

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / June 2002
Volume 2002 Number 06

IRWD Spreads Conservation Message

So far, 2002 has been a very dry year, which means that water conservation is more important than ever. Water Awareness Month was observed in May and Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) participated in several events to perpetuate the theme of "Use Water Wisely – It's a Way of Life."

On May 7-8, IRWD provided water education programs to almost 700 third and fourth grade students at the 2002 Children's Water Festival at the Hidden Valley Events Center in Irvine. More than 6,000 students and 700 teachers from all over Orange County – including several classes from IRWD's service area – participated in the event.

The festival, sponsored by Disney and the Orange County

Water District (OCWD) annually draws busloads of students and teachers anxious to learn about water through fun, games, hands-on activities, theater performances and more.

IRWD presented the "Edible Aquifer" activity in which children learn about groundwater – and the need to keep it clean – by building an aquifer model from ice cream, ice cubes, soda and candy sprinkles. This fun but messy activity has a sweet finale – students get to eat their projects.

In mid-May, the spring Water Awareness tours for residents were held. These popular tours will be held again in the fall. The dates will be published in future editions of Pipelines.💧



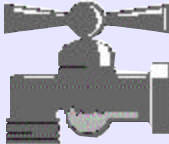
Ten Years of Engineering Partnership with Harvey Mudd College

Students from the Harvey Mudd College Engineering Clinic made a presentation to the Board of Directors on their project for the 2001-02 school year. The team of students studied the effectiveness of submersible mixers in two of IRWD's drinking water reservoirs. They used both computer hydraulic modeling as well as a real-world tracer study using sodium fluoride to determine the rate at which the mixers prevented stagnation in the reservoirs. The good news: their study showed that IRWD's mixers are doing a very effective job of maintaining chlorine residual in the water and preventing water quality problems. This marks the tenth year that IRWD has been a sponsor of the engineering clinic at the Claremont college. The purpose of the program is to provide real-world engineering experience to students in their junior and senior years, while providing a valuable service to the companies and agencies for whom they



conduct the projects. Left to right are: student Markus Ong, faculty member and Engineering Clinic Director Joseph King, IRWD liaison Carl Spangenberg, and students Deborah Chun, Angela Hsueh, David Levitt and Micaela Ellison. IRWD's Arseny Kalinsky of Water Quality (not shown) also served as a project liaison.💧

Why Does the Water Taste Different Lately?



If you've noticed a change in the taste or odor of your water lately, it may be due to some changes in the way your water is purified.

Between May and September, most parts of the IRWD service area use a high percentage of well water instead of water imported from the Colorado River and Northern California.

When the switch is made to well water, customers receiving it often notice a difference in taste or hardness (mineral content) of the water coming from their taps. Groundwater is much softer than imported water.

Currently customers may notice even more of a difference in taste and odor due to some changes in the way well water is being disinfected. Up until the late 1990s, IRWD used chlorine alone to disinfect its well water. Then, to be consistent with the disinfection methods used by Metropolitan Water District, IRWD converted its disinfection to chloramines, or a combination of chlorine and ammonia. Using this combination reduces the taste and odor associated with chlorine alone. Presently, IRWD is undertaking some upgrades on its disinfection facility and has temporarily returned to using chlorine alone. It is anticipated that well water will continue to be treated with chlorine alone for approximately the next month.

Please be assured that although the chlorine taste or odor may be more noticeable, your water remains perfectly safe and meets all state and federal standards. You can minimize chlorine taste and odor by putting water in a pitcher and keeping it in the refrigerator. 💧

CHECK OUT THESE WEB SITES:

- www.irwd.com - information about IRWD
- www.shadetpartnership.org - tree planting events
- www.naturaltreatmentsystem.org - learn more about this new project for urban runoff treatment
- www.h2ouse.org - this site features current information and resources to help you be water efficient

Upcoming IRWD Construction Projects

Zone B Pipeline on Laguna Canyon Road

IRWD will build a 24-inch diameter reclaimed water line along Laguna Canyon Road from Irvine Center Drive to the I-405 freeway, then under the I-405 to tie into our existing booster pump station. This project will connect the new Planning Area 17 to the East Irvine booster station. Construction is planned for summer 2002.

Turtle Rock Pressure Improvement

A project to provide improved water pressure and fireflow to portions of Turtle Rock is planned for summer 2002. This project entails constructing new domestic water lines to tie into the recently completed high pressure water pipelines in Shady Canyon Drive. This pipeline will make it possible to improve the water pressure to portions of Turtle Rock.

Quail Hill (Planning Area 17) Reservoirs and Booster Pump Station

IRWD is building two reservoirs and a booster pump station to service the more than 2,700 homes, 73 acres of industrial parks and 18 acres of commercial retail development planned for the area located south of the I-405 freeway, between Sand Canyon Avenue and Laguna Canyon Road. The homes are scheduled for occupancy in July 2003, so the reservoirs and pump stations will be built during the late 2002 and early 2003.

Jeffrey Road Sewer and Reclaimed Water Line

A 33-inch diameter sewer will be constructed along Jeffrey Road from Irvine Center Drive to Trabuco Road in the City of Irvine. In addition, a 30-inch diameter reclaimed water transmission main will be constructed within the same area. The City of Irvine will widen the east side of Jeffrey Road by 12-20 feet and the road will be lowered for a new railroad track overcrossing. Road widening is planned for the end of 2002 or early 2003. 💧

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of June and July

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
June & July	4 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes	2 or 3 days, 4 cycles* of 3 minutes

**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 areas, check your irrigation system for leaks, clogging or blockage before increasing the watering time.*

Home Water Use Efficiency Program

Receive rebates on the following water efficient home products:

- **\$100 rebate available for high efficiency washing machines.**
- **Up to \$80 rebate for new state-of-the-art toilets**

For more information on participation criteria and to receive a rebate application call 1 (800) 954-4344. Act now - limited time programs.

Note: participants in the toilet rebate programs may get an inspection call and are required to submit their original receipt. These programs are not run by IRWD. We inform our customers about them as a public service.

The Gas Company also has an additional \$75 rebate for clothes washers. Information: 1 (888) 431-2226 or www.socalgas.com.

LANDSCAPE WATERING TIPS!

- ◆ **Cut back on fertilizing.** Some fertilizers can burn your lawn. Use a balanced, organic or slow-release formula. Over fertilizing can lead to higher water and mowing demands. Ask your local nursery about fertilizing.
- ◆ **Aerate your soil:** Soils compact easily, making it difficult for plants to send their roots deep.
- ◆ **Water your lawn only when it needs it.** Check by stepping on the grass. If it springs back up when you move, it doesn't need water. If it stays flat, turn on the sprinklers. Most homes will need to water their lawns three days per week, approximately five minutes per day. Shrubs generally require about 1/2 to 3/4 (some even less) of what the lawn needs. Mature trees generally need watering which allows for deep infiltration on an infrequent basis (about twice a month). If you're watering every day or every other day, you're providing more than most plants need. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface.
- ◆ **Check your sprinkler system.** Clean clogged heads. Replace broken sprinklers or risers. Adjust the angle so that spray doesn't wet the pavement. Turn the system on valve by valve. If water hits walks, fences or runs into the street, fix the problem.
- ◆ **Important NOTE:** Landscapers may turn sprinkler controllers up too high. Check the irrigation times yourself. Watch for runoff. Runoff will carry fertilizers into the storm drain and contribute to pollution in our waterways. ◆

Take Steps to Prepare for Fire Season

Southern California is currently on pace for the driest winter and spring ever. Record-low rainfall has left Orange County's vegetation parched, greatly increasing the risk of wildfires. For information about precautions you can take to help prevent fires and to protect your family and property during this high-alert period, contact the Orange County Fire authority at (714) 532-7266 or visit www.ocfa.org. ◆

Community Calendar

IRWD OFFICES CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:

- Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

- **Friday Evening Bat Walks (June 14 & 28 and July 19 & 26) from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m.**
Don't miss the chance to see the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary by moonlight. Cost: \$10 per person; \$5 for children ages 7 to 12. Advance reservations and payment are necessary.
- **Feather Identification Workshop - Wednesday, June 12 or 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Join Trude Hurd of Audubon to learn how to identify common feathers found on your hikes. Fee of \$20 includes take-home information packet. Advance registration and payment required.
- **Evening Marsh Walks for adults only - Saturday, July 20 or August 17 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.** Join Audubon for an after-hours 2-3 mile walk at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Cost: \$10. Advance payment and registration required.
- **Summer Program for Young People - Call Audubon** to get more information about this new project called Young Birders of the Year.
- **Summer Day Camp - Your child will fall in love with nature** during this week-long day camp at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. They will take daily nature walks, keep a nature journal, assemble a woden bird feeder, observe guest speakers with live hawks and owls, compete in birding competitions, make nature crafts and more.

Call (949) 261-7963 or visit their web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

CONCERT ON THE GREEN AND FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

4th of July at Irvine High School Stadium

The Irvine Police Association presents this Independence Day Event.

- 3 p.m. - Gates open.
- Game booths, balloon jumpers, face painting, door prizes and jazz band
- 7:30 p.m. - Patriotic Concert
- 9 p.m. - Fireworks Festival with historical narration and music

Ticket information: Family (two adults/up to four children) - \$35 (advance sales only); Adults (14 and older) - \$11; Senior/child (60+/13 and under) -\$6. For tickets and more information call Vince Palazzolo at (949) 724-0488 or visit their Web site at

www.irvinepa.org.

Irvine International Invitational Baseball Tournament

The tournament will include several days of baseball games played between four teams from Irvine high schools and two teams from Irvine's sister cities of Hermosillo, Mexico, and Taoyuan, Taiwan. Activities include:

- Woodbridge Independence Day Parade on July 4 at 10 a.m.
- Opening game ceremonies on July 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Windrow Park in Irvine. Game one begins at 12:30 p.m.
- Remaining baseball game start times include July 5 at 9 a.m., July 6 at 9 a.m. and July 7 at 1 p.m. All games at Windrow Park.

For more information call (949) 724-6340 or visit www.ci.irvine.ca.us.

Concordia University's Concerts on the Green

Four free concerts scheduled this summer on the campus of Concordia University in Irvine, 1530 Concordia West in the Turtle Rock community of Irvine:

- Sunday, July 14, 4-6 p.m. The Golden State Pops Orchestra, conducted by Steve Fox - "Patriotic Concert"
- Sunday, July 21, 4-6 p.m. Dixieland Ramblers - Old fashioned Riverboat music and song
- Sunday, July 28, 4-6 p.m. Golden West International Symphonic Band - 50-member group, directed by Thomas Hernandez
- Sunday, August 4, 4-6 p.m. The Tom Nolan Band - Rhythm and Blues, Classic Soul

For more information, please call (949) 854-8002, Ext. 1862. 💧

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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Pipelines

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For comments, suggestions or questions, call (949) 453-5500.

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

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