



## Cleaning Upstream



*Volunteers fan out along San Diego Creek in Irvine to pick up trash during the eighth annual Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 18. Ocean-bound tributaries, such as San Diego Creek, are cleaned of trash that would otherwise end up in the ocean. IRWD has hosted the creek cleanup site adjacent the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant for the past five years. It was one of 24 such sites countywide. There were 210 volunteers at the IRWD site who over the course of three hours filled 280 bags with trash and another 100 bags with recyclables collected from the creek. All ages joined in. Volunteers were given IRWD's Aqua Splash bottled water.*



## IRWD to Return to Regular Disinfection Method in Early October

### Dialysis Patients and Fish Owners Need to Be Aware of the Change

As we indicated in last month's newsletter, Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) will return to its regular method of disinfecting water by using chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, beginning the week of Oct. 4. The transition will continue through the first two weeks of the month as IRWD gradually shuts off most of its wells for the winter season.

Between October and April, IRWD uses mostly imported water from the Colorado River, which is purified by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California using chloramines. IRWD had temporarily switched from chloramines to chlorine in late August as part of a routine maintenance program. **Customers who had recently noticed a stronger taste or odor of chlorine should now see those changes gradually disappearing.**

Dialysis patients and fish owners (whether in aquariums or ponds) need to be aware of this change so that they can make adjustments to the special treatment needed for their uses. These groups of customers are impacted because water comes into direct contact with the bloodstream during dialysis treatment and because fish take in the water through their gill systems, also contacting their bloodstream. These groups need to ensure that they are taking appropriate steps to remove ammonia from their water. Other customers do not need to take any action as the water remains safe to drink and is treated according to both state and federal standards.

## Fifth Member Appointed to Irvine Ranch Water District Board

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors has voted to appoint Irvine resident Douglas J. Reinhart to fill the unexpired term of former director Brian Brady, who recently moved out of Orange County. He will serve the remainder of Brady's term, which expires in 2006.

Reinhart is a civil engineer with over 30 years of experience in the private sector, directing projects in water, wastewater and other infrastructure. Reinhart was the president and an owner of ASL Consulting Engineers before its acquisition by Tetra Tech in 1999. He then served as the Divisional Executive Vice President for Tetra Tech for the western United States. Reinhart retired from Tetra Tech this year and is currently starting a new consulting business.

With a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, he is a registered civil engineer in both California and Arizona and a registered control systems engineer in California.

The new IRWD board member comes to his position with a variety of water industry service. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the Southern California Water Committee, the American Water Works Association Desalination Committee and the Association of California Water Agencies Water Reuse Committee.

The selection was made from among 22 local citizens who submitted applications for the appointment.



*Approximately 75 people turned out to plant, weed, prune and stake Shadetree's vast inventory of trees for its Annual Hot August event at the Shadetree Partnership's UC Irvine Nursery. Shadetree is a non-profit organization that plants native trees at schools, parks and other public areas.*



## Know Your H<sub>2</sub>O

- One acre-foot of water equals 325,900 gallons, or enough to fill a football field to a depth of one foot.
- One acre-foot of water is enough to supply the needs of a household of five for a year.
- In California, 71 million acre-feet of water runs off the mountains each year in the form of rain or snowmelt.
- All of California's reservoirs together can hold only 42 million acre-feet of water.
- On average, 13 million acre-feet of fresh water per year flows out the California Delta into the ocean.

*Source: Water Education Foundation*

## Check out these Web sites:

- [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) - information about Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD). Visit IRWD's Web site to access your IRWD account or get other information about your water district 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org) - tree planting events. Community service hours available.
- [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) - this site features current information and resources to help you be water efficient

# Water Conservation Tips



- **Start cutting back on your watering.** By the beginning of October, 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. Also, plants are slowing their rate of growth-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 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 sprinkler timer has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of October and November

### WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option
October	2-3 days, 1-3 cycles of 2-4 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	50%**
November	1-2 days, 1-2 cycles* of 2-3 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes	40%**

*\*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.*

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 AND 26, 2004**

IRWD Thanksgiving Holiday (offices closed)

**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 a.m. to 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](http://www.dinosaurdash.net) to register online.

**FAMILIES FORWARD**

The holiday season brings an increased use of the Families Forward Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items including pasta and pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, pancake mix, syrup, muffin mix, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, fruit juice boxes, canned fruit, canned vegetables and crackers are needed for the pantry now. Grocery store gift cards are always useful. Donations may be delivered at Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (949) 552-2727 if you have questions.

**IRVINE GARDEN CLUB MEETING - Monday, November 1** at 6:30 p.m.

Don't put your garden tools away for the winter before they are properly cleaned! Eric Etzold will give a demonstration on "Prepping Tools for Winter." The group meets at the Irvine Ranch Water District offices, 15600 Sand Canyon Road, Irvine, first Monday of the month. The goal of the garden club is to learn from one another and share gardening tips. Each month a different speaker is featured. For information call Carol Green (949) 551-3962.

**CITY OF IRVINE NEWS**

**November Focuses on Bulky Item Pick-up and Household Hazardous Waste Services Available to Irvine Residents at No Charge**

The Irvine Shines: Let's Keep Irvine Clean Campaign continues into November with a focus on bulky item pick-up and household hazardous waste disposal. The City, through Waste Management of Orange County, provides two free bulky item pick-ups per household, per year. To schedule a pick-up, call (949) 642-1191. For information on the local drop off center for household hazardous waste, please call (714) 834-6752. Visit their Web site at [www.ci.irvine.ca.us](http://www.ci.irvine.ca.us) or call the Irvine Recycles Hotline (949) 724-7669 for additional information.

*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](mailto: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.

**IRWD Board of Directors**

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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](http://www.irwd.com)**

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