

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / September 2004
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Water Purification Method to Change Temporarily

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is temporarily making a switch in disinfectants from chloramines to chlorine for system maintenance from now through the end of its well water season in early October. IRWD customers may notice a slight change in the taste or odor of their tap water during this period. The change in taste and odor is normal and poses no health risk.

Chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, are generally used to disinfect water. During this period, however, chlorine alone will be used. It is common practice for utilities that use chloramines to periodically switch to chlorine alone in order to maintain optimal levels of disinfection within the water distribution system. The last time IRWD conducted a temporary change in disinfectants was in the summer of 2002.

While the taste and odor of chlorine may be more noticeable, it remains safe to drink. Residents can minimize the chlorine taste and odor by keeping an open pitcher of water in the refrigerator for drinking. Cold water tastes better and the chlorine will naturally dissipate out of the water as it sits in the pitcher.

IRWD customers affected include those in all of Irvine and portions of Tustin, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Santa Ana and Orange. In Lake Forest, all of Foothill Ranch and Portola Hills will be affected, as will the area bounded by Lake Forest Dr., El Toro Road, the 241 Tollroad and Pittsford Dr. The only portions of the IRWD service area not affected by this program will include the Newport Coast and the remainder of Lake Forest because these areas do not use well water.

IRWD supplies mostly local well water from April through October and then turns off most of its wells for the winter season. From October through April, IRWD supplies mostly imported water that is purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and comes from the Colorado River and Northern California.

Typically, fish owners and kidney dialysis patients need to take special steps to remove

disinfectants only when a utility changes from chlorine to chloramines (the opposite of the change being made at this time). Nevertheless, kidney dialysis patients may wish to check with their health care provider to ensure the dialysis equipment is properly tested prior to use. Fish aquarium and pond owners should double-check with their fish supply store for information on the special water treatment that is best for their fish. IRWD will return to using chloramines as the water disinfectant at the beginning of its imported water season in early October.

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.

**Sea and Sage Audubon
Annual Pancake Breakfast
and Natural History Used Book Sale
Saturday, October 23
7:30 to 10:30 a.m.
(see details on back page)**

Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. The Saturday, October 9 tour is already fully booked but there are still openings available on the Friday, October 8 tour. 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, October 8

Number of adults in party: _____

Names of each person attending: _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

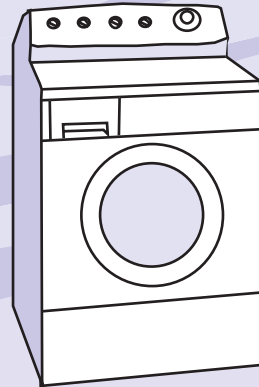
e-mail: _____

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.

9/04

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

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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.



Know Your H₂O

IRWD's Water Education Program

- September is here and the start of school is upon us. Don't forget that Irvine Ranch Water District offers free classroom water education programs and field trips for grades K-12.
- Programs are available to all public and private schools (including home schools) within the IRWD service area.
- IRWD's classroom programs correlate to the California science content standards.
- IRWD has many water education videos available for free loan to teachers for a period of two weeks.
- Call our Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500 for all your water education needs.

Water Conservation Tips



- **Start cutting back on your watering.** By the end of September, plants will need as much as one-third LESS water than they did in August, even though the days are still warm. Why? Because the days are shorter, so plants do not lose as much water during the day as they did in mid-summer. Also, plants are slowing their growth rate-the opposite of the spring growth phase. Watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees will need about half of what turf requires.
- **Brown grass.** Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will "overseed" with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple of weeks-just enough to get the seeds wet.
- **Lower the mower blade.** If you increased the height during the warm months, return to the recommended height for your type of turf. Hybrid Bermuda: 1/2 to 3/8 inch; Tall Fescue: 2-2½ inches.
- **PLANT!** Fall is the best time of year for planting in Southern California. The soil is still warm, but the days and nights are cool. Winter rains are just around the corner to encourage good, deep root systems so plants will be ready for a surge of growth in the spring.
- **Change the battery.** If your irrigation controller has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of September and October

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
September	3-4 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-3 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	70%**
October	2-3 days, 1-3 cycles of 2-3 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	50%**

**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

- Friday, October 1 - Free Fall Residential Landscape Workshop (see page one)
- Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9 - Free Water Awareness Tours (see page two)

PET TREK 2004 • Saturday, October 2 at 8 a.m.

The Irvine Animal Care Center and Irvine Pet Partnership present Pet Trek 2004. Come out and help support homeless animals who are staying at the Irvine Animal Care Shelter. The event takes place at One Civic Center Plaza. For more information or to register, visit www.irvineshelter.org or call (949) 724-7745.

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.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- Saturday, October 23 - Natural History Used Book Sale and **Annual Pancake Breakfast** from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sea and Sage Audubon's Education Committee is having their annual pancake breakfast and used book sale at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children under three. Pancakes, sausages, juice, and coffee (milk for the children) will be served. For information please call (949) 261-7963 or visit the Sea and Sage website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org. Reservations are necessary. To make reservations contact Nancy Kenyon at Kenyon@exo.com
- October 22 - 24 starting at 8 a.m. - **Southern California Birding Optics Field Days** at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Workshops (fee and no fee), bird walks (free) and demonstrations will be offered all weekend. There is no entry fee and the public, especially birders and sportsmen, are welcome. Major optics manufacturers from around the United States will be there allowing products to be trialed in a field setting. Come and spend the waning days of autumn in a beautiful setting. A complete list of talks, displays, vendors and workshops for the optics field days is now available at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

William Lyon Homes and Lennar Communities **14TH ANNUAL DINOSAUR DASH** Benefits Tustin Unified School District Public Schools • **Sunday, November 7** at the Market Place at Jamboree Road and the I-5

- 5K run/walk will begin at 8 a.m.; 10K at 8:30 a.m. and the Tustin Legacy Community Partners 2K Brontosaurus Blitz at 9:45 a.m.
- Free entertainment includes a portable bowling lane, live music, Expo Area, Family Fun Zone, and much more! A full lunch with drink is offered for \$5 with your choice of food from five restaurants including: Café Chin Chin, On the Border, Pat and Oscar's, Red Robin, and The Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon.
- Pre-registration headquarters will be at Chick's Sporting Goods in The Market Place, with packet pick-up and pre-registration on Friday, November 5 from 1 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 6 from 10-5 p.m. - or register the day of the event starting at 6:30 a.m. Registration fees before October 20 are \$25 for adults and \$15 for youths 17 and under. A \$5 late registration fee will be applied after October 20. A free commemorative t-shirt is included with each registration.
- To register, volunteer, or for more information, call (714) 832-3060. Visit the Tustin Public Schools Foundation website at www.dinosaurdash.net to register online.

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.

FAMILIES FORWARD

The number of families needing assistance continues to increase in Orange County. With generous support from the community, Families Forward is providing Thanksgiving food baskets for families in need. You can help with food donations or grocery gift cards. Drop your donation off at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Extra volunteers are needed to answer phones and sort food donations. Call (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226 to learn how you can help.

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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