

# pipelines



## Turf Removal Rebate Program helps Beautify Landscapes ~ with Less Water

IRWD has a new pilot program to help you create a stunning garden. Replace your water-thirsty turf with more water-efficient plants and you can improve your landscape, provide habitat for hummingbirds and butterflies, reduce pollution from urban runoff, as well as save money on water and maintenance. For details on how to take advantage of our new regional Turf Removal Rebate Program, visit [www.alwayswatersmart.com](http://www.alwayswatersmart.com) and click on "Turf



Removal Rebate Program." Check our "Beautiful Gardens" link for great design ideas and inspiration. Residential, commercial, and landscape customers may be eligible to receive \$1 per square-foot of turf grass removed, for a minimum of 250 to a maximum of 10,000 square-feet.

## Don't Let Your Holiday Meal Create a Spill: Keep Grease Out of Drains

Grease poured down drains is the leading cause of sewage spills. With the holidays approaching fast, many families will be cooking special meals to share with friends and relatives. If not disposed of properly, grease from cooking a holiday turkey, ham or roast can lead to costly clogs inside your home's sewer pipes or within your neighborhood's sewers.



Following these simple steps will help prevent sewer spills: Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal. Instead, pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze it until solid and then dispose of the can on trash day. Use paper towels to wipe excess grease from pots, pans and utensils before washing. For more tips, go to [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and type "Fats, Oils & Grease Program" in the search box.



### 24-Hour Service (949) 453-5300

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

### 24-Hour Online or Mobile Access

Visit our website: [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)

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IRWD is now on Facebook.com

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IRWD's YouTube channel is:  
[IrvineRanchWD](http://IrvineRanchWD)

## IRWD Crew Awarded for Skill and Efficiency

Four members of IRWD's Construction and Repair Department took first place at the Orange County Water Association's annual Water Tapping Contest. Nine teams from various water agencies and city water departments competed in the contest, held at Irvine Lake on September 15.

This award demonstrates that IRWD crews performing maintenance or repair tasks in the field are highly trained and work efficiently, assuring minimal interruptions in water service, while saving customers money.



*IRWD's Turbo Tappers water tapping team demonstrates precision during the annual Orange County Water Association water tapping contest in September.*

The timed competition involves team members who tap into a pressurized water pipe using specialized tools. Copper pipe is then connected and run to a faucet. When all connections are made, the faucet is turned on, replicating connection from a water main to a domestic water meter. Speed and precision are important.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Contest Winner Honored



Water Awareness poster contest winner Phillip Yoon, center, was honored at the September 27 IRWD Board of Directors meeting, where he and his mother were photographed with Paul Jones, General Manager of IRWD.



### Irvine Ranch Water District

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.

### IRWD Board of Directors

Douglas J. Reinhart, Pres.  
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### General Manager

Paul D. Jones II

Pipelines is published by  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.  
Irvine, California 92618  
(949) 453-5300

E-mail: [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)

Questions about this publication?  
E-mail: [publicaffairs@irwd.com](mailto:publicaffairs@irwd.com)

## Volunteers Clean San Diego Creek of Trash

Plastic bags by the hundreds, cigarette butts by the thousands, soda cans and cups, fishing line, bottles and bottle caps, tennis balls and construction debris – all were pulled out of San Diego Creek during Inner-Coastal Watershed Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 25.

More than 175 volunteers braved triple-digit heat to comb the banks of San Diego Creek for trash outside the gates of IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant. After four hours, two trash bins were brimming over with all manner of trash and recyclables.

IRWD has hosted a cleanup site for the past 11 years. Inner-Coastal Watershed Cleanup Day, held in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day, is in its 14th year. The goal is to clean garbage from creeks and streams before it reaches the shore. The IRWD site was one of 23 countywide.

The majority of IRWD's volunteers were students from Northwood High School, whose environmental science teachers award extra credit for participation in the cleanup. Everyone fanned out within the span of a mile along the creek banks. It's not unusual to find shopping carts in the creek, along with tires, construction barricades and vehicle parts. Some volunteers did find a shopping cart, but it was submerged so deep in muck they couldn't dislodge it. One couple even found an unopened bottle of cabernet sauvignon. Another group found a mattress.

Dylan Thomas, 17, is a senior at Northwood High School who found a long board he braced next to the trash bin. After filling up one bag with trash, he was headed back out to pick up more.

"This is just a good thing to do," he observed. "I would be here to help out whether or not I was getting credit."

IRWD employee Scott Beltran participated with his children, Christian, 10, and Madison, eight. He has brought the children to the event since they were very young to teach them about environmental stewardship.



Volunteers fan out in San Diego Creek to clean out debris during Inner-Coastal Watershed Cleanup Day on Sept. 25.

## IRWD Crew Awarded ...Continued from page 1

At the end of the drill, the raw time is given, then judges score the teams based on adherence to contest rules, use of safety equipment and if there are any leaks present. IRWD'S team achieved the time to beat, finishing in two minutes and four seconds with no penalties to detract from their score.

IRWD's team, composed of Colt Martin, David Perez, Matt Daniel and Carlos Collazo, was honored by the IRWD Board of Directors at the September 27 Board meeting. The team will also compete next spring in the American Water Works Association CA-NV's regional competition, to be held in Long Beach.

For more information about the work the IRWD crews do on a daily basis, please visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com).

## Wild about the Wetlands AT IRWD SAN JOAQUIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Saturday, December 4, 2010  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at  
IRWD San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary  
5 Riparian View, Irvine, CA 92612



Discover our interactive  
learning stations



Explore IRWD's hidden natural wonders

Follow these detour directions to access the IRWD San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary from Campus Drive:

### From 405 Freeway South, Exit Jamboree

1. Turn right onto Jamboree Road
2. Turn left at Michelson Drive
3. Turn right at Harvard Avenue
4. Turn right at University Drive
5. Turn right at Campus Drive
6. Make an immediate right into the marked entrance to IRWD San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary & Marsh Campus

### From 405 Freeway North, Exit Jamboree

1. Turn left onto Jamboree Road, then follow above steps 2 through 6.