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Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT



Discover the World with Education

What's a water bear? And what two natural forces drive the water cycle? Irvine Ranch Water District helps answer these and countless other questions in its educational outreach to the community.

IRWD partners with Discovery Cube on water-related school assemblies and field trips to the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where students learn about the natural processes associated with the water cycle, water purification and the importance of water efficiency. The programs are open to any school in IRWD's service area.

IRWD also teams with Sea & Sage Audubon Society to offer educational programs, tours and classes. These include summer day camps, a hands-on science program, bird-watching, bat-watching, and so much more.

Water bear? It's an eight-legged creature, also called a tardigrade—one of many microorganisms that break down solids in sewer water as an organic part of water recycling. And for those still wondering: sunlight and gravity drive the water cycle, causing water to evaporate, form clouds and fall as precipitation. This process cleans and distributes life-giving water to the planet.



Kids in the Sea & Sage Fledgling day camp watch for birds at IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh.

IRWD believes education is an important part of promoting public awareness and appreciation for the wonder of water. Check out these and other programs—and happy learning!

Learn More

- For information about Discovery Cube programs offered through IRWD, visit discoverycube.org or have your child's school contact Amy Hesch at ahesch@discoverycube.org or 714-263-3844 to set up an assembly or field trip.
- Visit seaandsageaudubon.org for information. Better yet, stop by the Audubon House, open daily at IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary.



A Better Bill

Did you notice? Your water bill has a new look today. We made it easier to read without skimming on detail. It will be delivered with your *Pipelines* newsletter every month. Today we have inserted a four-page "Understanding Your New Water Bill" flier to introduce what's new, better and different. Check it out!

Hydrant Flush Ensures Quality of Drinking Water

Water mains need a good flushing every once in a while to keep them clean. It's a process that raises eyebrows—seeing precious water rushing from fire hydrants into the street—but it's a necessary part of the preventative maintenance of our drinking water system. "This process maintains the integrity of the system so we can continue delivering the highest quality water possible," said IRWD Director of Water Operations Tom Roberts.

Flushing scours the interior of pipes by sending a rapid flow of water through the mains. IRWD began the program in 1993, flushing hydrants one neighborhood at a time. With 1,900 miles of drinking water pipeline, it's a never-ending process. Water mains more than 12 inches in diameter are flushed annually. Smaller mains are cleaned every three years.

During the flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity might experience temporary discoloration of their water caused by harmless deposits, which do not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discolored water after crews have been flushing in your neighborhood, clear your home's pipes by running all of your faucets for a minute or two.



Q: The holidays are coming up. What are your ideas for good water-saving gifts?

A: Consider giving a friend or neighbor a gift of a California native plant. One that comes to mind is called toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) or Christmas berry. Winter is the



Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

perfect time to plant a California native garden, which will use very little water once established. Other water-efficient gifts would be a watering wand, a rain barrel, or a smart timer, which can be programmed and operated with your phone.

Spend time with your family, but also with your landscape, making it water efficient for the New Year. Visit RightScapeNow.com for information about rebates. Happy holidays!

Got landscape questions? Email askjuan@irwd.com or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at RightScapeNow.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

Celebrate Our 2018 WaterStars

Congratulations to these six companies, recognized this year as Certified WaterStar Businesses. The recognition program is open to IRWD commercial, industrial, and institutional customers, including landscape irrigators, within the District. Certification as a WaterStar communicates to the community that the organization values water efficiency.

- Chapman University's Harry and Diane Rinker Health Science Campus
- Hoag Hospital Irvine
- Kia Design Center
- Kia Motors America
- Prudential Overall Supply
- University of California, Irvine



IRWD Holiday Office Closures

Christmas Holiday
Monday, Dec. 24,
and Tuesday, Dec. 25

New Year's Holiday
Monday, Dec. 31,
and Tuesday, Jan. 1

Save the Date

Control Your Controller

Wednesday, Dec. 12
6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn from the experts! Basic sprinkler timer programming concepts and landscape techniques will help you save water and money. Explore popular weather-based sprinkler controllers on the market, discuss their pros and cons, and receive hands-on training.

Sign-up required:
RightScapeNow.com/events

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