

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / January 2008  
Volume 2008 Number 01



*Irvine Ranch Water District's Purchasing Department has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement for the seventh consecutive year. Holding the award is Purchasing Manager Alex Aguilar. Also shown are Director of Administrative Services Tony Mossbarger (left) and General Manager Paul Jones.*

## IRWD Excels in Procurement

IRWD's 11-member Purchasing Department has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute (NPI) for the seventh consecutive year.

The award is achieved by those organizations that demonstrate excellence in procurement by obtaining a high score on a rating of standardized criteria set by the NPI.

The program measures innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership attributes of the procurement function. The bottom line: IRWD's purchasing department is operating efficiently and saving customers money.

## SPRING RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

# FREE!

Friday, March 28, 2008  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at  
IRWD Headquarters  
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, CA 92618

The Spring 2008 workshop will feature plant displays and fact-filled talks by local irrigation, gardening and landscape specialists. Attendees will be entered in a raffle to win a FREE drip system-in-a-box kit. (Must be present to win.)

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

[www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)

If you do not have online access, please call

949-453-5327

to make your reservation.

## 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, April 26; Saturday, May 3 and Saturday, May 31.**

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.

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](http://www.irwd.com) or call (949) 453-5500.



*Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was presented the 2007 Outstanding Stormwater Research Project Award by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) for its Cienega Filtration Project-Selenium and Nitrogen Treatment Research. Shown from left are Jim Hyde, IRWD's environmental compliance specialist; Chris Crompton of the County of Orange and CASQA Board Member; and IRWD's General Manager Paul Jones.*

## IRWD Board Selects New President

At its annual organizational meeting on Dec. 17, the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) Board of Directors selected Darryl G. Miller to serve as President and Mary Aileen Matheis to serve as Vice President.

Miller has been a member of the IRWD Board of Directors 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.

Matheis has been on the IRWD Board since 1988. She served as President in 2001 and as Vice President in 2005. Matheis is a practicing lawyer and a member of the Orange County Bar Association and of the Orange County Association of Realtors.

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.

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for  
SPRAY HEAD IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY

#### Turf grass:

1-2 days, 1-2 cycles\* of 2 minutes each

#### 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.

## 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's e-Bill service offers the convenience of receiving and paying your water bill online, free of charge.

You can sign up through IRWD's web site ([www.irwd.com](http://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](http://www.irwd.com)) or call IRWD Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.



## Irrigation tips 'n' tune-ups

**D**id you know that 50-60% of all the water used in urban areas is used outdoors? Much of this is wasted as it sprays onto sidewalks and driveways and runs down our streets into storm drains which lead to the ocean. Use the following simple tune-up tips to improve your sprinklers' efficiency and reduce runoff--easy ways you can save water, save money and help protect the ocean.

### Common water-wasting sprinkler problems and how to solve them:



**Overspray** occurs when the sprinkler head direction is not optimal and water spray extends beyond the target area. To remedy, focus the spray to reach only the landscape area requiring water. Typically, there's an adjustment screw located at the top of the spray head. Use a small screwdriver to turn this adjustment screw **clockwise** to reduce the flow of water, thereby decreasing overspray. If this fix doesn't do the job, replace the overspraying head with one that has a more appropriate spraying radius. For example: replace a 180° radius spray head with a 90° one.



**Misting** allows water to be lost through increased wind drift and uneven distribution. To remedy, decrease the water pressure in the valve (like one shown at right) which controls the lateral line feeding the misting sprinklers. To improve the efficiency of your irrigation system don't run sprinklers when the weather is windy and set your automatic irrigation controller to run sprinklers in the early morning, the least windy time of the day.



### Spray head obstruction, pooling and rapid runoff

occur when vegetation is allowed to grow and block the path of a sprinkler's water spray. The obstruction of the water spray causes irrigation water to collect and pool at the base of the sprinkler's riser. When enough water has pooled, it overflows the planter or target area and seeps off the property as runoff. To remedy this problem and reduce runoff at its source, regularly trim all vegetation away from the direct path of each spray head, or make sure your gardener is performing this service each month. You may also install shrub risers to elevate the sprinkler heads above all nearby plants to help prevent spray head obstruction.

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

- Monday, February 18 and Friday, March 21, 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). **Online registration available!**

**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.

**FAMILIES FORWARD**

- **Adopt-A-Family Program** - Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. To learn how you can contribute to this program, e-mail Annie Harrington at [aharrington@families-forward.org](mailto:aharrington@families-forward.org) or call (949) 552-2727, Ext. 231. Gift cards to grocery stores, Target, Mervyns, Costco and gas cards are also greatly appreciated. Help brighten the holidays for a family in need.

**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.
- **Win a trip for two to the 2008 NCAA Basketball Tournament Final Four and Championship Game in San Antonio, Texas - April 4-8, 2008** - \$100 a chance. In addition to the basketball tickets, the winner will receive four nights hotel accommodation for two, Avis full size car rent for four days and \$250 towards travel expenses. Drawing to be held on Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. at South Lake Middle School in Irvine. For ticket information, please contact Holly Johnston at (949) 857-8720 or send e-mail to [holly-jo@cox.net](mailto:holly-jo@cox.net).
- **To learn more about Assistance League** and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their Web site at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org). 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.

**FREE TAX PREPARATION**

- Irvine residents and workers with a maximum annual income of \$50,000 can visit the Orange County One Stop Center located at 125 Technology Drive West, Suite 200, Irvine to have their tax return prepared for free. Beginning January 15, 2008 through April 15, 2008, the site will offer free tax preparation Monday through Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday tax day events are planned for February 2 and April 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call (888) 4EITC-4U to schedule an appointment and learn about eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Tax returns will be prepared by volunteers from the IRS' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and by Legal Aid Society of Orange County's self-help Internet program, I CAN!™ E File. The focus of this outreach is to create awareness about the EITC as 15 to 25 percent of eligible taxpayers fail to claim it each year, leaving millions of dollars unclaimed in Orange County. The EITC can return up to \$4,716 to eligible taxpayers for the 2007 tax year. For more information on preparing your taxes free of charge go to [www.icanefile.org](http://www.icanefile.org).

**CASA Volunteers Needed**

- Court Appointed Special Advocates is seeking volunteers to serve as advocates and mentors for abused children. An information session will be held on Saturday, January 26 and Saturday, February 23 at the Irvine Heritage Park Library, 14361 Yale Ave. from 10 a.m. to noon. R.S.V.P. (714) 619-5155. Visit their Web site at [www.casaoc.org](http://www.casaoc.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.

**IRWD Board of Directors**

- Darryl G. Miller, President
- Mary Aileen Matheis, V.P.
- Douglas J. Reinhart
- 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](http://www.irwd.com)**

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