

pipelines



A Look Back: IRWD Preserves History

Irvine Ranch Water District is a treasure trove of history. Visit the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh and you will see a living time capsule of three farmhouses, a duck hunting club and an old bunkhouse, all restored and reborn for modern use. Before it was temporarily removed during construction on the Michelson Water Recycling Plant, an old windmill from the Irvine Ranch dating to the early twentieth century sat at the entry to the plant.

The farmhouses on the marsh campus are fine examples of typical structures that once dotted the vast Irvine Ranch. Many of these old houses still standing in the 1980s were slated for demolition. Three of them were spared and moved to the marsh in April 1990 through the cooperative efforts of IRWD, the Irvine Company, the City of Irvine and the Irvine Historical Society.

In 1995, a fourth farmhouse, shown in the photo at right, was relocated to the Rattlesnake Reservoir and restored to serve as a caretaker's home.

The Cook Home

The oldest of the three homes at the marsh dates to the early 1900s and once sat in the middle of what became the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station. George Cook lived there when he leased 17,000 acres from James Irvine to grow lima beans.

In 1941, when the Marine base was established, the house was moved to a spot on Sand Canyon Avenue. This home is now used as administrative offices for the Sea and Sage Audubon Society, which offers educational programs at the marsh.

The Spencer Home

This house, built around 1910, was located on Trabuco Road. It was leased to one of the first orange growers on Irvine Ranch. This home has the distinction of being one of the first residences in Orange County to have running water with a motorized well pump. The well house was moved to Old Town Irvine in 1987 and restored. The Spencer home is now called the Irvine Ranch Marsh House and is a visitors' center, with interpretive displays about the marsh, the District's Natural Treatment System projects and native wildlife habitats.

The Jimmy Irvine House

The "newest" of the three homes was built in 1935 for Jimmy Irvine, son of James Irvine, Sr., who died before he could occupy the house. James Sr. ordered the house to be built for Jimmy across the railroad tracks from the bean and grain house on Sand Canyon Avenue, anticipating the day his **Continued on page 2...**



This vintage 1930s farm house was one of many that dotted the vast Irvine Ranch. It sat in an agricultural field on Irvine Center Drive at what is now the entrance to Oak Creek Golf Club. IRWD rescued it from the wrecking ball in 1995 and moved it to Rattlesnake Reservoir.

IRWD on YouTube

Ever wanted to know how to start a California Friendly garden? Not sure how to program your sprinkler system's timer? IRWD's YouTube Channel offers short, informative videos on a variety of water-saving subjects, such as California Friendly plant selection, irrigation tips and recent customer events. Visit IRWD's YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/user/IrvineRanchWD.



This IRWD YouTube video takes the guesswork out of programming your sprinkler controller for maximum water use efficiency.



In 2008 the above IRWD San Joaquin Marsh Campus houses were reconfigured to complement the new Learning Center, which was dedicated on July 1, 2009. Shown, from left, are: IRWD Learning Center, Sea & Sage House (formerly Cook home), Irvine Ranch Marsh House (formerly Spencer home) and IRWD caretaker's residence (formerly Jimmy Irvine home).

IRWD Budget & Rates Adopted for New Fiscal Year

The 2011-2012 fiscal year began July 1, bringing with it a new budget, approved by the IRWD Board of Directors on June 27. This year's, budget, which totals \$107.5 million, represents a \$0.7 million or 0.61 percent decrease from the prior year's \$108.1 million budget.

The operating budget provides the funds to serve potable water, recycled water and sewer service to IRWD customers with an overall percentage rate increase to the average residential customer of 2.3 percent or \$1.10 per month. With this year's rate change, IRWD continues to offer our customers some of the lowest rates in Orange County. For answers to specific questions about changes to your rates, go to www.irwd.com and click on the 2011-2012 Rates quick link.



Irvine Ranch Water District

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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2011 Science Fair Winners



IRWD honors students each year for their water-related science fair projects. Winners for 2011 are, from left, Divya Sripathy, Andrew Ko, Gaby Katz and Jessica Wu-Woods. Each student's school will receive \$100 to support the purchase of science equipment or books.

IRWD Preserves History ...Continued from page 1

son would take over as manager of the company's shipping center.

The Jimmy Irvine home was heavily vandalized in its previous location near the historic center of East Irvine. It took more than five months of restoration work to repair the damage, including more than 650 hours of labor on the part of the home's tenants. The home now serves as an IRWD caretaker's residence.

The Duck Club & Audubon House

The marsh was once home to two duck hunting clubs which were in operation at the time the Michelson Water Recycling Plant was built in 1966. Both the Ricker-McHone and Old San Joaquin duck clubs operated under permit from the Department of Fish and Game and a City of Irvine fire arms permit until 1988.

The current Duck Club building and the Audubon House building were originally located at what became the Tustin Marine Base. They were moved to their present location in the 1940s when the base was established. The Audubon House served as the bunk house for the hunters, while the Duck Club building was where they would gather before a roaring fire and have dinner. Over the years, the latter building has been expanded. It is now available as a meeting room to non-profit organizations within the IRWD service area.

Historic Windmill

The windmill that once pumped water to crops and animals on the Irvine Ranch was moved to IRWD in 1988. Until the mid-1980s, the 40-foot structure sat in front of the old Irvine Ranch Market on Myford Road and the I-5 Freeway. It was slated for destruction until the Irvine Historical Society stepped in and led the effort to preserve the windmill as part of the city's agricultural heritage.

24-Hour Service (949) 453-5300

If you discover a disruption in your water service or other problem call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

24-Hour Online or Mobile Access

Visit our website: www.irwd.com



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IRWD's YouTube channel is:
IrvineRanchWD

Cut along dashed line and post this schedule near your irrigation controller.

Suggested Weekly Summer Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Trees, Shrubs & Ground Cover	% Option**
July	4 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%
August	4 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%

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. Your landscape's particular watering times may vary. 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.

*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.