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Ask Jua





Save the Date

Watershed Cleanup Day

Saturday, Sept. 15 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

San Diego Creek, IRWD San Joaquin Marsh

5 Riparian View, Irvine

In partnership with Trails4All, IRWD will host Inner-Coastal and Watershed Cleanup Day. Volunteers are needed to pick up trash before it reaches the ocean. Gloves, bags and a free T-shirt will be provided, and community service credit is available. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat, sunscreen and insect repellent.

Sign-up required: rightscapenow.com/events

New Rates Take Effect

New water rates for Fiscal Year 2018–2019 went into effect July 1 and will appear on bills beginning in August. For more information, visit irwd.com/ services/ratescharges.

IRWD Takes Precautions Against Fire, and You Can Too

Summer marks the official start of fire season: a time when high heat, dry brush and whipping winds spark an incendiary threat to nature, homes and humans.

Irvine Ranch Water District keeps watch to respond to fires and any corresponding loss of power in our service area, patrolling canyons and monitoring remote operations. It's our job to ensure that facilities are protected and that water continues to be delivered to your tap and made available to firefighters battling blazes.

- Pump stations are equipped with automatic backup generators and fuel tanks to keep our water flowing.
- Brush is cleared around remote facilities to protect them from fire.
- IRWD participates in emergency drills with the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County.
- We post up-to-date information on Twitter, Facebook and irwd.com. And in critical emergencies we alert customers via CodeRED, a service available via voicemail, email or text.



IRWD customers can help to protect their homes by taking the following actions:

- Create a safety zone around your home by removing dead or dying vegetation.
- Plant drought-tolerant and fire-resistant plants that can serve as a firebreak near your home (monkeyflower, California lilac, autumn sage, common yarrow, French lavender).
- Prepare an emergency escape plan with your family that includes how to respond to an evacuation order.
- Visit ready.gov/wildfires for more tips.

Sign Up for CodeRED

To receive emergency alerts from IRWD, sign up at **irwd.com/emergency-codered** or call 949-453-5300.

Fall Resident Tours

Friday, Oct. 12, and Saturday, Oct. 13 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m IRWD Operations Center and San Joaquin Marsh, 3512 Michelson Dr., Irvine

Curious where your water comes from or how it is managed? Customers who live or work in the IRWD service area are invited to tour our facilities and San Joaquin Marsh while learning about what we do. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Must be 16 or older. **Sign-up required:** irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour

Happy to See Green? Thank Our Purple Pipes

Let's be honest. We love our treelined streets, verdant medians and common areas that define the Irvine Ranch Water District. And while other communities are cutting back on their landscaping, ours continues to flourish.

Since 1963, IRWD has been implementing a vision to integrate recycled water and purple pipes into the design of our community—and it shows. In 1990, 14% of all water used in the District was recycled. Today, recycled water makes up about 25% of our portfolio. And that's what we use to water 80% of the public and commercial irrigated landscape in our service area—including parks, medians, golf courses, and community association property.

More Than Just Irrigation

In addition to landscaping, IRWD promotes commercial uses of recycled water. It is used for toilet flushing in more than 90 buildings, in cooling towers, and for industrial applications



Recycled Water Quality Report

Learn more about the treatment and testing of IRWD recycled water in the 2018 Recycled Water Quality Report. Visit **irwd.com/services/recycled-water**.

such as concrete production and composting. Every gallon of recycled water used for these purposes saves a gallon of drinking water.

A National Leader

IRWD owns and operates one of the most robust recycled water systems in the nation, with two water recycling plants, 550 miles of recycled water pipelines, and more than 5,500 metered recycled water connections. Four seasonal-storage reservoirs—Rattlesnake, San Joaquin, Sand Canyon and Syphon—allow the District to store recycled water in the cooler and wetter winter months for use in the summer when demand is highest.

Save on Sprinkling With Outdoor Rebates

Rebates can help you upgrade your sprinkler system. Save up to \$175 on a drip-irrigation kit, up to \$4 on high-efficiency nozzles, and up to \$2 per square foot on turf removal. Learn more at **rightscapenow.com/rebates**.



Q: I am trying to save water by converting my shrub head sprinkler system to drip irrigation. I purchased a two-port outlet manifold that goes on top of the riser. When I turned it on, the spaghetti drip tubing was blown off. Only then I read on the package that it requires low pressure. What do I do?

A: Converting to drip irrigation can save you lots of water. It requires low pressure of around

15–30 PSI. But don't worry. You can add a pressure regulator on the irrigation PVC or drip line to reduce pressure. Or simply screw a threaded riser pressure regulator onto the riser just before the manifold (pictured). This inexpensive small attachment can be bought at hardware or irrigation-supply stores.



Got landscape questions? Email **askjuan@irwd.com** or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with **#irwdcommunity**. See past answers at **rightscapenow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan**.

Save the Date

Fall into Winter Gardening

Wednesday, Sept. 19 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multipurpose Room 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine

Learn how to make the transition from fall to winter, garden style.

Sign-up required: rightscapenow.com/ events

Urban Landscape and Garden Education Expo

Saturday, Sept. 29 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

UC ANR South Coast Research and Extension Center 7601 Irvine Blvd., Irvine

Get information you need to create a waterefficient landscape. Expo features free workshops, industry experts, vendors, landscape displays, and hands-on activities.



24-Hour Customer Service: 949-453-5300

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