

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / October 2007  
Volume 2007 Number 10



Volunteers spread out on the banks of the San Diego Creek in Irvine to pick up trash during Inner Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day Sept. 15. Irvine Ranch Water District sponsors this site each year.

## Creek Clean Up Does Not Disappoint

The dog didn't eat the student's homework, so just how did it end up in San Diego Creek four years later?

Someone's homework dated 2003 was among the bounty of refuse pulled from the San Diego Creek during Inner Coastal Watershed Clean Up

Day in September. Even though the county had recently cleaned the sides of the creek of vegetation, the creek was teeming with trash.

For the first time in many years, no shopping carts were among the trash. But there were plenty of unusual items to go around, among them: a

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## Water Fluoridation Coming

As we mentioned last month, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) will begin adding fluoride to drinking water supplies beginning in November in order to help prevent tooth decay.

MWD imports water from the Colorado River and Northern California. There is naturally occurring fluoride in the water and MWD will



adjust the levels of fluoride, which range from 0.1 to 0.4 parts per million, 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 at a maximum of two parts per million.

IRWD will not fluoridate its well water, which in most of its service area represents

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## **Creek Clean-up**

piece of a hockey stick, a Barbie doll leg, a golf putter and ball, an auto windshield, sofa cushions, floor mats, a traffic cone, rubber ball, baseballs and tennis balls, underwear, an empty jewelry box, a pair of bowling shoes, a pair of socks and thousands of cigarette butts.

Inner Coastal Clean Up Day observed its 11th year and IRWD has hosted a clean up site outside the gates of its Michelson Operations Center for the past eight years.

More than 100 volunteers, most of them from environmental and science classes at Northwood High School in Irvine, showed up to gather more than 400 bags of garbage.

Inner Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day is held in conjunction with Coastal Clean Up Day, but with one difference - while volunteers gather to clean beaches, the Inner Coastal group grabs the garbage before it reaches the shores.



*Students from Northwood High School (above and in photos below) display some of the trash they removed from San Diego Creek during Inner Coastal Cleanup Day.*



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## **Water Fluoridation Coming**

about 65 percent of the drinking water delivered to its customers. Naturally occurring fluoride in water from the Orange County Groundwater Basin normally contains levels between 0.1 and 1.6 parts per million. IRWD customers receive mostly well water from about mid-April to mid-October. The rest of the year, customers receive mostly imported water.

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



- **Start cutting back on your watering.** By the beginning of October, 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. Also, plants are slowing their rate of growth-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. Hopefully, 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

### OCTOBER

Turf grass: 2-3 days, 1-3 cycles\* of 2-4 minutes  
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover:  
 2 days, 2 cycles\* of 3 minutes  
 Percent option: 50%\*\*

### NOVEMBER

Turf grass: 1-2 days, 1-2 cycles\* of 2-3 minutes  
 Trees, shrubs, groundcover:  
 1 day, 2 cycles\* of 4 minutes  
 Percent option: 40%\*\*

\*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.

**Irvine Ranch Water District will be closed for the following holidays:**

- Thursday and Friday, November 22 & 23
- Monday and Tuesday, December 24 & 25, 2007
- Monday, December 31, 2007 and Tuesday, January 1, 2008

**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**

- **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](http://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](http://www.DinosaurDash.net) or call (714) 832-6299 for more information.

**CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS - 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](http://www.cityofirvine.org) or call (949) 724-6459.

**FAMILIES FORWARD**

- Families Forward will be providing more than 400 needy families with all the traditional Thanksgiving foods needed to cook their own Thanksgiving dinner this year. This special Thanksgiving event will occur on November 17 at the Families Forward facility. Donations of the traditional Thanksgiving foods are needed for this event along with \$15-\$20 gift cards for turkeys. All food donations and gift cards can be brought to the Families Forward facility at 9221 Irvine Blvd, Irvine, CA 92618 during the first two weeks of November.
- **Adopt-A-Family Program** - December marks the annual Adopt-A-Family program at Families Forward. Over 500 needy families will be "adopted" by generous community members, schools, churches, synagogues, to help out families who are in crisis over the holidays. Interested people who would like to "adopt" a family should call the Families Forward office at (949) 552-2727 or email [aharrington@families-forward.org](mailto:aharrington@families-forward.org).
- *Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services.*

**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.

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL ART & POETRY CONTEST**

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual Coastal Art & Poetry Contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2008 to be eligible for this year's contest. For rules and entry form, visit [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org), e-mail [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov), or call (800) Coast-4U.

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**

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

**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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October 2007 • 87K