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Irvine Ranch Water District

**News**

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**Public Invited to “A Day at the Marsh” at San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary**

Want to learn about egrets, heron and birds of prey? Care to view beautiful nature photography? Ever wonder what happens to urban runoff when it goes into the storm drain? The public can learn about this and more at “A Day at the Marsh,” an event celebrating the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, June 10 from 9 a.m. until noon in Irvine.

Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) is sponsoring the event to mark its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to introduce more visitors to the 320-acre San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, often called Irvine’s “best kept secret.”

“The Marsh features a reconstructed wetlands area that naturally cleans urban runoff from Irvine and other communities before it reaches environmentally-sensitive Upper Newport Bay while at the same time, providing habitat and a special place for people,” said IRWD President Peer Swan. “For those who have never experienced this special place, Saturday’s event will provide the perfect opportunity to visit.”

The open house will feature guided tours of the Marsh, hosted by water experts from IRWD and wildlife experts from the Sea and Sage Chapter of the National Audubon

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## A Day at the Marsh

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Society. Trail maps will be available for those who wish to explore the 12 miles of trails on their own.

A highlight of the day will be the presentation of awards to winners of the first San Joaquin Marsh Photo Contest. Awards will be presented during a brief ceremony from 10 a.m. All of the winning photos will be on display in the Duck Club.

A wide variety of cities and environmental organizations are scheduled to have booths to share information with the public. Organizations scheduled to exhibit include the California Coastal Commission, Turtle Rock Nature Center, the City of Irvine, Orange County Birds of Prey, Sea and Sage Audubon, Orange County Coastkeeper, Surfrider Foundation, the Nature Reserve of Orange County and many more. Irvine Ranch Water District and several of the participating organizations will have activities geared to children in their booths.

Refreshments –including birthday cake to help IRWD celebrate its birthday—will be served.

The event is free. The San Joaquin Marsh is located off of Michelson Drive in Irvine between Jamboree and Harvard. From Michelson, turn south at the Riparian View traffic signal and follow the signs to the parking area.

For further information, call (949) 453-5500 or visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com).

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