

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

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Irvine Ranch Water District Approves 2004-05 Operating Budget

The Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) approved the fiscal year 2004-05 operating budget at its June 28 meeting. The \$75.4 million budget will become effective July 1 and will provide the funds to serve potable water, reclaimed water and sewer service to customers during the coming year.

The budget includes an increase for both water and sewer rates. The total monthly bill for the typical residential customer will increase from approximately \$23.92 to \$25.91 per month in the IRWD service area and from approximately \$38.65 to \$38.85 in the former Los Alisos Water District (LAWD) service area.

The increase in water rates is primarily attributable to higher costs incurred by the District to purchase and pump local groundwater and for additional purchases of imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The increase to sewer rates results almost entirely from increased costs assessed to IRWD from the regional sewerage agency to meet stricter ocean discharge requirements and cover higher energy costs.

Despite the rate increases, IRWD still maintains one of the lowest rate structures in Orange County. IRWD works to keep costs down and decrease dependence on expensive imported water by expanding opportunities for pumping low cost groundwater. Approximately 65 percent of the potable water delivered in most of IRWD's service area comes from local groundwater wells.

The IRWD base commodity water rate will increase from 75 cents per 100 cubic feet (ccf) to 83 cents per ccf. The commodity water rate in the Santa Ana Heights service area will increase from \$1.46 per ccf to \$1.54 per ccf. However, it is anticipated that Santa Ana Heights rates will be reduced to the IRWD's recommended schedule of rates and charges in early 2005, resulting in a decrease to 83 cents per ccf. The water rate for the former LAWD will remain unchanged. The ccf is the standard unit for water billing and is equal to 748 gallons.

The fixed water service charge for most customers will increase from the current \$3.65 per month to \$3.90 per month. The former LAWD service charge will increase from \$4.40 per month to \$4.60 per month. The Santa Ana Heights service area will increase from \$4.40 per month to \$4.55 per month. However, when Santa Ana Heights' rates come in-line with IRWD in 2005, the service charge will decrease to \$3.90 per month.

The differences in rates between the former LAWD area and the rest of the IRWD area can be attributed to the LAWD's almost total reliance on higher-cost imported water to meet its potable water demands. Santa Ana Heights customers temporarily pay a different rate based on their buy-in to the IRWD system dating to the two districts' consolidation in 1997.

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Two students from the IRWD service area became published artists when their posters were selected for the Municipal Water District of Orange County water awareness calendar for the 2004-05 school year. The students (front row) are Alexander Bockhorst of Lake Forest Elementary and Andy Joung of Deerfield Elementary in Irvine. In the back row are Mrs. Bockhorst, Alex's teacher Syndi Lyon, Andy's teacher Lynda Tryon, MWDOC Director Wayne Clark, Mrs. Joung and IRWD General Manager Paul D. Jones II.

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2004-05 Operating Budget

The IRWD sewer service charge will increase from \$8.05 to \$8.35 per month and the LAWD rate will remain unchanged.

Reclaimed water rates for landscape irrigation will increase from \$254.50 per acre-foot to \$287.50 per acre-foot, reflecting the District's policy of setting reclaimed water rates at 90 percent of domestic water rates.

Untreated water rates for agriculture irrigation will increase from \$300.50 per acre-foot to \$307.50 per acre-foot.

Irvine Ranch Water District serves the city of Irvine, as well as Tustin Ranch, Santa Ana Heights and portions of Lake Forest, Orange, Newport Beach and Costa Mesa.



Woodbridge High School students launch their solar-powered boat in the Solar Cup competition at Lake Skinner in May. After the race, the team, their adviser and officials from Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California gathered for the group photo upon learning that Woodbridge placed fifth in the rookie division. IRWD and MWDOC co-sponsored the team.



Know Your H₂O

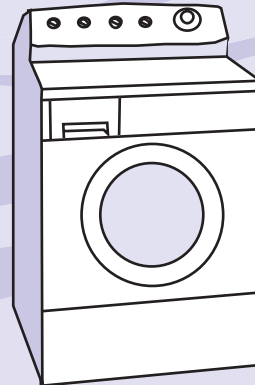
Did you know...

- Irvine Ranch Water District provides free classroom education programs and field trips YEAR ROUND to schools within the IRWD service area.
- Our education staff is available twelve months a year to provide water education programs for year-round schools, Scouting programs, day camps and non-profit community organizations.
- To book a water education program at your location, or for information on field trip possibilities, call the IRWD Public Affairs Dept. at (949) 453-5500.

Take advantage of this limited-time offer now !!!

\$100 REBATE

...on select
water-efficient
washing machines.



For a list of qualifying washers or a rebate application, visit www.mwdoc.com/efficiency.html or call 1-800-954-4344.

How water-efficient washing machines save you money over time:

1. Qualified washers use 35 to 50 percent less water and 50 percent less energy per load.
2. By using only 18 to 25 gallons of water per load, you can save 6,000 or more gallons of water per year.
3. The washer design causes less wear and tear and fewer wrinkles on your clothing.
4. Better water extraction means less dry time and more energy savings.

This program is sponsored by these agencies and your local water agency:



Check with your local energy providers for additional rebates on high-efficiency washing machines.

Water Conservation Tips



- **Water your lawn 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, it's time to water. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface will dry out in hours, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- **Brown "hot spots" require extra care.** Don't turn up the water if you see a small patch of brown turf. It will mean over-watering other plants and will result in higher water bills. Instead, looked for blocked sprinkler heads or an uneven coverage. Adjust the irrigation system or water that spot by hand.
- **Water during the cool parts of the day.** Night and early morning are the best times to water. Also, avoid watering on windy days.
- **Don't water the gutter!** Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Watch for runoff-that is your sign that your lawn can no longer take in water at the rate your sprinkler is dishing it out. Try watering for a shorter period with repeat cycles.
- **Cycle your lawn clippings.** Mow frequently (every five to seven days) and leave the clippings on the lawn, if they are not too long. Build up should not occur if you have cut back on the fertilizer. The clippings will restore nutrients to the soil and slow water loss due to evaporation during the high temperature months. Consider raising the height of your mower blade, but make sure your lawn does not grow to block the sprinkler heads.
- **Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too. Keep mulch a couple of inches away from trunks and stems.
- **Yellow leaves on shrubs may be a sign of over-watering.** More plants suffer from over-watering than from becoming too dry!
- **Check for broken sprinkler heads and for leaks in hoses and couplings.** Leaks outside the house can go unnoticed for a long time, especially when sprinklers are timed to go on when no one is watching.
- **Feed roses and annual flowers regularly for the best blooms.**

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of July and August

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS			
	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
July &			
August	4-5 days, 3 cycles* of 3-4 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles* of 4 minutes	100%**

**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.*

***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.*

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

- **Saturday, July 31** - Come join Sea and Sage Audubon for a mid-summer's evening picnic barbecue under the stars at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The public is welcome. Dinner is \$15 and includes beverages. Join Sea and Sage Audubon and see Irvine's best kept secret by moonlight. There will be informally led walks on the marsh, dinner and a lively after dinner program by Kimball Garrett of the Los Angeles Natural History Museum. Information and reservation forms are available on line at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or by calling (949) 261-7963.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT - O.C. WATER 101

An informative, free two-hour water education class about the basics of water in Orange County is being offered in Fountain Valley. You will learn about the water situation from global, California, and Orange County perspectives, understand the basics of water quality, gain a thorough understanding of the county's groundwater basin, learn about the county's imported water supply, and explore the future of water in Orange County. The 2004 Water 101 class schedule (all classes meet Wednesday evenings): July 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; August 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; September 22, 6-8 p.m.; and October 27, 6-8 p.m. If you are interested in signing-up for Water 101, please: e-mail: rwilke@ocwd.com, phone: (714) 378-3206 or fax: (714) 963-0291. When contacting OCWD, please provide the following information: date and time requested for class, number of guests, contact name and affiliation, mailing address, e-mail address (if available) and phone and fax numbers. For more information visit OCWD's Web site at www.ocwd.com.

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 August 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155 or www.casaoc.org.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- The need for food is great in the community and the Families Forward food pantry is low on certain nonperishable items. Donations of the following would be greatly appreciated: macaroni and cheese, muffin mix, jelly, peanut butter, tomato products, flour, sugar, stew, canned fish, crackers and boxed fruit juice.
- Volunteers needed. If you are available Monday through Thursday and interested in helping Families Forward a few hours a week working at the reception desk, please call Sally Snyder at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226.

Simplify your life... With Automatic Payment

Summer is here and for many that means vacation time. Don't risk having your water shut off while you're away because a bill has gone unpaid. Sign up for Automatic Payment.

Automatic Payment automatically pays your bill when due and eliminates check writing and posting envelopes year-round.

It's easy to sign up. All you need to do is complete the Automatic Payment Program form and return it to IRWD with a blank voided check (deposit slips and photocopies are not acceptable).

There's no fee from IRWD to use AutoPay, but you may want to check whether your bank will charge for the fund transfer.

An electronic sign-up form can be downloaded from our Web site at www.irwd.com, or call (949) 453-5300.

If you're going to be away on vacation, you may also pre-pay in advance.

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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