

Office closures for the holidays

IRWD offices will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 31 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. Visit IRWD.com for online services.

pipelines

DECEMBER 2025



Irvine Ranch Water District

Indian paintbrush



Sophia K., grade 9
Orange County School of the Arts



Akshara D., grade 2
Deerfield Elementary

Two student artists win poster contest

Congratulations to two talented young IRWD customers for being selected as winners in the regional "Water Heroes: Saving Every Drop" Water Awareness Poster Contest:

- **Sophia K.**, grade 9, Orange County School of the Arts
- **Akshara D.**, grade 2, Deerfield Elementary

Their artwork will be featured in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's 2026 Water Awareness Calendar. View all IRWD winning posters at IRWD.com/postercontest.

A year of customer water savings

Thank you, customers, for caring about your water use. In 2025, you dove into these and other programs to save water in your yards, businesses and neighborhoods. If you haven't used them yet, consider:

Yardtopia™ Initiative inspires:

The Yardtopia Initiative launched this year to help turn the yard of every IRWD customer into the outdoor retreat of their dreams. A new website, social media posts and videos have inspired people to envision and plan their perfect outdoor and water-friendly oasis, no matter the size or style. Find yourself outside at yardtopia.com.



Leak-buster year: 2025 was a year of neighbors helping neighbors save water, with more than 600 leaky pipes, broken sprinklers or examples of excessive runoff reported and repaired through IRWD's Log-a-Leak tool. Next time you spot a leak in your neighborhood, share its location on IRWD.com/logaleak and we'll notify the responsible party to get it fixed.

New tree rebate:

More than 60 trees were planted in 2025 under a tree rebate made available this year through our turf replacement rebate program. The top pick was the strawberry tree, loved for its colorful bark. A design rebate is also available at IRWD.com/rebates.



WaterStar program grows: The WaterStar Recognition Program has expanded its resources to support local water-efficient businesses. In 2025, we welcomed 11 new WaterStars. See them all at IRWD.com/waterstar.

New field trips for schools:

IRWD's water education programming was expanded to include free watershed field trips for local students in grades 5–12 via a new partnership with Orange County Coastkeeper. Free field trips and assemblies also are available to grades K–4 via Discovery Cube Orange County. Visit IRWD.com/learning for details and encourage your school to apply.



Let's work together for even greater savings in 2026! For more information about IRWD rebates and programs, visit IRWD.com/savewater.

It's time to book a 2026 meeting room

Are you planning a meeting or event for next year? IRWD welcomes customers to book our Duck Club, Community Room — and, coming in spring of 2026, the Marsh House — for meetings or events for free.

The 2026 calendar is opening early this month for reservation requests. Go to [IRWD.com/reservearoom](https://www.irwd.com/reservearoom) for information and to apply.

The historic Duck Club and Marsh House are situated at IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh. The Community Room is near our Sand Canyon Avenue headquarters in Irvine.

Some limitations apply. Customers or groups are allowed just one room reservation and timeslot per month. Rooms are available to IRWD customers only on a first-come, first-served basis.



Q: Why do my service charges vary from month to month when I'm using the same amount of water?

A: Service charges are assessed to cover the costs of daily operations, maintenance and infrastructure. That includes fixed costs associated with water service and sewer service.

The amount of these charges, while fixed, varies according to the number of days in the billing cycle, which is typically between 28 and 33 days, but can occasionally be a bit shorter or longer.

The length and dates of the billing cycle appear on page 3 of your bill under "Billing Details." For billing inquiries, please contact Customer Service at 949-453-5300 or CustomerService@IRWD.com.

Got a question? Email info@IRWD.com.

Ask Juan



Q: Juan, can you recommend a high-quality weed fabric that is not too expensive and is good for the environment?

A: Many types of weed barriers are available, from plastic to biodegradable materials. I would look for something eco-friendly that is still great for suppressing weeds while letting moisture into the soil. Some weed fabrics are made from recycled paper. Burlap is great as it

will break down and become part of your soil, but weeds might tend to grow through or on it. If you are looking for a cheaper alternative, you might also try simple newspaper, layering three to four sheets around your plants and covering it with mulch.

Send your landscape questions to askjuan@IRWD.com or ask on Facebook, X or Instagram with [#IRWDcommunity](https://www.instagram.com/IRWDcommunity).

California native corner

Juan's December plant: centennial ceanothus

Centennial ceanothus (*Ceanothus 'centennial'*) is an evergreen low-growing ground cover that is great for any landscape, especially pollinator gardens. Clusters of cobalt blue flowers emerge in late spring, contrasting well against the dark green leaves. It can be planted in full sun in coastal areas and prefers light shade when planted inland.



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