



**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.

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.

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**IRVINE RANCH  
WATER DISTRICT**

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# Community Calendar

**IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS**

- Monday, May 25 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- Saturday, May 30 at 8 and 10 a.m. - Webinar. Sign-up online at [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com)

**SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

- Events are scheduled for Saturday, June 20 and August 8. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

**SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS**

- Sunday, June 14 - Monthly bird walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.
- June 19 - General meetings.
- Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to noon - Spring Brunch at the Marsh. \$24 per person (adults only). Reservation are required and must be pre-paid. Questions: Helen Nicholas (949) 726-0858.
- Summer Nature Day Camps - Fledgling Camp is scheduled for June 22-26 for 7-8 year olds, Mash Bird Camp is scheduled for July 6-10 (session one) and July 13-17 (session two) for 9-12 year olds, and Advaned Bird Camp is scheduled for July 20-24 for 11 years and older (prior marsh camp experience required).
- Summer Bat Walks - For families and adults: May 22, June 26, August 7 and August 14; for adults only: June 18.
- For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org).

**CITY OF IRVINE**

- Saturday, June 13 - July 25 - Mark Mothersbaugh: Postcard Diaries and Arthur Taussin: Postcards from the Edges of America at the Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale Avenue in Irvine. Both exhibitions run June 13 through July 25 with a special reception on Saturday, June 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. Gallery admission and reception are free to the public. For more information call (949) 724-6880 or visit [www.irvinefinearts.org](http://www.irvinefinearts.org).

**MARINES TO PARTICIPATE IN CARWASH FUNDRAISER - Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

- The Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee will hold a fundraiser at the Lakeview Senior Center off Alton Parkway and Lake Road. The Irvine 2/11 Marine Adoption Committee is an Irvine based non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the men and women of the 2/11 Battalion of the United States Marine Corps. To make a difference in the lives of our military personnel and their families, the City of Irvine adopted this Marine battalion from Camp Pendleton.

**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 website at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org).

**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 at IRWD. Visit [www.irvinegardenclub.com](http://www.irvinegardenclub.com) or send an e-mail to [Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com).

**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 website at [www.uccemg.com](http://www.uccemg.com) or send an e-mail to [ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com).

**FAMILIES FORWARD**

- Donations can be brought to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- For more information please contact Families Forward at (949) 552-2727 or visit their website at [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org). Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services.

**LAKE FOREST GARDEN CLUB**

- Annual Spring Boutique and Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Beach and Tennis Clubhouse, 22921 Ridge Route Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630. They will have fresh flower arrangements and baskets, healthy plants, handmade crafts, collectibles and gifts ideal for Mother's Day. Great raffle prizes. Experienced gardeners will be on hand to answer questions about your garden. Proceeds from this event support their scholarship fund, a butterfly program, and other community outreach programs. Come early for best selection. For more information check out their website at [www.lakeforestgardenclub.net](http://www.lakeforestgardenclub.net).

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

- The California Coastal Commission invites the public to submit personal stories of coastal stewardship in celebration of the 25th anniversary of California Coastal Cleanup Day. If you have taken part in something (small or large) to care for our coast and ocean, please share your story and/or pictures in order to inspire others to take action. Submit your story by July 1st to [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov). For more details and rules please visit [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/steward/stories.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/steward/stories.html).

*As a service to residents we feature a calendar of IRWD and community events. Events or activities of community-wide interest may be included in the community calendar. We reserve the right to edit submissions and include only those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information, including event date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to IRWD, Public Affairs Dept., P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, California 92619-7000, FAX to (949) 453-1327 or e-mail your request to [velazquez@irwd.com](mailto:velazquez@irwd.com).*



► IRWD Hosting First Online Seminar May 30

PAGE 1



► Award of Excellence for NTS's El Modena Park

PAGE 2



► IRWD in the Community - Earth Day

PAGE 2



► Webinar scheduled for May 30

PAGE 3

Irvine Ranch Water District

Always Water Smart

# pipelines

MAY | 2009



## IRWD Embraces Latest Web Technology to Help Residents Save Water

IRWD is hosting its first online seminar, or Webinar, for residential customers, entitled "New Ways for Smart Landscape Watering." You can attend this online seminar and interact with landscape and water conservation experts. Once registered, you'll be given directions to log onto the Internet from the convenience of your home on Saturday morning May 30. Sessions will be held at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

IRWD already holds popular on-site seminars about efficient landscape watering. The on-line presentation, *continued on page two...*

## Water Quality Report Coming in June

The annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, will be mailed out with your water bill in June. This report will replace the monthly newsletter Pipelines. This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you want additional copies, please contact IRWD's Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500.

## Celebrate Water in May

May is Water Awareness Month in California and the statewide program is observing its 22nd year. IRWD offers many events and activities for customers to highlight the statewide program. We offer free conservation devices on a one-time basis for customers. Stop by the headquarters office at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue during business hours to pick up these devices. Information is available about water-saving toilets and rebate programs for toilets and water-saving clothes washers.

It's important for residents to know where their water comes from and that it needs to be used wisely in both wet years and dry. Approximately 65 percent of Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) water supply comes from local groundwater wells. The remainder is imported from the Colorado River.

If you want to landscape your yard with California Friendly native *continued on page two...*



*IRWD Wins Award of Excellence...see story on page two...*

continued from page one...

## Celebrate Water in May

plants while saving water and lowering your water bill, IRWD has videos from Sunset Magazine available for loan to our customers.

### Water Saving Tips

Here are a few handy tips to help you save water:

- Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Use a brush and a bowl of water instead of running water over fruits and vegetables.
- Use a broom or rake rather than a hose to remove leaves and debris from the driveway, walk, patio and pool decks. This saves water and prevents urban runoff.
- Cover your swimming pool to slow down evaporation.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running it at the tap until it cools.



continued from page one...

## IRWD Embraces Latest Web Technology to Help Residents Save Water

a pilot project made possible by a grant from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, is intended to make it more convenient for customers to learn about effective irrigation practices and the latest water-saving technology without having to drive to a location. Q&A will be part of the on-line session.

Interested residential customers are encouraged to sign up for the Webinar at Irvine Ranch Water District's water conservation site, [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com).

## IRWD in the Community



IRWD participated in an Earth Day event held at the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center in Newport Beach on Sunday, April 26.

## IRWD Receives 2009 Award of Excellence

Mr. John Wolter of VA Consulting, Inc. presented the 2009 Award of Excellence for Irvine Ranch Water District's Natural Treatment System project at El Modena Park received from the Orange County Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies. The award was presented at the April 13 IRWD Board of Directors meeting.

### Wetlands are nature's way of filtering water

IRWD began treating urban runoff in 1997 by reconstructing wetlands at the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. A large portion of the urban runoff in San Diego Creek is diverted into the system of manmade ponds where it flows for seven to 10 days. This gives plants and soils in the ponds time to naturally remove nitrates and other pollutants. The cleaner water is delivered back into the creek to continue its journey through Upper Newport Bay to the ocean.

The San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, worked so well to clean urban runoff that IRWD expanded the concept to a series of more than 30 smaller wetlands throughout the San Diego Creek Watershed in Orange County, so that runoff will travel through one or more basins for incremental cleaning.

The Natural Treatment System by itself will not solve all of the water quality challenges of the watershed. Rather, it is a regional project that is just one piece - a significant piece - of the puzzle of improving water quality in Upper Newport Bay.

## Prevent Water Pollution by Reducing Urban Runoff in Your Yard

Many common yard care activities could lead to water pollution; but by simply changing one or two individual practices in our yards, we can help reduce urban runoff and improve the health of our waterways. Urban runoff occurs when excessive water from irrigation carries litter, lawn clippings, motor oil, pet waste, fertilizer, pesticides and other pollutants into the storm drain. Unlike water that enters the sewer (from sinks and toilets), water that enters the storm drain is not treated before entering our waterways.

### To avoid overwatering, follow these simple tips:

- Plant drought resistant or native plants that require less water.
- Before watering your plants, check the soil moisture level below the surface, it should almost be dry.
- Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation.
- Set your irrigation timer to water in 3-4 minute cycles.
- Shut off your irrigation timer or use the rain-delay feature before and during rain events.
- Adjust your irrigation schedule by using the water index at [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).

Provided by Project Pollution Prevention.

# New Ways for Smart Landscape Watering

Join us May 30 for our first free webinar for IRWD homeowners

Did you know that 50 percent of residential water use is used for landscape and as much as 25-30 percent of that is wasted? The truth is many people simply do not know how much water their landscape needs, or they think it needs far more than it actually does. When in doubt, people tend to over water, but when it comes to having a healthy landscape, more is not always better. In fact, over watering can cause just as much harm as under watering. Ensuring that your landscape receives just the right amount will enable you to achieve a luscious landscape that will thrive in our Southern California climate.

On Saturday, May 30, Irvine Ranch Water District will be airing its first landscape webinar. A webinar is a seminar delivered over the internet.

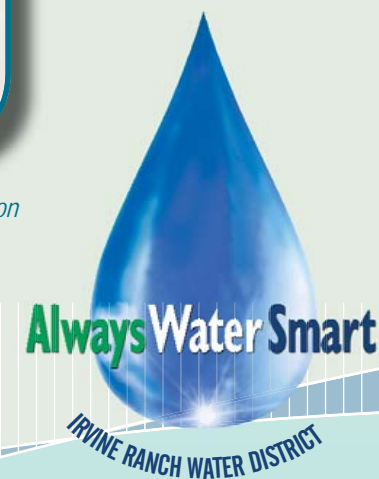
It is delivered in real time so viewers can submit questions and answers through their computer. Webinars offer an interactive learning experience without having to leave home. Irvine Ranch Water District is very pleased to offer this type of technology to our customers and hope that you will log on, and tune in to learning New Ways for Smart Landscape Watering.



Find out how to improve the efficiency of your irrigation system with a simple change-out to water-saving rotating nozzles for your existing spray heads.



Learn about "smart" weather-based irrigation controller technology, for hands-off water scheduling.



No need to rush out and leave the comfort of your home to attend our next landscape seminar. Begin Saturday morning, May 30, by savoring your morning coffee while viewing our stimulating interactive presentation on the latest ways to keep your landscape healthy.

## Register for this Free Webinar Today

Simply log on from the convenience of your home Saturday morning, May 30, to join our water conservation and landscape experts for an informative, interactive 45-minute session that will cover:

- 5 easy steps to tune up your irrigation system
- 3 key features of your irrigation controller
- Q & A with our experts

## Two Sessions to choose From

An early bird session will start at 8 a.m. and a second session will start at 10 a.m. To register for either session, please visit [AlwaysWaterSmart.com](http://AlwaysWaterSmart.com) and click on the "SIGN UP NOW" button near the top of the page.

For more water-and-money-saving suggestions, visit "Residential Water Use Efficiency Tips and Tools" at [www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com](http://www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com)