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pipelines

JUNE 2021 | NUMBER 6



Irvine Ranch
WATER DISTRICT

Save the date

San Diego Creek cleanups

Saturday, June 26
Saturday, July 17
9 – 11 a.m.

Help clean the creek near IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. This volunteer opportunity is focused on removing trash before it pollutes Upper Newport Bay and the ocean. Space is limited, and state health guidelines will be followed.

Composting 101

Online webinar

Wednesday, July 7
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Join us for a webinar presentation with UCCE OC Master Gardeners. Our speaker will cover the basics of traditional composting and vermicomposting (using earthworms).

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

IRWD's purple reign began in 1960s



One of the proudest achievements in IRWD's 60-year history has been the leadership role the District has played in the use of recycled water. It started in 1963, when the Board of Directors implemented a vision to integrate water recycling into the design of our community.

Four years later, the Michelson Water Recycling Plant was completed, distributing recycled water to customers through a network that has grown to include two treatment plants, four recycled water reservoirs,

570 miles of pipeline, 6,000 metered connections, more than 125 dual-plumbed buildings, and the production of more than 25 million gallons of recycled water per day.

IRWD pioneered the use of purple pipe in the 1980s to distinguish recycled water from drinking water pipeline, and now "Irvine Purple" is the universal symbol for recycled water.

Recycled water meets about 27% of IRWD's total water demands. About 85% of the public and commercial irrigated landscape in our service area—parks, medians, golf courses and community association properties—is watered with recycled water.

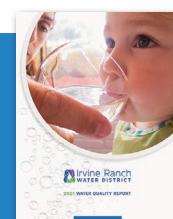


Recycled water is also used for toilet flushing and cooling towers in commercial buildings. Hyatt House Irvine was the first dual-plumbed hotel in California to use recycled water for flushing toilets in guest rooms. IRWD recycled water is also used to make the ice at the Great Park Ice and FivePoint Arena.

Water is too precious to use once. By recycling it, our community saves billions of gallons of drinking water annually. Watch our video and learn more at [IRWD.com/RecycledWater](https://www.irwd.com/RecycledWater).

2021 Water Quality Report

IRWD water meets all the exacting quality standards set by the state and federal government. Visit [IRWD.com/water-report](https://www.irwd.com/water-report) to read or request a copy of the new annual Water Quality Report, released this month.



Sea & Sage offers limited marsh programs this summer

IRWD's San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary is open every day for people to enjoy on their own. For those wanting a more structured experience, Sea & Sage Audubon is offering several educational programs there on a limited basis this summer. A plan has been developed following state and CDC guidelines for health safety that includes mask wearing, daily health screenings, physical distancing, vaccines for staff, no shared use of equipment, and limited group sizes.

Nature walks will be offered to people of all ages at three levels of engagement. In the first, a nature display table will share tips of what to watch for at the marsh for self-guided exploration. A second tier will have naturalists providing information at various points in the marsh. A third level of a public nature walk would be limited to 10 people, with pre-registration required.

Nature day camps for children ages 10 to 15 will be offered as half-day week-long programs. Three camps provide opportunities for children to learn more about the riparian habitat, shorebirds, and bird groups at the marsh.

For more information on these and other opportunities, visit SeaAndSageAudubon.org or contact Project Director Trude Hurd at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.



Clark's grebes take flight at the marsh.



Q: What are common causes of low water pressure?

A: Low water pressure can occur throughout your home or at an individual faucet. It can be caused by incorrectly adjusted valves, mineral deposits, a water leak, or use of water in times of peak demand. To help identify the cause, check to make sure the customer valve at the meter or house is fully open. Aerators in faucets should also be cleared of mineral deposits. It is also a good idea to check your pressure regulator, which may need adjustment or repair by a qualified plumber. Lastly, check for undetected leaks, (visit IRWD.com/services/water-leaks to learn how). If you experience a sudden drop in pressure or need additional assistance, contact Customer Service at 949-453-5300.

Ask Juan



Q: Our lawn is a mess and we wish to replace it with a durable, water efficient substitute that will tolerate our dogs' backyard activities. A neighbor planted Kurapia and was relatively happy with it, but indicated that it attracted a lot of bees. What do you recommend we do?

A: Kurapia is a good choice as far as a groundcover; it can take foot traffic a lot better than others. As far as the bees, Kurapia can be mowed to get rid of the flowers. There are also warm season grasses such as St. Augustine, Kikuyu grass, Bermuda, etc. that can tolerate a lot of foot traffic. Visit RightScape.com/rebates to find out more about outdoor rebates.

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

California native corner

Juan's June plant: sulfur flower buckwheat

Sulfur flower buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) is an evergreen low-growing perennial that can be found from California to Colorado, typically in and around foothills, mountain slopes and ridges, and dry rocky areas. Named for its brilliant yellow flowers, the sulfur flower buckwheat has dense clusters atop leafless stalks. They bloom from early summer into fall with spatula-shaped leaves, and prefer part shade to full sun. Requiring little or no water, these plants are a great addition to rock gardens and butterfly gardens. Learn more at CalScape.org and CalScape.org/planting-guide.php. — Juan



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