

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / June 2005  
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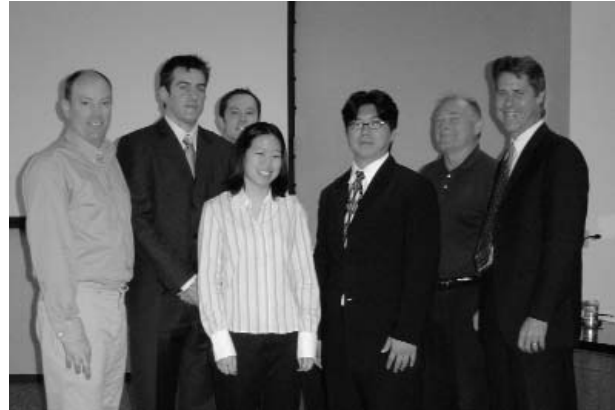


## "SMART" IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY REBATES NOW AVAILABLE

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), in partnership with regional water agencies, is providing rebates for IRWD residents to upgrade old irrigation controllers to new "smart" technology. These state-of-the-art controllers, called Smart Timers, conserve water, save money and reduce runoff by automating landscape watering based on the weather and water needs of plants. IRWD encourages your participation in this rebate program because excessive irrigation is the single greatest year-round contributor to urban runoff. As this runoff makes its way into curbs and storm drains, it dissolves or transports fertilizers, pesticides, animal waste, grease, motor oil and trash, and carries these pollutants into the Pacific Ocean.

There is a solution to decrease the ocean pollution caused by urban runoff: Reduce excessive irrigation. Chronic over-watering is caused, in large part, by irrigation system schedules not being adjusted to reflect the ever-changing weather conditions that impact the water needs of plants. As the weather cools and/or the days get shorter, landscaping requires less water. Unfortunately, most sprinkler system timers in use today are not easily adjusted to reflect these reduced requirements. Smart Timers, however, reduce excessive irrigation by utilizing historic weather cycles or "real time" climate information to make frequent weather-based adjustments to irrigation schedules-with no manual controller changes needed.

The SmarTimer Rebate Program makes these new controllers more affordable and accessible for IRWD residents who qualify. To find out if you qualify for a Smart Timer rebate, call toll free 1-866-846-3725 and receive a rebate packet with full details on how to participate. Act now, as rebate funds are limited and available on a first-come first-served basis.



*IRWD General Manager Paul Jones (far right) congratulates the Harvey Mudd College 2004-2005 Engineering Clinic students at the May 9 board of directors meeting. The District has supported the engineering clinic annually for 13 years by giving juniors, seniors and graduate students real world projects that benefit IRWD. IRWD Engineers Carl Spangenberg (second from right) and Dave Mazzarella (far left) provided technical support and guidance to the students. The Harvey Mudd students made a presentation on alternative supervisory control and data acquisition backup methods for reservoir monitoring.*

## IRWD Wins Award for Alternative Fuels Use

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) has won an "Exceptional Energy Fleet Award" at the Clean Cities Conference held in Palm Springs in May.

IRWD has 15 dedicated propane vehicles in its fleet, four pieces of propane-powered construction equipment, four dual-fuel vehicles that use both propane and gasoline and one dual-fuel vehicle that uses natural gas and propane. The District has used alternative fuels for more than 15 years.

IRWD was nominated for the award by Steve Moore of Mutual Propane, who accepted the award on the District's behalf.

"This is a real honor for IRWD because fleets from all over the U.S. are nominated, but very few

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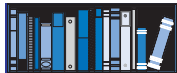
## **IRWD Wins Award for Alternative Fuels Use**

win awards," Moore said. "IRWD has done a great job promoting the use of alternative fuels for several years."

According to John Crawford, Fleet Services Manager for IRWD, the District is constantly pursuing cleaner, environmentally friendly fuels for its fleet. The District plans to add three additional hybrid vehicles to its fleet and is pursuing propane conversions for Class I and Class II vehicles as equipment becomes available.

"The next five years will really be exciting, as we see diesel engines becoming as clean to use as gasoline," Crawford said. "We are researching biofuels, which use a mixture of diesel, soybean and other oil crops that are grown. It is a renewable resource and it is produced domestically, reducing this country's dependence on foreign oil."

Crawford credited the District Board of Directors for its foresight and support in the pursuit of environmentally friendly vehicles and fuels.



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

Most local schools are winding down for the year. However, Irvine Ranch Water District offers FREE water education programs and materials year-round to public and private schools, day camps, Scouts and other community organizations.

- Year-round schools are welcome to call for classroom programs correlated with the California curriculum content standards.
- Free field trips are available to the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant for students in grades 5 and above. Field trips to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary are available to students in grades 3 and above.

The schools or organizations must be within the IRWD service area. Call (949) 453-5500 for information.

## **Coming Soon!**

Customers should expect to receive their Annual Water Quality Report during the month of June. If you want additional copies, please contact IRWD's Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500.

## **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](http://www.irwd.com), or call (949) 453-5300.

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

# Water Conservation Tips



- **Cut back on fertilizing.** Use a balanced, organic or slow-release formula, and water it into the soil thoroughly. Over-fertilizing can lead to higher water and mowing demands. Ask your local nursery about fertilizing.
- **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, turn on the sprinklers. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Mature trees generally need watering which allows for deep infiltration on an infrequent basis (about twice a month). If you're watering every day or every other day, you're providing more than most plants need. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface.
- **Check your sprinkler system.** Look for clogged heads, broken sprinklers or risers and misdirected spray. Adjust the angle so that spray doesn't wet the pavement. Turn the system on valve by valve. If water hits walks, fences or runs into the street, fix the problem.
- **Prevent runoff.** Landscapers may turn sprinkler controllers up too high. Check the irrigation times yourself. Watch for runoff. Runoff will carry fertilizers into the storm drain and contribute to pollution in our waterways. See article about Smart Timers rebates on page one.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the Months of June and July

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

**IRWD OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:**

- Monday, July 4

**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](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

**SEA & SAGE AUDUBON ACTIVITIES**

- **Sundays, July 10 and August 14 at 8 a.m. - Monthly Bird Walks.** Join Chris Obaditch for a monthly bird walk around the ponds of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on the second Sunday morning of each month. Open to interested birders of all ages. Meet at the front door of Audubon House. Children under the age of 11 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, call Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.
- **Saturday, July 30 at 5:30 p.m. - Summer BBQ.** Bring the family and join Sea and Sage Audubon for this special occasion: dining under the stars, evening walks around the marsh, and a great program celebrating 100 years of Audubon. Tickets for the barbecue and program are \$15 for adults, \$7 for children under five. For more information, contact Nancy Kenyon at (949) 786-3160 or e-mail her at [kenyon@exo.com](mailto:kenyon@exo.com).
- **Sunday, August 21 from 10 a.m. to noon - Butterfly Walk** at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Fee of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 8-12. Includes handouts about local butterflies and how to make your backyard "butterfly-friendly." Pre-registration required. Call Trude Hurd at Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.
- **Naturalist Training class.** The next nine-session class begins in the fall. Volunteers lead school children on tours of the wetlands twice a month and help them use binoculars and microscopes. Call Trude Hurd at (949) 261-7963 to reserve your space.
- **Directions to Audubon House and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.** Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. From the San Diego Freeway, exit on Jamboree south towards Newport Beach. At the first signal, Michelson, turn left. Continue on Michelson to the third signal which is Riparian View, turn right toward the Irvine Ranch Water District Operations Center. Follow the signs directing you to Audubon and the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.

**21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION AND CONCERT ON THE GREEN**

Irvine Police Association presents this event at Irvine High School Stadium (next to Heritage Park). Gates open at 3 p.m. Game booths, balloon jumpers, face painting, door prizes and local music groups performing throughout the day. Patriotic concert at 7:30 p.m. and fireworks festival at 9 p.m. **Advance tickets:** \$40 for family tickets (two adults and up to four children); \$12 for adults and \$7 for seniors (60+) or children 13 and under. **Family tickets will not be sold on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.** For ticket information call Vince Palazzolo at (949) 724-0488 or for information only visit their Web site at [www.irvinepa.org](http://www.irvinepa.org).

**IRVINE TRANSPORTATION CENTER 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Thursday, July 21 at 4 p.m. at the ITC • Opening remarks begin at 5 p.m.

Join the Irvine Transportation Center (ITC) in celebrating 15 years of providing top-notch transportation services to the public. The recognition event will feature a documentary photo exhibit, information booths, refreshments, and a short program. For more information, visit [www.cityofirvine.org](http://www.cityofirvine.org) or call (949) 724-7505.

**FAMILIES FORWARD**

Families Forward is requesting donations of basic food items for the pantry. Items most needed include canned stew, canned tomato products, pasta and pasta sauce, baked beans, refried beans, evaporated milk, and rice mixes. Donations may be dropped off at 9221 Irvine Blvd, Irvine. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Support and donations are greatly appreciated.

**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE**

New to Irvine and want to get involved? Recently retired and have some extra hours to fill? A stay-at-home mom who wants adult interaction? An empty nester who enjoys volunteering? A professional who wants to give back to her community? Be part of this nationally recognized, dynamic group of like-minded women - Assistance League® of Irvine. New members are welcome any time. Visit National Assistance League's Web site at [www.nal.org/home2.cfm](http://www.nal.org/home2.cfm). For further information call (949) 798-5020.

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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**General Manager**

Paul D. Jones II

**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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