which is Riparian View and turn right.
When driving north on the San Diego Freeway, #405, exit on Culver and turn left. At the 2nd signal, which is Michelson, turn right. Continue on Michelson to the 3rd signal which is Riparian View and turn left.
Once on Riparian View, follow the main road and the signs directing you to Audubon, the Duck Club, and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The event will be in the gray IRWD Learning Center.

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High Water Bills

If there is a power failure or interruption, neglecting to replace a dead irrigation controller back-up battery will result in your irrigation controller running all of your sprinkler stations for ten minutes per day, and seven days a week! Why? Because this "over-kill" watering schedule is the factory default setting of most irrigation controller models; they revert to this water-wasting setting when there's a power interruption or outage and the controller's back-up battery is dead.



San Diego Creek Clean-up

More than 100 volunteers climbed down the sides of the creek to the creek's bank to dig around and pick up trash at the 13th annual Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day, held in conjunction with the statewide Coastal Clean Up Day. This was the tenth consecutive year Irvine Ranch Water District has hosted the clean-up site at the San Diego Creek adjacent to the IRWD Michelson Water Reclamation Plant.

The purpose of Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day is to remove trash and debris before it ends up on the beach. Among the loot was the usual soda cans, foam cups, plastic straws, cigarette butts and shopping carts.

Everyone can do their share to keep trash out of the ocean by not tossing it on the ground or out of their car windows. Use the ash tray and trash can, recycle, and do your part to keep our environment clean!

Multi-agency Haz Mat Drill



Orange County Fire Authority hazardous materials team participants prepare for the exercise held at the IRWD reclamation plant.



Irvine Ranch Water District employees David Hayden and Lester Busald discuss the details of the hazardous materials exercise at the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant with a member of one of several fire agencies who participated in the drill this summer.



Red Monkey Flower

Mimulus puniceus

This shrubby perennial native grows to 2 ft. tall and wide, is drought-tolerant and blooms profusely in the summer. Its flowers provide nectar for hummingbirds.



Sierra Sundrop

Calyphus hartwegii

A low-growing perennial, this plant has woody stems with bright green leaves. It loves hot, dry conditions and well-drained soil. It produces large, lemon yellow flowers that are up to 4 in. across and bloom spring through summer.



Roger's Red

Vitis californica 'Roger's Red'

This California wild grapevine is a favorite for covering arbors, walls or fences with outstanding fall color. During the spring, buds of new growth appear, resulting in large apple-green leaves and inconspicuous flowers. These flowers give way in the summer to grapes which start as green clusters, but later turn all shades of purple. The grapes are much-prized by birds.

Finding the California Friendly Varieties Perfect for Planting this Fall

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.

Why plant "California Friendly" varieties? Because California Friendly plants, (like those shown at left) are best suited to our warm, dry summers and mild winters. Many are naturally pest-resistant and require little or no fertilizing.

Here are some tips on sourcing these plants:

- California native plants, which are part of the California Friendly varieties, are a specialty item for most nurseries. Some retail nurseries devote a certain area to them, but others have them mixed in amongst other plants.
- View the Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide found on the www.bewaterwise.com "Garden Spot" web site page to determine which plants will work best in your garden. For convenience, print out the appropriate plant information sheets from the Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide and present them to your local garden supply retailer. If they do not carry the plants you desire, often they can order them from a number of wholesale plant growers. If the demand for these plants comes from you, the homeowner and other site owners, the chances are far better that retail nurseries will stock these plants more regularly.
- The key to securing these plants is to be persistent, but flexible. Specialty ordering is a big part of the retail nursery business. Many times an alternative native or California Friendly plant would work just as well as, or perhaps better than your first choice.
- Native plant sales are another resource. Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, UCI Arboretum, Environmental Nature Center (located in Newport Heights), Fullerton Arboretum and the Theodore Payne Foundation, to name a few, have annual plant sales and some have a small walk-in nursery operation. The Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is holding its Fall Plant Sale this year on Saturday, October 24, at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. Visit www.ocnps.org for details. Tree of Life Nursery also has a website, www.californianativeplants.com with an extensive California native plant catalog including instructions for the care and feeding of these varieties.
- One final option is mail order. Several nurseries found throughout California ship hard-to-find California native plants by mail. Visit the "Where to Buy Natives" web page of www.ocnps.org for this list.

Suggested Weekly Autumn Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turf grass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option***
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%
December	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

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.

Don't forget to turn off your sprinklers when it rains. For convenience, consider installing an automatic rain shut-off device on your irrigation system.

*In October, November and December plants' water needs continue to drop by up to 10 percent each month, even if the temperature remains warm, because the days are shorter and evaporation decreases. Also at this time, plants are entering or within a dormant phase, where they need less water.

**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.