

## Click or call for service

IRWD offices are temporarily closed.

Need help?

Click [IRWD.com/services](http://IRWD.com/services), email [CustomerService@IRWD.com](mailto:CustomerService@IRWD.com), or call 949-453-5300.

# pipelines

MAY 2021 | NUMBER 5



Irvine Ranch  
WATER DISTRICT

## Join an IRWD virtual cleanup, share your photos

As much as 80% of the trash and pollution we find along our shorelines comes from a variety of inland sources. Cleaning up this debris can help protect species that live in wetland habitats and the ocean.

To continue the tradition of IRWD's annual San Diego Creek Watershed cleanups during the pandemic, the District is coordinating virtual volunteer cleanup events for local communities on Saturday, June 26, and Saturday, July 17.

Residents are encouraged to participate in one or both events with their family and/or

household members by picking up trash in their neighborhood parks, schools, trails and other public areas.

Share your cleanup experiences with us! Send photos of you and your crew picking up trash and include pictures of the largest and most unusual items that you found.

Email your photos to [webmaster@IRWD.com](mailto:webmaster@IRWD.com) and we'll share them on social media and our website. Visit [RightScape.com/events](http://RightScape.com/events) for more details.



## Overwatering and water leaks lead to mosquitoes

Did you know mosquito bites and water waste are related? The smallest puddle of standing water from overwatering or leaks can be a breeding ground for mosquitos. In fact, the Aedes mosquito can breed in as little as a teaspoon of water!

Irvine Ranch Water District has teamed up with Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District to remind residents that mosquito control is a shared responsibility that benefits everyone.

It can be easy to overlook water waste — but it's not easy to ignore being bitten by invasive Aedes mosquitoes, commonly known as ankle biters.

Find out what you can do to discourage mosquito breeding:

- Eliminate breeding sources on your property: [bit.ly/MosquitoChecklist](http://bit.ly/MosquitoChecklist)
- Learn how frequently you should water your yard: [WateringGuide.com](http://WateringGuide.com)
- Program your sprinkler timer for each season: [bit.ly/ProgramSprinkler](http://bit.ly/ProgramSprinkler)



2021

Fix a Leak  
Week  
winners

Fixing a leaky toilet can save 30 to 50 gallons of water per day: Even the smallest drip, if left alone, can quickly add up and result in higher water bills. In March, IRWD encouraged customers to track down and repair leaks in their home for the chance to win one of seven \$100 Home Depot gift cards. Congratulations to the following Fix a Leak Week winners: **Mei-Ling Chen, Cheryl Hall, Linda King, Edmund Lee, Xi Qin, Teri Roberts and Michelle Sutton.**

# Save the date

## Tap Water 101 webinar

Wednesday, May 26

6:30–7:30 p.m. | Online webinar

Meet IRWD's water quality experts and ask them questions. You'll learn about IRWD's testing procedures and find out how our water compares to state and federal standards

**Sign-up required: [RightScape.com/events](https://RightScape.com/events)**



## 60 years of doing business in the community



Irvine Ranch Water District takes pride in building strong vendor and supplier relationships through the District's Business Outreach Program, which provides information regarding upcoming projects and opportunities.

Today, over 1,000 vendors partner with IRWD. Visit [IRWD.com/BusinessOutreach](https://IRWD.com/BusinessOutreach) for information on pre-qualifying as a preferred supplier, or to find a list of upcoming construction projects. Local businesses can also be recognized for water use efficiency with WaterStar Certification.

Visit [RightScape.com/waterstar](https://RightScape.com/waterstar).

## Ask Juan



**Q:** When my irrigation system turns on and off, we hear a loud banging sound. Is this caused by pressure in the line? Is there a way to fix this?

**A:** It sounds like what you're experiencing is what we call "water hammer." When the sprinklers turn on, it draws water from the irrigation mainline that is also tied into the mainline that supplies water to the house. When the sprinkler valves shut down or shut off quickly,

it causes the water to suddenly stop flowing in the pipe, causing that banging noise. Some sprinkler valves shut down slowly while others can shut down immediately. Water hammer is also caused by irregular pressure in the lines.

One recommendation is to reduce or lower the pressure by installing a pressure reducing valve (PRV) on the irrigation mainline, or installing slow closing irrigation valves. We have classes and rebates that will address this issue. Visit [RightScape.com](https://RightScape.com) for more details. If you have any further landscaping questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to "Ask Juan."

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 [RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan](https://RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).

## California native corner

### Juan's May plant: sticky monkey flower

Sticky monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*) is found on rocky cliffs, hillsides and canyons, and is native to the Southwest. It gets its name from its long narrow leaves and stems that are coated in a sticky resin. Blooming profusely in winter, spring, and well into summer, the sticky monkey flower has nectar-rich trumpet-shaped flowers that are yellow to orange in color. It also attracts butterflies and birds, and can tolerate poor soils if adequate drainage is provided. Learn more at [CalScape.org](https://CalScape.org) and [CalScape.org/planting-guide.php](https://CalScape.org/planting-guide.php). — Juan



## Ask Customer Service

**Q:** When do customers need to submit a variance request, and why does it need to be renewed annually?

**A:** Customers are provided a water budget each month that is determined by the number of residents in the household and the area of irrigated landscape in our records. The base number of residents and landscape square footage on file is determined by the property classification. If customers have more than the base amount, they can increase their water budget by submitting a variance request with the necessary documentation. Many of our customers have frequent occupancy changes and, as such, variances need to be renewed annually. Landscape variances do not require renewal. Variances are also available for medical needs, livestock, and licensed care facilities. Visit [IRWD.com/request-a-variance](https://IRWD.com/request-a-variance).

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