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pipelines

SEPTEMBER 2021 | NUMBER 9



Irvine Ranch Water District

Save the date

Sprinkler Spruce-Up

Online webinar

Wednesday, Sept. 29
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

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

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

IRWD will be closed **Sept. 6** in observance of **Labor Day**.

Innovation: Keeping supply ahead of demand

IRWD has been providing sustainable drinking water, recycled water and sewer services to our customers since the 1960s, expanding our facilities as we've grown with the communities we serve.

The Michelson Water Recycling Plant was constructed in 1967 and began delivering 2 million gallons of recycled water per day. Today, its capacity has grown 14 times over to 28 million gallons daily.

In 2001, to help supplement our recycled water system, IRWD increased use of recycled water with the Los Alisos Water Recycling Plant in Lake Forest.

In 2014, IRWD partnered with other agencies on the Baker Water Treatment Plant, a regional facility that treats up to 28.1 million gallons of drinking water per day—enough to serve 63,300 households.

Our latest accomplishment, completed this year, is IRWD's Biosolids and Energy Recovery



International visitors study the microfiltration membrane system at Baker Water Treatment Plant.

Facility, which converts the solids from the sewage treatment process into fertilizer and fuel—closing the loop on the District's goals for sustainable resource recovery.

This is the latest in a series of articles commemorating the District's 60th anniversary. For more information, visit IRWD.com.

September is the time to water less

This time of year, your landscaping needs less water, even if you're still feeling hot when outdoors. Your plants react to the days getting shorter and will naturally start going into their dormancy phase. Visit WateringGuide.com for more details.

15% Savings Sweepstakes: Save water and win gift cards



Responding to the governor's request for 15% voluntary water use reductions around the state, IRWD has launched the Drought Response 15% Savings Sweepstakes to encourage customers to do their part to help California. Visit IRWD.com for details and a checklist of water-saving tips. Complete new accomplishments each month through December to increase your savings and your chances to win a \$100 or \$500 Home Depot gift card. **Don't waste a good thing.**

Save the date

Michelson Water Recycling Plant Virtual Tour

Online webinar
Wednesday, Oct. 6
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Learn more about recycled water and take a virtual tour of IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant.

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

Ocean-Minded Landscaping

Online webinar
Wednesday, Oct. 13
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Did you know that simple changes to your yard can protect our ocean? Learn about creating healthy living soil, sustainable water management and rain-catching, selecting California friendly plants, and irrigation and maintenance skills you'll need to create a stunning ocean-friendly yard.

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

Summer of creek cleanups

Dozens of volunteers braved the heat this summer to take part in a series of events to comb the banks of the San Diego Creek for trash that litters downstream wetlands, beaches and the ocean. This year in light of the pandemic, many also participated virtually near their homes, cleaning up their neighborhoods to help the environment.



Matthew Opegard and his dad, Greg, pick up trash in Newport Coast as part of a July cleanup.

If you missed these activities, or want to do more, there is still time to sign up for a final cleanup scheduled as part of the statewide Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 18. Details are available at RightScape.com/events.



Q: What can I do to meet the governor's request for a voluntary 15% reduction in water use?

A: IRWD is well-positioned to weather these dry times, but we all should do our part to help. For outdoor water savings,

use a broom when cleaning sidewalks or driveways. If you have a pool, consider using a cover so that the water doesn't evaporate. Try reducing your watering by one day per week—scheduling it only when needed. Put a layer of mulch around trees and shrubs to reduce evaporation, and consider planting California native plants, which go dormant and do not require watering during the summer.

Got landscape questions? Email AskJuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://twitter.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

California native corner

Juan's September plant: California goldenrod

California goldenrod (*Solidago velutina* ssp. *californica*) is an evergreen perennial flowering shrub found throughout the state. It is a perfect plant for butterflies, birds and bees. Growing in full sun to light shade, it does best with a little summer watering. It is a naturally spreading plant so make sure to watch carefully so it doesn't overgrow. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan



Q: How does IRWD keep customers informed during emergencies?

A: IRWD uses CodeRED, a high-volume, high-speed notification system for mass notifications in the event of emergencies. The system works in coordination with AlertOC, and the Orange County Emergency Notification System.

To get added to CodeRED, visit IRWD.com/emergency-CodeRed and fill out the Community Notification Enrollment Form to select your notification preferences, which include voice, text, and email messages. If you have questions about accessing or submitting this form, please email CustomerService@IRWD.com or call 949-453-5300.

Got a question? Email info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

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