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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT



Water-Saving Tip of the Month

Free Design With Turf Removal

Participate in IRWD's Turf Removal Rebate Program now and receive free customized design assistance.

Irvine Ranch Water District and the Municipal Water District of Orange County have collaborated with top designers to create free landscape designs tailored to your property and personal style, showcasing plants that thrive in Southern California's semi-arid climate.

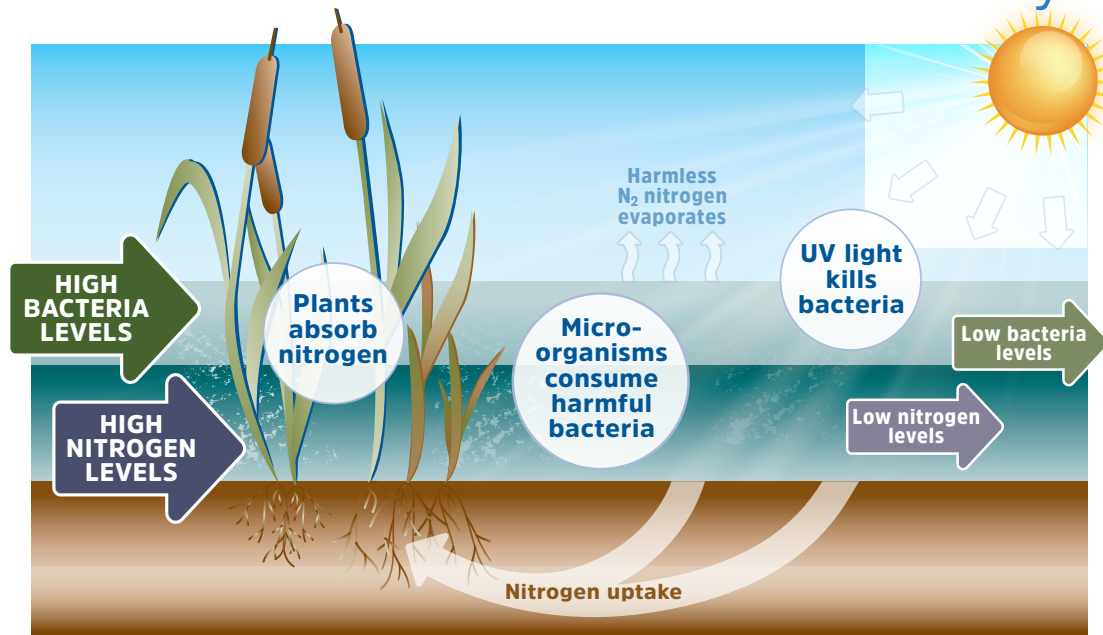


Funding is limited. Apply today!

- Rebates starting at \$3 per square foot of turf removed
- Free landscape design from a qualified professional
- One-on-one onsite landscape design consultation
- Recommended plant palette
- Irrigation plan and materials list

For more information, visit
mwdoc.com/turfremoval.

We Clean Rain and Runoff Naturally



Recent rain has been great for quenching our landscapes. But as it washes over our rooftops, lawns and pavement, it picks up pollutants that can be harmful to plants and animals downstream. Urban runoff, caused by over-watering, has the same effect.

In both instances, metals, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, and pathogens from pet waste make their way into local streams and waterways that lead to the ocean. Phosphorous from fertilizers can lead to harmful algae blooms. Bacteria and viruses spread disease, and other pollutants can poison the environment.

To solve this problem, IRWD operates 36 Natural Treatment System sites that clean the water the way our natural wetlands do. Plants and soils at our NTS sites remove phosphorous, nitrogen and other pollutants. Natural organisms feed upon pathogens, and sunlight provides ultra-violet radiation that reduces harmful bacteria before the water reaches the bay.

In just one year, our NTS sites treat more than one billion gallons of water, removing 40,000 pounds of nitrogen, 50 tons of sediment, 19,000 pounds of trash, 45 pounds of copper, and as much as 99% of the total coliform found in runoff.

Resident Tour Sign-ups

Want to learn more about IRWD and our recycled water process? Sign up for one of our popular Resident Tours, which include behind-the-scenes peeks at the Michelson Water Recycling Plant, San Joaquin Reservoir and San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Our next tours are April 24, April 25 and May 2. Visit irwd.com/learning/resident-tours for details.

2020 Census Will Be Easier Than Ever

By April 1, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Residents will have three options for responding: by phone, by mail, or (for the first time) online. You can even respond on your mobile device.

Why should you respond to the Census? Because results can shape our community, affecting funding for health clinics, schools, roads, and infrastructure.



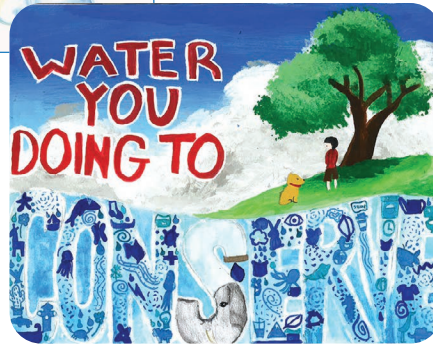
Learn more at 2020census.gov and OCCensus.org.

Student Artists Honored

Congrats to **Alyssa Fukumoto** and **Samantha Nguyen**, winners of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's water awareness poster contest! Both pieces of art will be featured in a 2020 calendar. Congratulations to these Tustin Unified School District student artists!



By **Alyssa Fukumoto**
sophomore
Beckman High School



By **Samantha Nguyen**
grade 6
Pioneer Middle School

Save the Date

Don't Spring a Leak

Wednesday, March 4
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn to prevent waste inside and out at this special workshop during Fix a Leak Week. We'll discuss how to examine your sprinkler components and find leaks from indoor fixtures.

Plants for the Planet

Wednesday, April 22
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Select the right plants for your landscape. We'll discuss California natives, seasonal water needs and cultural care tips.

Workshops sign-up required:

RightScapeNow.com/events



Q: Juan, I've been having trouble staying within my water budget. I believe the issue is my landscape. Do you have any recommendations?

A: One simple tip is to reduce your watering to one day per week or simply shut off the sprinkler system. This past winter has been really wet and cool. Landscapes don't need a lot of water to survive during this period. Check your timer from time to time to ensure you

are watering to the season. The outdoor water budget is based on real-time weather readings (visit wateringguide.com) and can vary from day to day, month to month, year to year. Check out our workshops at RightScapeNow.com/events.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://twitter.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

California Native Corner Juan's February Plant: Woollyleaf Ceanothus

Each month, I unveil a recommended California Native plant. This month's pick is ***Ceanothus tomentosus***, better known as woollyleaf ceanothus. This evergreen shrub can reach six to eight feet in height and has reddish stems with leaves that are oval, dark green and slightly woolly on the undersides. Once established, it can survive with minimal or no supplemental watering. A floral display during the winter attracts various pollinators such as butterflies, bees and bird species. Check out calscape.org for details. — Juan



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