

## Important updates on payment options

Find out about changes that may affect how you pay your bill at [IRWD.com/billpay](https://www.irwd.com/billpay)

# pipelines

APRIL 2025



Irvine Ranch  
Water District



Phacelia parryi

## Save the date



### Landscape Designs

**Saturday, May 17**  
**10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Imagine the possibilities, find inspiration and get tips on creating the yard you want to live in.

**Sign-up required:**  
[IRWD.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/events)



### Plant a Salad Bowl Garden

**Saturday, June 28**  
**10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

Learn how to plant the makings of a salad in your own backyard.

**Sign-up required:**  
[IRWD.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/events)

## Leak-reporting tool squelches waste

In its first year, IRWD's online Log-a-Leak tool made quite a splash! Thanks to tips from customers, more than 510 outdoor leaks were reported and fixed in 2024.

One small crack in an irrigation pipe can waste 6,300 gallons of water a month, and a broken sprinkler another 4,000 gallons. Excessive runoff wastes water and carries contaminants downstream, harming aquatic ecosystems.

Log-a-Leak reports of these issues in local parks, street medians, neighborhoods and business developments have likely saved hundreds of thousands of gallons of water.

Want to be a part of the momentum in 2025? The next time you spot a leak in your community, snap a photo, and from your mobile device go to [IRWD.com/logaleak](https://www.irwd.com/logaleak), where you can upload the image, enter an address or use GPS to pinpoint the location. From there, IRWD will contact the responsible person so they know to get it fixed.

Small actions can lead to big impacts. Thank you for your support, and let's keep working together for a water-wise future.



A customer photo of a leak reported using the tool.

## Join us at our community events

Want to learn about IRWD's mission to keep your drinking water safe, or tour our Michelson Water Recycling Plant? How about a guided walk through the San Joaquin Marsh or a workshop on design inspiration for your backyard? Join us at one of our many upcoming IRWD community events.

We've expanded our offerings this year to provide customers with bigger, better opportunities to connect with us, ask questions, and take advantage of IRWD programs.

Learn landscaping and gardening tips at workshops led by IRWD's Water Efficiency team in May and June.

The District also offers Community Tours throughout the year where you can enjoy exclusive access to IRWD facilities and knowledgeable staff.

These free events are open to IRWD customers. Watch for the latest offerings and sign up at [IRWD.com/events](https://www.irwd.com/events).

# Below the surface of your IRWD water bill

On the surface, your bill is pretty simple: Use more water and the bill goes up; use less and it goes down. But a lot goes into your water bill. Here's a deeper look.

## Basic components of your water bill

- **Water usage charges** are variable costs based on the amount of water you use.
- **Service charges** are fixed costs to recover the expenses of maintaining IRWD's water distribution infrastructure.

## Variable costs

To encourage wise water use, each residence is assigned a monthly water usage budget. How much you pay for each CCF of water (1 CCF or 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons) depends on whether you stay within your budget.

Rates are broken into four tiers (see chart at right). **Each tier is assigned a rate based on the actual cost of service**, which varies according to the water source. For example, groundwater from local wells is least expensive, while imported water from out of state or Northern California costs the most.

The Low Volume and Base rate tiers are for water used within your budget. Water within budget is sourced primarily from lower-cost groundwater and reduces the need to import expensive water. The majority of imported water costs are allocated to the Inefficient and Wasteful tiers.

Rate tier	Water budget	Current rate per CCF	
<b>Tier 1: Low Volume</b>	Up to 40% of your budget	<b>\$1.99</b>	Water use within monthly budget
<b>Tier 2: Base</b>	41% – 100% of your budget	<b>\$2.65</b>	
<b>Tier 3: Inefficient</b>	101% – 140% of your budget	<b>\$6.55</b>	Water use over monthly budget
<b>Tier 4: Wasteful</b>	141% and over of your budget	<b>\$16.46</b>	

## Fixed charges

Your bill also contains fixed charges for water service and sewer service. Water service charges are based on the size of the meter required to provide flow for the property. These charges — to recover IRWD's fixed infrastructure costs — are assessed whether or not you use water that month.

## Learn more

Visit [IRWD.com/understandmybill](https://www.irwd.com/understandmybill) for details on **current water rates**. Visit [IRWD.com/services/proposed-rates](https://www.irwd.com/services/proposed-rates) for proposed rates beginning July 1, 2025, and July 1, 2026. Contact **949-453-5300** or [CustomerService@IRWD.com](mailto:CustomerService@IRWD.com) for more information or questions.

## How your water budget is calculated

Your monthly household water usage budget is the sum of your indoor and outdoor budgets. Together they represent an efficient volume of water to meet your individualized water needs.

- Your **indoor budget** is simple: 50 gallons per person per day (divided by 748 to convert gallons to CCF)
- Your **outdoor budget** is calculated using data from local weather stations: your irrigated landscape area x evapotranspiration (daily plant water loss in cubic inches) x 0.75 ET factor (to account for the fact that at least 40% of your landscape should be drought-tolerant) x 36.3 conversion factor (to convert acre-inches into CCF).

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Indoor budget} = \frac{\text{People per household} \times 50 \text{ gallons per person} \times \text{Days in the billing cycle}}{748} \\ \text{Outdoor budget} = \frac{\text{Irrigated landscape area (acres)} \times \text{Evapotranspiration (local daily weather data)} \times .75 \times 36.3}{\text{Conversion factor}} \end{array}$$



**Q:** Hi Juan. I'm having a real issue with weeds all over my planter beds. What's the best way to remove them and prevent them from coming back? I want to avoid using chemicals, if possible.

**A:** You're in luck! The best way to manage weeds is to remove them by hand, and it's ecofriendly. Use a hand shovel to dig down and remove as much of the root as possible, then cover the area with several sheets of newspaper. Top it all off with a good layer of mulch. This will act as a weed barrier, and it will break down to feed the soil over time.

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