

**Save 50%  
on mulch!**

Get half off your purchase with IRWD's Mulch Madness program. Visit [IRWD.com/MulchMadness](http://IRWD.com/MulchMadness) for details!

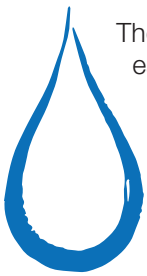
# pipelines

APRIL 2022



Irvine Ranch  
Water District

## Pledge to save water, and make your city proud



The race is on among cities to save water and earn the title as America's most water-wise community—so do your part and help your town make the grade!

The National Mayor's Challenge is a friendly competition between cities across the U.S., with mayors challenging their residents to save water, energy and other natural resources by taking a series of easy online pledges. Since 2013, the challenge has saved over 7 billion gallons of water.

Participants in winning cities are eligible to win hundreds of daily prizes. Plus, by taking a pledge, you can nominate a nonprofit in your city to receive a community grand prize: a 2022 Toyota Highlander Hybrid.

IRWD is honored to provide water to all of Irvine, and parts of Lake Forest, Newport Beach, Tustin, Costa Mesa, Orange, and unincorporated Orange County. Visit IRWD's [RightScape.com](http://RightScape.com) website for tips on saving water, and show your local pride by taking the pledge on behalf of your city at [MyWaterPledge.com](http://MyWaterPledge.com).

## IRWD's marsh a hotspot for birdwatching

Springtime is a wonderful season to visit a local gem of nature: Irvine Ranch Water District's San Joaquin Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary.

This peaceful refuge provides important shelter to more than 200 species of local and migratory birds, as well as other animals that are out in force this time of year.

By April, marsh plants have begun to bloom after winter dormancy. Broad-billed shovellers paddle in the ponds. Pelicans roost on bird island, and bands of tree swallows glide and dance in the air.

The marsh is one of Orange County's most popular birding spots. Visit [IRWD.com/SanJoaquinMarsh](http://IRWD.com/SanJoaquinMarsh).



A parent tree swallow swoops in to feed fledglings at one of about 100 nest boxes at the marsh.

## Ponds clean runoff, protect the Back Bay

IRWD takes pride in our efforts to revitalize and preserve the marsh, which encompasses over 300 acres of coastal freshwater wetlands.

In addition to providing habitat, the marsh is the largest of the District's Natural Treatment System sites, which clean urban runoff flowing into the San Diego Creek before it reaches the environmentally sensitive Upper Newport Bay.

This works by diverting water from the creek and allowing it to circulate through a series of ponds where nitrogen, phosphorous and bacteria are naturally removed from the water by plants, sunlight and sedimentation.

Visit [IRWD.com/natural-treatment-system](http://IRWD.com/natural-treatment-system) to learn more.

# Save the date

## IRWD Community Tour

In-person event

**Saturday, April 9**  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IRWD's in-person Community Tour is back with live presentations and 3 miles of walking tours of the Michelson Water Recycling Plant and San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Space is limited.

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScape.com/events](https://RightScape.com/events)

## Plants for the Planet

Online webinar

**Wednesday, April 20**  
Noon – 1 p.m.

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

**Sign-up required:**  
[RightScape.com/events](https://RightScape.com/events)

# IRWD helps drought-troubled communities

Irvine Ranch Water District and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California are working together to support drought-stricken areas by making water from IRWD's water bank available to those that need it most.

Nearly 4,000 acre-feet of water from the IRWD Water Bank in Kern County is being distributed by Metropolitan to portions of Los Angeles, Ventura and San Bernadino counties. In return,

Metropolitan will provide a credit to IRWD for the same amount of water to meet a future need. That's enough water to serve about 12,000 households for a year.

"IRWD is fortunate to be in a position to help, thanks to the local water sources we have developed over the years, and to the conscientious efforts made by our customers to use water wisely," said General Manager Paul Cook. "We are happy to be part of the solution."



**Q:** I want to add some plants to my landscape to attract birds. Do you have any recommendations?

**A:** Birds need a place to rest, nest, and forage for food and water.

Choose native plants to draw from among the hundreds of local species of native birds. Large trees such as oak and sycamore make for great plantings. For smaller landscapes, combine small trees, short shrubs and lower growing plants to create various landing zones for our birds. Toyon, elderberries, and hollyleaf cherry make excellent small trees while gooseberry, buckwheat, and manzanita are great choices for smaller shrubs. Add other flowering food sources such as bush sunflower, California fuchsia and monkeyflower to round out your landscape. Visit the California Native Plant Society's website, [cnps.org](https://cnps.org).

Got landscape questions? Email [AskJuan@IRWD.com](mailto:AskJuan@IRWD.com) or ask on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with [#irwdcommunity](https://twitter.com/irwdcommunity). See past answers at [RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan](https://RightScape.com/landscape-resources/ask-juan).



**Q:** I want to upgrade my irrigation system to save water. What rebates are available, and how do I apply?

**A:** [RightScape.com](https://RightScape.com) lists several indoor and outdoor rebates to help—and because about 60% of a home's water consumption goes toward the landscape, your irrigation system is a great place to start.

Right now, you can get up to \$255 for a smart irrigation controller. Other rebates include \$4 per nozzle for rotating spray nozzles, and 50% off the cost of Pressure Regulating Spray bodies.

Browse through the rebates and click on those that you're interested in for details on the terms of the rebate, to get an estimate of your rebate, and to apply online.

Got a question? Email [info@IRWD.com](mailto:info@IRWD.com) with "Ask Customer Service" as the subject line.

## California native corner

### Juan's April plant: Douglas iris

Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) is a striking perennial, native to our coastal and woodland areas. It spreads by rhizomes, forming large clumps of showy violet to pale cream blossoms with dark purple veins that emerge from sword-shaped, dark-evergreen leaves. Excellent for mass planting, it prefers part or full shade and is very drought tolerant near the coast but needs summer water farther inland. Learn more at [CalScape.org](https://CalScape.org) and [CalScape.org/planting-guide.php](https://CalScape.org/planting-guide.php). — Juan

