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DECEMBER 2019 | NUMBER 12



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

Be a GSI: Garden Scene Investigator

Saturday, Jan. 25
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Use your powers of observation and trusted internet resources to solve garden problems, identify plants and deal with pests. Learn the steps Master Gardeners take when answering questions on their hotline.

Sign-up required:
[RightScapeNow.com/
events](https://www.rightscapenow.com/events)

IRWD Offices Closed

Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 24
Wednesday, Dec. 25
Thursday, Dec. 26

New Year's Day

Wednesday, Jan. 1

IRWD Is Ready for Power Shutoffs

The threat of wildfires—expected to extend well into December this year—has prompted electric utilities to turn off power temporarily in high-risk areas, to reduce the chance of power lines sparking a fire. But IRWD is ready.

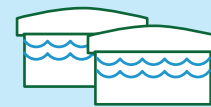
Irvine Ranch Water District has continued operating during these Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and other outages with the use of backup generators, daily monitoring of local weather, ongoing planning and preparation, and clearly established communication lines with other agencies and first responders.

If a PSPS is called in your neighborhood, you should see no disruption in your water or sewer service. “IRWD plans ahead for emergencies in everything that we do, making sure that back-up options are available whenever anything goes wrong,” General Manager Paul Cook said.

The frequency and intensity of wildfires in California is increasing, with 2018 classified as the worst fire year on record and 14 of the 20 most destructive fires in state history occurring since 2007. Here are some of the steps IRWD takes to be prepared:

- **Backup generators** – Permanent generators are set up at IRWD’s critical facilities, and the District has portable generators that can be moved quickly to where they are needed.
- **Monitoring** – Our staff watches local weather patterns and conditions to anticipate potential problems before they strike.
- **A plan of action** – IRWD has several plans in place to address emergencies. These include topping off water storage tanks, mobilizing equipment and supplies to where they may be needed, and working with other agencies to plan a coordinated response.
- **Alternative power sources** – Several IRWD facilities have alternative sources of power such as solar to help supplement power needs.

Visit [IRWD.com/home/about-us/public-safety-power-shutoffs](https://www.irwd.com/home/about-us/public-safety-power-shutoffs) for more information and safety tips.



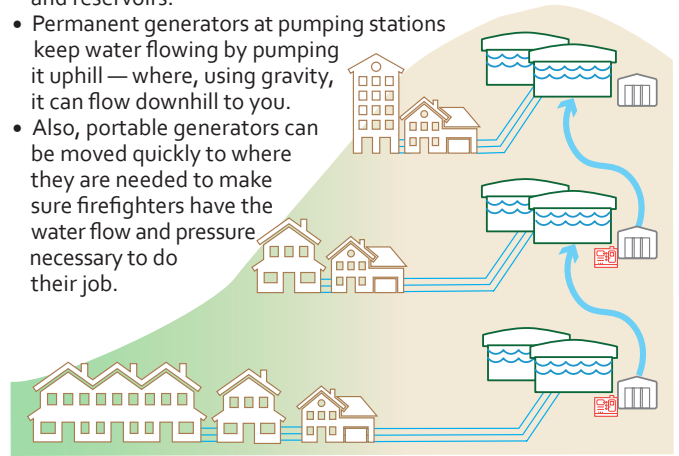
Water storage tanks filled



Generators at pumping stations

HOW WE KEEP WATER FLOWING:

- When a Red Flag Warning is issued, we top off water storage tanks and reservoirs.
- Permanent generators at pumping stations keep water flowing by pumping it uphill—where, using gravity, it can flow downhill to you.
- Also, portable generators can be moved quickly to where they are needed to make sure firefighters have the water flow and pressure necessary to do their job.



Pilot Program Helps SoCal Grow Native

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and local water agencies have teamed up with the California Native Plant Society to bring more native plants to the region's homes and gardens.



The pilot program boosts the number and variety of native plants offered at local nurseries and ensures consumers have the information they need to plant and maintain these water-efficient flowers, trees, shrubs and succulents.

Through the pilot, staff at participating nurseries will receive training on the proper care, maintenance, watering and planting of California natives. Native plants at the nurseries will be clearly identified, and educational materials will be available for consumers to take home.

Native plants typically use 83% less water, produce 56% less green waste, and require nearly 70% less maintenance, according to a nine-year study by the City of Santa Monica.

"Beyond these sustainability benefits, native gardens are just beautiful," said

Dan Gluesenkamp, executive director of the California Native Plant Society. "The variety of colors, textures, smells and shapes will bring the beauty of California to your own front yard."

The first nursery participating in the program in the IRWD service area is **The Nursery by Southwinds**, 7000 Marine Way, near the Great Park in Irvine. For additional options, visit Calscape.org, select a plant you are interested in, and click the link to nurseries that carry that specific plant.

Learn About Reservoir Project

To be sure recycled water is available when the community needs it, IRWD is proposing to expand and modernize Syphon Reservoir, one of four recycled water reservoirs in the District. To learn more and watch a video explaining the proposed project, visit SyphonReservoirProject.com. Contact us at info@irwd.com with your questions and comments.

Cheers! A Restaurant Star is Born

CUCINA enoteca Irvine has the honor of being the first restaurant awarded WaterStar Restaurant Certification by Irvine Ranch Water District. The fashionable eatery also celebrates its eighth anniversary at the Irvine Spectrum Center this month.

The restaurant saves water and energy with an EPA EnergyStar-certified commercial dishwasher and an air-cooled ice machine.

CUCINA enoteca also installed high-efficiency toilets and faucets and took advantage of free water-efficient prerinse spray valves provided by IRWD. "Everyone should do their part to save water," CUCINA enoteca Manager Sal Hernandez said. "We are happy to be recognized for being water conscious."

Learn more at RightScapeNow.com/waterstar.



Sal Hernandez, flanked by IRWD's Nola Hastings and Allan Pascual, accepts WaterStar Restaurant Certification on behalf of CUCINA enoteca Irvine and its staff of 115.



Q: Juan, the holidays are approaching—do you have any gardening ideas?

A: What better way to end the year than with a gift of a beautiful new landscape. I'm excited to say the turf replacement rebate program is at \$3 per square foot, a dollar more than before! For more information, refer to RightScapeNow.com/rebates. This is the perfect time to start planting your climate-appropriate landscape. When considering types of plants,

why not plant our California native shrub *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, otherwise known as Toyon or Christmas berry. This beautiful shrub can be trained into a small tree. It blooms in the summer and slowly develops red berries during the fall and winter. Once established, it will require little to no supplemental water.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

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