



## **Santiago County Water District**

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## **Irvine Ranch Water District**

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# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Consolidation of Santiago County Water District and Irvine Ranch Water District Approved by Local Agency Formation Commission**

The proposal to combine Santiago County Water District (SCWD) with Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) was approved unanimously yesterday by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). The consolidation will become effective July 1, 2006.

The boards of directors of both agencies had earlier unanimously approved the decision to consolidate and had mutually filed the application to be approved by LAFCO.

“We are pleased with LAFCO’s decision to approve this mutually beneficial request to merge the districts,” said IRWD Board President Peer A. Swan. “This consolidation will provide economies of scale and efficiencies that equate to better value for all of our customers.”

The consolidation of the two districts followed a series of many board and community meetings to discuss the proposed merger.

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## SCWD-IRWD Consolidation

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“Customers in the former SCWD service area will see a 20 percent reduction in their water use fees as well as in their monthly water service charges,” said SCWD Board President Jim Carter. “In addition to lower rates, the consolidation will provide enhanced service reliability while maintaining the unique character of the canyon communities,” added Carter. The rate reduction benefits will be realized immediately at the July 1, 2006 effective date of the consolidation. Currently residents pay \$2.50 per ccf of water. Upon the consolidation date, the rate will drop to \$2.00 per ccf. One ccf equals one hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons, of water.

SCWD board members Jim Carter, Maryann Brown, Steve Kerrigan, Bob Hunt and Bruce Newell will serve on an advisory committee to the IRWD board for a period of three years to ensure an orderly transition of service.

SCWD serves a population of 2,500 in the Silverado, Williams and Modjeska Canyon areas of unincorporated Orange County. IRWD serves a population of 316,000 including the city of Irvine and portions of Lake Forest, Tustin, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa and Orange.

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