



# Community Calendar

## 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.

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.

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## IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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15600 Sand Canyon Ave.  
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949.453.5300  
www.irwd.com

Facebook fan page:  
Irvine Ranch Water District

Twitter channels:  
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e-mail:  
customerservice@irwd.com



### IRWD HOLIDAYS

- **Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25** - IRWD Christmas Holiday (offices closed)
- **Thursday and Friday, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1** - IRWD New Year's Holiday (offices closed)

### SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Event scheduled for **Saturday, Jan. 16**, starting at 8:30 a.m. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at [www.shadetreepartnership.org](http://www.shadetreepartnership.org).

### SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- **4th Tuesday Conservation Lecture Series Jan. 26 - 7:30 p.m.** "Climate Change and its Effects on Birds" presented by Gary Landham of Audubon California. For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org).

### FAMILIES FORWARD

- The holiday season is upon us – a festive time for many, a very difficult time for families who are in crisis. Families Forward's holiday programs are designed to support families in need during these special seasons. Due to the economic situation in our area, we anticipate a larger amount of families needing these services.
- **Adopt-A-Family:** Bring joy to a family in need this holiday season. The Adopt-A-Family program matches a donor to a family in need and the donor is given the family's wish list. Donors purchase items from the wish list and bring them to the Families Forward office. Families Forward insures that the recipient family receives the gifts prior to the holidays. Gift cards to grocery stores, Target, Kohls, Costco and gas cards are also greatly appreciated.
- **Volunteers needed** for the Adopt-A-Family program.
- **Please bring donations** 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 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more visit [www.families-forward.org](http://www.families-forward.org) or call (949) 552-2727.

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

### JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF ORANGE COUNTY

- **Friendly Volunteer Drivers Needed for Seniors.** Help seniors who can no longer drive to get out and about. It just might be the most rewarding thing you've ever done. We reimburse you for mileage. Call Marcia Marcinko at (949) 435-3460 or e-mail her at [marcia@jfsoc.org](mailto:marcia@jfsoc.org) for more information.

### ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- **New location for Thrift and Gift Shop** - 2452 Alton Parkway in Irvine, between Jamboree and Von Karman, (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 call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at [www.irvine.assistanceleague.org](http://www.irvine.assistanceleague.org).

### ORANGE COUNTY FOOD BANK

- Located at 12640 Knott Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841, Orange County Food Bank accepts both food and funding donations. To learn more about how you can help, visit [www.ocfoodbank.org](http://www.ocfoodbank.org) or call (714) 897-6670.

### SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

- The City of Irvine is joining forces with Second Harvest Food Bank by co-hosting a **"Healthy Food Drive" from Dec. 1 through Jan. 15**. The goal of the program is to collect 5,000 pounds of canned good items to help feed families and seniors in need.
- Although no items will be turned away, the program's focus is on the following **healthy food items:** canned fruits, canned juices, canned soups, rice, cereals, canned vegetables, canned proteins (fish, chicken, meat, etc.), jelly/jam, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, and pasta mixes/rice mixes.
- **Donation boxes** are available at various City facilities, faith-based organizations and Irvine businesses between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- For a complete list of drop-off locations and addresses, visit [www.cityofirvine.org](http://www.cityofirvine.org). Call Second Harvest Food Bank at (949) 653-2900 for additional program information.



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Irvine Ranch Water District



# pipelines

DECEMBER | 2009



## New Delta Laws Impact Water Reliability



Aerial View of Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

On November 4, the California Legislature passed five landmark bills that provide a new comprehensive approach to address the crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, improve statewide water management, and invest in water reliability throughout California. The Legislature's bipartisan

approval and Governor Schwarzenegger's subsequent signing of this remarkable overhaul of the state's water system reflects an unparalleled effort to move California into a new era of water reliability that will benefit the state's residents, economy, and environment for generations to come.

The cornerstone of the comprehensive water package is the establishment, in California law, of the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The legislation recognizes that without true Delta ecosystem improvements, Californians will not be able to rely on Delta water supplies. Similarly, without shoring up Delta water conveyance infrastructure, the estuary will continue to face an ecosystem crisis. The newly created Delta Stewardship Council will coordinate the actions of more than 200 local, state and federal agencies with Delta jurisdiction. Additionally, the legislation establishes a pathway for the necessary conveyance and habitat improvements in the Delta through the development and adoption of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

## Many Ways to Save on IRWD's Always Water Smart Website

Saving water means saving money and IRWD customers can become more conservation savvy by logging on to [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com).

A quick tour of this website reveals a colorful collection of simple icons illustrating practical ways to use water more efficiently. For homeowners, "New Ways for Smart Landscape Watering" links to a Webinar presentation which outlines three keys to smart watering and four ways to tune up your irrigation system.

Residential customers who need to quickly view IRWD's suggested weekly watering schedule, to access a zip code-specific watering calculator, or to determine our region's current watering index, can easily find all three by clicking on "Residential Water Use Efficiency Tips and Tools."

Information about IRWD's rebates for purchasing water-saving fixtures, appliances or devices is continually updated and can be found by clicking the "Rebates for Residential Customers" heading. Currently, qualifying High Efficiency Clothes Washers are eligible for a \$250 rebate and High Efficiency Toilets are eligible for a rebate of up to \$150 per qualifying fixture. Rotating spray nozzles for pop-up spray heads now qualify for rebates of \$9 per rotating nozzle.

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## IRWD in the Community



John Hills, IRWD's Director of Water Quality, assists students with their science fair questions at the annual Ask-A-Scientist Night at Rancho San Joaquin Middle School. The science fair will be held in March. IRWD Water Quality professionals will be among the judges.

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## New Delta Laws' Impact

An \$11.1 billion water resources bond measure, to be placed on the November 2010 ballot, was also approved by the legislature. If passed by the voters, this bond will provide funding for Delta restoration, surface and groundwater storage, groundwater cleanup, regional water management, and recycled water projects.

As part of statewide water management reforms, the package included a water use efficiency and conservation program to lower per-capita water use by 20 percent by 2020 through locally-based conservation strategies. Additional provisions of the package include the establishment of locally-controlled groundwater monitoring programs, and mandating of surface water measurement and reporting statewide to reduce illegal diversions within the Delta.

This historic package reflects the successful completion of a decades-long effort by stakeholders to forge a new direction for the Delta, where deteriorating environmental conditions have led to unprecedented water supply restrictions. This complex package of policy and bond authorization will shape not only California's water supply future, but also the state's economic vitality for years to come.



Melody Lee, winner in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" poster contest, was presented with her winning art work at a recent board meeting by IRWD General Manager Paul Jones.

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## Ways to Save on Website

Eligible Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers, also known as Smart Timers, qualify for rebates that range from \$60 per active irrigation station to \$50 per station for total clock capacity, depending on whether they will be used to irrigate the landscape of a single-family or multi-family dwelling.

Because rebate amounts may fluctuate and are subject to funding availability, it is important to access IRWD's most current rebate information, available at [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com), before purchasing an eligible water-saving device or appliance.

If you're looking for more detailed outdoor water conservation information, including links to websites featuring California-friendly drought tolerant plants, water-saving irrigation products and local landscape irrigation resources or retailers, you'll find them all by clicking on the "Conservation Resources" icon at [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com).



## Water-efficient Gardening Tips for This Season

As autumn draws to a close, remember to continue cutting back on outdoor watering. By the end of December, plants will need as little as one-third the amount of *irrigated* water which they needed in August, and even less if we receive normal rainfall levels this winter.

Most outdoor plants are now continuing to slow their growth rate - the opposite of the spring growth phase. To make sure you are applying adequate water, watch for signs of stress. Lawns show stress when grass blades turn wiry and don't pop back up when stepped on. Plants and bushes show stress when leaves droop or start to turn color. Domestic plants will easily recover from minor stress. If runoff occurs, reduce the watering time, but water twice in the same day at least an hour apart. Shrubs and trees need about half the water that turf requires.

Here are more late fall and winter landscaping tips to help you increase water-use efficiency while maintaining the health of your plants:

- **Too much water can stress plants and leave them susceptible to disease.** According to the California Association of Nurserymen, more plants are lost due to over-watering than to any other cause. If you think you need to water, check the moisture of the soil three to six inches below the surface. With our heavy clay soils, the surface may look dry, but the clay remains moist beneath the surface.

- **Avoid fertilizing your lawn this month.** Fertilizers applied during this time of the year are more likely to get washed away by rain, contributing to pollution in our waterways, Newport Bay and the ocean. Cool season lawns, like those made of fescues or blue grass, can be fertilized in the spring and fall; warm season lawns, such as those made of Bermuda grass, zoysia grass or St. Augustine grass, can be fertilized in the late spring and summer.

- **Cut back roses.** Pruning your roses at this time to remove any branches that look dry, shriveled or black will encourage new growth and bloom while improving the air circulation and shape of the plant.

- **Bare root season for fruit trees and roses.** Water to keep these plants moist, but not wet. Apply water deeply, but not frequently. To establish new plants, build a mound three to four inches high around the planting hole and hand water the new plants directly in the early morning. Allow about an hour for the water to soak in before re-applying.

### Suggested Weekly Late Fall & Winter Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turf grass	Tree, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option***
December*	2 days, 2 cycles** of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%
January & February	2 days, 2 cycles of 2 minutes each	1 day, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	30%

The above chart suggests a weekly 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 before increasing the watering time.

Don't forget to turn off your sprinklers when it rains. For convenience, consider installing an automatic rain shut-off device on your irrigation system.

\*In December, plants need approximately 70 percent less irrigated water than they require in the hot summer months, even if late fall temperatures remain warm. This drop in water needs will continue through January and February.

\*\*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.



Floribunda Rose 'Iceberg' Rosa 'Iceberg'

This hardy, unthirsty plant makes a fine hedge, but it's even more effective as an attractive rose shrub when allowed to reach its optimum height, with light pruning from late winter to early spring. Plant it away from the shade and competitive plants to reduce the risk of disease.



To prevent over-watering watch for leaks like this.

Undetected broken spray heads or faulty irrigation hardware couplings commonly lead to landscape plant damage due to over-watering or, conversely, the failure of water to reach every plant. To protect your landscape investment, inspect your irrigation system while it's running, at least once per month. Make timely repairs to small breaks in your irrigation system **before** they become costly leaks.



IRWD is now on Facebook.  
Join our fan page:  
Irvine Ranch Water District