

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / January 2007
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SCWD Office Closure

It appears that Irvine Ranch Water District's variety of electronic and other payment options have been very popular with customers in the former Santiago County Water District area in Silverado and Modjeska Canyons.

So many customers have elected to pay their bills electronically or by mail that there has been an extreme drop in the volume of walk-in traffic at the former SCWD office. Earlier this year, office hours were reduced from five days a week to one day a week. When volumes of walk-in customers continued to decline, the IRWD Santiago County Management Advisory Committee elected to close the SCWD office permanently as of Jan. 1, 2007.

Customers in all locations within the IRWD service area have a number of options for paying their bills:

- A courtesy envelope is provided with your bill should you wish to pay by mail.
- IRWD provides eBill service, which allows customers to choose to receive their water bill electronically and "turn off" their paper bill. Bills may be paid online through Checkfree (link available on IRWD's web site at www.irwd.com) or through an existing bill paying service that you may already use at your financial institution's web site. Payment typically takes two business days to reach IRWD.
- Customers may also wish to take advantage of IRWD's Auto Pay service, in which the amount of your water bill is automatically withdrawn from your checking account each month. There is no charge for this service and Auto Pay may be used alone or in combination with the eBill feature.
- Customers may use a credit card to pay their bill through EDS, our third party service provider. EDS charges a \$4.95 convenience fee to pay by credit card.

Remember, IRWD Customer Service is just a phone call away should you need assistance with your water service or have account questions: (949) 453-5300.



Tia Thomson, second from left, bottom row, was a winner in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) annual Water Awareness Poster Contest. Students were honored at a ceremony at MWD. Tia is a fourth grader at Tustin Ranch Elementary School.



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, May 19; Saturday, June 2 and Saturday, June 23.

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.

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- 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

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

JANUARY

Turf grass: 2 days, 2 cycles* of 2 minutes

Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 1 day, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes

Percent option: 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.*

***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 Board Selects New President

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors at its annual organizational meeting on Dec. 18, selected Douglas J. Reinhart to serve as President and Darryl G. Miller to serve as Vice President.

Douglas J. Reinhart was appointed to the IRWD Board of Directors in 2004 to fill a board vacancy and was subsequently appointed to a four-year term in 2006 when he ran unopposed for election. He served as Vice President in 2006. He is a registered civil engineer with more than 30 years of experience in the private sector, directing projects in water, wastewater and other infrastructure.

Miller was first appointed to the IRWD Board of Directors in 1984. Subsequently, he was elected to each four-year term since 1984. He held the office of President of the Board from December 1995 to 2000 and again in 2005. Miller is a hydro-geologist with more than 35 years of experience in water resources and water quality issues.

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.

While the marsh is the best place to view many species of birds, especially in the winter time, it is also home to a large variety of mammals, according to marsh expert Lou Denger.

"The mammals are here year-round," Denger explained. "Some of them you only see during certain periods of the day."

This past year, bobcats have been seen more frequently. A female gave birth to a litter of four kittens in spring 2006. The mother and some of the kittens are still occasionally sighted by visitors to the marsh. Bobcats should not be confused with the more dangerous mountain lions.

"Our groundskeepers see them and joggers out on the trails report seeing them," Denger said. "They are typically nocturnal, but are seen during the day."

Because the marsh is not open to visitors at night, many of the nocturnal animals such as coyotes, skunks and raccoons will not be seen. However, on occasion, coyotes can be seen wandering the trails in the early morning or evening. Skunks can also be seen early in the morning.

Other mammals making their homes at the marsh are opossums, long-tailed weasels, rabbits, ground squirrels, field mice and rats. The small rodent population is kept in check by the predatory animals and birds of prey.

Denger cautions visitors not to approach any of the animals, and above all, never feed them.

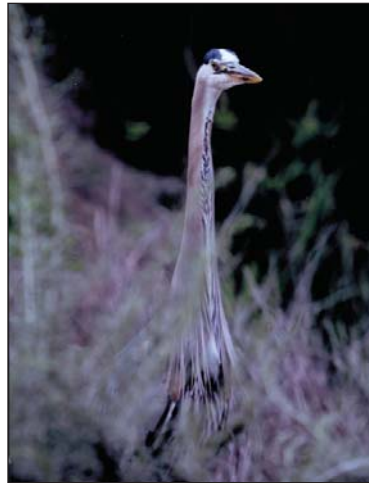
"It's best the animals not get used to handouts and continue to forage on their own," he said. "If visitors picnic at the marsh, they should dispose of their trash and left-overs in the trash cans. The

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Free Water Awareness Tours

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 or call (949) 453-5500.



Dave Robinson
Honorable Mention



Jack C. Pei
Honorable Mention



Debbie Fisher
Honorable Mention

San Joaquin Marsh
2006 Photo Contest Winners

IRWD OFFICES CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:

- **Monday, February 19, 2007 - Presidents' 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.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **Assistance League® of Irvine Masters Golf Fundraiser - win a trip for two to the 2007 Masters Golf Tournament.** For \$100 you can buy a chance to win a package for two people for the two final days of the 2007 Masters Golf Tournament. The package is worth over \$7,500 and includes the following: two passes to the Masters Golf Tournament Finals **April 7-8, 2007** in Augusta, Georgia; three nights hotel accommodations for two; three days car rental and clubhouse parking; hospitality privileges including breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages; and \$250 toward travel expenses. Only 400 chances will be sold. The drawing will be held **Wednesday, February 14, 2007** at 7 p.m. at South Lake Middle School, Irvine as part of the monthly meeting for Assistance League of Irvine. Winners do not need to be present to win. For ticket information, contact Assistance League of Irvine by leaving your name and telephone number at (949) 798-5020. For more information about the package visit <http://irvine.assistanceleague.org>.
- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop**, 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. They are a non-profit volunteer organization, benefiting the Irvine community. They feature gently used clothing, household items, toys, books, shoes and much more. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Assistance League of Irvine is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing programs and services that will enrich and improve the quality of life in Irvine.

FAMILIES FORWARD

Food donations are always welcome and can be delivered to the office at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618.

Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. It has been serving the needs of families in the area for 22 years.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on **Thursday, January 25** and **Thursday, February 22, 2007** at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Avenue from 6 to 8 p.m. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155.

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) 453-1327, or e-mail your request to 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

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

General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines

Published by the Public Affairs Dept. IRWD
P.O. Box 57000
Irvine, CA 92619-7000

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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