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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

Firescaping with OCFA

Wednesday, Feb. 27
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

California has a long history of wildfires. But you can modify your landscape to make your home safer. Talk to IRWD and Orange County Fire Authority experts and learn the basics of fire-resistant plants.

Don't Spring a Leak: Checking Fixtures

Wednesday, March 20
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn to prevent waste inside and out at this special workshop during Fix a Leak Week. We'll discuss how to examine your sprinkler components and find leaks from indoor fixtures.

Sign-up required:
[RightScopeNow.com/
events](http://RightScopeNow.com/events)

Love Your Water District: the 411

What is Irvine Ranch Water District and what do we do? Here is a primer:

- We are a California special district—an independent, not-for-profit government agency—responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, sewage collection and recycled water.
- We serve all of Irvine, parts of Tustin, Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Orange and Costa Mesa, and some unincorporated areas of Orange County.
- You can contact us for information about your water or sewer service, apply for our rebates on water-conservation products, attend our landscaping workshops or water-awareness tours, and invite us to your home or business to assess how you can save water.
- Learn more at irwd.com/about-us.



Our names sound similar, but IRWD is separate from the City of Irvine and the Irvine Company.

- The City of Irvine provides essential services associated with public safety, land use, street maintenance, parks, recreation, senior services, library services, economic development, animal control, and more. Visit cityofirvine.org.
- The Irvine Company is a privately held real-estate investment company credited with creating and implementing the unique vision behind Irvine's master-planned communities. Visit irvinecompany.com/about/.

Sign Up Now for Water Tours



Curious where your drinking water comes from and what happens to it after it disappears down the drain? Get answers to these questions and more during one of our free spring resident tours: **April 12, April 13 and May 4.**

Learn about the journey your drinking water takes, the water recycling process, water conservation, and IRWD's environmental stewardship. Meet other IRWD customers while enjoying walking tours of the innovative Michelson Water Recycling Plant and the beautiful San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Ride by bus to the San Joaquin Reservoir. The day is capped with lunch and a discussion about water conservation. Sign up at irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour.



Tune Up for Fix a Leak Week

Celebrate Fix a Leak Week, March 18–24, with IRWD! Fix a Leak Week is sponsored in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program. During February and March, complete our online customer training, take a photo or video of your Fix a Leak project, and be entered to win a prize. Our training and quiz take 10–15 minutes and provide an overview of how to identify and fix leaks around your home. Contest details can be found at irwd.com/fixaleak.

IRWD Data Drives Smart Sprinklers

Changes in the weather say a lot about your landscape's water needs. That's why IRWD operates three weather stations—in the coastal, central and foothill regions—to continually monitor site-specific data such as temperature, solar radiation, wind and humidity. The information gathered is used to calculate the amount of water landscape needs to thrive in its specific climate zone.

IRWD recently moved its central weather station to a facility operated by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources. As a part of our partnership, IRWD renovated the nearby UC ANR station, which is part of the California Irrigation Management Information System network of over 145 weather stations statewide. Having the two stations almost side-by-side helps researchers compare data for optimal accuracy.

If you have a smart controller at your home, it uses live or historical weather data to manage watering times and frequency. Your controller receives data from an on-site sensor or a signal from a local weather station. By automatically



shutting off on cold and rainy days, it can cut water use 15-30%.

Working together, IRWD and UC ANR put on workshops and events throughout the year, helping residents adopt water-efficient and sustainable practices for their gardens.

To learn more about weather data, visit RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/et-weather-center. If you don't have a weather-based irrigation controller, we might have a rebate to help you buy one. Find out at RightScapeNow.com/rebates.

Enter Our Where's WaterSense? Contest

Look for



This is the WaterSense label, which denotes water-efficient products and services. Can you find it hidden elsewhere in this newsletter? When you've spotted it, let us know! Entries received by March 14 will be included in a random drawing. One person will be selected to receive a prize kit full of water-efficient devices. Visit RightScapeNow.com/contest to enter and learn how to save water and money with WaterSense.

Ask Juan



Q: February is the month of love. What's your recommendation for a water-friendly gift?

A: Give your loved one the gift of a flowering California native plant such as the Red Valentine Monkeyflower (*Mimulus 'Valentine'*). This water-friendly California native shrub will produce beautiful red flowers year-round. Use the guided search at RightScapeResources.com to find other water-efficient plants that fit your needs. The database has lots of

great photos and gardening tips. Happy planting!

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

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24-Hour Customer Service: 949-453-5300
Email: customerservice@irwd.com
Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618
Website: irwd.com

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