

**Fix-a-Leak
through March 25**

WIN UP TO \$500

**Details
on back**



Want to Understand Your Water Bill? Here's a Primer

Irvine Ranch Water District uses a budget-based rate structure to encourage our customers to use water wisely. Each residence is assigned a monthly water budget, which is based on several factors, including the number of residents in the home, the square footage of outdoor landscaped area and the weather.

How much you are charged for the water you use depends on whether you stay within your monthly budget. This chart explains how the rate tiers work:

Rate Tier	Water Budget	
Tier 1: Low Volume	Up to 40% of your monthly water budget	Water use within monthly budget
Tier 2: Base Rate	41% to 100% of your monthly water budget	
Tier 3: Inefficient	101% to 140% of your monthly water budget	Water use over monthly budget
Tier 4: Wasteful	141% and over of your monthly water budget	

How are the costs of water assigned to each rate tier?

Each tier is assigned a rate based on the actual cost of service, which varies according to the source of the water. Each source has a different cost of water. For example, local groundwater from the Dyer Road Well Field here in Orange County is IRWD's lowest-cost water—while imported water (from out of state or Northern California) is our highest-cost water.

The **Low Volume** rate tier rewards customers who use the least water, which reduces the need for IRWD to buy water supplies that are more expensive. The **Base Rate** tier is for customers who stay within their monthly water budget allocation. The **Inefficient** and **Wasteful** tiers are for customers who exceed their monthly budget.

This chart shows how the water supplies are allocated between the rate tiers for the 2017/2018 fiscal year:

Water Source	Tier 1: Low Volume	Tier 2: Base Rate	Tier 3: Inefficient	Tier 4: Wasteful
Groundwater				
Dyer Road Well Field*	100%	32%		
Deep Aquifer Treatment System		23%		
Irvine Desalter Project		17%		
Wells 21 & 22		7%		
Orange Park Acres & Lake Forest Wells		3%		
Baker Water Treatment Plant		18%	61%	
Imported Water from Metropolitan Water District			39%	100%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

*IRWD's lowest-cost water

Uncontrollable costs and what they mean to you

While local groundwater from the Dyer Road Well field is our lowest-cost water, sometimes IRWD is assessed costs that are out of our control. For example, the Orange County Water District, the agency that manages the groundwater basin, may increase fees associated with pumping water out of the groundwater basin. IRWD has no choice but to pay this fee. In the 2017/2018 fiscal year OCWD fees increased 11%, and we expect the increase to be approximately the same in 2018/2019.

The net effect is our Low Volume and Base Rate tier customers will see an increase when OCWD raises groundwater fees, an increase that is sometimes larger than those in the more expensive rate tiers.

However, even with these increases, water from the Dyer Road Well Field is still our lowest-cost water. At IRWD we are firm in our commitment to continue to reward our best customers—who stay within their water budget—with our lowest rates possible.

For more information on understanding your water bill and to see current rates and charges, please visit irwd.com.

Kids, Enter Our Water Poster Contest

Calling all K-8 students: Create a poster that shows how to use water wisely. You could become a published artist! Top posters may appear in a 2019 calendar. Students who submit artwork are entered for a chance to win an iPad or a meet-and-greet with a scientist or water efficiency expert. Visit irwd.com/postercontest for rules. Enter by April 2.



Fix a Leak Contest Ends March 25



As part of Fix a Leak Week, March 19–25, IRWD is offering customers a chance to win a \$500 Home Depot gift card. Complete the IRWD Online Customer Training Portal. Training takes 10 to 15 minutes and shows how to identify and fix leaks around your home. After training, submit photos of yourself checking for leaks. Photos will be accepted on irwd.com/2018fixaleak or on IRWD's social media channels. Contest deadline is March 25.

Save the Date

Sprinkler & Drip Workshop

Thursday, March 22
6 – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Learn how to save money and water by repairing and maintaining your irrigation system. Find out the easy way to update from sprinklers to drip irrigation.

Plants for the Planet

Wednesday, April 11
6 – 8:30 p.m.

IRWD
Multi-Purpose Room
15600 Sand Canyon Ave.
Irvine

Select the right plants for your landscape. We'll discuss California natives, seasonal water needs, and cultural care tips.

Sign-up required:
rightscapenow.com/events

Register for Resident Tours

Get your questions answered on IRWD's Water Awareness Tours! Dates for the spring resident tours: **Saturday, April 21**; **Friday, April 27**; and **Saturday, April 28**. These events include walking tours of the Michelson Water Recycling Plant and the San Joaquin Marsh, a laboratory demonstration, and a discussion about efficient water use. Sign up at irwd.com/learning/request-a-resident-tour.



Q: How can I control weeds in my garden without using toxic herbicides?

A: The best way is the good ol' bend-and-stoop method—manually removing weeds. But that can get tiring. Here are some easy eco-friendly strategies: First, mix one gallon of vinegar, one cup of table salt and one tablespoon of biodegradable dish detergent in a bucket.

Pour it into a spray bottle and label it. You have created an eco-friendly weed killer. Be sure not to spray plants you don't want to harm. After removing weeds, you can lay down four to five layers of printed newspaper as a weed barrier then place a thick layer of mulch on top.

Timely tip: Daylight Saving Time begins March 11. Remember to adjust your sprinkler timers to water at the appropriate time and check your sprinklers for leaks.

Got a question? 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.

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