



# Irvine Ranch Water District Pipelines

The Newsletter of Irvine Ranch Water District / September 2008  
Volume 2008 Number 9



At IRWD's August 11 Board meeting, Alanda Dyer (second from right), Immediate Past District Governor of Toastmasters, recognized and presented IRWD with an award for its continued support of IRWD's Water Meeters Club 6492 Toastmasters Group. Accepting the award was General Manager Paul Jones (right), Debbie Kanoff (left) and Mary Kay Hassett (second from left). Kanoff and Hassett are current members of the "Water Meeter's club. The club meets every Tuesday at 7 a.m. at IRWD headquarters and the meetings are open to the general public.



## Come visit the Marsh!

This is part of a continuing series designed to make our customers more familiar with the Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.

When was the last time you visited IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary? There is no better time than the present to visit this best kept secret in Irvine!

The marsh is a reconstructed wetland designed to clean urban runoff from San Diego Creek

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## New Re-designed Home Page

Learn more about incentives, conservation tips and devices we provide to help customers reduce their monthly water bills while saving water.

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



## FREE Water Education Programs for Students and Teachers

Through a partnership with Discovery Science Center, the Irvine Ranch Water District is proud to offer FREE water education and science programs to teachers and schools within the IRWD service area.

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## Come Visit the Marsh!

before it reaches environmentally sensitive Upper Newport Bay. Besides enhancing water quality, the marsh provides a home to some 230 species of birds and other wildlife in a park-like setting. The marsh contains more than 12 miles of meandering hiking trails on approximately 330 acres and is open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. Best of all, a visit to the marsh is free!

Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars for bird watching. But there are other animals that might be seen, as well. Many visitors have reported seeing bobcats on the trails. In the spring of 2006, a female gave birth to a litter of four kittens. Another litter was born earlier this year.

Because the marsh is not open to visitors at night, many of the nocturnal animals such as coyotes, skunks and raccoons will not be seen. However, on occasion, coyotes can be seen wandering the trails in the early morning or evening. Skunks can also be seen early in the morning.

Other mammals making their homes at the marsh are opossums, long-tailed weasels, rabbits, ground squirrels, field mice and rats. The small rodent population is kept in check by the predatory animals and birds of prey.

While visiting the marsh, please do not approach any animals or birds and above all, never feed them. It's never good for animals to get used to handouts. If you bring a picnic lunch to the marsh, please place all trash and left-overs in the trash cans.

The marsh is located off Michelson Drive on Riparian View in Irvine. Follow Riparian View to the end of the pavement. Parking is available at the Duck Club/Audubon House area.



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

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](http://www.irwd.com) and click on "Rebates".

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## Free Water Education Programs for Students and Teachers

### Elementary School Programs

K-6th grade-specific assemblies, employing high-tech student response electronic key pads, engage students and encourage interactivity while learning about topics such as the three forms of water, the sun, ecosystems and more. All assemblies stress the importance of conserving limited resources and preventing H2O pollution.

### Middle School Programs

In classroom hands-on lessons in water chemistry and environmental resources include using chemical test kits to determine aspects of water quality and exploring current technologies, such as water reclamation. The highlight of this four-lesson program is a field trip to the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, the largest coastal freshwater wetlands in Southern California.

### Teacher Programs

Project WET is a standards-based workshop that shows how to highlight the most precious resource on the planet – water. The program includes a book with fun and easy hands-on activities for the classroom, as well as lesson plans for incorporating math, language arts and science-thinking skills in a variety of learning formats: small and large group activities, lab investigations and whole body activities. Continuing education credit is available.

IRWD's service area includes all of the Irvine Unified School District and sections of the Tustin, Orange, Newport-Mesa and Saddleback Valley Unified School Districts and private schools.

For more information on these and other programs visit [www.discoverycube.org](http://www.discoverycube.org) or call (714) 913-5030.



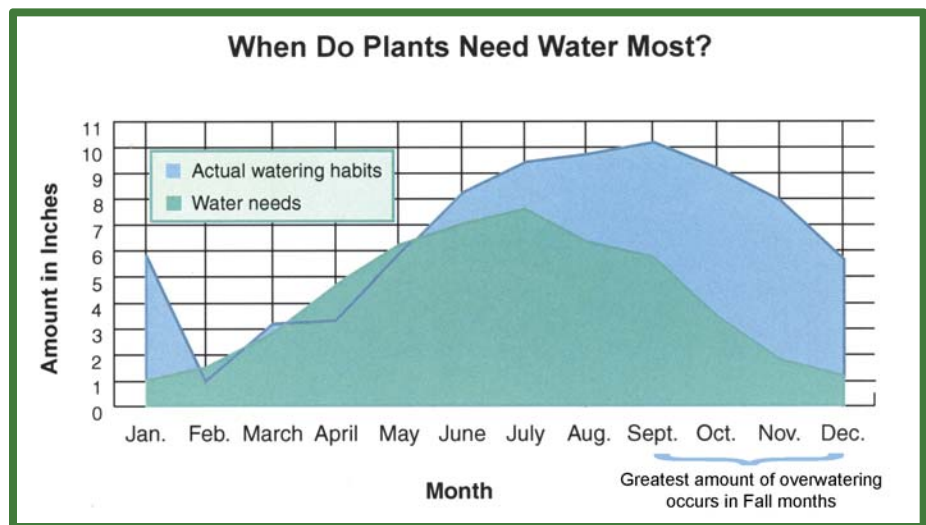
## Why You Need to Water Less Throughout the Fall

Did you know that air temperature is a relatively minor indicator of how much water your plants need? That's right; the intensity and duration of sunlight, as well as wind speed and humidity, affect your plants' water needs much more than temperature. Evapotranspiration (ET) is the measure of plants' water needs and takes all of these factors into account. As shown in the chart below, based on historical ET, plants' water needs will drop 25 to 35 percent in September from the July/August peak and will continue to decline into the fall and winter.

Why? Because in September, and throughout the fall, even if the temperature is sometimes hot, the days are shorter, so ET decreases. Also, plants slow their growth rate and need less water. In some years, humidity is also higher, increasing your level of discomfort, but decreasing plants' water needs as it slows down

the rate of evaporation. This steady drop in water needs will continue in October and November.

The following table suggests a **weekly fall irrigation schedule** for spray-head irrigation, assuming heavy clay soils common to most local coastal and foothill 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.



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### Suggested Weekly Fall Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
September	4 days, 2 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%
October	3 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	50%
November	2 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	40%
December	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

\* By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

\*\*The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Upcoming events are scheduled for **Saturday, October 25** and **Saturday, November 22**. 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

- **Native Gardening Workshops - Workshop I: October 12, 19 & 25 and Workshop II: November 2, 9 & 15.** Learn how to select, plant and care for California native plants in your garden. A \$30 donation is requested. For more information or to register, call Diane Bonanno at (714) 572-9911.
- **Friday, October 17 - General meeting** at IRWD headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine.
- **Saturday, October 25 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. - Pancake breakfast** at San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Adults - \$10, children ages 4-10 - \$6 and children three and under are free. Activities include guided bird walk, spotting scope for close-up views of the birds, and used natural book sale. Reservation required. For more information visit their web site at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org) or call Audubon House (949) 261-7963.

## CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- **"Sharps" Disposal** - To prevent sharps (hypodermic needles, lancets, test strips and other small quantity medical waste) from reaching Irvine's trash and recycling bins, the City and Waste Management have developed a safe and convenient mailing system for disposing medical waste. The first kit is available to Irvine residents at no cost. Proof of Irvine residency is required. Residents may obtain a free kit at the following locations: CVS Pharmacy, 15333 Culver Blvd., Suite 300; CVS Pharmacy, 6775 Quail Hill Parkway; CVS Pharmacy, 5385 Alton Parkway; CVS Pharmacy, 14330 Culver Drive; Rite Aid Pharmacy, 3875 Alton Parkway; Rite Aid Pharmacy, 18112 Culver Drive; and Walgreen, 6316 Irvine Blvd.. For more information, please visit [www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms](http://www.cityofirvine.org/environmentalprograms) call (949) 724-7669.
- **Saturday, October 4 - Seventh Annual Irvine Global Village Festival** at Bill Barber Park located adjacent to the Irvine Civic Center on Harvard between Barranca and Alton. Live music and dance representing more than 50 cultures. Displays, world religion and demonstrations, international cuisine, world marketplace and hands-on art projects, games and activities in a giant, interactive Kids Village. Festival admission and parking are free. For more information and parking locations, call (949) 724-6606 or visit [www.irvinefestival.org](http://www.irvinefestival.org).
- **Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Meet Your Firefighters and Learn How to Prevent Home Fires at Orange County Fire Authority's (OCFA) 3rd Annual Open House** - Come out and meet your local firefighters while learning how to prevent home fires at OCFA's Regional Fire Operations and 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.
- **Thursday, October 16 from 7 to 8 p.m. - Talk Around Town** - Join Irvine City Manager Sean Joyce at the Lakeview Senior Center for an informative presentation highlighting City services, programs and resources available to residents. The presentation is free and open to the public. The Lakeview Senior Center is located at 20 Lake Road, on the corner of Alton and Lake. For more information, call (949) 724-6077.
- **Cans for Cash during October** - The City is once again partnering with the Irvine Unified School District in the Cans for Cash campaign, a nation-wide aluminum can recycling challenge for cities. For more information please visit [www.cityofirvine.org](http://www.cityofirvine.org) or call (949) 724-6459.

## IRVINE MUSEUM PRESENTS: ALL THE WATER THAT WILL EVER BE, IS, RIGHT NOW

Exhibit opens September 13, 2008 through January 17, 2009

- In this exhibition they are featuring the perpetual natural cycle of water in our atmosphere and how aspects of that cycle figure prominently in the majestic landscape paintings of our early California artists. As the title of their exhibition states, water, in its three physical forms, liquid (water), solid (ice) and gas (water vapor) is a fixed quantity that has remained the same for the past hundreds of millions of years. The water cycle is the only way that the Earth can be continually supplied with fresh water. Our supply is constantly revived by being cycled, through the ocean, sky and land, over and over again. Without this cycle, whatever water exists would be used up and gone forever and there would be no life on Earth. The Irvine Museum, located at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100 in Irvine, is dedicated to the preservation and display of California art of the Impressionist Period (1890-1930). Open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and they validate parking. A docent tour is available to the public every Thursday starting at 11:15 a.m. For recorded information and directions call (949) 476-2565. Visit their Web site at [www.irvinemuseum.org](http://www.irvinemuseum.org)

## ORANGE COUNTY GREAT PARK BALLOON "NIGHT FLIGHTS" through September

- **Evening Balloon Flights** scheduled Thursday through Sunday from 7 to 10 p.m. Day flights also available. **Friday nights** starting at 8 p.m. - live bands will perform in front of Hangar #244 and dance instructors will demonstrate a few simple steps to get the crowds dancing. **Saturday nights** starting at 8 p.m. - 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. **Free parking and admission!** For a complete listing of performances visit their Web site at [www.ocgp.org](http://www.ocgp.org).

## FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Saturday, October 4 - City-wide Food Drive** at local Irvine grocery stores. Look for volunteers collecting food or deliver your food donation to the Families Forward office at 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. For more information call (949) 552-2727 or visit their Web site at [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org).

## OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK - Saturday, October 18 at 10 a.m.

- The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's community walk at Col. Bill Barber Memorial Park in Irvine. For more information visit their Web site at [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org).

## 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 web site at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org).

## 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 web site 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 IRWD. Visit their web site at [www.irvinegardenclub.com](http://www.irvinegardenclub.com) or send an e-mail to [Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com](mailto: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

### Board of Directors

Darryl G. Miller, President  
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### Pipelines Published by the Public Affairs Dept.

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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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