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A Look Back at 50 Years of Value

Irvine Ranch Water District was formed in 1961 under the provisions of the California Water District Act to meet the increasing water needs of the region. Over the past 50 years, the District has achieved many milestones, focusing on building necessary infrastructure to provide quality drinking water and wastewater treatment services to the burgeoning population.

The District has expanded its geographic area from just the city of Irvine through consolidations with the Santa Ana Heights Mutual Water Company in 1997; Carpenter Irrigation District in 2000; Los Alisos Water District in 2001; Santiago County Water District in 2006 and the Orange Park Acres Mutual Water Company in 2008. IRWD's service area covers 181 square miles from the ocean to the foothills and includes Irvine, Tustin Ranch, Portola Hills, Foothill Ranch, Santa Ana Heights, Orange Park Acres and portions of Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Orange and unincorporated Orange County. In the last five decades, IRWD has grown from 300 mostly agricultural customers to serve a population of more than 300,000.

Over the years, IRWD has become well-known for innovative projects and programs that provide customers with a reliable and safe water supply at the lowest possible cost. From the IRWD allocation-based conservation rate structure, cutting-edge water efficiency programs to a well planned and diversified water supply, IRWD is well positioned to meet the needs of our customers for the next 50 years. Here is a just a sample of IRWD accomplishments through the decades:

- **In 1963**, the Board of Directors began the process to bring recycled water to its customers in order to enhance water supply reliability.
- **In 1966**, the Michelson Water Recycling Plant was under construction and went online in 1967.
- **In 1973**, IRWD began construction of a system designed to transport recycled water from the Sand Canyon Reservoir to the recently acquired Rattlesnake Reservoir. An important phase of the District's total water management concept was the projection of a system designed to reclaim 100 percent of the wastewater discharged by the District.
- **In 1974**, IRWD acquired storage rights in Irvine Lake as well as existing water rights in Santiago Creek.
- **In 1978**, Governor Jerry Brown announced a statewide objective of 400 million gallons of wastewater to be reused daily by 1982. IRWD was the first wastewater reclamation agency in California to qualify for and obtain a producer/primary user permit for the reuse of treated wastewater.
- **In 1981**, IRWD received the first unrestricted permit for the use of recycled water, recognizing that recycled water from MWRP meets all criteria for unrestricted use.
- **In 1984**, IRWD launched a \$35 million project to tap the groundwater supply in the Orange County basin to provide less expensive water for customers. The first phase of the *Continued on page 2...*

Paul Cook Appointed IRWD General Manager

Paul A. Cook was appointed IRWD General Manager by the Board of Directors. Cook has served as IRWD Interim General Manager since July 2011 and is a registered civil engineer with more than 21 years of experience with water and wastewater systems in the public and private sectors.

"I am honored to be selected by the IRWD Board of Directors for the position of General Manager," said Cook. "IRWD is an outstanding agency that provides exemplary service to the communities we serve. I look forward to working with our excellent team of employees and visionary Board of Directors to further enhance the water resources, environmental *Continued on page 2...*



Always Water Smart



CASH FOR GRASS!



Through the **Turf Removal Rebate Program**, IRWD is offering customers incentives to replace water-thirsty grass with a beautiful water-saving garden.

- Receive \$1.50 per square foot of grass removed
- Required minimum of 250 up to maximum of 10,000 square feet of grass removed
- Complete your grass replacement project by April 1, 2012

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Get full details on the Cash for Grass offer by visiting the **Turf Removal Rebate** page or call **(949) 453-5581**.

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project included six wells in Santa Ana, called the Dyer Road Wellfield.

- **In 1984**, IRWD dedicated a new 15 million gallon reservoir on Sand Canyon Avenue, which was hailed as the largest steel reservoir in California.
- **In 1989**, IRWD and the Metropolitan Water District collaborated on a new conservation program to help local residents save water and money. This pilot program involved home water use surveys offered to 1,000 residents and a resident retrofit program for 4,000 homes.
- **In 1990**, IRWD offered its customers the first of an annual water quality report; IRWD and the Woodbridge Village Associated celebrated the opening of the first fully approved restroom facility which uses recycled water for toilet flushing in Echo Run Park.
- **In 1991**, the first high-rise office tower in Irvine to use recycled water in toilet flushing began being constructed at 3 Park Plaza, Jamboree Center. The 20-story building using recycled water was the result of three years of planning.
- **In 1992**, construction began on an IRWD building in Santa Ana to conduct research on developing a water treatment system capable of removing naturally occurring compounds that produce a yellowish-brown tint in some local groundwater.
- **In 1993**, construction of the IRWD new operations center at the Michelson plant began.

- **In 1995**, IRWD completed the purchase of the 335 acres surrounding the Michelson Water Recycling Plant from the Irvine Company. The purchase would provide buffer land for the plant while allowing the San Joaquin Marsh to be enhanced by the Irvine Company for 70 acres of habitat mitigation at no cost to IRWD.
- **In 1997**, IRWD and the Irvine Company began restoration of the San Joaquin Marsh. The completion of the project was celebrated in 1998 with a public open house.
- **In 2001**, the Orange County Water District and IRWD were poised to approve the Irvine Desalter Project to clean up contaminated groundwater from the former El Toro Marine Base.
- **In 2002**, the Deep Aquifer Treatment System went into operation in Santa Ana. The project was designed to remove color molecules from water pumped from the deepest zones of the Orange County Groundwater Basin.
- **In 2004**, IRWD moved forward with the design of the first phase of constructed water quality wetlands for the Natural Treatment System project, which cleans up urban runoff.
- **In 2005**, IRWD dedicated its newly reconfigured San Joaquin Reservoir during a ceremony in Newport Beach. The new one-billion gallon reservoir stores recycled water.
- **In 2007**, the Potable Treatment Facility portion of the Irvine Desalter Project went online.
- **In 2007**, 700 solar panels were installed on the roof of the Sand Canyon building, providing 20 percent of the total energy needs for the building.
- **In 2008**, IRWD announced its partnership with the Discovery Science Center to provide free water education to schools in the IRWD service area.
- **In 2009**, Construction began on the IRWD Michelson Water Recycling Plant to expand the facility to accommodate 28 million gallons of wastewater per day. Construction is anticipated to conclude late 2012.
- **In 2009**, IRWD entered into a 30-year groundwater water banking partnership in Kern County, to ensure a reliable water supply.

As 2011 draws to a close, IRWD will conclude a year of celebration, remembrance and discovery of more than five decades of service to the community. We look forward to the next 50 years!

Irvine Ranch Water District



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.

**24-Hour Service
(949) 453-5300**

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This Holiday Season, Help Prevent the Clogging of Drains and Sewer Lines



Don't forget to pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze it until solid. Dispose of the can on trash day. Before washing greasy pots, pans and utensils, wipe them off with paper towels.

Paul Cook ...Continued from page 1

stewardship, and customer service that our customers and others have come to expect from IRWD.”

Cook joined IRWD in 2004 as the Assistant General Manager. His duties included the District's operations, finance, engineering, water quality and administration. Prior to joining IRWD, Cook served as the Manager of Engineering for Central and West Basin Municipal Water Districts in Carson, California, where he was responsible for a \$350 million, five-year capital improvements program that included one of the largest water recycling projects in the nation.

Cook also served as the District Engineer for Los Alisos Water District in Lake Forest, where he developed and implemented projects to improve the operating efficiency of the agency. He served on the Orange County Water District Board through 2005, including a term as Vice President. Cook is a resident of Irvine.