

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / August 2004
Volume 2004 Number 08

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. This year the Fall tours are scheduled for Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9. 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.

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RESIDENT TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

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

Friday, October 8 Saturday, October 9

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.

8/04

FREE Fall Residential Landscape Workshop



WHEN:
Friday, October 1
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

WHERE:
IRWD Headquarters
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine CA, 92618

This year's fall workshop features informative talks by gardening and landscape specialists. Attendees will also receive a handy "Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide" on CD.

Workshop topics include:

- How to design or upgrade your home's landscape
- What to plant and where
- How to prepare soil for greater plant success
- How to water for plant health and low water bills

Limited seating. Reserve seat(s) by emailing your name(s), home address and daytime phone number to: benzick@irwd.com. If you do not have internet access, please call **949-453-5327** to make your reservation.

Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day is Coming!

For the fifth consecutive year, IRWD will participate in Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day. The Sept. 18 event is held in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day.

IRWD is hosting a cleanup site outside the main gate of the Irvine Ranch Water District Operations Center located at 3512 Michelson Drive (enter at Riparian View). Volunteers will gather at 8 a.m. to sign in and receive gloves and plastic bags. Then it's off to the creek along Riparian View to pick up debris that has found its way through the storm drains and into the creek. The IRWD site will be one of many throughout the county.

The idea behind Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day is to get the trash out of tributaries that eventually wind up in the ocean. Trash in the San Diego Creek ends up in the Upper Newport Bay. For the

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water quality

Seasonal Changes of Water Sources

If you call Irvine Ranch Water District to find out where your water comes from, the answer may depend on what month it is and where you live within the District.

In general, IRWD supplies 50 percent of its water from 21 local wells. The remaining half of our water supply must be purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), who imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Between April and October, most of the District receives well water. However, a few areas, such as Foothill Ranch, Portola Hills, Lake Forest and Newport Coast, will receive imported water year-round.

Between October and April, the entire District generally receives mostly MWD water. Because Southern California usually receives most of its rainfall in the winter, IRWD shuts off most of its groundwater wells during that time to allow the groundwater aquifer to recharge naturally.

Because your water source may vary or be made up of a blending of these various sources of water, you may notice a difference in the taste or hardness (mineral content) of the water at different times of year. None of these factors affect the safety of your water.

This column provides information on some of the most frequently asked water quality questions and topics. If you have any other water quality questions or concerns, call the IRWD Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500.



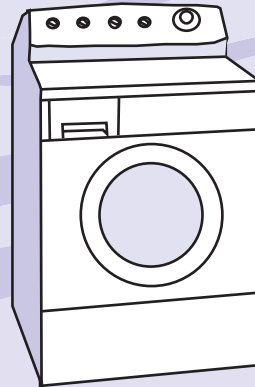
Know Your H₂O

Fascinating facts from IRWD's Water Education Program

- You can survive about a month without food, but only five to seven days without water.
- Many foods we eat are comprised largely of water. For example, a tomato is 95 percent water and a pineapple is 80 percent water.
- It takes 11 gallons of water to produce one serving of broccoli.
- It takes over 600 gallons of water to produce one typical hamburger (including water to raise the cow, grow the wheat for the bun and to produce lettuce and tomato).

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.

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Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day

past several months, IRWD has had a trash boom installed across the creek near the Duck Club to further reduce trash in the ocean.

Refreshments, including our own Aqua Splash bottled water, will be available at the event. There is no pre-registration required, just show up and be ready to work. Closed-toed shoes, sunscreen and hats are recommended.

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Free Water Awareness Tours

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.

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 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 is the best time 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. 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 August and September

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
August	4-5 days, 3-5 cycles* of 3 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles* of 4 minutes	100%**
September	3-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	70%**

**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. If you don't have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's website. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.*

In September, plant water needs drop by as much as 30 percent even if the temperature is hotter, for two reasons. First, the days are shorter. Second, plants begin to grow more slowly because there is less sunlight. This drop in water needs will continue in October and November.

IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

- Monday, September 6 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- Friday, October 1 - Free Fall Residential Landscape Workshop (see page one)
- Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 - Free Water Awareness Tours (see page one)

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENT

- Saturday, August 28 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Shadetree Partnership has scheduled its Annual "Hot August" event (formerly know as "Hot August Night") at the nursery, located on the UCI campus. The nursery (trees, shrubs and seedlings) needs your help with transplanting, weeding, staking, pruning, watering, and other general nursery tasks. They are planning to provide donuts early in the morning and a simple barbecue around 11:30 a.m. Shadetree provides opportunities for community service hours to students. R.S.V.P. to (949) 453-5312 or e-mail Leslie Bonkowski at bonkowsl@irwd.com for directions.

NEWPORT BAY NATURALISTS & FRIENDS

Interested in becoming a Volunteer Naturalist at Upper Newport Bay? To qualify you must complete a 50-hour naturalist training program held Thursday evenings and field training sessions held Saturday mornings over a period of ten weeks starting October 7. Completion of a one-day associate training and commitment to a specific education program are pre-requisites for admission. The next associate training class is Saturday, September 25. For information on the naturalist training program and to sign up for the next associate training class, please contact Rita McCoy at (949) 923-2296.

CITY OF TUSTIN - TILLER DAYS AND TILLER DAYS PARADE

- Saturday, October 2 at 10 a.m. Tiller Days Parade. The parade will start at Main and Pacific, and end at Columbus Tustin Park where the Tustin Tiller Days festival is taking place.
- October 1-3 - Tiller Days Festival at Columbus Tustin Park (located on the corner of Prospect and Irvine Blvd.) The event provides an opportunity for Tustin to celebrate Orange County's agricultural heritage. It is also an opportunity for local non-profit groups to raise funds. Over the years, local civic organizations have raised thousands of dollars to benefit a wide variety of local needs. Admission is free. For more information visit their Web site at www.tustintillerdays.org or contact the Tustin Parks and Recreation Department at (714) 573-3326.

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.

As a service to residents we feature a calendar of community events in "Pipelines." Events or activities of community-wide interest can be included in the calendar on a space available basis. We reserve the right to print those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information at least two months prior to your event. Please include date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to: Public Affairs Department, IRWD, P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, CA 92619-7000, fax your request to (949) 453-0527, or e-mail your request to velazque@irwd.com.

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

Published by the
Public Affairs Dept.
IRWD
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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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August 2004 • 88K