

# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / July 2008  
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## Irvine Ranch Water District Approves 2008-09 Operating Budget



The Board of Directors of the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) approved the fiscal year 2008-09 operating budget at their June 23 meeting. The \$101.3 million budget became effective July 1 and will provide the funds to serve potable water, reclaimed water and sewer service to customers during the coming year.

The budget includes an increase for both water and sewer rates for IRWD customers.

The average total monthly bill for the typical residential customer will increase from approximately \$37.51 to \$39.28 per month in the Irvine Ranch service area and from approximately \$48.53 to \$51.30 in the Los Alisos service area. The average rate for Santiago area customers will increase from \$53.21 to \$54.83. No changes were made to the Orange Park Acres area customers since these rates were just recently adopted on June 1, 2008 with the completion of the merger with IRWD.

One of IRWD's critical business objectives is to keep costs, and therefore rates, as low as possible for customers. Despite the increases, IRWD's rates remain among the lowest in Orange County. Using recycled water for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation helps to keep rates down. Use of recycled water helps minimize the amount of drinking water that must be pumped from underground aquifers or imported into the IRWD service area, thereby reducing the cost of water to all IRWD customers. Approximately 20 percent of IRWD's overall water supply now comes from recycled water.

A number of factors have contributed to

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### *Love Your Garden... ...and your water bill*

#### SAVE WATER - SAVE MONEY - SAVE THE OCEAN

Join us for a *FREE* landscape workshop on September 26, 2008 from 6 to 9 pm and learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- how to pick the right plants
- how much to water your plants
- how to water to reduce runoff

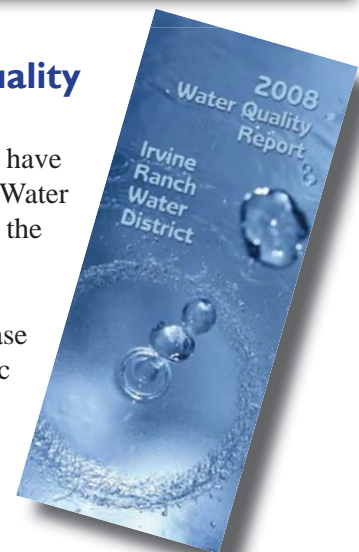
For more information and to RSVP, go to [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) or call 949-453-5327.



## 2008 Water Quality Report

Customers should have received 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.



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## 2008-09 Operating Budget

the proposed rate change, including increases in the costs of chemicals, energy costs to operate wells, pumping stations and the water reclamation plants. Additional costs include labor and the fees paid by IRWD to the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to purchase imported water and to the Orange County Water District (OCWD) to pump local groundwater.

There has been a large increase in the fees paid for local groundwater. While OCWD has increased the replenishment fees by \$12 per acre-foot that local agencies like IRWD must pay to pump groundwater, local groundwater still remains much less expensive than water imported from the Colorado River and Northern California. MWD has increased charges for imported water by \$5 per acre-foot for the first half of the fiscal year, and by another \$67 per acre-foot for the second half of the fiscal year. In the coming year, IRWD will pay \$373 per acre-foot of local groundwater, compared to between \$563 and \$634 per acre-foot of imported water. One acre-foot is approximately 326,000 gallons, or enough water to supply two typical families for a year.

Approximately 65 percent of the potable water delivered in most of IRWD's service area comes from local groundwater wells.

The IRWD commodity water rate will increase from \$0.98 to \$1.07 per 100 cubic feet (ccf). The water rate for the Los Alisos customers will increase from \$1.46 to \$1.55 per ccf. The base water rate for the former SCWD will increase from \$2.07 to \$2.16 per ccf. The ccf is the standard unit for water billing and is equal to 748 gallons. The fixed water charge for the Irvine and Santiago area customers will not increase; the service charge for Los Alisos area customers will increase from \$8.65 to \$9.60 per month.

The differences in rates between the Los Alisos area and the rest of the IRWD area can be attributed to the Los Alisos area's almost

total reliance on higher-cost imported water to meet its potable water demands. Only about five percent of the potable water for the Los Alisos area comes from wells.

The Irvine and Los Alisos areas sewer service charges will increase \$0.15 per month to \$13.80. The fixed sewer rate includes a user/replacement component that will be used to fund the replacement of aging infrastructure. Both the Santiago and Orange Park Acres areas use septic tanks and do not pay a sewer charge.

Recycled water rates for landscape irrigation will increase from \$0.88 to \$0.96 per acre-foot, reflecting the District's current policy of setting recycled water rates at 90 percent of domestic water rates.

Untreated water rates for agriculture irrigation will increase from \$372 to \$441 per acre-foot. Untreated water comes from water purchased from MWD and from rain water captured in Irvine Lake.

## Save Big with our Rebates

Take advantage of IRWD's residential rebates to install the latest water-efficient technology and save both water and money. Today's rebated water-saving devices include High Efficiency Toilets, High Efficiency Clothes Washers, Smart Irrigation Controllers, Rotating Nozzles and Synthetic Turf. With so many good offerings, why not take advantage of two or more rebates?

The High Efficiency Toilets now eligible for rebates of up to \$265 per toilet have been performance tested. They can cut down water use to 1.28 gallons-per-flush and are more durable than traditional toilets. There is a limit of three toilet rebates per residence.

High Efficiency Clothes Washers eligible for rebates of up to \$300 per washer have a water factor of 5.0 or less. These washers save money over time by using only 18 to 25 gallons of water per load, which can conserve 6,000 or more gallons per year.

For the latest lists of eligible devices, rebate amounts and rebate applications go to [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) or call (949) 453-5581.

## IRWD's Suggested Summertime Weekly Irrigation Schedule

The following chart suggests a weekly schedule for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local areas. Generally, these are the MAXIMUM times you will need for full sun areas. Start with this schedule and increase the times only if your plants show signs of stress. If stress occurs only in isolated areas, check your irrigation system for breaks, leaks or clogs before increasing the time.

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option
July and August	4 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%
September	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%

## Free Services

### Vacation Billing

To avoid disconnection and reconnection fees while you are away on extended vacation, we suggest you contact the IRWD Customer Service Department prior to leaving. We will assist in making payment arrangements to ensure that your water service is not interrupted. Advance payment will also avoid any late payment charges upon your return. If you need special assistance or have any questions about your service, call our Customer Service Department at (949) 453-5300.

### Automatic Payment: The Hassle-Free Way to Pay Your IRWD Bill

Summer is here and for many that means vacation time. Don't risk having your water shut off while you're away because a bill has gone unpaid. Sign up for Automatic Payment. This service automatically pays your bill when due and eliminates check writing and posting envelopes year-round.

It's easy to sign up. All you need to do is complete the Automatic Payment Program form and return it to IRWD with a blank voided check (deposit slips and photocopies are not acceptable). There's no fee from IRWD to use AutoPay, but you may want to check whether your bank will charge for the fund transfer.

An electronic sign-up form can be downloaded from our website at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com), or call (949) 453-5300.

### Clarification on rate increase:

The notice of rate increase sent to the Irvine Ranch service area residential customers in May 2008 included a comparison of combined average IRWD water and sewer rates to those of the following cities: Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, Tustin, Orange, and Anaheim. The comparative monthly average water and sewer charges for a resident in a city outside of IRWD included charges not only from each city, but also included charges from the Orange County Sanitation District for sewer services that are collected on the property tax bills from residents of those cities. The purpose of including the Orange County Sanitation District charges was to make a full comparison of the total combined amounts charged an average residential customer from all agencies for water and sewer service.

### Check out these Websites:

- [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) - information about Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD). Visit IRWD's website to access your IRWD account or get other information about your water district 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org) - tree planting events. Community service hours available.
- [www.h2ouse.org](http://www.h2ouse.org) - this site features current information and resources to help you be water efficient.

## Community Calendar

### Irvine Ranch Water District will be closed for the following holiday:

- Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

### SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Community service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5670. Online registration available at [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

### SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **Bat Walks** - Sea and Sage Audubon Society invites you and your friends to experience a Bat Walk at night in the IRWD San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine. The bat walks are scheduled on Thursday evening, August 7, and Friday evening, August 22. Adults-only walk is scheduled for Thursday evening August 28. All walks will begin at approximately 7 p.m. Cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 for children age seven (minimum age) to 12. Call (949) 726-0858 for questions or visit [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org).
- **Summer Education Program - Advanced Bird Camp** for 11-year-olds and above, scheduled for July 21-25 and July 28 through August 2. Call (949) 261.7963.
- **Become a member** of the National Audubon Society and the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter. For more information visit their website at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or call (949) 261-7963.

### CITY OF IRVINE EVENT

- **Pacific Symphony Comes to Irvine on Saturday, August 16 at 7 p.m.** - A must-do summer tradition, the 2008 Target "Symphony in the Cities" concert, featuring the Pacific Symphony, comes to Irvine's Heritage Park, 4601 Walnut. The performance highlights a mix of patriotic, pop and classical selections. Children are invited to participate in a pre-concert "musical playground" filled with interactive activities at 5:30 p.m. Lawn chairs and picnic baskets are welcome. For more information, visit [www.pacificsymphony.org](http://www.pacificsymphony.org) or call (949) 724-6606.
- **Sizzlin' Summer Sundays Concert Series** - The City of Irvine kicks off its Eighth annual summer concert series on **Sunday, August 3**, with Bobby Cochran's "Rock Around the Clock Show," a musical ride of a lifetime featuring rock and roll, rhythm and blues, Motown, dance, gospel, surf, classic rock, rockabilly, and oldies. Keeping the good times rolling, Reno Jones remarkable rhythm and blues band takes the stage on **Sunday, August 10**. **Sunday, August 24** - tribute artist Josh Tanner and his explosive band SPRINGSTEEN deliver an authentic re-enactment of a Bruce Springsteen. Performances begin at 6 p.m. at Woodbridge Community Park, 20 Lake Road, Irvine. Admission is free. The community is invited to bring low-back chairs, blankets and picnic dinners. For more information, call (949) 724-6606.

### FAMILIES FORWARD

- There are a growing number of families facing financial difficulties in south Orange County. Families Forward exists to help families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. Currently 50-75 families receive groceries each week from the food assistance program. Help support these families through food donations as well as grocery and gas gift cards!
- **Back To School Program** - Families Forward distributes backpacks filled with school supplies to local low-income families who are facing financial difficulty. Donations of backpacks and school supplies will be accepted in July and August to provide for these students. Visit [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org) to see the many needed items.
- Bring all donations to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Questions: (949) 552-2727.

### 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 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website 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.

### MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their website at [www.uccemg.com](http://www.uccemg.com) or send an e-mail to [ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com](mailto:ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com).

### IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held in the offices of the Irvine Ranch Water District. Visit their website at [www.irvinegardenclub.com](http://www.irvinegardenclub.com) or send an e-mail to [Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto:Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com).

*As a service to residents we feature a calendar of IRWD and community events on our site. Events or activities of community-wide interest may be included in the community calendar. We reserve the right to edit submissions and include only those items of most interest to the public. If your group has an event you would like to include, please submit written information, including event date, time, place, contact person's name and telephone number. Mail your request to IRWD, Public Affairs Department, P.O. Box 57000, Irvine, California 92619-7000, FAX to (949) 453-1327 or e-mail your request to [velazquez@irwd.com](mailto:velazquez@irwd.com)*



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  
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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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