

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / February 2006  
Volume 2006 Number 02



*The American Public Works Association recently presented IRWD with a 2005 Project of the Year Award for the Quail Hill Zone 3 and Zone 4 Reservoirs and Zone 4 Booster Pump Station in the Water and Wastewater category. Left to right: Steve Malloy, Greg Heiertz and Paul Jones.*

## Help Conserve Water March 13-17

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will conduct a scheduled shutdown of its Diemer Filtration Plant in Yorba Linda from March 13-17, so all Orange County residents are being asked to help conserve water by turning off all outdoor sprinkler and irrigation systems that week.

All water agencies in Orange County will work together that week to conserve water. MWD will be extending a feeder pipeline and making improvements to the disinfection system at the plant, which purifies water coming from the Colorado River and Northern California. To ensure that impacts are minimal, the shutdown was scheduled for March, when demand for outside irrigation is at a minimum. Days are shorter and the weather is cooler. Landscape experts tell us we can safely keep outdoor irrigation systems off for two to three weeks in winter without any adverse affects.

We live in a semi-arid region where water is a precious resource. Landscape irrigation consumes

*continued on page two...*

## FREE Spring

## Residential Landscape Workshop



**WHEN:**  
Friday, March 24  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
IRWD Headquarters  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.  
Irvine CA, 92618

Spring 2006's workshop features both fact-filled talks and plant displays by local irrigation, gardening and landscape specialists.

Workshop topics may include:

- How to water for plant health and low water bills
- Irrigation system basics
- Landscape design basics

Limited seating. Reserve your seat(s) online at <http://www.irwd.com/FreePrograms/workshops.php>

If you do not have internet access, please call 949-453-5327 to make your reservation.

## Free Water Awareness Tours

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers.

The Spring tours will be held on Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, May 6.

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 recycled water use.

The free tours start promptly at 8 a.m. and conclude at approximately 2 p.m. Lunch is provided. 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. We are unable to accommodate children under 16 years of age.

Customers may register on the IRWD Web site at [www.irwd.com](http://www.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.
- **Bare root season for fruit trees and roses.** Water to keep the plants moist, but not wet. Water deeply, not frequently. Hand water the new plants directly in the early morning. Allow about an hour for the water to soak in before re-applying.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule for the months of February and March

### Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

February	Turf Grass: 1-2 days, 1-2 cycles * of 2 minutes Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes Percent option: 30%**
March	Turf grass: 1-3 days, 1-2 cycles* of 2-3 minutes Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes Percent option: 50%**

*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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## Help Conserve Water March 13-17

more than half of all water used in Orange County. IRWD's service area is fortunate to have access to groundwater which means we are less dependent on imported water that MWD brings to the region. However, cooperation of all areas of the county is needed to assist the South Orange County cities and water agencies that are totally dependent on imported water. While the request for conservation is voluntary for IRWD customers, many agencies in South County are planning mandatory conservation measures so

their reservoirs don't draw dangerously low.

A temporary pump station will be placed in Irvine to move water from local reservoirs to South County.

This is the third consecutive year the Diemer plant has shut down for upgrades. MWD officials say there will be additional shutdowns over the next few years for the continuing upgrades of the water treatment plant.

## Money-Saving Rebate Programs for Commercial and Industrial Customers

Many Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) commercial, industrial and institutional customers will be able to save water and money by participating in increased water conservation rebate programs.

Each program has limited funding and rebates will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Businesses may be eligible to receive rebates through eight programs:

- \$225 per fixture for ultra low flush toilets
- \$285 per fixture for high-efficiency toilets
- \$335 per fixture for dual flush toilets
- \$200 per fixture for ultra low flush urinals
- \$515 per fixture for waterless urinals
- \$630 per unit for high-efficiency clothes washers
- \$100 per unit for pressurized waterbrooms
- \$1625 per cooling tower device for cooling tower conductivity controllers

Participants in the rebate programs must reserve a rebate before making a purchase. When they return their completed rebate application along with the original receipt and/or work order, a rebate check will be sent.

Business owners may fill out one simple application to access all water agency rebate funding. Call (877) 728-2282 for information or visit IRWD's web site at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and go to the Conservation section.

In addition to rebates, IRWD has many programs available to help local businesses save water and money. For example, if a business is considering purchasing equipment that utilizes less water, IRWD and other regional water agencies may be available to help pay for water-efficient industrial process improvements. Businesses can also save money by switching to recycled water for industrial applications. Call (949) 453-5325 for conservation assistance.

For information on **residential** rebates, go to our Web site at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and look under Conservation/Residential.

## A Day at the Marsh



IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT  
45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOTS!

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 45<sup>th</sup> 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 scenics, 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.

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](http://www.irwd.com), e-mail [webmaster@irwd.com](mailto:webmaster@irwd.com) or call (949) 453-5500.

**IRWD OFFICE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

- Monday, February 20
- Friday, April 14

**SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS**

Saturday, March 11 from 8 a.m. to noon - St. Patrick's Day Nursery event  
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).

**10th ANNUAL CHILDREN'S WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL**

Ready for fun while supporting future environmentalists? Volunteers are needed to staff the 2006 Festival on **Tuesday, April 4 and Wednesday, April 5** in Irvine. The event engages over 6,000 Orange County students in hands-on activities about protecting and conserving water. For more information visit [www.ocwd.com](http://www.ocwd.com) or contact Patricia Kreamer at [pkreamer.waterfestival@verizon.net](mailto:pkreamer.waterfestival@verizon.net) or (714) 848-6841.

**CELEBRATE UCI- Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Come to UCI's 28<sup>th</sup> annual Open House, one of the campus' oldest and most festive traditions. This spring event features games and rides for children, an Earth Day celebration, academic information, classic car show, campus tram tours, Wayzgoose Medieval Faire with food booths, demonstrations, rides, games, and much more. It's an excellent opportunity to bring family and friends to visit and see what's new with the UCI campus. Events and parking are free. For more information, call UCI at (949) 824-5182 or visit their website at [www.uci.edu/celebrate](http://www.uci.edu/celebrate).

**FAMILIES FORWARD NEWS**

Holiday giving to Families Forward programs was quite generous; however the need for nonperishable food items and volunteer assistance continues through the year. Contact the Director of Volunteers at (949) 552-2727, Ext. 226 or send an e-mail to [ssnyder@families-forward.org](mailto:ssnyder@families-forward.org) to learn about volunteer opportunities. Food donations are accepted Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine. Call (949) 552-2727 for more specific information.

**CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Volunteers Needed**

Seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on **Thursday, March 23** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or **Thursday, April 20** from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155.

**e-Bill is Coming!**

The Irvine Ranch Water District will offer e-Bill, an electronic paperless version of your bill. To allow for proper testing and implementation, the anticipated roll out date has been extended to late Spring 2006.

An e-Bill 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. You can sign up through IRWD's Web site ([www.irwd.com](http://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.

Watch for articles in future newsletters.

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

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