

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

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Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. Spring tours are scheduled for Saturday, April 26 and Saturday, May 17. These tours, open to those who live or work within IRWD boundaries, are an excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about the water system, wastewater treatment, and reclaimed water use.

Tours include a discussion of water supply issues, rates, water conservation, water quality, the distribution system and other issues. Also featured are tours of the Water Quality Laboratory, the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant, and other District facilities. A special attraction is a guided tour of a portion of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. Lunch is provided.

To sign up, customers may send in the form (on page three), register on the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com, or call (949) 453-5500.

The tours fill very quickly and are first-come first-served based on the date we receive your reservation. You will receive a call if your selection is not available and you can choose another date or be placed on a waiting list. Tours are limited to those 16 years of age or older.

For more information, call (949) 453-5500. ♦
registration form on page three...

www.irwd.com

Visit Irvine Ranch Water District's Web site to access your IRWD account or get other information about your water district 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Check it out!

IRWD and Opus West Corporation Set Precedent With Recycled Water Use in Air Conditioning Cooling Towers

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) has successfully converted Opus Center Irvine II, a new 14-story Irvine office building to recycled water use in two air conditioning cooling towers, the first such use for recycled water in Orange County. This brings to 11 the total number of facilities converted to interior recycled water use by IRWD.

Cooling towers use water to exchange heat in air conditioning systems and use of recycled water in these towers can help cut water costs by as much as 40 percent.

"I expect this project has set the trend for the future," said Richard A. Diamond, the District's Water Resources Manager. "Opus is progressive-thinking and were very cooperative to work with. IRWD is actively pursuing cooling uses in several additional buildings."

The building, located at 2040 Main Street in Irvine, also uses recycled water for toilet flushing. Toilet flushing accounts for approximately 25 percent of the recycled water used in the building, with recycled water used in the cooling towers another 75 percent. Using drought-resistant recycled water instead of potable drinking water should cut water use costs by about 40 percent.

After conversion, recycled water use will account for about 90-95 percent of the total building water use and will save an estimated 3.3 million gallons of potable water per year.

The building, developed by the Irvine office

continued inside...



Irvine Desalter Update

A long-awaited project that will clean up contaminated groundwater in and around the former El Toro Marine Base has now moved into the preliminary design stage.

Known as the Irvine Desalter Project (IDP), the cleanup is a joint project by Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and the Orange County Water District (OCWD), with financial participation by the Navy and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In June 2001, both the IRWD and OCWD boards of directors approved a settlement agreement with the Department of the Navy.

The Irvine Desalter Project was significantly altered in 1999 after public input from IRWD customers, splitting the project into two separate systems. The project will consist of two water purification plants with separate collection and transmission systems. One plant will remove volatile organic compounds (VOC) from the groundwater contaminated by solvent degreasers at the El Toro Marine Base and use that water only for irrigation and other non-drinking water uses.

The Department of the Navy has accepted full responsibility for cleanup of the contaminated groundwater emanating from the former Marine base. OCWD, working with IRWD, has agreed to accept and treat the contaminated water, with the Navy bearing all the costs of the cleanup.

The other plant will treat water from outside the plume of contamination to remove salts and nitrates caused by the natural geology and past agricultural uses of the land. The water from outside the plume will be treated to drinking water standards and will provide a new source of local water for IRWD customers. IRWD, with assistance from MWD, will pay the costs to purify the groundwater outside of the plume that only has high salt/nitrate content. This will provide a new drinking water supply at the same cost as buying imported water, but with much higher reliability because it is a local supply.

Both water treatment processes will use reverse osmosis (widely used in the bottled water industry) and disinfection. The process to treat VOC-contaminated groundwater will also include an airstripping process that removes the VOCs from the water and protects the atmosphere by capturing the VOCs in a carbon absorption system. The project will yield an estimated 7,000-

8,000 acre-feet of new water each year, of which about 25 percent will be used for irrigation and industrial use and 75 percent will be used for potable water. One acre-foot of water is equal to approximately 326,000 gallons, or enough to meet the needs of two average families for a year.

The Department of the Navy prepared a Record of Decision document, which detailed how the VOC plume is to be cleaned-up. The federal government approved the Record of Decision last summer, making it possible for the project to move forward. Health and regulatory agencies overseeing the project include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California EPA, Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Health Services.

The treatment plants will be constructed behind IRWD's headquarters on Sand Canyon Avenue in Irvine. The District will continue to provide updates in future billing inserts and on our web site, www.irwd.com, so our customers remain informed on the project's progress. ♦

continued from page one...

Recycled Water Use

of Opus West Corporation, first opened in August 2002 and is managed by Opus West Management Corporation. IRWD's recycled water team worked with the builder for about a year on the conversion project. State and county health agencies approved the recycled water conversion after a successful 48-hour cross connection test.

IRWD has been a leader in promoting recycled water use for landscaping and agricultural needs for more than 30 years. Wastewater is collected and treated using tertiary treatment, producing high quality water that earned the District the first unrestricted use permit in the state in 1991. This permit allows the recycled water to be used for everything but drinking. Recycled water is delivered through a completely separate pipeline system throughout the community.

Recycled water now makes up more than 20 percent of IRWD's total water supply, reducing the need to import expensive water and helping to keep rates low. ♦

Water Conservation Tips

More plants suffer from over watering

- Too much water can stress plants and cause disease. Most homes can leave their sprinkler systems OFF this time of year, especially in shady areas. If you think you need to water, check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface. According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause.
- Avoid fertilizing. Fertilizing can force a growth spurt at a time of year when plants naturally go into a dormant phase. If a growth spurt happens before a chill, the intense cold can permanently damage the plant. In addition, fertilizers laid during this time of year are more likely to get washed away by rain, contributing to pollution in the waterways.
- Cut back roses.
- Bare root season for fruit trees and roses. Water to keep the plants moist, but not wet. Water deeply, not frequently. Hand water the new plants directly in the early morning. Allow about an hour for the water to soak in before re-applying.
- Place native plants on slopes and large common areas. When native plants are established, you can turn water nearly to off. Native plants not only save water, but provide valuable habitat for local wildlife. ♣

Flex Your Water Power and Save Money Too!

WATER RELATED REBATES

- Web site: www.mwdoc.com
- Toilet Exchange
1-800-693-5331...Free
- Toilet Rebate
1-800-954-4344...\$80 rebate
- Clothes washer
1-800-954-4344...\$100 rebate

For more information on water saving tips, visit www.h2ouse.org. Thanks for your help in saving California's precious water and energy resources. ♣



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of January and February

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE

FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
January	2 days	1 day
& February	2 cycle* of 3 minutes	2 cycle* of 4 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 before increasing the time. If it rains, keep the system off. ♣*

RESIDENT TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I am interested in learning more about IRWD. Please make reservations for the following tour:

___ Saturday, April 26

___ Saturday, May 17

Number of adults in party: _____

Names of each person attending: _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

e-mail: _____

Please return this form to:

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

For further information, call (949) 453-5500 or visit our Web site at www.irwd.com

IRWD OFFICES CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING

IRWD HOLIDAY:

- Monday, February 17, 2003 - President's Day

Community Calendar

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

Community service hours are available for all volunteer activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670 or visit their Web site at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

• Call Sea and Sage Audubon at (949) 261-7963 or visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENT

The City of Irvine Hosts "My Furry Valentine" Celebrity Luncheon and Auction to Benefit Homeless Pets • Sunday, February 9 at 11 a.m. at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased by contacting IACC Program Coordinator Eliza Rubenstein at (949) 724-7745, or the IACC front office at (949) 724-7741, or visit the Center's Web site at www.irvineshelter.org.

Voluntary Water Conservation Requested During MWD Work on Allen-McColloch Pipeline

Many Orange County residents recall that when the Metropolitan Water District's Allen-McColloch Pipeline ruptured in Irvine in December 1999 much of the south county area below Irvine was left without water and forced into emergency conservation mode while repairs were made.

To avoid future problems, MWD has stepped up its preventive maintenance program on the pipeline. Work is scheduled to take place on a portion of the line January 21-29. Due to the importance of the water line to south Orange County, the work must be conducted on a round-the-clock basis to minimize the time the line is out of service. IRWD customers are asked to conserve water during this period to minimize demands on the system and to allow IRWD to provide supplemental water to south county agencies if necessary.

Most of the locations where work will take place are in unpopulated areas in the northern portion of the Irvine Ranch Water District service area. However, two work locations will take place near residential areas of Lake Forest. MWD is conducting notifications to all residents of affected areas and will provide contact information for residents with questions.

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

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Pipelines

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

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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