



24 Hour Service 949.453.5300

Should you discover a disruption in your water service or other problems call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

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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IRVINE RANCH WATER DISTRICT

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Community Calendar

IRWD HOLIDAY & EVENTS

- Monday, Sept. 7 - IRWD Holiday (offices closed)
- Saturday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 3 - IRWD Resident Tours (see story on page one)
- Saturday, Sept. 19 - IRWD to host clean up site at San Diego Creek (see story on page two)
- Friday, Sept. 25 from 6 to 9 p.m. - IRWD Residential Landscape Workshop (see page one)

SHADETREE PARTNERSHIP EVENTS

- Event scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12 starting at 8:30 a.m. Service hours are available for all volunteer tree planting activities. For more information call (949) 453-5312. Online registration available at www.shadetreepartnership.org.

SEA AND SAGE AUDUBON EVENTS

- Friday, Sept. 18 at 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Program about the "Birds of Thailand" at the SJWS. The first meeting of the season will be a good opportunity to meet new people and to find out about Sea & Sage Audubon activities.
- Saturday, Oct. 24 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. - Annual Pancake Breakfast at the SJWS. This is a great way to start the weekend. Delicious pancake breakfast, bird walks in the marsh and a sale of used nature books. Advance reservations required.
- Class in Animal Behavior & Tracking - Friday, Oct. 30 at SJWS and Saturday, Oct. 31 at Fremont Canyon (near Irvine Regional Park). Learn about the animals who make or occupy the various holes, dens and cavities that are seen along the trail. Learn how an animal propels itself across the earth and what its various gaits and patterns can tell us. Learn to identify the prints. Advance reservations necessary; class size limited to 14. Fee: \$50.
- Sharing Nature With Children - Each year, the Sea and Sage Audubon Naturalists share their love of nature with thousands of school children. If you have some experience working with children and would like to make a child's field trip an exciting experience that he or she will remember for many years, then come join us. The next new naturalist training begins in September and October, and classes can be taken in any order. Training is easy, tour group sizes are small, and activities are fun for students and naturalists.
- Art in Nature - In the Art Meets Science program, elementary school children discover the relationship between art and science. They explore the trails and ponds of the marsh while writing and sketching about their experience in a personal nature journal. They also create a colorful group mural about the importance of wetlands. Looking for experienced, enthusiastic artists to help lead these 1½ hour programs during 2009-10. Learn how you can be involved in this vital program that teaches that "there is science in art and art in science."
- For more information call (949) 261-7963 or visit their website at www.seaandsageaudubon.org.

CITY OF IRVINE EVENTS

- Volunteers needed - The City of Irvine is seeking individuals interested in enriching the lives of older adults by volunteering to become a Community Helper Assisting Mature Persons in Our Neighborhood (CHAMPION). Volunteer training sessions are held once a week for eight weeks beginning Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Lakeview Senior Center. For more information or to register, call (949) 724-6915.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF IRVINE

- Thrift and Gift Shop - 17801 Main Street, Suite H (Sky Park South), Irvine, (949) 955-3437. Donations welcome during normal business hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. To learn more call (949) 725-9188 or visit their website at www.irvine.assistanceleague.org.

IRVINE GARDEN CLUB

- Come and join the Irvine Garden Club for regular speakers on local gardening topics and to exchange growing tips and ideas. Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. (except Jan./July/Sept.). The meetings are held at IRWD. Visit www.irvinegardenclub.com or send an e-mail to Irvinegardenclub@yahoo.com.

MASTER GARDENERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

- The University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Orange County are a dedicated group of trained volunteers that provide assistance and share information about gardening in and around the Orange County area. For more information call their hotline at (714) 708-1646, visit their website at www.uccemg.com or send an e-mail to ucmastergardeners@yahoo.com.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- Back To School Program - Families Forward distributes backpacks filled with school supplies to local low-income families who are facing financial difficulty. Donations of backpacks and school supplies will be accepted through the end of August and distributed to these students. To see the many needed items, visit www.families-forward.org.
- Help End Hunger - The food bank is serving 75 - 120 families each week with groceries. Support these families through food donations as well as grocery and gas gift cards. Bring donations to Families Forward, 9221 Irvine Blvd., Irvine, CA 92618, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call (949) 552-2727 or visit www.families-forward.org.



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Irvine Ranch Water District

Always Water Smart

pipelines

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Rebate Program Update

Rebates are still available for IRWD customers. Rebate reservations are required before purchasing a qualifying device and need to be submitted via the new electronic format application. Once reservations are made, a reservation number will be given. Please remember that rebates are only provided for pre-approved products. To make a rebate reservation and view the lists of qualifying products visit www.socalwatersmart.com.



Wonder Where Your Water Comes From? Join IRWD for a Free Water Awareness Tour and Find Out!

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) offers free Water Awareness Tours to all its customers. Come learn about your drinking water, the water recycling process, and how urban runoff is cleaned before it reaches Upper Newport Bay. Participants will also learn how to read their water bill and how to save water both inside and outside the home.

Fall tours will be held on Saturday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 3. These tours are open to adults and students age 16 and older who live or work within the IRWD service area. Refreshments will be provided.

The tours fill very quickly and are first-come, first served based on the date we receive your reservation. Customers may register on the IRWD website at www.irwd.com or by calling (949) 453-5500.

IRWD to Host Clean Up Site at San Diego Creek
(see story on page two)

Love Your Garden... ...and your water bill

SAVE WATER - SAVE MONEY - SAVE THE OCEAN

Join us for a **FREE** landscape workshop on September 25, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. and learn the California Friendly way to a beautiful landscape with less water and more money in your pocket.

You'll learn:

- How to pick the right plants
- How much to water your plants
- How to water to reduce runoff

For more information and to RSVP, go to www.AlwaysWaterSmart.com or www.irwd.com or call 949-453-5327.



Visitors Welcome to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary

When was the last time you visited IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary? Summer is a great time to experience this tranquil and beautiful spot, often called the best kept secret in Irvine.

The marsh is a reconstructed wetland designed to clean urban runoff from San Diego Creek before it reaches environmentally sensitive Upper Newport Bay. Besides enhancing water quality, the marsh provides a home to some 230 species of birds and other wildlife in a park-like setting. The marsh contains more than 12 miles of meandering hiking trails on approximately 330 acres and is open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. Best of all, a visit to the marsh is free!

Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars for bird watching. But there are other animals that might be seen, as well. Many visitors have reported seeing bobcats on the trails. Bobcats should not be confused with the more dangerous mountain lions.

The Sea and Sage Audubon is a great resource for marsh visitors. In addition, be sure to stop by the Irvine Ranch Marsh House, a recently relocated and refurbished 1920's era farm house that sits near the center of Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh Campus. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., visitors are invited inside to view displays to learn more about:

- How the San Joaquin Marsh functions as a natural treatment system and a key habitat of the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The importance of water conservation and environmental awareness in controlling urban runoff, a leading cause of coastal ocean pollution.
- Where our water comes from, both local and imported sources.
- A concise history of Irvine Ranch Water District milestones, in photographs.

The marsh is located off Michelson Drive on Riparian View in Irvine. Follow Riparian View to the end of the pavement. Parking is available at the San Joaquin Marsh Campus area.

IRWD to Host Clean Up Site at San Diego Creek

For the 10th consecutive year, IRWD will host a clean up site at San Diego Creek on **Saturday, Sept. 19 from 8 a.m. until noon.**

IRWD joins forces with Trails 4All, which conceived the idea of Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean-Up Day in conjunction with Coastal Clean-Up Day 13 years ago. While Coastal Clean-Up Day focuses on cleaning trash from the beach, Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean-Up Day concentrates on getting trash out of the tributaries before it hits the beach.

Gather outside of IRWD's Michelson Water Reclamation Plant on Riparian View in Irvine at 8 a.m. to register and receive gloves and trash bags. Wear closed toed shoes, hats and sunscreen. High School students and Scouts may receive service credit for their participation.

Go Green with eBill Service

IRWD encourages customers to "go green" and eliminate paper altogether by signing up for electronic billing, or eBill service. It's a convenient and secure way to view and pay your water bill at anytime from your computer. It's easy and beneficial the environment.

You may sign up through IRWD's website or you may choose to sign up with an authorized eBill payment provider. Payment providers are typically a bank, credit union or other portal that offers you the added benefit of being able to pay your bills online.

For more information, please visit IRWD's website (www.irwd.com) or call IRWD's Customer Service at (949) 453-5300.

IRWD offers our customers several convenient payment options. In addition to eBill service, other payment options include: credit card payment, automatic payment (have your water bill paid by direct debit from your checking account each month - there's no charge from IRWD for this service), by mail or in person.



Irrigation tips 'n' tune-ups



Keep your timer accessible.

An automatic sprinkler timer will need to be adjusted at least once per month to accommodate the changing weather and water needs of your plants. Don't forget to turn it off before it rains.



The best time to water is between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. If you must run your sprinkler system at other times, aim for when the sun is down or low in the sky and there is little or no wind.

Tips for Controlling Your Sprinkler Timer

With the proper setting of your sprinkler timer (also known as the irrigation controller) you can literally save thousands of gallons of water each year in landscape irrigation, while helping to prevent plant loss or diseases caused by over watering. Just because your sprinkler timer is "automatic" doesn't mean you can set it and forget it. You'll need to change the watering schedules as plants become established, month-by-month, and when it rains. Here are some basic tips for getting the most water-use efficiency out of your sprinkler timer.

1) Keep your timer accessible: Because you will be adjusting it monthly, make sure your timer isn't buried on your garage wall behind large storage boxes or other obstructions. You will also need to access the back or inside of your timer's box to regularly replace its back-up battery.

2) Set your timer's key functions:

a. Run Time: This is the station duration time, in minutes, when a specific valve will stay open and therefore water a station or zone.

b. Water Days: These are the days each week when a specific valve will be activated to water a zone.

c. Start Times: The times at which a specific valve will open to irrigate a station or zone. In "cycle and soak" irrigation scheduling, the same zone may be watered two or three times in one day, at one hour apart. This increases water-use efficiency by allowing the same amount of water to be applied over a longer time period, instead of all at once when it is more likely to pool and run off.

d. Water Budget: Most irrigation controllers have a seasonal percentage adjustment, or water budget feature, which allows the watering run time for all electric valves managed by the timer to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

e. Off or Stop Switch: This will stop all irrigation programs from running until you toggle back to "Run". Your previous settings will be saved. This is great during rainy days.

3) Additional Timer Tips:

a. Set run times to avoid runoff: By setting the sprinkler timer to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour or more apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

b. Set watering days for season and plant needs. Please refer to IRWD's "Suggested Weekly Summer Irrigation Schedule" on page 2 for a more detailed watering schedule.

c. Use water "budget" feature for interim adjustments. After programming your timer for 100% water application (as typically required in July and August) you need only make one simple adjustment each month to "budget" the water application to meet the plant's changing needs.



Don't forget to replace your timer's battery when we change our clocks. If you lose power to your home and the back-up battery in your sprinkler timer is dead, all your sprinkler programs revert to the factory default setting, or 10 minutes per day and seven days per week. This will quickly lead to a big spike on your water bill. Prevent this costly water waste by replacing your battery twice per year, during the change to and from daylight savings.

Suggested Weekly Summer Irrigation Schedule

Month	Turfgrass	Tree, Shrubs & Groundcover	Percent Option**
August	4 days, 3 cycles* of 3 minutes each	2 days, 3 cycles of 4 minutes each	100%
September***	4 days, 2 cycles of 3 minutes each	2 days, 2 cycles of 4 minutes each	70%

*By "cycling" the irrigation controller to turn on for the recommended number of minutes an hour apart, deeper watering and healthier root growth are gained, while runoff is reduced.

**The percent option, either a button or a dial, permits the watering run times for all electric valves managed by a controller to be increased or decreased with just one adjustment by percentage.

***In September, plants water needs drop by approximately 30 percent, even if the temperature remains warm.