

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / March 2004
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Construction on San Joaquin Reservoir Underway

The construction on the San Joaquin Reservoir, converting the existing reservoir from a drinking water to a reclaimed reservoir, is currently underway.

The San Joaquin Reservoir, an open, man-made reservoir, was built in 1966 and is located in Newport Beach. The reservoir was previously used to provide drinking water to customers of seven cities and water districts. Because more stringent water quality regulations control the storage of treated drinking water in an open reservoir, the

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IRWD and Fire Department Team up for Training

Huge piles of demolished homes and rubble dominated the landscape. All around, bulldozers scooped up piles of wood, wallboard and concrete and dumped them into trucks waiting to haul it all away.

This wasn't the scene of a massive earthquake or the aftermath of a hurricane – this was on the grounds of the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Station. Homes that once housed military families were being demolished to make way for new civilian development. So officials from Irvine's Station 6 of the Orange County Fire Authority thought the base property would offer a great opportunity to conduct some emergency training. Capt. Nick Sanchez made arrangements at the base, then contacted Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and asked for assistance with one of the District's vacuum trucks and some crewmembers.

IRWD was more than happy to comply – after all, the crews have worked together a few times before – once on an actual rescue and two other times in training. Station 6 is home to Orange County's Urban Search and Rescue unit.

On this particular day, the vacuum truck was taken to the training site to use the vacuuming device in tandem with the fire department's Air Knife. While the Air Knife blows a high-power jet of air into a hole, the vacuum device cleans it away.

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**Upgrade to better-performing
FREE TOILETS!**

*During the next toilet exchange event in Irvine
on the first Saturday of May 2004*

WHEN:
May 1 – Pick up FREE new toilets
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
May 15 – Drop off old toilets only
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE:
Irvine Ranch Water District
headquarters parking lot
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

Three Easy Steps:

1. Bring your current water bill, photo-ID and a credit card to the toilet exchange event at IRWD and take home your ultra-low-flush toilet(s.) Limit two toilets per residence.
2. Two weeks later, return your old, pre-1992, water-guzzling toilet(s) to the same IRWD location and you may keep your new toilet(s) for FREE!
3. Enjoy the high performance of your new toilet(s) while saving, on average, 10,000 gallons of water per year per new toilet.

For more information, call 949.453.5563
or visit www.mwsoc.com/officials.html





This Program is sponsored by these agencies.

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. Reservations are now being taken for tours on Friday, April 23 and Saturday, May 22. A third tour on April 24 is already full. 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 (below), 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.

RESIDENT TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

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

Friday, April 23 **TOUR FULL** Saturday, April 24

Saturday, May 22

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 Public Affairs 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.

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San Joaquin Reservoir

facility has been empty since 1994. In response to the neighbors' desire to see a water view, IRWD proposed the conversion from a drinking to reclaimed water storage facility. Because reclaimed water is used for irrigation and not for drinking, it can be safely stored in an open reservoir without a cover. The recycled water reservoir will provide much needed seasonal storage for recycled water. Operation of the reservoir will maximize storage during the winter months when irrigation demands are lower. Water will then be withdrawn from the reservoir in the summer months to provide landscape irrigation water for surrounding areas including Irvine, Newport Coast, and portions of Newport Beach.

Converting this reservoir from one system to another is no small task. Five inter-related projects are involved in converting this reservoir to a recycled water storage facility.

- The San Joaquin Reservoir Conversion includes the modifications to the reservoir's clay liner, adding fencing around the site, installing inlet and outlet valves, improving the perimeter access road, the installation of an aeration system and monitoring wells.
- The Shady Canyon Zone B Booster Pump Station will be built to fill the reservoir with recycled water.
- The San Joaquin Flow Control Facilities project entails modifications to the existing control building in order to remove water from the reservoir.
- The Chambord Road Pipe Extension involves the construction of a recycled water pipeline to connect the reservoir to an existing recycled pipeline in nearby Chambord Road.
- The Coastal Booster Pump Station Modification project will make changes to an existing pump station so that recycled water can be pumped to the reservoir.

Construction on these projects is expected to continue through the remainder of this year, and it is expected that refilling the reservoir will begin in late 2004/early 2005. For more information on this project, please view the District's web site www.irwd.com or contact the Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500.

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IRWD and Fire Department Team up for Training

This technique is helpful when rescuing trapped victims.

“We wanted to bring all five Irvine fire stations out here for the one-day training to re-introduce crew members to this type of training and to get the new folks involved,” Sanchez said. “Having IRWD onboard enhances our opportunities for training. There might be times when we have to work together again on an actual rescue.”

Three years ago, such a thing did occur. A county worker was replacing planks in a drainage channel on Harvard and Edinger avenues when he became buried up to his waist in mud. The fire department responded and began rescue operations, trying to dig the man out, but the trench continued to collapse on him. IRWD Collection Systems crews showed up with the vacuum truck and sucked out the muck, resulting in a very effective rescue. The county worker was in the hole for four hours, but only suffered a broken ankle during the ordeal.

A few days after the rescue, the fire crews and IRWD collections crews teamed up one more time for practice sessions. A Station 6 firefighter eventually developed and built the Air Knife. Then two summers ago, the fire department and IRWD held trench rescue training at the Operations Center.

“The cooperation we receive from IRWD is amazing,” Capt. Sanchez said. “Because of our contact with IRWD, we have been able to form relationships with other water districts and determine how we can work together.”



"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 your lawn.** 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.
- **Aerate your soil:** Heavy soils compact easily, making it difficult for plants to send their roots deep. Amend your soil. Composted mulch and other soil amendments incorporated into the soil greatly improve its texture.
- **Change the battery.** If your sprinkler timer has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS **Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of March and April**

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS			
		Trees, shrubs	
	Turf grass	groundcover	Percent Option
March	3 days	2 days	50%**
	2 cycles* of	2 cycles* of	
	3 minutes	3 minutes	
April	3 days	2 days	70%**
	2 cycles* of	3 cycles* of	
	4 minutes	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. March/April is the most active growth period for turf grass and other plants. Be sure to water adequately.*

***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.*

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

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

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

- For more information visit their Web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.
- Summer Camp 2004 - for children. Enrollment brochures are available from Audubon House or visit www.seaandsageaudubon.org, or call Camp Coordinator Grace McElhiney at (714) 969-9617.

CITY OF IRVINE

On Wednesday, May 12, 2004, the City of Irvine is hosting a "Let's Talk Transportation" forum from 6 - 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Irvine Civic Center - 1 Civic Center Plaza (corner of Alton and Harvard). Learn about new construction as well as the challenges and issues relating to transportation in our community. The "Let's Talk" forum will consist of several presentations given by representatives from the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) and the City of Irvine, followed by a question and answer session. For more information, please call (949) 724-6380 or visit www.ci.irvine.ca.us for more information.

CITY OF COSTA MESA - Sunday, May 16 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The City of Costa Mesa is hosting their annual "Public Safety Emergency Services EXPO" at Placentia Fire Station #4, 2300 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa. Events: fire demonstrations, police demonstrations, displays, fun and food! Contact: Barb Marcosa at (714) 754-5091.

IRVINE GARDEN CLUB EVENT

The "Irvine Garden Club" meets the first Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, April 5, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Road. April's topic is "Vegetables for a Spring Organic Garden," presented by Geri Cibellis, Master Gardener, of the Orange County Organic Garden Society. For information call (949) 551-3962.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- Despite the success of the Citywide Food Drive, the need for food is so great in the community that our food pantry is beginning to run low on certain staple items. Donations of the following items would be much appreciated: canned beans (various), tomato sauce, tomato paste, stew, cake mix, frosting, pancake mix, toothbrushes. Call Alycia Harshfield for a full list at (949) 552-2727 Ext. 226.
- Volunteers needed: Are you available during the work week and interested in helping Families Forward with furniture donation pick up? We are seeking strong volunteers with flexible schedules! Please call Alycia Harshfield at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

Court Appointed Special Advocates is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held March 18 at the Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue, from 6 to 8 p.m. RSVP (714) 619-5155.

CELEBRATE UCI- Saturday, April 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Come to UCI's 26th annual Open House, one of the campus' oldest and most festive traditions. This spring event features games and rides for children, an Earth Day celebration, academic information, car show, campus tram tours, class reunions, Wayzgoose Medieval Faire with food booths, demonstrations, prize drawings and much more. The public is invited! Events and parking are free. For more information, call UCI at (949) 824-5182 or visit their website at www.uci.edu/celebrate.

FRIDAY, APRIL 9 - IRWD HOLIDAY (offices closed)

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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