

In This Issue:

Sea & Sage
Summer Family Barbecue
Community Calendar
Fall Resident Tours
New Rates Effective July 1
Ask Juan

pipelines

JULY 2017 | NUMBER 7



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the Date

Fall Resident Tours

Friday, October 13
Saturday, October 14
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

IRWD Operations Center
and San Joaquin Marsh
3512 Michelson Drive
Irvine

Are you curious about where your water comes from and how your water is managed? Come tour our facilities and San Joaquin Marsh. Customers who live or work within the IRWD service area have an opportunity to learn more about IRWD.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Attendees must be 16 years or older.

Online registration will be available beginning in August at irwd.com.



Preparing for Summer Fire Season

Summer is here and the heat is rising. When temperatures rise, the Irvine Ranch Water District operations staff remains in a constant state of readiness to respond to fires and/or loss of power in our service area. The water operations department routinely patrols and monitors the canyon areas. A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system is used to remotely monitor all aspects of pump station and reservoir operation. This system uses radio, phone lines and cellular telemetry units to relay information.

All of the pump stations serving the canyon areas are equipped with generators that provide power automatically in the event of a power outage. These generators are tested monthly to ensure proper operation. The fuel tanks are kept full, and the fuel is routinely filtered and sampled for quality. The automatic transfer switches, which direct generator power to pump stations, are inspected and tested annually.

IRWD has battled fire season before. In 2007, the Santiago Fire burned over 28,000 acres, most of which were in the IRWD service area. When the fire occurred, IRWD crews implemented emergency operations procedures and worked around the clock



to keep the water flowing to firefighters by connecting emergency generators, operating pumps and manually measuring reservoir depths in areas where downed power and home lines disabled electronic monitoring systems. IRWD crews installed portable diesel tanks throughout the area to refuel the generators and installed remote communication devices to restore monitoring systems until phone lines became operational again. Due to these efforts, water service to firefighters and residents was maintained throughout the fire episode. After the fire, all sites were evaluated, resulting in improvements to several pump stations including the installation of block walls for added fire protection.

Continued on page 2, **Fire Season**

New Rates Effective July 1

New water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2017–2018 went into effect July 1. For more information, visit irwd.com/rates-charges.

Fire Season

Continued from page 1

IRWD customers with homes in the foothill and canyon areas are encouraged to look into the benefits of maintaining fire resistant landscaping. The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) endorses planting shrubs such as monkeyflower and autumn sage as well as trees like the California sycamore and toyon. Learn more about these plants on the IRWD website, irwd.com/liquid-news/fire-resistant-plants-pretty-and-practical.

Plant maintenance is also necessary for fire resistive plants to offer protection during a wildfire. Visit vimeo.com/43064819 to view an OCFA guide on fire resistant plants.

Bruce Newell, Senior Reserve Officer at OCFA Station 16 in Modjeska Canyon, also recommends visiting OCFA's website, ocfa.org.

"We are currently in the READY stage," explains Newell. "It is the perfect time to clean up around any structure and make a good defensible space. A wonderful wet winter has produced tall grasses and other plants that are now drying out and must be removed or cut back. Warmer weather will soon heighten the risk of fire."

CODE RED®

Don't wait for an emergency to happen before you sign up for CodeRED®, a high-volume, high-speed system for mass emergency notifications. Since 2010, IRWD has kept customers informed in times of water-related emergencies with CodeRED. Customers have the option of receiving voice, email or text messages within an hour of an emergency. Signing up for CodeRED is as easy as visiting irwd.com and clicking on "Emergency & Code Red" under "Customer Care."

Save the Date

Summer Family Barbecue

Hosted by Sea & Sage Audubon Society

Saturday, July 29
5 p.m. – 10 p.m.

IRWD
San Joaquin Marsh
Campus Drive and
Riparian View, Irvine

Enjoy a dinner under the stars with a presentation by featured speaker Miguel Ordenana, who has conducted a mammal research project in Griffith Park. There will also be evening bird walks and a nature book sale.



Your Community Connection

IRWD provides an online calendar that posts our RightScope® workshops and local community events for non-profit and non-religious groups. If you have an event you'd like to post, please email event details to info@irwd.com with "Community Calendar" in the subject line. Events posted are subject to IRWD guidelines and available calendar space. To view our calendar, please visit irwd.com/community/community-calendar.



Q: I have a Tipuana Tipu tree in my backyard coming out of its deciduous period and it needs pruning. Is now a good time to prune, shape, trim or should I wait? I will need a good tree service to do this, could you point me in the right direction?

A: It is a common practice to prune deciduous trees

and plants during their dormancy period. This period allows you to shape the tree, remove diseased, damaged or dead wood, and will promote a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring. Late winter would be the optimum time to prune. Pruning during the growing season can stress the tree, making it vulnerable to diseases and pests. As far as hiring a professional, look for someone that is fully licensed, bonded, and a certified arborist.



 **Like Us**
Irvine Ranch
Water District

 **Follow Us**
@IRWDNews

 **Watch Us**
[youtube.com/
IrvineRanchWD](http://youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD)

 **Follow Us**
@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, Peer A. Swan - Vice President,
Mary Aileen Matheis, Steven E. LaMar, John B. Withers
General Manager: Paul Cook, PE