

## Offices Closed for the Holiday

IRWD will be closed on Presidents' Day, Feb. 15. Regular hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday at 949-453-5300. Visit [IRWD.com/services](http://IRWD.com/services).

# pipelines

FEBRUARY 2021 | NUMBER 2



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

## Save the Date

### Don't Spring a Leak

Online Webinar

**Wednesday, March 3  
Noon – 1 p.m.**

Learn to prevent water 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.

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScopeNow.com/  
events](http://RightScopeNow.com/events)

### Plants for the Planet

Online Webinar

**Wednesday, April 14  
Noon – 1 p.m.**

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

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScopeNow.com/  
events](http://RightScopeNow.com/events)

## Save Money, Water, and Time with New Bill Pay



It's here! IRWD has launched a new bill payment service with no fees and easy, flexible online and mobile options to suit your lifestyle.

Registration for the new service is required for all bill pay customers. For more information, visit [PayMyBill.IRWD.com](http://PayMyBill.IRWD.com), and sign up now before your next bill is due.

- **It's free!**
- **Pay by phone or text**
- **Set up easy automatic payments**
- **PayPal, Venmo and most credit cards accepted**
- **Links directly to your WaterInsight water usage report to help you save water**

These and other options will simplify your life. To ensure uninterrupted payments, visit [PayMyBill.IRWD.com](http://PayMyBill.IRWD.com).

## IRWD Celebrates 60 Years of Service

Irvine Ranch Water District just turned 60—and we all have a lot to celebrate!

The District was formed on January 23, 1961 to serve what was then a mostly agricultural community. Sewer service was added in 1963, and in 1967 we launched our nationally recognized recycled water program—growing into one of the nation's most robust systems today.

In 1997 we began treating urban runoff. Our Natural Treatment System wetland sites now total 26, including the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary which is recognized as a Wetland of Distinction by the International Society of Wetland Scientists.

Our commitment to sustainability and resilience has prompted many other innovations over the years.

Join us as we commemorate the people and programs that have made IRWD what it is today. Watch for monthly *Pipelines* articles, or visit [IRWD.com/liquid-news](http://IRWD.com/liquid-news) for more.



Construction of IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant in the 1960s.

## Save the Date: Fix a Leak Week

Celebrate **Fix a Leak Week, March 15–21**, with IRWD! Fix a Leak Week is sponsored in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program. During March, complete one of our short online leak-detection and leak-repair trainings, take a photo or video of your Fix a Leak project, and be entered to win a prize! Contest details can be found at [IRWD.com/fixaleak](http://IRWD.com/fixaleak).

## Student Artists Win SoCal Poster Contest

The work of two local student artists has been selected by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California as winners in the 2020 annual Water Awareness Poster Contest. Congratulations to Ashley Kim of Portola High School, and Peiyong Tsai of Northwood High School! Submit your 2021 poster contest submission by Sunday, February 28; details listed at [IRWD.com/postercontest](http://IRWD.com/postercontest).

Artwork by  
Ashley Kim



Artwork by  
Peiyong Tsai

## Ask Customer Service

**Q:** How does IRWD keep operating during a power outage?

**A:** The District has several procedures in place to avoid any disruptions in service during a power outage or other emergency. Critical facilities include backup generators (many also have alternative energy sources on site), and portable generators can be moved to wherever they are needed.

Our water storage tanks use gravity to deliver water to your tap, and that's in constant supply. This is true for most sewer lines, too.

Visit [IRWD.com/psps](http://IRWD.com/psps) for more information.

Got a question? Email [info@IRWD.com](mailto:info@IRWD.com) with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.



**Q:** I have three mature citrus trees in my backyard close to my fence. What other plants go well with citrus trees?

**A:** Thank you for your question. I typically do not plant anything under citrus trees because their water and nutrient needs differ throughout the season. Fruit trees should be separate from traditional landscape areas. Specific horticultural practices are needed for each type of plant, from shrubs to fruiting trees. The

important thing to do is research these plants for specific requirements. For watering, consider applying for the pressure regulating spray body program rebate at [RightScapeNow.com/prs-program](http://RightScapeNow.com/prs-program).

Got landscape questions? Email [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto: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](http://RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

### California Native Corner Juan's February Plant: Manzanita

Manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos spp.*) are found throughout California and can grow from two inches to 20 feet tall. These beautiful evergreen plants are known for their clusters of urn-shaped white to pink flowers and loved for their shiny, red-mahogany bark. They are a magnet for native birds, butterflies, and insects. Once established, manzanitas require little to no summer watering, and various species are known to grow for over 100 years. Learn more about native plants at [CalScape.org](http://CalScape.org) and [CalScape.org/planting-guide.php](http://CalScape.org/planting-guide.php). — Juan



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**24-Hour Customer Service:** 949-453-5300  
**Email:** [CustomerService@IRWD.com](mailto:CustomerService@IRWD.com)  
**Address:** 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618  
**Website:** [IRWD.com](http://IRWD.com)

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