



Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / August 2008
Volume 2008 Number 8

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 or call 949-453-5327.



IRWD General Manager Paul Jones (second from left) with award recipients Jack Keating (left) of Newport Bay Naturalist and Friends; Orange County Coastkeeper Board President Roberta Jorgensen (second from right) and Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell (right).

IRWD Dedicates Natural Treatment System to Clean Urban Runoff

On June 26, the Irvine Ranch Water District unveiled the first phase of its Natural Treatment System (NTS), a group of 31 constructed wetlands throughout the San Diego Creek Watershed that use plants and soils to naturally clean urban runoff before it flows to Upper Newport Bay and

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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 IRWD

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Irvine Ranch Water District will host a site at 12th Inner Coastal Watershed Cleanup Day on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon.

Meet outside the gates of the Michelson Water Reclamation Plant on Riparian View off Michelson Drive in Irvine to clean up San Diego Creek. Bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses and wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. Plastic bags and gloves will be furnished to the volunteers. For more information, please call (949) 453-5500.



Increased Rebate Amounts Available for High Efficiency Clothes Washers (HECW) and High Efficiency Toilets (HET)

Effective July 1, 2008:

The HECW rebate for Irvine Ranch Water District customers has increased to **\$335** per washer, limit one washer per residence.

The HET rebate has increased to **\$265** per toilet, limit three toilets per residence. For full details visit **www.irwd.com** and click on "Rebates".

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Free Water Awareness Tour

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. 4** and **Saturday, Oct. 18**.

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.

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Natural Treatment System

the ocean. NTS is an extension of IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where constructed wetlands have been cleaning urban runoff since 1998. The wetlands utilize bulrush, cattails and other wetland plants to reduce nitrates, phosphorous, and sediment from urban runoff flows throughout the watershed. Ten of the 31 sites have now been completed and seven more are under construction.

The ceremony marked the dedication of the entire Natural Treatment System and took place at the Quail Springs NTS site just off the 405 Freeway at Shady Canyon Drive. IRWD honored its major project partners, the County of Orange and The Irvine Company. Recognition was also given to Newport Bay Naturalists and Friends, Orange County Coastkeeper and to the cities of Irvine, Newport Beach, Orange, Lake Forest and Tustin for their support of the regional, watershed-wide approach to urban runoff treatment. The festivities included unveiling of the permanent NTS signage and participation by the Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Center, who released rescued and rehabilitated birds into the wetland site.

Besides providing important water quality improvements, the wetlands provide incidental habitat that attracts birds and other wildlife. All wetland sites are planted with California native plants that are naturally drought tolerant. Several NTS sites are in locations where the open space can also be appreciated by area residents. The San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary in Irvine provides 12 miles of walking trails that are open to the public daily from dawn until dusk. The Quail Springs site, where the dedication ceremony was held, is immediately adjacent to the new regional bike trail system. Other sites, such as the Turtle Ridge Pond in Irvine and the nearly-completed in El Modena Park site in Orange, feature walking trails that are open to the public.



Snowy Egret



Quail Springs NTS site



Rebates to Help You Save Water and Money When Irrigating

Did you know that 50 to 70 percent of all the water used in urban areas is used outdoors? Much of this water is wasted as it sprays onto sidewalks and driveways and runs into storm drains. Here are two ways to help stop this waste: 1) Install a weather-based irrigation controller to apply only as much water as your landscape needs; and, 2) Replace inefficient conventional irrigation spray heads with rotating nozzles.



Some WBIC models use an on-site monitor to collect real-time weather data.

Weather conditions, such as local temperature, humidity, level of rainfall and amount of sunshine play an important part in determining just how much and how often you should water your plants. Weather-based irrigation controllers (WBICs) allow for more accurate, customized irrigation by automatically adjusting the amount of water applied in response to these changing conditions. Replacing your existing irrigation controller with a WBIC also helps ensure optimal plant health by preventing overwatering. Of course, no irrigation controller can work effectively on an inefficient irrigation system. For this reason it is important to check and maintain the efficiency of your entire

irrigation system both *before* and *after* installing a WBIC.

Irvine Ranch Water District is currently offering single-family residential customers a rebate of **\$60 per activated valve** (hooked-up irrigation station) toward the purchase of an eligible WBIC. Owners of multi-family dwellings with common area landscaping can receive a rebate of **\$750 per irrigated acre** towards the purchase of eligible WBICs.

Take Advantage of our \$9 per Nozzle Rebate

To encourage customers to replace inefficient conventional irrigation spray heads with the latest water-saving nozzles, Irvine Ranch Water District is offering a **\$9 per nozzle rebate**. Rotating nozzles work more efficiently by slowly emitting multi-trajectory rotating streams of water onto your landscape, helping to prevent overspray and runoff.



Install rotating nozzles on all spray heads operated by the same valve.

To qualify for the rebate, all spray heads on each selected valve/station/zone must be replaced with rotating nozzles and the irrigation clock must be adjusted.

For details on how to take advantage of the WBIC and rotating nozzle rebates, visit www.irwd.com and click on "Rebates" or call (949) 453-5581.



Rotating nozzles direct spray streams more accurately away from pavement.

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.

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 Friday evening, August 22 and Thursday evening August 28 (adults-only). 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.
- Sunday, September 14 - Monthly Bird Walk** at the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Friday, September 19 - General meeting** at IRWD headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.
- 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 or call (949) 261-7963.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENT

- Saturday, October 11 - Meet Your Firefighters and Learn How to Prevent Home Fires at Orange County Fire Authority's 3rd Annual Open House** - Come out and meet your local firefighters while learning how to prevent home fires as Orange County Fire Authority hosts its 3rd Annual Open House on Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its Regional Fire Operations & Training Center located at 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree & Tustin Ranch Rd.) in Irvine. Bring your family and friends to see live fire demonstrations, put out make-believe fires, take a ride in a fire engine, try on firefighter turnouts, and discover life and fire safety in a fun-filled environment.

ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK BALLOON "NIGHT FLIGHTS"

- The Great Park will feature free live concerts on Saturday evenings and dance pavilions every Friday night through September. Programs begin at 8 p.m. and will be held in conjunction with the evening Great Park Balloon operations. Park visitors can enjoy a whole new perspective of the Great Park on balloon night flights and dance to music under the stars. **On Friday nights**, live bands will perform in front of Hangar 244 and dance instructors will demonstrate a few simple steps to get the crowds dancing. **On Saturday nights**, the Great Park will be transformed into an arts and culture destination. Performing artists, ranging from jazz musicians to flamenco dancers, will entertain guests in the unique setting of the Preview Park. For a complete listing of performances visit their Web site at www.ocgp.org.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- 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 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. 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 or send an e-mail to 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 or send an e-mail to Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.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

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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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