

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / August 2007
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Wonder Where Your Water Comes From? Join IRWD for a Free Water Awareness Tour and Find Out!

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. Come learn about your drinking water, the water recycling process, and how urban runoff is cleaned before it reaches Upper Newport Bay. Participants will also learn how to read their water bill and how to save water both inside and outside the home.

The tour includes a walking tour of the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant and the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, as well as a bus tour to see various water facilities around the District.

Fall tours will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6 and Saturday, Oct. 13.

These tours are open to adults and students age 16 and older who live or work within the IRWD service area. Tours begin 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. Customers may register on the IRWD web site at www.irwd.com or by calling (949) 453-5500.



Customers visit the IRWD Water Quality Laboratory to get a demonstration of the water reclamation process during an IRWD Resident Tour.



Residents disembark the tour bus for a visit to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary and lunch at the Duck Club.

Fall Residential Landscape Workshop

FREE!

Friday, September 14, 2007
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at
IRWD Headquarters
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

The Fall 2007 workshop will feature plant displays and fact-filled talks by local irrigation, gardening and landscape specialists. Attendees will also receive a free "Southern California Heritage Gardening Guide," a CD with colorful photos of many native and California-friendly plants well-suited to our local climate.

Workshop topics may include:

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

Limited seating. Reserve your seats 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.

Students Visit IRWD During O.C. Water Camp 2007

The Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary was one stop during two one-week sessions of a countywide Water Camp designed to inform students aged 12-15 of the issues surrounding water and wastewater in the community.

The camp was composed of 10 students per session and each day was jam-packed with hands-on, interactive, water-related activities. On the fourth day of camp each session, the students toured the marsh and then conducted tests to learn how wetlands can improve water quality.

The camp was a cooperative effort of water agencies throughout the county, including IRWD, and a host of community groups whose missions include public water education and awareness.



Students participating in Orange County Water Camp visited the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary to view wildlife and do hands-on water quality testing.

Rebates Available for Water Efficient Appliances

The following table outlines current residential customer rebate levels (in red), effective August 1, 2007. For more rebate program details and to view and print rebate applications and the lists of eligible washing machines and toilets, visit <http://www.irwd.com/Conservation/rebates.php?a=res> or call (949) 453-5563.

Eligible Appliance or Fixture	Residential Customer Type	IRWD's Rebate* changes effective August 1, 2007	Additional Regional Water Agency Rebate*	Total Rebate Amount*
High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW)	Single-family in detached home	\$200	\$100	\$300
	Multi-family in condo, apartment or mobile home	\$200	\$75	\$275
High Efficiency Toilet (HET)	Single-family in detached home	\$100	\$150	up to \$250 per HET
	Multi-family in condo, apartment or mobile home	\$100	\$165	upto \$265 per HET
Ultra Low Flush Toilet (ULFT)	Single-family in detached home	\$ 0	\$50	\$50 per ULFT
	Multi-family in condo, apartment or mobile home	\$ 0	\$60	\$60 per ULFT

*Note: To receive previous rebate funding levels (effective March 1, 2007) completed rebate applications must have been received and processed by July 15, 2007. All rebate amounts may fluctuate and are subject of funding availability.



- **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, it's time to water. Trees and shrubs generally require about half (some shrubs even less) of what the lawn needs. Check the moisture of the soil 3-6" below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface will dry out in hours, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.
- **Brown "hot spots" require extra care.** Don't turn up the water if you see a small patch of brown turf. It will mean over-watering other plants and higher water bills. Instead, looked for blocked sprinkler heads or an uneven coverage. Adjust the irrigation system or water that spot by hand.
- **Water during the cool parts of the day.** Night and early morning is the best time to water. Also, avoid watering on windy days.
- **Don't water the gutter!** Position your sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Watch for runoff-that is your sign that your lawn can no longer take in water at the rate your sprinkler is dishing it out. Try watering for a shorter period with repeat cycles.
- **Cycle your lawn clippings.** Mow frequently (every five to seven days) and leave the clippings on the lawn. Build up should not occur if you have cut back on the fertilizer. The clippings will restore nutrients to the soil and slow water loss due to evaporation during the high temperature months. Consider raising the height of your mower blade, but make sure your lawn does not grow to block the sprinkler heads.
- **Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants.** Mulch will slow evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too. Keep mulch a couple of inches away from trunks and stems.
- **Yellow leaves on shrubs** may be a sign of over-watering. More plants suffer from over-watering than from becoming too dry!
- **Check for broken sprinkler heads and for leaks in hoses and couplings.** Leaks outside the house can go unnoticed for a long time, especially when sprinklers are timed to go on when no one is watching.
- **Feed roses and annual flowers regularly for the best blooms.**

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

AUGUST

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

SEPTEMBER

Turf grass: 3-4 days, 2-3 cycles* of 2-4 minutes
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover:
 2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes
 Percent option: 70%**

**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:

- Monday, September 3

INNER-COASTAL WATERSHED CLEAN-UP DAY

- **Saturday, Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. - noon:** For the eighth consecutive year, Irvine Ranch Water District will host a clean-up site along San Diego Creek, adjacent to the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant. Wear closed-toed shoes, hats, sunscreen and insect repellent. Community service credits for high school students and Scout groups can be earned. Meet at the parking lot of the plant (3512 Michelson Dr., enter from Riparian View Drive) to receive trash bags and gloves. The gates to the plant will close promptly at noon.

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.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS:

- **Orientation for prospective volunteer naturalists:** Learn how to share nature with elementary school children at an orientation and accompany experienced naturalists on tours. Attend one of these dates: Thursday, Sept. 20, Thursday, Oct. 18 or Thursday, Nov. 15. All sessions are from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *For information, visit the Sea & Sage Audubon website at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call (949) 261-7963.*

LEADERSHIP TOMORROW

- **Now accepting applications for the Class of 2008:** Leadership Tomorrow is a non-profit organization whose mission is to expand knowledge, empower citizens and promote community involvement through an education program in civic awareness and leadership. Applications for the Class of 2008 are now being accepted from adults who live or work in the communities of Irvine, Newport Beach or Costa Mesa. Classes meet once a month from September 2007 through June 2008 and give participants a behind-the-scenes look in areas such as healthcare, education, criminal justice, local government and the arts in Orange County. *Information and applications are available at www.leadershiptomorrow.org or by calling (949) 729-4411.*

FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Families Forward continues to provide groceries to families in need.** Food donations are welcome, especially during the summer months when children are home from school and families do not have the support of lunch programs. Donations of school supplies and food may be brought to the Families Forward facility at 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine 92618 Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., (949) 552-2727. Serving families for over 22 years, visit www.families-forward.org to find out more about the mission of Families Forward.

CITY OF IRVINE GLOBAL VILLAGE FESTIVAL

- **Make plans to travel the world at the City of Irvine's Sixth Annual Global Village Festival on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Bill Barber Park.** The day will feature cultural performances of music and dance, cultural displays and demonstrations, international cuisine, and a world marketplace with hands-on art projects, games and activities in a giant, interactive Kids Village. Festival admission and parking are free. Food court tasting tickets are available for purchase at the event. Bill Barber Park is located adjacent to the Irvine Civic Center on Harvard between Barranca and Alton. For more information and parking locations, call (949) 724-6606 or visit www.irvinefestival.org.

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
(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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