

pipelines



This historic windmill reflects the District's 1961 beginning, serving mostly agricultural customers.

IRWD: In the Beginning

~Celebrating 50 Years of Value~

Irvine Ranch Water District was formed in 1961 under the provisions of the California Water District Act within the California Water Code in response to the increasing water needs of the region. IRWD initially served mostly agricultural customers. The District was created to secure a water supply for domestic and irrigation use from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The District's boundaries encompassed 38,500 acres, roughly from the Santa Ana Freeway to the San Joaquin Hills. Today, IRWD customers total more than 300,000, in an area spanning 181 square miles from the foothills to coastal Orange County.

The first few years were spent getting funding for infrastructure. In 1961 and 1963 the District sold \$6.4 million in bonds to help build the San Joaquin Reservoir and the East Orange County Feeder No. 2, a 24-mile pipeline reaching between the MWD Diemer Filtration Plant in Yorba Linda and the San Joaquin Reservoir. By the summer of 1964 the District had nine customers. The District acquired its first major facilities from the Irvine Company's water system, including some of its reservoirs, various water rights, and two water companies, the Barranca Mutual System and the Francis Mutual System.

In the beginning, IRWD did not provide sewer service and in March 1965 voters authorized the District to collect, treat and dispose of sewage. The first phase of the Michelson Reclamation Plant, today known as the Michelson Water Recycling Plant, was constructed in 1967. Pipelines, reservoirs, wells and treatment plants are only part of the IRWD history. The system would quickly run dry without the expertise and commitment of the District's employees. IRWD began with a handful of people with an engineering dream. Today the District employs over 300 staff.

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Fix a Leak on Us!

The Irvine Ranch Water District is rewarding customers who repair leaks in their home. From Feb. 15 to March 31, all customers who submit receipts for leak repairs will be entered to win up to \$50 toward their repair costs in honor of IRWD's 50th Anniversary.

This promotion is in partnership with WaterSense's Fix a Leak Week 2011, ongoing March 14-20.

Fixing a leaky toilet can save 30 to 50 gallons of water per day, while fixing a broken sprinkler can save up to 10 gallons per minute! These water bandits are often responsible for water over-allocation charges, resulting in high water bills.

To participate in this special promotion, customers should:

- 1) Find and fix all water leaks promptly.
- 2) Call IRWD customer service at (949) 453-5300 for a one-time courtesy leak adjustment on your water bill to avoid over-allocation charges.
- 3) Mail in original receipts, dated between Feb. 15 and March 31.

All participants will be entered to win up to \$50 toward repair costs and receive a complimentary conservation device kit, designed to encourage customers to be always water smart. For full details, visit www.alwayswatersmart.com and click on "Fix a Leak Week 2011".

IRWD Purchasing Team Achieves a Winning Decade



On behalf of IRWD's purchasing department, Magdalena Ramirez, Sr. Purchasing Coordinator, and Alex Aguilar, Purchasing Manager, proudly display ten years of Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Awards.

IRWD has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Purchasing Institute for the tenth consecutive year.

The award is given to organizations that score high in the following attributes of the procurement function: innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership. Being efficient with time *Continued on page 2...*



Help Restore Wild Habitats at Mason Regional Park

Calling all nature lovers. On the first Sunday of every month at 9 a.m., Back to Natives Restoration needs your help restoring and maintaining wildlife habitats within 3.5 acres of Mason Regional Park in Irvine. Bring work gloves, sunscreen, hat, a re-usable water bottle filled with water and close-toed shoes.

To RSVP and learn more details, visit www.irwd.com's "Community Programs" section and click on "Community Partners."

While you're there, take a moment to check out our new "Community Calendar" page for daily listings of non-profit events happening throughout the IRWD service area.



Irvine Ranch Water District

The mission of Irvine Ranch Water District, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer service in an efficient, cost effective manner and environmentally sensitive way that provides a high level of customer satisfaction.

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Resident Tours Open for Reservations

For the past 20 years, Irvine Ranch Water District has offered our customers the opportunity to hop on the bus, take a peek behind our operations, and discover more about IRWD through the resident tour program. This year's tours also feature a special commemoration of our 50th Anniversary.



To learn more about IRWD sign up at www.irwd.com, on the "Tours" web page of the "Community Programs" section, for one of five free resident tours offered this spring.

Tour dates are: Fridays, **April 1** and **April 29**; Saturdays, **April 9**, **May 7** and **May 21**. Tours begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at approximately 1:30 p.m.

In the Beginning ...Continued from page 1

IRWD will commemorate its 50-year milestone with a year-long recognition focusing on the many accomplishments and firsts achieved by the District. Each month will spotlight innovative programs that give value to our customers – such as our award-winning conservation program and conservation rate structure, sound financial management, environmental stewardship, historical preservation and state-of-the-art methods for ensuring the quality and reliability of your water.

Please visit www.irwd.com to learn more about the District's historical roots, major milestones, programs and people that helped shape IRWD into the dynamic, committed, innovative agency it is today.



Aqua Duck Wants to Be Your Friend

IRWD's beloved mascot, Aqua Duck, is celebrating IRWD's 50th Anniversary by joining Facebook and connecting with customers. To become friends with Aqua Duck, log on to Facebook.com and type "Aqua Duck" in the search field. Look for "Irvine Ranch Water District" below Aqua Duck's name to find daily water saving tips, pertinent news stories, and information on all IRWD resources.

Purchasing Award ...Continued from page 1

and money helps keep IRWD rates among the lowest in Orange County.

"Winning this prestigious award for a tenth year is thrilling," said Alex Aguilar, IRWD Purchasing Manager. "It validates the fact that the District is dedicated to constantly improving how we do business and challenges us to continue to lead the industry with our efficient and effective purchasing practices."

In 1995, the National Purchasing Institute established a program designed to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement. The Achievement of Excellence in Procurement is awarded annually and earned by those organizations that demonstrate excellence by obtaining a high score based on standardized criteria.



24-Hour Service (949) 453-5300

If you discover a disruption in your water service or other problem call the IRWD 24-hour emergency line and a representative will assist you.

24-Hour Online or Mobile Access

Visit our website: www.irwd.com



IRWD is now on Facebook.com

Join our fan pages:

Irvine Ranch Water District



Aqua Duck

Follow IRWD's Twitter channels:



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IRWD's YouTube channel is:
IrvineRanchWD