



24 Hour Service 949.453.5300

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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Twitter channels
@IRWDemergency
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Community Calendar

IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS

- Monday, September 7 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- Friday, September 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. - IRWD Residential Landscape Workshop

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Event scheduled for Saturday, August 8 starting at 8:30 a.m. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- Summer Bat Walks - For families and adults: August 7 and August 14; for adults only: June 18.
- For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- Assistance League of Irvine Thrift and Gift Shop - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more about the Assistance League and membership call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org.

IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held at IRWD. Visit www.irvinegardenclub.com or send an e-mail to Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com.

MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their website at www.uccemg.com or send an e-mail to ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- There are a growing number of families facing financial difficulties in south Orange County as the current economic situation continues to unfold. Families Forward exists to help these families in need achieve and maintain self-sufficiency through housing, counseling, education and other support services. The number of families seeking assistance has doubled in the past year.
- Back To School Program - Starting in July, Families Forward distributes backpacks filled with school supplies to local low-income families who are facing financial difficulty. Donations of backpacks and school supplies will be accepted in July and August to provide for these students. Visit www.families-forward.org to see the many needed items.
- Help End Summer Hunger - The food bank is serving 75 - 120 families each week with groceries. Support these families through food donations as well as grocery and gas gift cards. Bring food and gift card donations to the Families Forward facility.
- Bring all donations to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call (949) 552-2727 or visit www.families-forward.org.



IRWD Approves 09-10 Operating Budget
PAGE 1



Fall Residential Landscape Workshop
PAGE 1



IRWD is Tweeting!
PAGE 2



Irrigation Tips 'n' tune-ups
PAGE 3

Irvine Ranch Water District

Always Water Smart

pipelines

JULY | 2009

IRWD Approved 2009-10 Operating Budget

July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and a new budget. On April 27, 2009, the IRWD Board of Directors adopted a \$110.7 million budget which will become effective July 1. This budget provides the funds to serve potable water, recycled water and sewer service to IRWD customers during the coming fiscal year and represents an increase of less than nine percent from last year. Even with these increases, IRWD continues to provide our customers with some of the lowest rates in Orange County.

On June 22, 2009, the Board adopted rates for the fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2009. The main reasons for the rate increase are *continued on page two...*



Water Quality Report

The annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, was included with your water bill in June. This report contains important information about your drinking water. If you want additional copies, please contact IRWD's Public Affairs Department at (949) 453-5500.

Love Your Garden... ...and your water bill

SAVE WATER - SAVE MONEY - SAVE THE OCEAN

Join us for a **FREE** landscape workshop on September 25, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. and learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How much to water your plants
- How to water to reduce runoff

For more information and to RSVP, go to www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com or www.irwd.com or call 949-453-5327.





Call 714.913.5012 to register.



Place: Irvine Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh

Summer Smiles

Take a walk on the wild side as we explore fun science topics. Investigate the world of frogs, dinosaurs, butterflies, and more. Take a close-up look at butterfly wings, take apart owl pellets, make ooey, gooey slime, and much more! ***(5-6 years old)**

Camp Fee: \$125 member; \$135 nonmember
Date: (Mon - Fri) August 10-14
Time: 9 AM - 12:30 PM
Place: Irvine Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh Campus

SCIENCE SIZZLES

Science is the hot topic this summer! Investigate a rainbow of colors, make your own pizza, and study squirmly earthworms. Explore plants from the garden to your plate in an investigation of health and good nutrition. ***(5-6 years old)**

Camp Fee: \$125 member; \$135 nonmember
Date: (Mon - Fri) August 17-21
Time: 9 AM - 12:30 PM
Place: Irvine Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh Campus



2500 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92705
 Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Off the 5 freeway. Exit Main Street.
 714-542-CUBE | www.discoverycube.org

**Reserve today
space is limited.**

continued from page one...

IRWD Approved 2009-10 Operating Budget

uncontrollable expenses that account for more than 92 percent of the budget's cost increases. This includes a 55 percent increase in the cost of wastewater treatment and disposal provided by the Orange County Sanitation District. Additionally, there are substantial increases in the cost of imported water purchased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) through the regional water wholesaler, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWD OC). Other factors impacting this year's rate increase include higher costs for chemicals, electricity, labor and the cost to replace aging infrastructure to insure water reliability.

Helping to drive the increase in the cost of imported water are three years of drought, including significant below-average rainfall, and court-ordered supply restrictions in Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. All these factors add up to a regional water supply shortage in Southern California.

In response to this water supply shortage, MWD declared a "Water Supply Allocation Plan Level 2," reducing imported water deliveries to water agencies throughout the Southern California region by 10 percent on July 1.

IRWD is well positioned in its diversified water supplies to weather this regional water shortage because imported water only makes up approximately 28 percent of our total water supply. Over the years, IRWD customers' investments in local potable water supply projects, water recycling and aggressive water conservation practices have enabled the District to realize a high degree of water supply reliability – and this sets IRWD apart from other water agencies.

IRWD's customers help in keeping rates low through their conservation efforts. The District's most effective water conservation tool is the allocation-based conservation rate structure which provides customers with the water they need and rewards their efforts with some of the lowest water rates in Orange County. Inefficient water use is charged at higher rates that are then used to support conservation programs and pay the costs associated with additional water supply purchases.

Recycled water, comprising approximately 26 percent of IRWD's overall water supply, also helps to keep rates down by minimizing the amount of drinking water used. Recycled water is used for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation resulting in lower cost of water to all the customers.

IRWD has not increased the low volume rate in any service area, which remains \$0.91 per ccf in the Irvine service area and \$1.40 per ccf in the Los Alisos service area. The average total monthly bill for residential customer using 18 ccf of water per month will increase by \$3.85 in the Irvine Ranch service area and \$3.90 in the Los Alisos service area. The average rate for Santiago area customers will increase by \$2.49; while the average rate for Orange Park Acres area customers will increase by \$5.69. Please review the chart to the right for residential rate information by service area. The comprehensive IRWD Rates and Charges document is available online at www.irwd.com.

For more information please visit our website at www.irwd.com or call the IRWD customer service department at 949-453-5300.

IRWD Rates & Charges for Residential Customers

Irvine Ranch Service Area / Potable Water			
Monthly water service charge		\$7.75 (up to a 1" meter)	
	Tier	Allocation	Cost per ccf
Commodity charge for residential detached dwelling units	Low Volume	0-4 ccf	\$.91
	Base Rate	5-9 ccf	\$1.15
	Inefficient	10-14 ccf	\$2.33
	Excessive	15-19 ccf	\$4.65
	Wasteful	19+ ccf	\$9.30
Los Alisos Service Area / Potable Water			
Monthly water service charge		\$9.60 (up to a 3/4" meter)	
	Tier	Allocation	Cost per ccf
Commodity charge for residential detached dwelling units	Low Volume	0-4 ccf	\$1.40
	Base Rate	5-9 ccf	\$1.78
	Inefficient	10-14 ccf	\$2.75
	Excessive	15-19 ccf	\$4.65
	Wasteful	19+ ccf	\$9.30
Orange Park Acres Service Area / Potable Water			
Monthly water service charge		\$16.25 (up to 4" meter)	
	Tier	Allocation	Cost per ccf
Commodity charge (3/4" meter)	Standard Tier I	0-10 ccf	\$1.67
	Excess Tier II	11-40 ccf	\$2.01
	Excess Tier III	41+ ccf	\$2.56
Santiago Service Area / Potable Water			
Monthly water service charge		\$16.20 (up to 5/8" meter)	
	Tier	Allocation	Cost per ccf
Commodity charge	Standard Tier I	0-43 ccf	\$2.24
	Excess Tier II	44-65 ccf	\$4.48
	Excess Tier III	65+ ccf	\$6.72

IRWD is Tweeting!

IRWD has developed three different Twitter channels for our customers who use Twitter. Follow us at:

- [@irwdnews](https://twitter.com/irwdnews) (IRWD news and information),
- [@irwdemergency](https://twitter.com/irwdemergency) (emergency channel for IRWD situations and emergencies in the Orange County)
- [@always20smart](https://twitter.com/always20smart) (all things water conservation).

For those customers who are not familiar... Twitter is a free social networking and micro-blogging service that enables its users to send and read each others' updates, known as tweets. Tweets are text-based posts of up to 140 characters, displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to other users - known as followers - who have subscribed to them. To get your own FREE Twitter, log onto www.twitter.com.



Smart Sprinkler Tune-ups for Warm Weather Watering

Many homeowners don't realize that the average sprinkler uses 20 gallons of water per minute! With all this repeated exposure to moving water, it's easy to see why your irrigation system requires regular adjustments and occasional repairs to continue running efficiently.

To ward off expensive breakdowns, inspect your sprinkler system monthly. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads and other problems, and remember to clean micro filtration filters as needed. If you are not a "do-it-yourselfer," engage an irrigation professional to regularly check your system.

Here are **Four Tune-Ups for Your Irrigation System** to help keep it running at optimum efficiency:

1) Raise and Level Sprinkler Heads: Water spray from sprinkler heads positioned too closely above turf grass or ground cover easily becomes obstructed by plant material. This obstruction also causes water to be deflected to the base of the sprinkler's riser, where it quickly pools, runs off and is wasted. To remedy, install taller risers which will raise (and level) obstructed sprinkler heads several inches above the trim height of plant material.

2) Reduce Pressure to Avoid Misting: When sprinklers are misting, water is lost through increased wind drift and uneven distribution. To remedy, decrease the water pressure in the valve which controls the lateral line feeding the misting sprinkler heads.

3) Install Streaming Rotating Nozzles: Conventional spray head performance has been improved upon by a new generation of nozzles that utilize multi-trajectory, rotating streams to apply water more slowly and uniformly. The precise, even watering from these streaming rotating nozzles uses 20 percent less water than conventional spray heads. Be sure to replace all spray heads receiving water from the same irrigation valve with rotating nozzles, to optimize water-use efficiency.

4) Adjust Spray Patterns: Avoid runoff and water waste by adjusting spray patterns away from sidewalks, curbs and gutters. On slopes, direct spray patterns upward from the base of slopes to help prevent rapid pooling at the bottom of slopes. Correct both hardscape and plant obstructions that prevent sprinklers from applying water uniformly and efficiently. This action will also help keep unsightly mold and algae from growing on hardscape structures.



Spray Pattern Adjustments

are clearly needed to prevent rampant over spray and runoff like this. Redirect spray patterns to keep sidewalks, driveways, walls and fences, etc. as dry as possible when watering.



Leaking broken spray heads

can quickly create a big usage spike on your water bill. Take time to regularly view each spray head while running your sprinkler system to catch little needed fixes before they become costly leaks.



Spray head obstruction, pooling and rapid runoff

like this can be prevented by installing taller risers to lift the spray heads above the obstruction. An alternate remedy is to regularly trim all vegetation away from the direct path of each spray head.

Suggested Weekly Summer Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	% Option**
July & August	4 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%
September***	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%

*By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

**The % option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

***In September, plants water needs drop by approximately 30 percent even if the temperature remains warm.



Tips presented at recent webinar may be viewed at: www.alwayswatersmart.com