The Irvine Ranch Water District provides high-quality drinking water, reliable sewage collection and treatment, drought-proof recycled water, and environmentally sound urban runoff treatment for approximately 422,000 residents in central Orange County, California. IRWD encompasses 181 square miles extending from the Pacific Coast to the foothills and serving Irvine and portions of Costa Mesa, Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Orange, Tustin and unincorporated areas of Orange County.

Established in 1961 as an independent special district organized under the California Water District Code, IRWD is governed by a five-member, publicly elected Board of Directors responsible for the District’s policies and decision-making. Day-to-day operations are supervised by the General Manager and District staff.

**WATER SUPPLY PORTFOLIO**

IRWD has diverse water sources, which ensure reliable supplies during times of drought, regulatory constraints and emergencies, and help to keep rates low. IRWD water comes from local groundwater, recycled water, imported water, and local surface water.

**Groundwater**

Half of the IRWD water supply comes from local groundwater wells in the Orange County Groundwater Basin. IRWD began developing local water supplies in 1979 to reduce dependence on costly imported water, and now produces drinking water from 26 groundwater wells throughout the service area.

**Imported water**

Imported water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California through the State Water Project and from the Colorado River through the Colorado River Aqueduct.

**Recycled water**

IRWD meets about a quarter of the service area’s water demands with recycled water. Every gallon of recycled water used saves a gallon of drinking water. Using recycled water extends drinking water supplies and reduces reliance on costly imported water, helping to improve water supply reliability.

**IRWD’s customers use recycled water for:**
- Irrigating landscape in parks, golf courses, school yards, homeowners association common areas, and some large residential lots
- Watering medians, pathways, and along freeways
- Irrigating agricultural sites
- Fighting wildfires
- Industrial applications such as cooling towers, composting and concrete
- Flushing toilets and urinals in more than 110 dual-plumbed buildings, including commercial sites and some schools.

On average, IRWD delivers about 28 million gallons of recycled water per day to over 6,000 customers through 561 miles of pipelines.

**Water banking**

Water banking — storing water in wet years for use during dry years and emergencies — is an important tool for augmenting imported water supplies and ensuring reliability.

By capturing water when it is available and storing it in groundwater basins to supplement supplies in dry years, the IRWD water banking program safeguards customers from imported water supply shortages. The banking program is designed to provide enough water to meet approximately 15% of IRWD customers’ needs during critically dry years.

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**IRWD CONTACT INFO**

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RightScapeResources.com
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Follow Us
@IRWDnews
Watch Us
youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD
info@IRWD.com
949-453-5500

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**FEBRUARY 2020**

**IRWD WATER SOURCE PORTFOLIO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population served</th>
<th>Water provided</th>
<th>acre-feet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>422,000</td>
<td>23,281</td>
<td>422,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IRWED: AN OVERVIEW | IRWD.com**

**IRWED: AN OVERVIEW | IRWD.com**
IRWD is committed to providing customers with safe, high-quality and reliable drinking water. The District’s Water Quality Staff continuously monitors water supplies, conducting more than 100,000 laboratory tests each year from water taken from more than 100 sample points throughout the service area. IRWD’s state-of-the-art Water Quality Laboratory is one of the best-equipped facilities in Southern California.

The IRWD annual Water Quality Report provides customers with water analysis test results and an explanation of how to interpret the information. To request a copy, call the District at 949-453-5300, email info@IRWD.com, or visit IRWD.com/water-report.

IRWD’s state-of-the-art Water Quality Laboratory conducts more than 50,000 laboratory tests each year from water collected at more than 500 sample points throughout the District.

**WATER QUALITY**

**WATER USE EFFICIENCY**

Using water efficiently helps extend water supplies in wet and dry years alike. IRWD offers cutting-edge conservation and water use efficiency programs so customers have the tools needed to use water wisely. IRWD also employs a budget-based billing structure that rewards customers for conserving water.

**WATER USE EFFICIENCY**

- **RightScape, IRWD’s outdoor conservation outreach campaign, is a resource for promoting water efficiency. Saving water not only preserves our precious resources, but also helps our customers save money.**

- **Budget-based water rate structure**

  IRWD uses a budget-based conservation rate structure, which offers property-specific water budgets; and tiered pricing to provide customers with economic incentives for efficient water use. Customized and equitable water budgets are established for each customer account based on a variety of factors including: type of home or business, irrigated landscape area, daily weather data and number of residents in a home. Customers who use water within their budget purchase water in the lower tiers and enjoy low water bills. Customers who use water in excess of their budget receive a strong pricing signal indicating inefficient or wasteful use.

- **IRWD’s monthly water rates have two components: variable water usage charges set to recapture the variable cost of imported water and local groundwater, and fixed water and sewer service charges set to recover the fixed costs of maintaining the water distribution system. This allows IRWD to provide exceptional service while also encouraging efficient water use and providing for rate stability. The monthly water charges for a typical residential customer are the lowest in Orange County.**

**FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

IRWD has built secure financial standing through careful financial stewardship. The District uses a long-range planning approach that is similar to a family that regularly puts money aside over time to pay for the eventual cost of the children’s college education.

By anticipating infrastructure needs, IRWD avoids having to dramatically increase customer rates to pay for the repair and replacement of facilities such as pipes, pumps and reservoirs as they age. To ensure equity among customers, IRWD separates the costs of building water and sewer infrastructure from the cost of daily operations and maintenance.

Capital infrastructure is financed directly or through general obligation bonds, the costs for which are paid through a combination of property taxes and developer connection fees. Daily operation and maintenance costs are funded primarily by customers’ monthly water and sewer bills.

IRWD rates and charges are reviewed and set annually by the IRWD Board of Directors.

**OFFICES**

- IRWD San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary
- IRWD San Joaquin Marsh Campus — including the Duck Club, Audubon House, Learning Center, Visitor’s Center, Sea & Sage House and Caretaker’s Residence

**IRWD FACTS AND FIGURES**

- **Size of District:** 181 square miles
- **Population served:** 422,000
- **Service connections:** 116,000

**NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>102,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landscape irrigation</td>
<td>7,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>60</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Recycled water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape irrigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WATER PORTFOLIO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Capacity (AF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clear groundwater</td>
<td>2,238 AF*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycled water</td>
<td>24,913 AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treated groundwater</td>
<td>3,523 AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>17,938 AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local surface water</td>
<td>5,165 AF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total water provided:</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,381 AF</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*AF = acre-feet. One acre-feet of water equals 326,000 gallons and covers one acre of land, one foot deep.

**IRWD OPERATIONS CENTER**

- Irvine Desalter Project — treats drinking water in the Irvine subbasin
- Deep Aquifer Treatment System — removes color from local groundwater
- Wells 21 & 22 Rehabilitation, Pipelines and Water Treatment Plant — renovates and treats local impaired groundwater for drinking use
- Thirty-six drinking water reservoirs

**NON-DRINKING WATER SOURCES**

- Irvine Lake — untreated water reservoir

**NATURAL TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

- Irvine Lake — natural riparian wetland system
- Irvine Lake — natural wetland system
- Irvine Lake — natural wetland system
- Irvine Lake — natural wetland system
- Irvine Lake — natural wetland system

**WATER RESOURCES/CLIMATE CHANGES**

- **Water conservation and efficiency**
- **Efficient water use**
- **Waterwise homes and businesses**
- **Waterwise landscaping**
- **RightScape**
- **Budget-based rate structure**
- **Rate stability**
- **Equity**
- **Sustainability**
- **Resilience**

**FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

- **IRWD rates and charges are reviewed and set annually by the IRWD Board of Directors.**

**IRWD Sand Canyon Administrative Offices**

- IRWD Operations Center
- Recycled Water Plants & Storage
- Michelson Water Recycling Plant
- Los Alisos Water Recycling Plant

- Proposed Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project — would increase storage capacity from current 578 acre-feet to 5,000 acre-feet

- Four seasonal recycled water storage reservoirs: Rattlesnake, Sand Canyon, San Joaquin, and Syphon

**FEBRUARY 2020**

**IRWD AN OVERVIEW**

- IRWD.com