



The newsletter of IRWD

May 2012 | Number 4

IRWD's Unseen Reservoirs Equal Water Reliability



Now you see them, now you don't. Shown clockwise from upper left are the following inconspicuous IRWD water storage facilities: Lomas Reservoir, Foothill Ranch Reservoir, Shady Canyon Reservoir and Zone 1 Reservoir.

There are 36 “water workers” at Irvine Ranch Water District on the job 365-days-a-year without rest. They are not easily seen, but are there nonetheless, providing drinking water for customers, in addition to fire flow protection. They are the 36 potable water reservoirs dotted throughout the IRWD service area.

Because there are plenty of hills in the IRWD service area suitable for reservoir construction, conspicuous water tower-style reservoirs are unnecessary. Building reservoirs on hills also has the advantage of providing needed pressure for the system. “Elevation is the key,” says IRWD Water Operations Manager Tom Roberts. “Because of their elevation, reservoirs provide water pressure for the system and a reserve supply in case of a power outage or other emergencies. Additionally, tank reservoirs provide adequate flow for fire fighting.”

IRWD reservoirs are designed to be unobtrusive and blend into their surroundings. They are constructed of steel or concrete and take many shapes. Most reservoirs in the IRWD service area are round tanks and many are even built partially submerged with only a few feet exposed above ground. One concrete reservoir in Shady Canyon is rectangular because of the shape of the property on which it was built. It's also painted a drab green to blend into the surrounding chaparral. A reservoir in Newport Coast is completely buried and not visible at all. Two other reservoirs in the Foothill Ranch area are painted an earth tone that blends into the hillsides. The largest two IRWD reservoirs each hold 16 million gallons of water. They are buried concrete structures located at

the Baker Water Treatment Plant in Lake Forest.

Irvine Ranch Water District reservoirs are designed to be unobtrusive and blend into their surroundings.

In 1984, IRWD built what was hailed as the largest steel reservoir in the west at that time – the Zone 1 Reservoir on SandCanyon Avenue. That reservoir is intentionally hidden behind a lush screen of landscaping. See if you can spot it in the above photo collage.

Look for 2012 Water Quality Report in June

Reminder: There will be no *Pipelines* next month. Instead, look for IRWD's 2012 Water Quality Report to be mailed with your next bill.



Take Control of Your Controller ~ Step 3



Moving the Program A, B and C switch on this irrigation controller enables the setting of unique watering schedules for each of a landscape's hydrozones.

Did you know that the average sprinkler sprays two gallons a minute? If a lawn with 10 spray heads is over-watered by five minutes that can waste 100 gallons. Oftentimes, over-watering occurs because an entire yard is watered on the same schedule despite the fact its landscape is composed of different plants with different water needs. This over-watering can be easily prevented.

The trick is to: 1) have your sprinkler system separated into hydrozones--areas within your landscape divided and defined by grouping plants together with similar needs, and 2) to use multiple programs and start times. Find the zones (synonymous with valves or stations) which water grass and annuals and assign them to Program A on your controller while zones watering shrubs or other low-water-using plants are placed on Program B. Program A will then have its own start times and watering lengths independent of Program B.

For example, in summer grass areas (Program A) the sprinklers may need to turn on 4 days a week, such as Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, while shrubs (Program B) only require water twice a week. If these different zones were to stay on the same program, then water-use efficiency suffers, along with plant health. Next month, in Step 4, there will be more details on how to program multiple start times to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce runoff.

Turf Removal Rebate Program Deadlines

If you are a residential, commercial, or landscape customer, you may be eligible to receive \$1.50 per square-foot of turf grass removed, for a minimum of 250 to a maximum of 10,000 square-feet. But only if you take advantage of our Turf Removal Rebate Program before it's too late.

May 25, 2012 is the last day to submit a Turf Removal Rebate application for this fiscal year. All work performed with this program, including Post-Turf Removal Site Inspection, must be completed by July 27, 2012. Visit www.alwayswatersmart.com for details and click on Turf Removal Rebate.

Replacing your water-thirsty turf with more water-efficient plants can improve your landscape, provide habitat for hummingbirds and butterflies, reduce pollution from urban runoff, as well as save money on water and maintenance.

Did you Know?

Q: What are IRWD's office hours?

A: IRWD's offices at 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618 are open to the public **Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** There is also a payment drop box in the Sand Canyon office parking lot. Payments dropped off after hours will be processed the next business day. Our website, www.irwd.com is available 24/7 to provide online help with many of your water-related needs, including starting and stopping service, paying your bills online, and how we calculate your bill.

Customer Service Information

[IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels](#) »

24 Hour Customer Service


(949) 453-5300

Email: customerservice@irwd.com


Irvine Ranch Water District

15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, California 92618

Visit us: www.irwd.com

 Join our fan page:
Irvine Ranch Water District

 @IRWDnews
@AlwaysH2OSmart
@IRWDemergency

 View our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD



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

Mary Aileen Matheis, President
John B. Withers, Vice President
Steven E. LaMar
Douglas A. Reinhart
Peer A. Swan

General Manager

Paul Cook, PE

IRWD Pipelines Newsletter

Published by Irvine Ranch Water District
P.O. Box 57000
Irvine, California 92619-7000

Comments about this publication?
E-mail: info@irwd.com