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of the Month

Poster Contest

Ask Juan

California Native
Corner

pipelines

MARCH 2020 | NUMBER 3



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Offices Closed to the Public

IRWD has temporarily closed its offices to the public to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19, but we remain hard at work delivering safe and reliable water, sewer and other services. We are still available 24/7 to help you via:

- Internet: IRWD.com/services
- Email: CustomerService@IRWD.com
- Phone: 949-453-5300

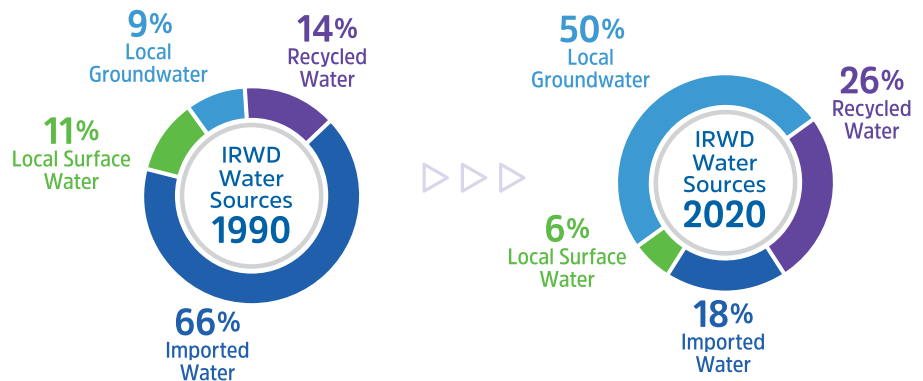
Full service by phone is available 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Services available online include billing issues, meters, leaks, water efficiency rebates, rates, start/stop service, variance requests, engineering documents and much more. Payments may be made online, by phone or in the IRWD parking lot drop box at 15600 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine.

During this period, IRWD will not charge late fees or disconnect service, unless due to repairs or maintenance. These policies will remain in effect until further notice.

IRWD has also canceled all workshops, tours and meeting room reservations through April 30. This includes our spring resident tours. See IRWD.com for details and updates.

Your Healthy, Diverse Water Supply



When it comes to water, IRWD doesn't put all its eggs in one basket.

We are continually developing new and diverse sources of water to enhance local water supply reliability, reduce costs and build resilience for the future.



Recycled Water



Imported Water



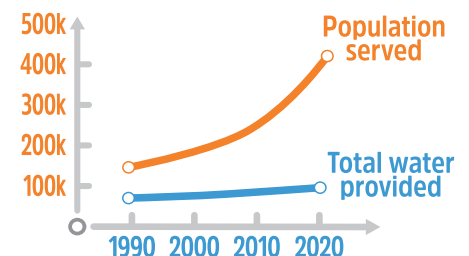
Local Groundwater

Recycled water is an important part of our diverse water supply, meeting 26% of the District's water needs. Every gallon of recycled water used for irrigation or other nondrinking purposes saves a gallon of drinking water. That reduces our need for more expensive imported water, helps keep rates low, and provides a drought-proof source of water to keep our communities green and beautiful.

Beyond that, 50% of IRWD's water

comes from local wells and 6% is local surface water captured from rainfall. So only 18% needs to be imported from Northern California or out of state.

Compare those figures to 1990, when imported water made up a whopping 66% of our supply, and you can see how added resources and more efficient water use by our customers have dramatically improved the health of our water supply portfolio. Population has grown 270% since 1990, but water use has increased by just 38%.



In 30 years, the district's population has grown by 270%, while the total water provided only increased by 38%.

IRWD also invests in water banking to establish an emergency supply of water in times of critical need, and is proposing improvements to Syphon Reservoir to expand recycled water storage capacity and increase local water supply reliability.

Water-Saving Tip of the Month

Fix Leaks, Win \$100

Fix a Leak Week is March 16–22. So celebrate all month (and save water!) by entering IRWD's Fix a Leak Contest. It's simple: Just visit IRWD.com/fixaleak, check out our training portal, and submit photos of yourself checking for leaks around your home. For each photo you submit, you'll receive an entry to win a \$100 gift card to The Home Depot. Winner must be in the IRWD service area. Entry deadline is March 31.

Use this checklist to be a Fix a Leak Contest detective:

- Check for toilet flapper leaks by dropping food coloring or dye tablets into your toilet tank. If the color leaks into the bowl after 20–30 minutes, you need a new flapper.
- Check for broken sprinklers or overspray in your yard. Fix and adjust your sprinklers if you find these problems.
- Check your sprinkler controller to ensure it has been adjusted for seasonal low-water use. See WateringGuide.com for spray and drip schedules.



You can also visit your Water Insight Portal at IRWD.waterinsight.com for tips and videos on how to check your home for leaks. (On your Water Insight home page, under "I Want To," select "Check if I have a leak" for step-by-step guidance.)

Additional places you can find leaks: hose bibs, bathtub/shower diverters, irrigation valves, hot water tanks, faucets, pools, showerheads.

Learn more. Fix a Leak Week is sponsored in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency WaterSense Program. For full contest details, visit IRWD.com/fixaleak.

**IRWD
Offices
Closed**
Friday, April 10

Accepting Entries for Poster Contest

Attention student artists: Create a poster that shows how to use water wisely at home or school. Or show how saving water can help the environment. You could become a published artist!

This year's theme, "Water is Life," relates to the stewardship of water. This means wise and efficient water use inside and outside of the home, at school, in the community, and in recreation. The theme of water efficiency should be reflected in the artwork.

Enter for a chance to win an iPad or inclusion in a calendar. Details at IRWD.com/PosterContest.



Q: I am considering participating in the Spray to Drip Rebate Program. Is there a guide or a list of items that I need to be aware of before I buy anything? What about installation?

A: Converting your spray irrigation to drip is a great way to be more water efficient. Visit RightScapeNow.com/rebates to find an Eligible Products List of drip irrigation equipment you can buy. Make sure to read the terms and conditions and apply first, *before* beginning your

project. Most irrigation companies have online brochures and videos to help with installation.

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

California Native Corner Juan's March Plant: Hummingbird Sage

My California native plant of the month is hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), a showy, low-spreading perennial herb with upright, slightly fragrant flowering stalks. The magenta flower spikes wrapped in burgundy sepals can reach 18 inches tall, in striking contrast to the plant's bright green foliage. Once established, hummingbird sage can do with little to no additional water and can be planted in dry shaded or partly shaded areas. This moderate grower is the perfect habitat plant for any California native garden. Check out CalScape.org for details and more ideas. — Juan



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