

Four Ways It Really Pays to Save Water at Home

Now customers can save even more with increased rebate amounts

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) residential customers can now save even more money and water by taking advantage of IRWD's increased water conservation rebates. Customers are now eligible to receive the following four increased rebate amounts, provided by IRWD in partnership with several regional water agencies:

- \$75 per Ultra Low Flush Toilet (ULFT)
- \$250 per Dual Flush Toilet
- \$350 per High Efficiency Clothes Washer
- An average of \$440 to upgrade to a weather-based irrigation controller, or \$40 to \$44.50 per activated valve.

Each rebate program has limited funding issued on a first-come, first serve basis. Toilet rebates are limited to three per household. **Residential customers must install their new weather-based irrigation controllers by January 31, 2006, to receive the increased rebate amount.**

Residents who replace old "water guzzling" toilets (installed before 1992 and using more than 1.6 gallons per flush) with the new models can receive a rebate of \$75 per ULFT toilet using 1.6 gallons per flush and \$250 per Dual Flush toilet using 1.0 to 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets account for more than 25% of all indoor water usage. By installing a ULFT or Dual Flush Toilet, IRWD customers can save about 68% of that water. For each flush, 1.9 to 4.0 gallons of water are saved. When purchased with the new increased rebate amounts, a ULFT or Dual Flush Toilet can pay for itself in one to two years. For an application or details on these toilet rebates, call 1-800-954-4344.

Residential customers can now receive a \$350 rebate for purchasing a High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HEW) with a water factor of 6.0 or less. HEWs save money over time by using only 18 to 25 gallons of water per load, which can save 6,000

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"A Day at the Marsh" IRWD ANNOUNCES A PHOTO CONTEST

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) invites all amateur photographers to start taking photos for its first San Joaquin Marsh photo contest. The photo contest will be held to highlight IRWD's "A Day at the Marsh," a celebration of the water district's 45th Anniversary. Winners will be announced at this event at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, June 10, 2006 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The photos must be taken within IRWD's San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary located within the boundaries of Michelson Drive, Harvard Avenue, Campus Drive and Carlson Avenue in the city of Irvine. The sanctuary is open from dawn to dusk, seven days a week. There are 12 miles of walking trails throughout the Marsh. Over 200 species of birds live in or migrate through the Wildlife Sanctuary and winter is a particularly good time for wildlife photography. Photos may be scenic, wildlife or any other subject as long as they are taken within the geographic boundaries listed above.

The photo contest is open to amateur photographers of all ages. The winning photos will be displayed at the IRWD Open House in June and may be used on IRWD's Web site, in publications or for other promotional uses. Other prizes will be announced in coming months.

A maximum of three photos per person may be entered. All photos (high resolution digital or film) must be submitted as 8" x 10" prints on photo paper.

Entries must be received by Monday, May 15, 2006 at 5 p.m. Submit photos by mail or in person to the IRWD Public Affairs Department, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618.

To obtain an entry form and list of official rules, please visit the IRWD Web site at www.irwd.com, e-mail webmaster@irwd.com or call (949) 453-5500.



Water Conservation Tips



- Too much water can stress plants and leave them susceptible to disease. According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause. If you think you need to water, check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- **Avoid fertilizing your lawn this month.** Fertilizers applied during this time of year are more likely to get washed away by rain, contributing to pollution in the waterways. Cool season lawns can be fertilized in the spring and fall; warm season lawns can be fertilized in late spring and summer.
- **Cut back roses.**
- **Bare root season for fruit trees and roses.** Water to keep the plants moist, but not wet. Water deeply, not frequently. Build a mound 3-4" high around the planting hole and hand water the new plants directly in the early morning.

SUGGESTED WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

WEEKLY WATERING SCHEDULE FOR SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

	Turf grass	Trees, shrubs, groundcover	Percent Option*
January and February	1-2 days, 1-2 cycles * of 2 minutes	1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes	30%*

Turn water off when it rains and let soil dry before turning water on again.

*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. If it rains, keep the system off.

**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.

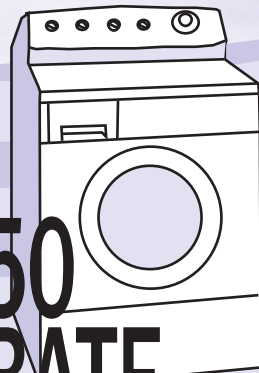
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Take Advantage of these BIG rebates

By retrofitting your residence with these really effective water-savers:

\$350 REBATE

on select high-efficiency washing machings



\$75 or \$250 REBATE

CALL 1-800-954-4344 FOR DETAILS



\$75 rebate on ultra-low-flush toilets
\$250 rebate on dual flush toilets
limit 3 toilet rebates per residence

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Save Water at Home

gallons of water or more per year. The better water extraction of HEWs also means less drying time and more energy savings, in fact, up to 50% less energy use per load. For a rebate application or a list of qualifying washing machines call 1-800-954-4344.

In Orange County, approximately half of a typical family's water usage is for landscape irrigation. IRWD, and several regional water agencies, are now providing increased rebates to customers who upgrade their old irrigation controllers to new weather-based technology. These "smart" controllers conserve water and reduce runoff by automatically changing the amount of water applied according to the weather and water needs of the plants. These rebates, through the SmarTimer Rebate Program, provide \$40 to \$44.50 per activated irrigation valve. This will amount to an average rebate of \$440 for a typical home. To participate, residents must possess a fully operational automatic irrigation system on a minimum of 1200 square feet of irrigated landscape. The existing controller may not exceed a maximum of 48 valves. Residential customers must install their new weather-based irrigation controllers by **January 31, 2006**, to receive the increased rebate amount. To receive a packet with full details on the SmarTimer Rebate Program, call 1-866-846-3725.

Board Selects New President

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors, at its annual organizational meeting December 12, selected Peer A. Swan to serve as President and Douglas J. Reinhart to serve as Vice President.

Swan has served on the board since 1979. He held the office of President from 1981 through 1995. His current term runs through 2006.

Reinhart was appointed to the board in 2004 to fill the unexpired term of Brian Brady, which runs through 2006.

The IRWD Board meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the district headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.

Marsh Minutes...



This is part of a continuing series designed to better familiarize our customers with Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Road Less Traveled

Most visitors to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary are familiar with the Riparian View entrance because many trails begin behind the Duck Club and the Audubon House.

But there are lesser-known trails off the beaten path - one off Campus Drive and the other on Carlson Avenue. The Carlson Avenue entry contains a newly completed 600-foot trail through the Carlson Marsh, adding to the overall 12-mile trail network within the wildlife sanctuary. The trail offers a different perspective of the marsh and even more opportunities for viewing a variety of wildlife.

"This is a nice time to walk out there and visit the old, restored San Diego Creek bed," said Lou Denger, IRWD's wetlands expert. "We recently built a new pond to increase the volume of water in that part of the sanctuary."

Visitors must park on the west side of Carlson Avenue when using the Carlson entrance.

Viewing platforms on Campus Drive offer an interesting overview of the marsh. Parking is available on the north side of Campus Drive.

January is the best time for spotting the northern shoveler - a variety of duck with a green head, white breast, brown sides and a bill which is wider than most duck bills - hence, the name, shoveler. The sanctuary is a migratory point for this species of duck.

IRWD OFFICE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:

- Monday, February 20, 2006 - President's Day

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.

FAMILIES FORWARD NEWS

The Families Forward pantry is in dire need of nonperishable food items. Food is needed now to insure that families in need continue to receive food. Items most needed include peanut butter, jelly, canned stew, tomato sauce, canned beans, canned meat, rice mix, plain rice, soup, and condensed milk. Donations may be delivered to 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, 92618 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. All donations are greatly appreciated and needed. To learn how you can contribute to this program, call Brittany Simon at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 231.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

The volunteers of Assistance League of Irvine are selling chances to win a trip for two to the 2006 Masters Golf Tournament Finals in Augusta, Georgia on April 8-9, 2006. The tickets sell for \$100 each with the proceeds supporting the philanthropic projects of this Irvine nonprofit. The winning package will include two passes to the tournament finals, three nights hotel accommodations for two, three day car rental, hospitality privileges and \$200 toward travel expenses. The final drawing for the winning ticket will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2006. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please call (949) 798-5020 and support this local charity!

e-Bill is Coming!

Paying bills taking too much of your time?

We have the answer! Starting February 2006, the Irvine Ranch Water District will offer e-Bill, an electronic paperless version of your bill. It has the same details as the paper version but instead of receiving it through the mail, you will view and pay it online. Not only will this save you time, but this optional service is FREE.

IRWD will offer two easy ways to view and pay your bill online. Beginning in February you can sign up through IRWD's Web site (www.irwd.com) or you may choose to sign up with an authorized e-Bill payment provider. Payment providers are typically a bank, credit union, brokerage or other portal that offers you the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

Save time by paying your bill on-line.

- Once enrolled, every month we'll send you an e-mail to let you know that your IRWD bill is available for viewing and payment.

Save money by eliminating postage stamps.

- No more stamps to buy, checks to write, or envelopes to mail.



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

- Peer A. Swan, President
- Douglas J. Reinhart, V.P.
- Mary Aileen Matheis
- Darryl G. Miller
- John B. Withers

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines

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IRWD
P.O. Box 57000
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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