

pipelines



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IRWD Approves New Budget

Effective July 1, 2014

Each year, the IRWD Board of Directors adopts an annual operating budget that goes into effect on July 1. Part of that process is setting water and sewer rates. One of IRWD's critical business objectives is to keep costs, and therefore rates, as low as possible for all our customers. IRWD provides the highest level of service to our customers at the lowest possible rates.

“ The average residential customer will see an overall increase of \$3.21 per month, for sewer and water service combined. ”

The 2014–2015 fiscal year began on July 1, putting in place a new budget approved by the Board of Directors at its April 28 meeting. This year's budget, which totals \$130.6 million, represents a \$13.6 million increase when compared to the prior year's budget.

The operating budget provides the funding roadmap to provide drinking water, recycled water and sewer service to IRWD customers. Increases in rates and charges for these services took effect on July 1, with an overall increase to the average residential customer of \$3.21 per month, for sewer and water service combined.

For full information on all new rates and charges, please visit the IRWD website at www.irwd.com.



IRWD Michelson Water Recycling Plant

Why Are Rate Changes Necessary?

The main reasons for the change are due to uncontrollable cost increases from:

- The need to purchase more expensive imported water as a result of drier conditions
- 12% increase in electricity costs for pumping and treating water
- 3.8% increase in the charges for imported water provided from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) for imported water purchases through our regional wholesaler the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)
- 6.5% increase in pumping charges from the Orange County Water District (OCWD) for local groundwater

Residential Rate Structure Changes

Effective July 1, 2014 you may notice changes in your water bill. Your monthly water budget has changed, slightly reducing your indoor water allocation from 55 to 50 gallons per day per person. The outdoor portion of the allocation is unchanged. We have also adjusted the tiered rate structure to reduce the Inefficient, Excessive and Wasteful tiers.

REDUCTION IN INEFFICIENT, EXCESSIVE AND WASTEFUL TIERS

Tier	FY 2013–2014	FY 2014–2015
Low Volume	0–40%	0–40%
Base Rate	41–100%	41–100%
Inefficient	101–150%	101–130%
Excessive	151–200%	131–160%
Wasteful	201+%	161+%

Over-Allocation Tiers

How to Keep Your Water Bill Low

There are many ways we can help you manage your water usage to stay within your monthly water allocation and keep your rates low. IRWD would like to help you keep your water bill as low as possible.

Check Your Sprinklers & Adjust the Schedule

Over-allocation use is typically due to a leak or you may be over-irrigating your yard. Our suggested irrigation schedule can be found at www.irwd.com/save-water-money. Checking your sprinkler timer is a great place to start.

Obtain an Allocation Variance

You may also need to ask us to adjust your monthly water allocation because of a larger landscape size or the actual number of residents in the home. This is done by submitting a variance form. Variance forms are available on our website at www.irwd.com/request-a-variance or by calling 949-453-5300.

Free Home Water Use Survey

IRWD water use efficiency experts are available to answer questions or meet with you to help determine the best ways for you to save water. We can be reached at 949-453-5494 or calscape@irwd.com.

Check for Leaks

Did you know that a silent leak in a toilet can waste 40 gallons of water per day? You can easily check your toilets by placing a dye tablet or food coloring in your toilet tank. If after several minutes the color begins to seep into your toilet bowl, your toilet has a leak. For more tips on checking your home for leaks, visit www.irwd.com.

Billing Questions

We have lots of information about your bill available online at www.irwd.com/rates-charges. Our Customer Service experts are always here to help. Please call 949-453-5300 or email customerservice@irwd.com.

If your monthly water usage exceeds your water allocation, you may incur a higher bill.



Save the Date

Workshop: Everything You Need To Know About Your Sprinkler Timer

Saturday, August 9
9 am–12 pm

IRWD Offices
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine, CA 92606



Learn from the experts! Basic sprinkler timer programming concepts and landscape techniques will help you save water and money. Explore popular weather-based sprinkler controllers on the market, discuss the pros and cons, and receive hands on training. **All participants will be entered for a chance to win a \$100 Home Depot gift card.**

To sign up, visit www.irwd.com/events.

Save Water & Money with Conservation Rebates

Looking for ways to save water because of the drought? Use an IRWD conservation rebate to save money on high-efficiency water equipment. Here are some of the rebates currently available:

Smart Timer: \$500

Rotating Sprinkler Nozzle: \$4 per nozzle

Turf Removal: \$2 per square foot removed

Rain Barrel: \$75

Soil Moisture Sensor: \$380

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer: \$275

High-Efficiency Toilet: \$100

All rebates are subject to change. Please visit www.irwd.com/rebates for latest information.

24-Hour Customer Service: 949-453-5300

Email: customerservice@irwd.com

Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618

Board of Directors:

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