



Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District

December 2008



Above are interior and exterior view of the rebuilt Portola Hills Zone 8-9 pump house.

Santiago Fires: One Year Later

Neighborhoods that suffered damage from the Santiago Fire continue to recover a year later.

IRWD's Zone 8-9 pump station, damaged in the fire, was rebuilt and went back online on schedule mid-June 2008.

continued on page two...

IRWD Makes it Easy for You to Pay Your Water Bill

Anytime ... 24/7 ... Anywhere ... at work, home, or on the road ... schedule your payment in advance

Irvine Ranch Water District's e-Bill service offers the convenience of receiving and paying your water bill online, free of charge.

You can sign up through IRWD's web site (www.irwd.com) or you may choose to sign up with an authorized e-Bill payment provider. Payment providers are typically a bank, credit union, brokerage or other portal that offers you the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

For more information please visit IRWD's web site (www.irwd.com) or call Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.



More than 50 IRWD employees participated in the statewide six-hour Emergency Preparedness Drill on November 13. This was the largest such drill in the nation's history and the first time IRWD has participated in a drill of this magnitude. IRWD holds periodic emergency drills to better serve customers in the event of a genuine event.



The Portola Hills Zone 9 Pump Station was reduced to a pile of rubble during the Santiago Fire.

continued from page one...

Santiago Fire: One Year Later

The fire broke out Sunday evening, October 21, 2007 and roared through dry brush, threatening areas of Irvine, Tustin Ranch, Foothill Ranch, Portola Hills and Orange. IRWD crews sprang into action to try and stave off damage to District facilities.

In addition to the pump station, homes belonging to two members of the IRWD Santiago Management Advisory Committee were lost, the Foothill Weather Station was burned, and property and several pieces of construction equipment at the Rattlesnake Reservoir was a complete loss.

Over several days, crews worked around the clock to keep the water flowing, manually adjusting reservoirs and operating portable pumps. The fire wasn't declared fully contained by the Orange County Fire Authority until November 8.

After the smoke cleared, rebuilding began immediately. The Foothill Weather Station was completed and back online in February of this year.

Meanwhile, construction of the Zone 8-9 pump station commenced in February. The block walls of the original building were used, but new construction incorporated several fire protection improvements including steel trusses and decking, non-flammable tiles, eaves enclosed with sheet metal and steel hatches.



Happy Holidays!

Don't Let Your Holiday Meal Create a Spill

Grease poured down drains is the leading cause of sewage spills.

Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round, but especially at this time of year. With the holidays upon us, many families are cooking special meals to share with friends and relatives. But the larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham or roast can result in problems within your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood if not disposed of properly.

Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal. Instead, pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid and then dispose of the can on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking; however for larger holiday meals you may want to save a coffee can to hold the grease.

Wipe excess grease from pots, pans and utensils with paper towels before washing. These simple steps will help IRWD protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

Three Directors Re-elected

Directors Mary Aileen Matheis, Darryl G. Miller, John B. Withers and were each re-elected to four-year terms on the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors in the Nov. 4 general election.

Matheis has been on the IRWD board since 1988. She is an attorney specializing in real estate law and estate planning. Matheis is IRWD's representative on the Southern California Water Committee, is a founding board member of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and president of the Shadetree Partnership.

Miller has been a member of the IRWD board since 1984 and is the current president. He is a hydro-geologist with more than 35 years of experience in water resources and water quality issues. He serves on the board of directors for the Orange County Sanitation District and the WaterReuse Association. In addition, he is the Executive Director of the Urban Water Institute.

Withers has served on the IRWD board since 1989. He is an affiliate with California Strategies. He has served on the Local Agency Formation Commission since 1995 and has served on the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Irrigation tips 'n' tune-ups

Plants that use less water and are fire resistant

Prepare now to protect your home from wildfire and conserve water. Reduce the threat of devastating wildfires by planting a fire-safe landscaping that can be lifesaving. Here's a few plants that are both fire-safe and water-wise. For more information visit www.bewaterwise.com.



California Sycamore (Platanus racemosa)
This deciduous tree is fast growing and reaches up to 40-50 feet high. It tolerates heat, smog and drought conditions.



Ornamental Strawberry (Fragaria chilolensis)
Perennial grows 4-8" with toothed leaves and ornamental strawberries during the fall.

French Lavender (Lavandula dentata)
This lavender has green leaves and will grow three feet high and five feet wide. It has lavender flowers that are prominent in the spring and summer months.



Autumn Sage (Salvia greggii)
This evergreen shrub grows 3-4 ft. high with fragrant green leaves and colorful flowers that bloom in spring and summer. It is drought tolerant and attracts hummingbirds.



Suggested Weekly Irrigation Schedule

Below are some suggested guidelines for efficient watering of your yard for spray-head irrigation systems. These are guidelines only, and exact times and cycles will vary according to the slope of your property, sun/shade and plant types. You can find useful landscape water-use guidance by visiting www.bewaterwise.com's watering calculator or watering index.

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
December & January	2 days, 2 cycles* of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes each	30%
Turn water off before rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.			

*By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth. Start with this weekly schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated area, check your irrigation system before increasing the time.

**Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering time can be set by changing the percentage instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

IRWD HOLIDAYS

- **Wednesday through Friday, December 24-26** - Christmas Holidays
- **Thursday, January 1, 2009** - New Year's Day Holiday

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- 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

- **Friday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m. - General meeting** at the new Education Center located in the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine.
- **Audubon House** - Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more information contact the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963 or visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

CITY OF IRVINE

- Copper thefts are on the rise nationwide due to the increased value of metals at recycling centers. Please report suspicious activities immediately by calling Irvine Police Department at (949) 724-7000 or dial 911 if it is suspected that a crime is in progress or if it is after business hours.

IRVINE MUSEUM PRESENTS: ALL THE WATER THAT WILL EVER BE, IS, RIGHT NOW Exhibit open through January 17, 2009

- In this exhibition they are featuring the perpetual natural cycle of water in our atmosphere and how aspects of that cycle figure prominently in the majestic landscape paintings of our early California artists. As the title of their exhibition states, water, in its three physical forms, liquid (water), solid (ice) and gas (water vapor) is a fixed quantity that has remained the same for the past hundreds of millions of years. The water cycle is the only way that the Earth can be continually supplied with fresh water. Our supply is constantly revived by being cycled, through the ocean, sky and land, over and over again. Without this cycle, whatever water exists would be used up and gone forever and there would be no life on Earth. The Irvine Museum, located at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100 in Irvine, is dedicated to the preservation and display of California art of the Impressionist Period (1890-1930). Open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and they validate parking. A docent tour is available to the public every Thursday starting at 11:15 a.m. For recorded information and directions call (949) 476-2565. Visit their Web site at www.irvinemuseum.org.

WHALE TAIL LICENSE PLATE DESIGN CONTEST

- The Coastal Commission is inviting artists, designers, and photographers to enter a contest to design a new WHALE TAIL license plate. Purchases of this plate in California fund marine and coastal education and conservation programs throughout the state. The deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Thursday, January 15, 2009. For more information visit their Web site at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/newplatecontest.html.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Adopt-A-Family** - Bring joy to a family in need this holiday season. The Adopt-A-Family program matches a donor to a family in need and the donor is given the family's wish list. Donors purchase items from the wish list and bring them to the Families Forward office. Families Forward insures that the recipient family receives the gifts prior to the holidays. Gift cards to grocery stores, Target, Costco and gas cards are also greatly appreciated! Over 500 families were adopted last year. Help brighten the holidays for a family in need.
- **Volunteers needed.** Call (949) 552-2727 or visit their Web site at www.families-forward.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **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 about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their web site at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org.

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 web site at www.uccemg.com or send an e-mail to ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com.

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 in the offices of the IRWD. Visit their web site at www.irvinegardenclub.com or send an e-mail to Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com.



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.

IRWD

Board of Directors

Darryl G. Miller, President
Mary Aileen Matheis, V.P.
Douglas J. Reinhart
Peer A. Swan
John B. Withers

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines Published by the Public Affairs Dept.

IRWD
P.O. Box 57000
Irvine, CA 92619-7000

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.

Visit the IRWD
Web site:

www.irwd.com

Printed on recycled paper.
Recyclable
December 2008 • 85K