



## Emergency?

Sign up for IRWD Alert, our new emergency notification service, at [IRWD.com/alert](https://www.irwd.com/alert).



## Congratulations, new WaterStars!

Local businesses continue to do their part to save water through IRWD's WaterStar certification program. Here's to our most recent members of this special group:



### BCD Tofu House

The popular family-run Korean restaurant recently upgraded the kitchen and other features in its Irvine location for enhanced energy and water efficiency. This included a water-efficient spray valve and restroom upgrades.

### Simpson Chevrolet

The company installed low-flush fixtures, converted its car wash to use 80% filtered recirculated water, and renovated its landscape with drought-tolerant plants that require 50% less water than the old turf. These upgrades save more than 1 million gallons a year!

IRWD WaterStars are at the forefront of water efficiency, and are industry leaders in their own right. Visit [IRWD.com/waterstar](https://www.irwd.com/waterstar) to learn more, browse through the list of other WaterStars, and if you are a local business—we invite you to apply!

## 2023 Water Quality Report available

At IRWD, we come to work every day on a mission to ensure you receive high-quality drinking water. We fan out into the community, gathering samples from more than 100 locations throughout the District. Water from IRWD drinking water reservoirs and drinking water wells is also sampled and tested weekly in our state-certified water quality laboratory, one of a select group of in-house water quality labs in California.

All told, more than 250,000 tests are conducted annually, ensuring our water meets all state and federal water quality standards. The result: Your water is great to drink—right out of the tap.

Results of these tests are compiled in our annual Water Quality Report, which is updated each June. Visit [IRWD.com/2023report](https://www.irwd.com/2023report) to view this year's report. For a printed copy, email [info@irwd.com](mailto:info@irwd.com) with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call **949-453-5500**.



Save  
the date

## Fix Your Sprinklers

Workshop

Wednesday, July 12  
6 – 7:30 p.m.

Learn how to save money and water by repairing and maintaining your irrigation system. Find out the easiest way to update sprinklers to drip irrigation.

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

# Young water scientists

IRWD honored students representing the top four of 20 water-related projects at this year's 42nd annual Irvine Unified School District Science Fair, where topics ranged from grey water irrigation systems to growing hydroponic lettuce. For more information, including the names of honorees, visit [IRWD.com/2023sciencefair](http://IRWD.com/2023sciencefair).



Left to right: **Gavin Meng, Max Cheng, Jace Jackson, Tanav Gopalakrishna, Chakrika Kandepu** and **Maria Black**. Not pictured: **Kratika Katara** and **Jimin Hong**.

## Ask Customer Service

**Q:** Where can I learn more about the charges on my bill?

**A:** IRWD uses a budget-based rate structure to calculate your water bill. Customers whose water use falls within their budget enjoy some of the lowest rates in Orange County. Those who exceed their water budget pay more based on our need to buy water from more expensive sources to meet that need.

Customers also pay fixed service charges to cover the costs of operating and maintaining our water distribution system, treatment processes and sewers. A pumping surcharge may also be charged to cover energy costs to pump water to some areas.

Go to [IRWD.com/rates](http://IRWD.com/rates) for a full explanation, or call 949-453-5300.



**Q:** Juan, I have lantana planted in my landscape, which I love so much. Recently, a friend told me I should be careful with this plant because it might be invasive. What are your thoughts?

**A:** Great inquiry. Lantana camara, specifically, is on the California Invasive Plant Council watchlist. It grows fast and can invade native habitats and choke out other plants. Some species of lantana are not considered invasive. Go to

[cal-ipc.org](http://cal-ipc.org) and search for their Don't Plant a Pest page to learn more. A little research will help you in the long run.

Got landscape questions? Email [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto:AskJuan@IRWD.com) or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at [IRWD.com/askjuan](http://IRWD.com/askjuan).

## California native corner Juan's June plant: California aster

California aster (*Symphotrichum chilense*) is a beautiful perennial that bears a ton of summer flowers. It can survive in full sun to partial shade, and attracts pollinators such as native butterflies and moths. It can be found in coastal areas, with flowers ranging from blue to lavender to yellow. Make sure to prune the plant low after it flowers in the fall—it will reappear in late winter. — Juan



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