



The newsletter of IRWD

May 2013 | Number 5

How Water Aware Are You?

Water. You wake up every day and it's there... as simple as turning on the tap. It's easy to take water for granted. May is Water Awareness Month and a perfect time to fill you in on the top three things you need to know about your water supply.

1. Safe water is our top priority. You can trust IRWD to provide clean, safe water. Providing our customers with the best water possible is at the heart of our mission. Rest assured that when you turn on the tap, the water is safe. Our drinking water meets or exceeds all quality standards set by both the state and federal government. Our water quality staff continuously monitors the water supply, conducting over a quarter of a million laboratory tests each year. IRWD has a state-of-the-art water quality lab that is state certified. In fact, our commitment to innovation makes it one of the best equipped water laboratories in Southern California. You can view the annual water quality report on the District's website, www.irwd.com, to read about our high-quality drinking water. Plus, your water quality questions can be answered by viewing our online "Frequently Asked Questions."

2. Your water supply is reliable. To ensure that water flows when you turn on the tap, IRWD has worked hard to decrease our dependence on costly imported drinking water. IRWD has a balanced, diverse water portfolio. IRWD's drinking water comes from two primary sources: local groundwater and imported water. The blending of these sources varies according to the time of year and your geographic location within the District. About one-third of IRWD's drinking water is purchased from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. This imported water comes from the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct and from Northern California via the State Water Project. Another two-thirds of our drinking water supply comes from local groundwater wells in the Orange County Groundwater Basin, the Irvine Sub-basin, and a well in Lake Forest.

In addition, IRWD has a robust recycled water program. Every drop of recycled water used for irrigation or other non-potable purposes saves drinking water. The District's diversified supply ensures a reliable water supply during times of drought, regulatory constraints and other emergencies. Additionally, our diverse water supply portfolio helps to keep rates as low as possible.

3. Saving water saves money, and helps keep your water bill low. It's easier than you think to do more with less water – and we're here to help. Our philosophy is to give customers as much water as they need through customized water allocations. These allocations are based on your type of home

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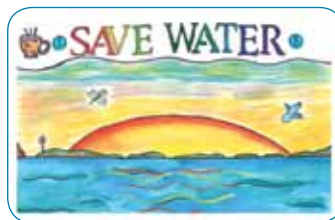
This poster by Matthew Diep, third grade, Plaza Vista Elementary School, was one of five finalists selected from hundreds received from Irvine, Tustin and Saddleback Unified School Districts. The four additional finalists' posters are shown below. All five finalists will compete in Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" regional poster contest.



Grace Jung, third grade, Stonegate Elementary



Juliette Dumont, fifth grade, Oak Creek Elementary



Rhea Chhagan, fifth grade, Tustin Ranch Elementary



Yoon Seong Roh, fourth grade, Deerfield Elementary

High-Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate

Take Action to Save Water and Save Money

Did you know IRWD offers rebates for purchasing low-water-use appliances? You can save up to \$285* by purchasing a high-efficiency clothes washer from a list of pre-approved appliances. By using a low-water-use washer, you reduce your home's overall water use and save money on your water bill, too. For more information, visit www.alwayswatersmart.com and click on the Rebates link on the right-hand side.

*Note: Rebate amount may fluctuate and is subject to funding availability.

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(i.e., single- or multi-family dwelling), the number of people who occupy your home, and the total area of irrigated landscape surrounding it. If you stay within your water allocation, you will pay some of the lowest rates for water in Orange County. If you choose to use more water than your allocation, then you will be charged for using more than your water budget. If you receive a high water bill, give us a call so that we can help you figure out why you went over your allocation and what water saving changes can be made to help you stay within your allocation.

IRWD features www.alwayswatersmart.com as a great online resource for all things water efficient...tips, tools, rebates, garden/plant information, irrigation schedules, videos, events, webinars, workshops and more. Saving water means saving money. Be Always Water Smart.

Composting Basics: Part 2 - Methods & Harvesting

The traditional method of composting involves making a pile of organic materials and letting it stand for a year. This slower composting works for people who lack the ingredients to make a full 3 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft. pile and lack the time or energy to turn the compost pile frequently for more rapid harvesting.



First, ensure that the materials are chopped into one inch or smaller pieces to provide greater surface area of decomposition. (See April 2013 *Pipelines* for which "green" and "brown" organic materials work best.) If available, place coarse material at the bottom of the compost bin to provide air circulation. Next, build the pile by alternating the green and brown materials as they become available. Then, periodically moisten the compost only to the point at which the moisture content of the materials in the pile feels like a wrung-out sponge.

Compost is ready for harvesting when the contents have a pleasant, earthy aroma, a dark brown color and a crumbly texture. None of the original materials placed in the compost pile should be recognizable. There may be a few large chunks of woody material which can be screened out and placed in the next batch for further decomposition.

Incorporating compost into soil is a common way to use compost. It will help improve the texture and water retention of Orange County soils which tend to be mostly clay or sandy. Spread two to four inches of compost over the soil and mix with the soil to a depth of approximately six inches.

Composting questions? Visit www.uccemg.com and type "Composting Video Series" in the search field.

Customer Service Information

IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels »

24 Hour Customer Access

(949) 453-5300

email: customerservice@irwd.com

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Irvine, California 92618

Visit us: www.irwd.com



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View our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD



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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IRWD Pipelines Newsletter

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