

Click or call for service

IRWD offices are temporarily closed.

Need help?

Click IRWD.com/services, email CustomerService@IRWD.com, or call 949-453-5300.

pipelines

APRIL 2021 | NUMBER 4



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Reservoir project: an investment in our future

IRWD has a 60-year history of planning for the future needs of our District. That includes a new proposal to increase the capacity of one of our five reservoirs.

The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project is an investment to increase the amount of recycled water that can be stored there to meet seasonal and future needs. This will reduce our dependence on costly imported water and make our community more self-sufficient.

Safety

Syphon Reservoir will be modernized and

upgraded to exceed the latest federal and state standards for design and safety.

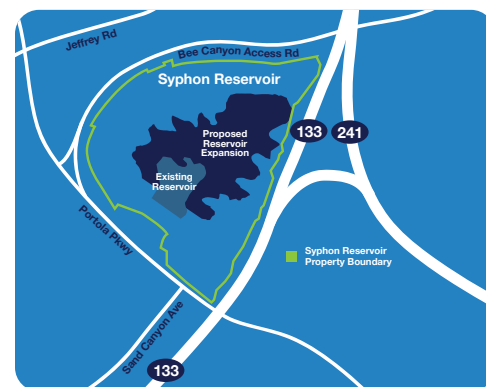
Environmental review

The project is undergoing a thorough California Environmental Quality Act review process that includes opportunities for public input and stakeholder engagement.

Timeline

The environmental review process is expected to be completed by fall of 2021. IRWD will develop the preliminary and final design between spring 2021 and winter 2023. Construction could begin in

late winter 2023 and is estimated to take 2–3 years to complete.



WHAT ARE THE SYPHON PROJECT'S BENEFITS TO ME AND MY COMMUNITY?



Prepares us for the future by storing more drought-proof water



Enables IRWD to use nearly 100% of the recycled water it produces



Keeps parks, medians, athletic fields, public landscaping, and golf courses **green and beautiful**



Provides water to **fight wildfires** throughout the region



Saves IRWD \$100 million over 50 years and **preserves low customer rates**

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR SYPHON RESERVOIR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NOW AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project Draft EIR is available on the IRWD website at syphonreservoirproject.com.

Community members have until May 18, 2021, to provide comments. Comments must be submitted in writing, via mail or email to:

Irvine Ranch Water District

Water Resources & Policy Department
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618
Attn: Jo Ann Corey, Environmental Compliance Analyst
syphonEIR@irwd.com

The District will also hold a virtual/online public meeting to review the Draft EIR with our community on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 6 p.m. Visit the website for viewing details at syphonreservoirproject.com.

For more information, call 949-453-5500 or email info@irwd.com.

Save the date

Michelson Water Recycling Plant

Virtual tour

Wednesday, April 28
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Learn more about recycled water and take a virtual tour of IRWD's Michelson Water Recycling Plant.

Sprinkler Spruce-up

Online webinar

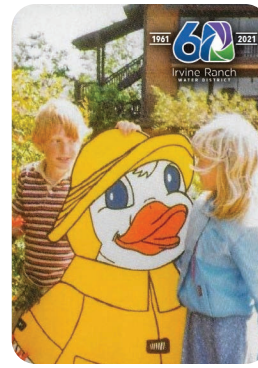
Wednesday, May 12
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

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

Sign-up required:
RightScape.com/events

A history of education

IRWD has provided water education programs since the 1970s, and in honor of our 60th anniversary, we celebrate the significant impact our student and community education programs have had on thousands of our customers.



IRWD's now-retired mascot, Aqua Duck, in the 1990s

IRWD participates in community partnerships to provide education about the importance of water and environmental sustainability. This includes Sea and Sage Audubon programs, community tours, and school programs such as water awareness poster contests, children's education festivals, and science fairs.

Since 2007, more than 18,000 students have participated in assemblies and field trips through our partnership with the Discovery Cube Orange County. In 2020, we took our programming online with virtual workshops, presentations, and interactive digital content. Visit IRWD.com/learning/student-education.



Q: I had a question about redoing my landscape. Are we still in planting season or do you recommend I wait?

A: We are fortunate to live in California where our climate allows us to plant year-round, but we must be careful. Since we are approaching mid-spring, it's still a good time to plant but be mindful that summer is right around the corner and it's getting warmer. The closer you

plant to summer the more you will have to water the new plantings so that they can establish. I would recommend you use mulch after planting as this will keep the soil cool, moist and allow the roots to develop. If you are removing grass as part of your project, consider participating in our turf removal program. Find out more at RightScape.com/rebates.

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 RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan.

California native corner

Juan's April plant: island alum root

Native to the Channel Islands, island alum root (*Heuchera maxima*) is a perennial herb that produces a rosette of large, round, purple-veined leaves and tall spikes of clustered bell-shaped pink or white flowers. Considered one of the most adaptable and vigorous of the alum roots, it grows best in part shade but can also bear full sun in coastal regions. Once established, it requires minimal water throughout year, especially in the summer. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan



Ask Customer Service

Q: I just received my new bill and noticed that my AutoPay did not process for last month's charges. What happened?

A: To continue with AutoPay, registration in our new payment portal is required at PayMyBill.IRWD.com. Be sure to set up AutoPay with PayPal, Venmo, a checking account, debit card, or credit card after registering your account. For security reasons, your previous online profile and payment information cannot be transferred to the new system. Customer Service is available to help with the process, if needed.

Please contact us at CustomerService@IRWD.com or **949-453-5300** for assistance.

Got a question? Email Info@IRWD.com with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

 **Like Us**
Irvine Ranch Water District

 **Follow Us**
[@IRWDNews](https://twitter.com/IRWDNews)

 **Watch Us**
youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD

 **Follow Us**
[@irwdnews](https://www.instagram.com/irwdnews)

24-Hour customer service: 949-453-5300
Email: CustomerService@IRWD.com
Address: 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618
Website: IRWD.com

Board of Directors:
Douglas J. Reinhart – president, John B. Withers – vice president, Steven E. LaMar, Karen McLaughlin, Peer A. Swan
General manager: Paul Cook, PE