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Ask Juan

# pipelines

JULY 2019 | NUMBER 7



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

## Save the Date

### Summer Family Barbecue

Saturday, July 27  
5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

IRWD San Joaquin Marsh  
Campus Drive and  
Riparian View, Irvine

Enjoy dinner in the meadow, hosted by Sea & Sage Audubon Society. This family barbecue includes music, bird walks, a presentation about bats and a used nature book sale.

**Details and tickets:**  
[seaandsageaudubon.org](http://seaandsageaudubon.org)

**IRWD Offices  
Closed**

**Independence Day**  
Thursday, July 4

## Inspire Your Garden with Succulents

If you've ever thought about saving water by planting a colorful drought-tolerant landscape, IRWD has some new inspiration for you. Stop by our Sand Canyon Avenue office and check out our brand new succulent demonstration garden.



Succulents will thrive in the ground or in containers.

The idea for the garden was first broached by customers. It was planted in May and features myriad succulents such as:

- **Coral Aloe** – Used for bold textural accents in planting locations from full sun to partial shade, this plant has bright colored coral orange flower spikes during late winter and early spring.

- **Emerald Empress** – Considered one of the easiest plants to grow, the Emerald Empress tolerates heat and drought and will flourish in locations such as rooftop gardens and container gardens.
- **Royal Ruby** – Ideal for the rocky soil of rock gardens or planters, this succulent has rosettes ranging from ruby red to smoky grey-red and thrives with little care.

Create your own succulent garden at home.

- Explore the demo gardens at [RightScapeNow.com/demo-garden](http://RightScapeNow.com/demo-garden).
- To discover the many shapes, sizes and colors of succulents you can plant, visit [RightScapeResources.com/search.php](http://RightScapeResources.com/search.php) and click "Succulents."
- If you replace all or part of your lawn with succulents, you might be eligible for a turf removal rebate. Learn more at [RightScapeNow.com/rebates](http://RightScapeNow.com/rebates).

IRWD's Succulent Demonstration Garden, irrigated with recycled water, is adjacent to the parking area at 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.



## O.C. Poster Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Municipal Water District of Orange County poster contest! There were 12 winners from the IRWD service area, including students from Tustin Unified School District and Irvine Unified School District. Find out the names of the top students, listed on the homepage and Liquid News section of [IRWD.com](http://IRWD.com).

# Drink Up! 2019 Water Quality Report is Here

Irvine Ranch Water District water meets all of the exacting state and federal quality standards. Learn more in the new 2019 Water Quality Report, available now at [IRWD.com/water-report](http://IRWD.com/water-report). To request a printed copy, email [info@IRWD.com](mailto:info@IRWD.com) with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call 949-453-5500.



## Tap Water 101 Workshop

Thursday, Sept. 19 • 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
IRWD Operations Center Multipurpose Room  
3512 Michelson Dr., Irvine

Want to learn more about your drinking water? Hear from water quality experts, learn about IRWD's testing procedures and find out how our water compares to state and federal standards. Participation is limited to IRWD customers. Attendees must be 16 or older. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 6 p.m.

**Sign-up required:**  
[IRWD.com/water-report](http://IRWD.com/water-report)

## New Rates Effective July 1

New water rates for Fiscal Year 2019–2020 went into effect July 1. For more information, visit [IRWD.com/rates-charges](http://IRWD.com/rates-charges).



**Q:** Juan, I'm thinking of redoing a portion of my landscape and I'm wondering if it's necessary to prepare or fix my soil. What are your thoughts?

**A:** What a great question! It all depends on the type of plant material that will be used. If you will be planting California natives, typically you want to leave the soil as is, just breaking it up to make it easier for planting. Mimic the "plant community" soils where the plants come from. For example, coastal sage scrub plant communities live in sandy soils to clayish soils.

The best amendment for any soil type is always compost. Compost is a soil conditioner, balancing soil pH that is important for nutrient uptake, suppressing plant diseases, and aerating clay soils while increasing water-holding capacity in sandy soils. You can buy compost but better yet you can create your own. We have some great upcoming compost events, visit [RightScapeNow.com](http://RightScapeNow.com) to learn more.

Got landscape questions? Email [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto: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](http://RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

### Suggested Weekly Sprinkler System Watering Schedule

	Turfgrass	Drought-Tolerant Plants	% Option*
July	4 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes	100%
August	4 days, 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes	100%
September	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes	70%

\*Some irrigation controllers have a feature by which the watering times can be set by changing the percentages instead of specifically entering the days, cycles and minutes.

To customize a watering schedule for systems other than sprinklers, visit [RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/watering-schedules](http://RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/watering-schedules).

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