

Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

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MWD to Begin Fluoridation of Imported Water Supply

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which provides 35 percent of Irvine Ranch Water District's (IRWD) drinking water, will begin adding fluoride to water supplies in November to help prevent tooth decay.

MWD imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California. Naturally occurring fluoride in our water supply ranges from 0.1 to 0.4 parts per million. MWD will adjust the levels of fluoride to the optimal range for dental health of 0.7 to 0.8 parts per million.

Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations to a maximum of 2.0 parts per million.

IRWD will not fluoridate its well water, which in most of its service area represents about 65 percent of the drinking water delivered to its customers. Naturally occurring fluoride in well water from the Orange County Groundwater Basin normally contains levels between 0.1 and 1.6 parts per million. IRWD customers receive well water from mid-April through mid-October. The rest of the year, customers receive mostly imported water.

MWD began exploring fluoridation in 1995 when a new state law was signed requiring



fluoridation of any public water supply with at least 10,000 customers once the funding was available to do so. The cities of Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach fluoridated their water prior to the 1995 law.

Adding fluoride to water is not a new concept. Water suppliers across the country have been fluoridating water since 1945. Fluoride works to strengthen tooth enamel so teeth

become more resistant to decay, and it reverses newly formed cavities. Drinking fluoridated water as part of your regular diet will provide about 60 percent of the protection necessary to fight cavities.

Parents of children taking fluoride supplements are encouraged to check with their dentist or health care provider to determine whether the supplements are still recommended.

Additional information is available
at MWD's web site at
www.mwdh2o.com/fluoridation/index.html
or by calling the MWD Water Quality
Information line at (800) 354-4420.



Irvine Ranch Water District hosted a booth at the Great Park Balloon Launch event July 14. The booth featured displays on conservation and the IRWD Natural Treatment System as well as a "Water Wizard" children's game with prizes.

Shadetree Partnership Event



The July 28 Shadetree Partnership event had 95 volunteers. The volunteers spent 3-1/2 hours each performing various nursery tasks including weeding, upsizing groundcover and trimming/shaping trees at the Shadetree Nursery. 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.

*Pay your IRWD bills online anytime...24/7
Anywhere...at work, home, or on the road
Schedule your payment in advance*



Irvine Ranch Water District is pleased to bring you an e-Bill service that offers the convenience of receiving and paying your water bill online, free of charge. When you sign up for e-Bill you will no longer receive a paper bill. Instead, you can simply go online and view your most recent bill. It has the same details as the paper version but instead of receiving it through the mail, you will view and pay your bill online. Not only will this save you time, but this optional service is FREE.

Here's how it works: once enrolled, every month we will send you an e-mail to let you know that your IRWD bill is available for viewing and payment. No more stamps to buy, checks to write, or envelopes to mail.

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.

For more information please visit IRWD's web site (www.irwd.com) or call IRWD Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.



- **Start cutting back on your watering.** By the end of September, plants will need as much as one-third LESS water than they did in August, even though the days are still warm. Why? Because the days are shorter, so plants do not lose as much water during the day as they did in mid-summer. Also, plants are slowing their growth rate - the opposite of the spring growth phase. Watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees will need about half of what turf requires.
- **Brown grass.** Warm season grasses go into dormancy and turn brown this time of year. No amount of water will change that! Some landscapers will overseed with an annual rye grass to keep a lawn looking green. You will need to water more frequently to get the seeds to germinate, but only a few BRIEF minutes each day for a couple of weeks - just enough to get the seeds wet.
- **Lower the mower blade.** If you increased the height during the warm months, return to the recommended height for your type of turf. Hybrid Bermuda: 1/2 to 3/8 inch; Tall Fescue: 2-2½ inches.
- **PLANT!** Fall is the best time of year for planting in Southern California. The soil is still warm, but the days and nights are cool. Winter rains are just around the corner to encourage good, deep root systems so plants will be ready for a surge of growth in the spring.
- **Change the battery.** If your irrigation controller has a backup battery, now is a good time to install a fresh one.

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

SEPTEMBER

Turf grass: 3-4 days, 1-3 cycles* of 2-3 minutes
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover:
 2 days, 2 cycles* of 4 minutes
 Percent option: 70%**

OCTOBER

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

*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 do not have the instructions for your controller, check the manufacturer's web site. Many controller manufacturers provide online access to the owner's manual.

In September, plant water needs drop by as much as 30 percent even if the temperature is hotter, for two reasons. First, the days are shorter. Second, plants begin to slow their growth phase, where they need less water. In some years, humidity is also higher, increasing your level of discomfort, but decreasing plant water needs as it slows the rate of evaporation. This rapid drop in water demand will continue in October and November.

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. to 12:30 p.m. For information, visit the Sea & Sage Audubon web site at: www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call (949) 261-7963.
- **Annual Pancake Breakfast and Used Book Sale: Saturday, October 27** from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. For more information call (949) 261-7963.
- **Become a member** of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter. For more information visit their web site at www.seaandsageaudubon.org or call the Audubon House at (949) 261-7963.

DINOSAUR DASH - Sunday, November 4 at the Market Place

- **The Dinosaur Dash Run for Education** is coming to The Market Place in Irvine and Tustin on Sunday, November 4. Families are encouraged to run or walk together in the 2K "Fun Run" or the timed 5K and 10K races. Stay after the race for games, food and fun activities in our Expo. Visit www.DinosaurDash.net or call (714) 832-6299 for more information.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **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. to 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.
- **CANS FOR CASH:** The City of Irvine is partnering with the Irvine Unified School District to participate in a nationwide recycling contest called Cans for Cash. The goal of the contest is for each participating city to collect as many aluminum cans as possible during the month of October. If the City of Irvine wins in its division (which is based on population size) then the award proceeds of \$5,000 will be donated to the Irvine Public Schools Foundation. It takes 95% less energy to recycle an aluminum can than to create it from raw materials. So please save your aluminum cans and recycle them in Irvine during the month of October. For more information about the Cans for Cash contest please visit www.cityofirvine.org or call (949) 724-6459.

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 through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, please call (949) 552-2727. Serving families for over 22 years, visit www.families-forward.org to find out more about the mission of Families Forward.

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.

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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