

## Huell Howser Tapes Wetlands Segment at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine

Television producer and personality Huell Howser recently visited Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and spent a day taping video on how wetlands are being used to clean urban runoff. The footage will be featured in an upcoming

See Irvine Ranch Water District on Huell Howser's "California's Water" June 29 and July 12 at 7:30 p.m. on KCET.

segment of the "California's Water" series. The program will air in June and July on PBS stations statewide.

IRWD has built a constructed wetland on 320 acres it owns adjacent to San Diego Creek in Irvine. All storm drains in Irvine and portions of surrounding communities drain to this creek and carry polluted urban runoff into ecologically sensitive Upper Newport Bay and the ocean. Since the late 1990s, IRWD has diverted approximately two-thirds of the creek's flow into its adjacent wetlands. There, the urban runoff meanders through a system of ponds for seven to ten days allowing time for bulrush, cattails and other plants to naturally clean the water. When the cleaner water returns to the creek, it contains up to 70% less nitrates and both sediment and phosphorus have also been reduced. This initial wetland has been so successful that IRWD is expanding the concept to a watershed-wide system of wetlands called the Natural Treatment System. The first four of over 30 wetland sites have already been completed in Irvine and more are under construction.

Howser interviewed IRWD General Manager Paul D. Jones II, IRWD Environmental Quality Manager Norris Brandt and Trude Hurd of the Sea and Sage chapter of the National Audubon Society. IRWD provides the Audubon Society with a building at the wetlands and the organization in turn provides a number of wildlife education programs for both adults and students in the

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*Huell Howser interviews IRWD General Manager Paul Jones along San Diego Creek in Irvine. Behind them is the inlet structure where urban runoff from the creek is diverted into IRWD's wetlands system for natural cleaning.*



*Huell Howser interviews IRWD Environmental Quality Manager Norris Brandt at the wetlands within San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The program will air June 29 and July 12 at 7:30 p.m. on KCET.*



*Howser interviews Trude Hurd of the Sea and Sage Chapter of the National Audubon Society at San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. The Marsh is home to over 200 species of birds that either live at the wetlands or migrate through on an annual basis. With its 12 miles of trails open to the public, the IRWD facility is a popular location for bird watchers, wildlife photographers, joggers and walkers.*

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community. Howser also interviewed members of the public who happened to be walking, jogging or shooting photographs at the park-like wildlife sanctuary.

The segment on “Cleaning Water the Natural Way” will air June 29 and July 12 at 7:30 p.m. on KCET Channel 28 in Los Angeles. For air dates on other PBS stations statewide, visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com).

The San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary is located on Riparian View Drive in Irvine, just off Michelson Drive (between Jamboree and Harvard). The 12 miles of walking trails are open to the public from dawn until dusk seven days a week. Admission is free.

## **Noteworthy Conservation Efforts**



*Irvine Valley College (IVC) students ask questions and take notes at Irvine Ranch Water District's water use efficiency booth during an environmental awareness event sponsored by IVC on May 3.*

## **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.



- **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. Watch for runoff and check for broken sprinkler heads. Runoff will carry fertilizers into the storm drain and contribute to pollution in our waterways.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

*Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS*

### JUNE

Turf grass: 3-4 days, 2-3 cycles\* of 3-5 minutes  
Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 3 cycles\* of 3 minutes  
Percent option: 100%\*\*

### JULY

Turf grass: 4-5 days, 3 cycles\* of 3-4 minutes  
Trees, shrubs, groundcover: 2 days, 3 cycles\* of 4 minutes  
Percent option: 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 CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAY:**

- Wednesday, 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 AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS:**

- **Bat Walks on June 22, August 10 & 17 from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.** The Bat Walk is one activity that truly deserves the designation of "unique." Local bat specialist Stephanie Remington dispels many myths about bats with a slide presentation and a walk after dark around the San Joaquin Marsh with sonar detectors tuned to the frequencies of the two most common species of bats living in the area. Cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 for children 7-12.
- **Nature Day Camp Program for children at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.** Four different camp programs will be offered: **Fledgling Camp** (7-8 years) June 25-29; **Marsh Bird Camp** (9-12 years) July 9-13 or July 16-20; **Advanced Bird Camp** (11 years & older) July 23-27 and July 30-August 4; and **Wildlife Photography Workshop** (12 years-adults) July 23-27 or July 30-August 4. Space is limited.

For information, visit the Sea & Sage Audubon website at: [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or call (949) 261-7963.

**CITY OF IRVINE EVENT**

- **Wednesday, July 4 - Irvine Police Association's 23rd Annual Concert on the Green & Fireworks Show** at Irvine High School Football Stadium. Gates open at 3 p.m. Children's activities include field games, arts and crafts; bounce house, face painting and more. Live music performance by the Derek Bordeaux Group. Color guard presentation of the colors by the Irvine Police Department Color Guard. Food Court. Pyro musical and fireworks show at 9 p.m. with historical narration. Adult tickets (14 and older) \$12, senior/child tickets (+60/13 and under) \$7. Under two free. Tickets available in advance or may be purchased at Irvine High School Football Stadium on July 4. Family tickets are available in advance only (two adults/four children) for \$40. For tickets and further information call Vince Palazzolo at (949) 724-0488.

**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE**

- **Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop.** 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. 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.
- To learn more about Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188.

*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**

- **Supplies are dwindling.** Non-perishable items needed. Donations may be brought to the Families Forward warehouse at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618. Office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Volunteers needed.** Want a great place to volunteer and feel like you are making a difference? Be a Families Forward volunteer. For more information call (949) 552-272.

*Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services.*

**CASA 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 **Wednesday, June 13 from 6 to 8 p.m.** at the Irvine Heritage Library, 14361 Yale Avenue, Irvine. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155.

**ORAL HISTORY PROJECT TO PRESERVE MILITARY HERITAGE FOR GREAT PARK**

- Voices of former El Toro Marine Corps Air Station veterans will now be preserved through a unique project at California State University – Fullerton's Center for Oral and Public History. The Oral History Project, part of the Great Park History Program, aims to preserve the history of El Toro Marine Corps Air Station and its transition to the Orange County Great Park by conducting and recording a series of oral interviews. Phase one of the Oral History Project will be financed by the Orange County Great Park Corporation. If you were stationed at or have memories of the El Toro Marine Air Station and would like to participate in the Oral History Project please call (714) 278-8415 or send your contact information to [coph-eltono@fullerton.edu](mailto:coph-eltono@fullerton.edu). Information is also available online at <http://coph.fullerton.edu>.

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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**24 Hour Service  
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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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