APPENDIX B: eCCR Certification Form (Suggested Format)

Consumer Confidence Report Certification Form

(To be submitted with a copy of the CCR)

Water System Name:	Irvine Ranch Water District
Water System Number:	CA3010092

The water system named above hereby certifies that its Consumer Confidence Report was distributed on **June 1, 2023** to customers (and appropriate notices of availability have been given). Further, the system certifies that the information contained in the report is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW).

Certified by:

Name: Jim Colston	Title: Director of Water Quality & Reg. Comp.
Signature: Jim Colston Digitally signed by Jim Colston Date: 2023.08.22 12:41:48 -07'00'	Date: 8/22/23
Phone number: (949) 453-5831	blank

To summarize report delivery used and good-faith efforts taken, please complete this page by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate:

- **X** CCR was distributed by mail or other direct delivery methods (attach description of other direct delivery methods used). **(10 print copies were mailed upon request, as of August 2023)**
- **X** CCR was distributed using electronic delivery methods described in the Guidance for Electronic Delivery of the Consumer Confidence Report (water systems utilizing electronic delivery methods must complete the second page).
- **X** "Good faith" efforts were used to reach non-bill paying consumers. Those efforts included the following methods:
  - **X** Posting the CCR at the following URL: **IRWD.com/2023report**
  - **X** Mailing the CCR to postal patrons within the service area (**Mailed to customers in zip codes 92630, 92660, 92620, 92606 upon request.**)
  - **X** Advertising the availability of the CCR in news media (Copies of printed ads attached)
  - ☐ Publication of the CCR in a local newspaper of general circulation (attach a copy of the published notice, including name of newspaper and date published)
  - ☐ Posted the CCR in public places (attach a list of locations)

- ☐ Delivery of multiple copies of CCR to single-billed addresses serving several persons, such as apartments, businesses, and schools
- ☐ Delivery to community organizations (attach a list of organizations)
- ☐ Publication of the CCR in the electronic city newsletter or electronic community newsletter or listserv (attach a copy of the article or notice)
- **X** Electronic announcement of CCR availability via social media outlets **(Social media outlets utilized were Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Nextdoor)**
- **X** Other: **CCR availability with link to online report promoted in IRWD's June 2023 *Pipelines* customer newsletter** (attached), **June 2023 billing messages** (attached) **and June 2023 on-hold messages for incoming calls.** (attached)

X *For systems serving at least 100,000 persons*: Posted CCR on a publicly-accessible internet site at the following URL: **IRWD.com/2023report**

☐ *For privately-owned utilities*: Delivered the CCR to the California Public Utilities Commission

Consumer Confidence Report Electronic Delivery Certification

Water systems utilizing electronic distribution methods for CCR delivery must complete this page by checking all items that apply and fill-in where appropriate.

X Water system mailed a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly available website where it can be viewed (See attached copy of the mailed CCR notification). URL: **IRWD.com/2023report**

X Water system emailed a notification that the CCR is available and provides a direct URL to the CCR on a publicly available site on the Internet where it can be viewed (See attached a copy of the emailed CCR notification.)
URL: **IRWD.com/2023report**

☐ Water system emailed the CCR as an electronic file email attachment.

☐ Water system emailed the CCR text and tables inserted or embedded into the body of an email, not as an attachment (attach a copy of the emailed CCR).

☐ *Requires prior DDW review and approval.* Water system utilized other electronic delivery method that meets the direct delivery requirement.

Provide a brief description of the water system's electronic delivery procedures and include how the water system ensures delivery to customers unable to receive electronic delivery.

The 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report (aka CCR) was available June 1, 2023, as a printable PDF at **IRWD.com/2023report.** A print article in the June 2023 Pipelines customer newsletter promoting this dedicated URL for the IRWD CCR accompanied the June water bills mailed to approximately **63,000** customers. (See attached PDF of June 2023 Pipelines, page 1.)
The first page of every June 2023 water bill (including both print and electronic deliveries of these bills) also contained a separate written message which alerted customers to find the latest CCR at **IRWD.com/2023report** and informed them how to request a printed copy.
Prior to mailing out CCR notifications postcards to eBill customers not receiving printed water bills, IRWD sent out a Mail Chimp email blast in to **73,015 recipients** informing these customers that the 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report was available for viewing. (See attached email screen capture PDF.) As a result of this email blast, 43,598 customers opened the email, 3,098 clicked the link to open the 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report, 1,752 emails bounced back, and 81 customers unsubscribed. The names and addresses of **11,384** customers whose emails bounced back or remained unopened as of early June 2023 were subsequently used to create the CCR notification postcard mailing list, to help ensure these customers would receive a 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report notification.
IRWD subsequently mailed **2,616** postcards to customers who receive electronic bills only, plus **8,668** postcards to landlords and/or property managers of tenants receiving water from IRWD. These postcards informed their recipients the 2022 CCR was available online at **IRWD.com/2023report** and informed them a printed CCR would be mailed upon request. (See. attached PDFs of these postcards.) As of August 1, 2023, **10** printed 2022 CCR copies were mailed to customers by request
For additional outreach, IRWD ran advertisements on June 15, 2023 in four local community newspapers of general circulation to further publicize the link to the CCR to customers in IRWD's service area. (See attached PDF with tear sheets of these ads.)
IRWD also recorded June 2023 "on-hold messages" promoting the availability of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report (CCR) to customers calling in.
Please see the attached PDF to review the 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report. Samples of IRWD's various 2023 CCR outreach materials are also provided in a second attached PDF.

This form is provided as a convenience and may be used to meet the certification requirement of
section 64483(c) of the California Code of Regulations.

2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT

Irvine Ranch
Water District

IRWD 2023 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water utilities have provided an annual water quality report to their customers. **This year's report covers calendar year 2022 drinking water quality testing and reporting.** Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) vigilantly safeguards its water supply and, as in years past, the water delivered to your home meets the quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards.

IRWD and other regional water suppliers frequently go beyond what is required by testing for unregulated chemicals that may have health risks but do not have drinking water standards. For example, the Orange County Water District (OCWD), which manages the groundwater basin; the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which supplies imported treated surface water; and IRWD, which operates a local surface water treatment plant and several groundwater treatment plants, all test for unregulated chemicals in our water supply. Monitoring for unregulated chemicals helps U.S. EPA and DDW determine where certain chemicals occur and whether new standards need to be established for those chemicals.

Through drinking water quality compliance testing programs carried out by OCWD (groundwater), MWD (treated surface water) and IRWD (treatment plants and the distribution system), your drinking water is constantly monitored from source to tap for regulated and unregulated constituents.

The state allows drinking water agencies to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some data, though representative, is more than one year old.

This report contains important information about your drinking water. Translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته، أو ابحث التقرير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيداً.

Arabic

这份报告中有些重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。
请您找人翻译—下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释—下。

Chinese

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes sur votre eau potable. Traduisez-le ou parlez en avec quelqu'un qui le comprend bien.

French

Der Bericht enthält wichtige informationen über die Wasserqualität in Ihrer Umgebung. Der Bericht sollte entweder offiziell uebersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit Freunden oder Bekannten, die gute Englischkenntnisse besitzen.

German

Questo rapporto contiene informazioni inportanti che riguardano la vostra aqua potabile. Traducetelo, o parlate con una persona qualificata in grado di spiegarvelo.

Italian

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報が書かれています。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

Japanese

이 보고서에는 귀하가 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 변역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Korean

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Para mas información ó traducción, favor de contactar a Customer Service Representative. Telefono: 949-453-5300.

Spanish

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

Vietnamese

Questions about your water? Contact us for answers.

If you have questions about this report, please call Scott Giatpaiboon, IRWD Water Quality Manager, at 949-453-5327.
To reach IRWD Customer Service and for other information, please call 949-453-5300, or email CustomerService@IRWD.com.

Community participation

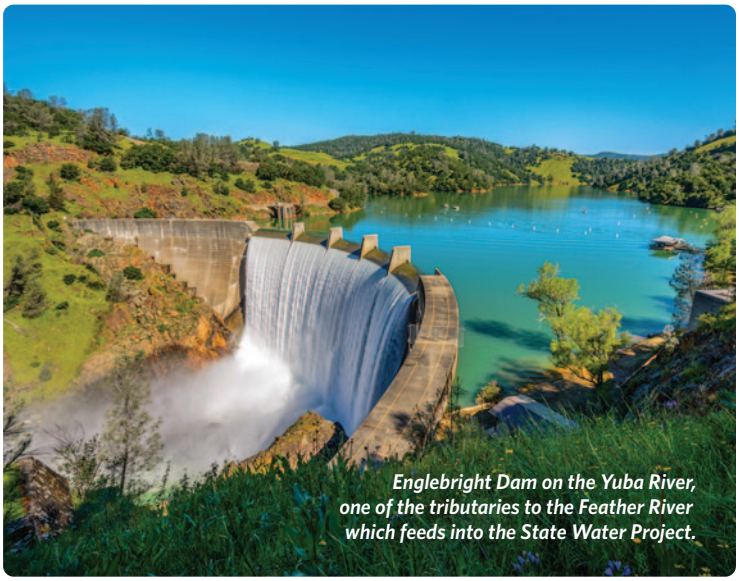
The IRWD Board of Directors meets the second and fourth Monday of each month beginning at 5 p.m. at IRWD, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.

A copy of this report is also available on our website: IRWD.com. For more information about the health effects of the listed contaminants in the following tables, call the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The quality of your water is our primary concern

Sources of supply

IRWD is committed to providing a clean and reliable water supply for its customers. Our drinking water is a blend of groundwater from the Orange County Groundwater Basin and surface water imported by the MWD. MWD's imported water sources come from the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct. Local groundwater is pumped from a natural underground reservoir that stretches from the Prado Dam and fans across the northwestern portions of Orange County, stretching as far south as the El Toro "Y." Additional source waters come from the Harding Canyon Dam watershed and the Santiago Creek Dam watershed. Local groundwater comprises approximately 65% of the total IRWD drinking water supply.



Englebright Dam on the Yuba River, one of the tributaries to the Feather River which feeds into the State Water Project.

Basic information about drinking water contaminants

Drinking water sources (both tap and bottled water) may include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the layers of the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal and human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants,** which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production or mining activities.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic sewage discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gasoline stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Immuno-compromised people

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people, such as those with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, people who have had organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly people and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

Information the U.S. EPA would like you to know

Drinking water fluoridation

Fluoride has been added to U.S. drinking water supplies since 1945. In December 2007, MWD joined a majority of the nation's public water suppliers in adding fluoride to drinking water to help prevent tooth decay. MWD was in compliance with all provisions of the state's fluoridation system requirements.

IRWD's local groundwater contains naturally occurring fluoride, but is not supplemented with fluoride. Fluoride levels in drinking water are limited under California state regulations at a maximum dosage of 2 parts per million.

There are many places to go for additional information about the fluoridation of drinking water:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
800-232-4636 • cdc.gov/fluoridation

State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Fluoridation.html

American Water Works Association: awwa.org

For more information about MWD's fluoridation program, please contact Edgar G. Dymally at 213-217-5709 or at edymally@mwdh2o.com.

Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a microscopic organism that, when ingested, can cause diarrhea, fever, and other gastrointestinal symptoms.

The organism comes from animal and/or human waste and may be in surface water. MWD and IRWD tested the source waters and treated surface waters for *Cryptosporidium* in 2022 and did not detect it.

If detected in any drinking water samples, *Cryptosporidium* is eliminated by an effective treatment combination including sedimentation, filtration and disinfection.

The U.S. EPA and the federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the U.S. EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

Chloramines

Water imported from MWD and locally produced groundwater contains chloramines, a combination of chlorine and ammonia, as a drinking water disinfectant. Chloramines effectively kill bacteria and other microorganisms that may cause disease.

Chloramines have no odor when used properly.

People who use kidney dialysis machines may want to take special precautions and consult their physician for the appropriate type of water treatment.

Customers who maintain fish ponds, tanks or aquariums should also make necessary adjustments in water quality treatment, as these disinfectants are toxic to fish.

For further information or if you have any questions about chloramines please visit IRWD.com or call 949-453-5300.

Total Coliform Rule

This Water Quality Report reflects changes in drinking water regulatory requirements instituted during 2016. All water systems are required to comply with the state Total Coliform Rule. Effective April 1, 2016, all water systems are also required to comply with the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule. The state Revised Total Coliform Rule became effective July 1, 2021.

The federal and state rules protect public health by ensuring the integrity of the drinking water distribution system by monitoring for the presence of microbials (i.e., total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria). U.S. EPA anticipates greater public health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and resolve potential issues. Water systems that exceed a specified frequency of total coliform occurrences are required to conduct an assessment to determine if any sanitary defects exist. If found, these must be corrected by the water system.

IRWD tested the distribution system water quality for *E. coli* bacteria in 2022 and did not detect it.

Arsenic Advisory

While your drinking water meets the federal and state standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. The U.S. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

Water quality issues that could affect your health

About lead in tap water

IRWD meets all standards for lead in the U.S. EPA Lead and Copper Rule. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

IRWD is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. IRWD encourages you to collect the flushed water and reuse it for another beneficial purpose, such as watering potted plants.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at epa.gov/safewater/lead.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Nitrate advisory

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 mg/L is a health risk for infants of less than six months old. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in a serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin.

Nitrate levels above 10 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies.

If you are caring for an infant or are pregnant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.

Want additional information? Explore water online.

There's a wealth of information on the internet about drinking water quality, water reliability and water issues in general. A good place to begin your research is **IRWD.com/water-report**.

In addition to extensive information about your local water and the support and services we offer, you'll find links to many other regional, statewide and national water resources.

You can also view "Journey of a Water Sample: How We Safeguard Your Water," a short video depicting the steps IRWD staff take to ensure the high quality of our drinking water.

Enjoy keeping in the know via social media? Follow IRWD's water updates here:

Facebook
Like Us:
Irvine Ranch Water District

Twitter
Follow us:
@IRWDnews

YouTube
Watch us:
youtube.com/IrvineRanchWD

Instagram
Follow us:
@IRWDnews

Irvine Ranch Water District Local and Imported Drinking Water Quality Results for 2022

Chemical	MCL	MRDL	PHG MRDLG (MCLG)	Average Local Treated Groundwater	Average Local Treated Surface Water	Average Imported MWD Treated Water	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Radiologicals – Tested in 2022									
Alpha Radiation (pCi/L)	15		(0)	<3	2.5	<3	ND – 3.4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Beta Radiation (pCi/L)	50		(0)	NR	6.2	6.0	ND – 9.0	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Uranium (pCi/L)	20		0.43	2.4	1.6	2.0	ND – 4.7	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Inorganic Chemicals – Tested in 2022									
Aluminum (ppm)	1		0.6	ND	ND	0.140	ND – 0.210	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10		0.004	<2	<2	ND	ND – 10.1	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Barium (ppm)	1		2	ND	<0.10	0.107	ND – 0.107	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Chlorine (ppm)	4.0		4	NR	2.3	NR	0.19 – 2.9	No	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Fluoride (ppm) naturally-occurring	2		1	0.47	0.34	NR	ND – 1.5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Fluoride (ppm) treatment-related	Control Range 0.6 – 1.2 ppm Optimal Level 0.7 ppm			NR	NR	0.7	0.7 – 0.8	No	Water Additive for Dental Health
Nitrate (ppm as N)	10		10	1.6	ND	ND	ND – 6.6	No	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks"
Nitrate+Nitrite (ppm as N)	10		10	1.6	ND	ND	ND – 6.6	No	Fertilizers, Septic Tanks"
Secondary Standards* – Tested in 2022									
Aluminum (ppb)	200*		600	ND	ND	140	ND – 210	No	Treatment Process Residue, Natural Deposits
Chloride (ppm)	500*		n/a	59.7	99.8	101	19.9 – 131	No	Leaching from Natural Deposits; Seawater Influence
Color (color units)	15*		n/a	<3	<3	1	ND – 6	No	Naturally-Occurring Organic Substances
Odor (TON)	3*		n/a	<1	1	3	ND – 4	No	Naturally-Occurring Organic Materials
Specific Conductance (µmho/cm @ 25° C)	1,600*		n/a	675	991	988	330 – 1500	No	Ions in Water; Seawater Influence
Sulfate (ppm)	500*		n/a	58.3	213	221	4 – 229	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Dissolved Solids (ppm)	1,000*		n/a	294	627	628	176 – 810	No	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5*		n/a	<0.10	<0.10	ND	ND – 0.60	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Unregulated Contaminants – Tested in 2022									
Alkalinity, Total (ppm as $CaCO_3$)	Not Regulated		n/a	127	125	126	60.6 – 287	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Bicarbonate (ppm as HCO_3)	Not Regulated		n/a	141	123	NR	60.3 – 350	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Boron (ppm)	NL = 1		n/a	0.17	0.14	0.13	ND – 0.23	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Bromide (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	<0.10	NR	NR	ND – 0.43	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Calcium (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	29.1	71.6	68	17.7 – 73.3	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Carbonate (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	5.6	0.98	NR	ND – 19.3	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Chlorate (ppb)	NL = 800		n/a	NR	NR	90	90	n/a	Byproduct of Drinking Water Chlorination
Corrosivity (Aggressiveness)	Not Regulated		n/a	11.9	12.6	12.4	11.0 – 12.8	n/a	Elemental Balance in Water
Corrosivity (Langlier Index)	Not Regulated		n/a	0.25	0.71	0.6	(-)0.57 – 0.79	n/a	Elemental Balance in Water
Hardness, Total (ppm as $CaCO_3$)	Not Regulated		n/a	108	292	278	57.1 – 302	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hardness, Total (grains/gal)	Not Regulated		n/a	6.3	17.1	16.3	3.3 – 17.7	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Hexavalent Chromium (ppb)	Not Regulated		0.02 **	<1	ND	ND	ND – 1.3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits; Industrial Discharge
Magnesium (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	9.2	27.6	25.0	ND – 33.6	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Molybdenum (ppb)	Not Regulated		n/a	9.6	4.8	NR	ND – 15.7	n/a	Drinking Water Treatment Chemical for Aesthetic Quality
Perfluoro Hexane Sulfonic Acid (ppt)	NL = 3		n/a	<3	NR	ND	ND – 4.2	n/a	Industrial discharges
pH (pH units)	Not Regulated		n/a	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.7 – 9.1	n/a	Acidity, Hydrogen Ions"
Potassium (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	1.3	5.1	4.6	ND – 5.1	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Sodium (ppm)	Not Regulated		n/a	57	99	98	20.4 – 162	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	TT		n/a	1.7	2.1	2.5	ND – 6.9	TT	Various Natural and Man-Made sources
Vanadium (ppb)	NL = 50		n/a	4.3	ND	ND	ND – 13.2	n/a	Runoff or Leaching from Natural Deposits

Your water has been tested for many more chemicals than are listed above, including metals (such as mercury), pesticides and volatile organic compounds. Chemicals not detected in any water sources are not included in the table.

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard to maintain aesthetic qualities (taste, odor, color).

**There is currently no MCL for hexavalent chromium. The previous MCL of 10 ppb was withdrawn on September 11, 2017.

ppb = parts-per-billion; **ppm** = parts-per-million; **ppt** = parts-per-trillion; **pCi/L** = picoCuries per liter; **NTU** = nephelometric turbidity units; **ND** = not detected; **n/a** = not applicable; **NR** = not required to be tested; **<** = average is less than the detection limit for reporting purposes; **MCL** = Maximum Contaminant Level; **(MCLG)** = federal MCL Goal; **PHG** = California Public Health Goal; **µmho/cm =** micromho per centimeter; **NL** = Notification Level; **TT** = Treatment Technique; **RAA** = Highest Running Annual Average

Turbidity – combined filter effluent	Treatment Technique	Turbidity Measurements	TT Violation?	Typical Source
Baker Water Treatment Plant				
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.1 NTU	0.03	No	Soil Run-Off
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-Off
Metropolitan Water District Diemer Filtration Plant				
1) Highest single turbidity measurement	0.3 NTU	0.03	No	Soil Run-Off
2) Percentage of samples less than 0.3 NTU	95%	100%	No	Soil Run-Off

Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water, an indication of particulate matter, some of which might include harmful microorganisms.

Low turbidity in treated surface water is a good indicator of effective filtration. Filtration is called a "treatment technique" (TT).

A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of contaminants in drinking water that are difficult and sometimes impossible to measure directly.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring at Entry Points to the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG	Average Local and Imported	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Bromide (ppm)	n/a	n/a	0.20	0.025 – 0.72	2020
Germanium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	<0.3	ND – 0.8	2020
Manganese, Total (ppb)	MCL = 50***	n/a	0.88	ND – 2.7	2020
Total Organic Carbon (ppm)	n/a	n/a	1.2	0.06 – 6.5	2020

***Total manganese is regulated with an secondary MCL of 50 ppb to maintain aesthetic quality (color). Total manganese was also included as part of the unregulated chemicals requiring monitoring.

2022 Irvine Ranch Water District Distribution System Water Quality

Disinfection Byproducts	MCL (MRDL/MRDLG)	Average Amount	Range of Detections	MCL Violation?	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	24.1*	11.9 – 41.0	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	10.3*	1.7 – 17.0	No	Byproducts of Chlorine Disinfection
Chlorine Residual (ppm)	(4.0 / 4)	1.6	ND – 6.9	No	Disinfectant Added for Treatment
Aesthetic Quality					
Color (color units)	15**	<3	ND – 5	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Turbidity (NTU)	5**	<0.1	ND – 5.4	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Odor (threshold odor number)	3**	<1	ND – 3	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits
Other					
Fluoride (mg/L)	2/0.8***	0.35	ND – 0.63	No	Erosion of Natural Deposits, Water Treatment

Twelve locations in the distribution system are tested quarterly for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; 60 locations are tested monthly for color and odor, and weekly for chlorine residual and turbidity.

MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level; **MRDLG** = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal

*Highest running annual average at any individual sample location. **Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard ***MCL/Optimum Level for our climate

Lead and Copper Action Levels at Residential Taps

	Action Level (AL)	Public Health Goal (PHG)	90th Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / Number of Sites	AL Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (ppm)	1.3	0.3	0.1908	0/72	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing
Lead (ppb)	15	0.2	<5	0/72	No	Corrosion of Household Plumbing

The most recent lead and copper at-the-tap samples were collected from 72 residences in 2022.

Lead was detected in 0 homes and copper was detected in 26 homes, but none of the samples for lead and copper exceeded the respective regulatory Action Level (AL).

A regulatory Action Level is the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded in more than 10% of samples, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Unregulated Chemicals Requiring Monitoring in the Distribution System

Chemical	Notification Level	PHG (MCLG)	Average Local and Imported	Range of Detections	Most Recent Sampling Date
Germanium, Total (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.82	ND – 1.1	2020
Manganese, Total (ppb)	MCL = 50*	n/a	1.6	0.8 – 2.2	2020
Bromochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	3.9	1.5 – 13	2019
Bromodichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.3	0.6 – 3.8	2019
Chlorodibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	1.0	0.4 – 2.5	2019
Dibromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	2.5	0.9 – 7.0	2019
Dichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(0)	4.9	1.7 – 25	2019
Monobromoacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	n/a	0.3	ND – 1.2	2019
Monochloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(70)	0.2	ND – 3.8	2019
Trichloroacetic Acid (ppb)	n/a	(20)	1.3	ND – 10	2019

*Contaminant is regulated by a secondary standard

Chart legend

What are water quality standards?

Drinking water standards established by U.S. EPA and DDW set limits for substances that may affect consumer health or aesthetic qualities of drinking water. The chart in this report shows the following types of water quality standards:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the PHGs (or MCLGs) as is economically and technologically feasible.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **Secondary MCLs** are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water.
- **Primary Drinking Water Standard:** MCLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements and water treatment requirements.
- **Regulatory Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant, which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

What is a water quality goal?

In addition to mandatory water quality standards, U.S. EPA and DDW have set voluntary water quality goals for some contaminants. Water quality goals are often set at such low levels that they are not achievable in practice and are not directly measurable. Nevertheless, these goals provide useful guideposts and direction for water management practices. The chart in this report includes three types of water quality goals:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by U.S. EPA.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **Public Health Goal (PHG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

How are contaminants measured?

Water is sampled and tested throughout the year. Contaminants are measured in:

- Parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
- Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L)
- Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanograms per liter (ng/L)

Source water assessments

Imported (MWD) water assessment

Every five years, MWD is required by DDW to examine possible sources of drinking water contamination in its State Water Project and Colorado River source waters.

The most recent surveys for MWD's source waters are the Colorado River Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2020 update, and the State Water Project Watershed Sanitary Survey – 2021 update. Both source waters are exposed to stormwater runoff, recreational activities, wastewater discharges, wildlife, fires, and other watershed-related factors that could affect water quality.

Water from the Colorado River is considered to be most vulnerable to contamination from recreation, urban/stormwater runoff, increasing urbanization in the watershed, and wastewater. Water supplies from Northern California's State Water Project are most vulnerable to contamination from urban/stormwater runoff, wildlife, agriculture, recreation, and wastewater.

U.S. EPA also requires MWD to complete one Source Water Assessment that uses information collected in the watershed sanitary surveys. MWD completed its SWA in December 2002. The SWA is used to evaluate the vulnerability of water sources to contamination and helps determine whether more protective measures are needed.

A copy of the most recent summary of either Watershed Sanitary Survey or the SWA can be obtained by calling MWD at 800-CALL-MWD (800-225-5693).

(IRWD) Baker Water Treatment Plant water assessment

The Baker Water Treatment Plant receives untreated surface water from MWD (see MWD water assessment above) and untreated surface water from Santiago Reservoir. The surface water assessment of Santiago Reservoir is provided by Serrano Water District, which also uses source water from Santiago Reservoir.

The most recent sanitary survey for Santiago Reservoir was updated in 2019. Water supplies from Santiago Reservoir are most vulnerable to septic systems and wildfires. The Source Water Assessment for Santiago Reservoir was completed in April 2001. The assessment was conducted for the Serrano Water District by Boyle Engineering Corporation with assistance from the Serrano Water District staff.

A copy of the complete assessment may be viewed at the IRWD Water Quality Department, 3512 Michelson Drive, Irvine. You may request a summary of the assessment by writing to District Secretary, Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.

Groundwater assessment

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Lake Forest service area of IRWD was completed in December 2002. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from dry cleaners and sewer collection systems.

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Dyer Road Well Field was completed in July 2003. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from gas stations, historic gas stations, metal plating/finishing/fabrication facilities, military installations and plastics/synthetics producers.

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Wells 21-22 Desalter Project was completed in May 2009. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer collection systems, automobiles (gas stations), historic gas stations and underground storage tanks (confirmed leaking tanks).

Irvine Ranch Water District

An assessment of the groundwater sources in the Irvine Desalter Project was completed in March 2006. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from crop irrigation and fertilizers.

An assessment of the groundwater source in the Orange Park Acres service area of IRWD was completed in March 2003. This groundwater is considered most vulnerable to contamination from sewer collection systems.

An assessment of the groundwater in the Santiago Canyon service area of IRWD was completed in January 2003. There have been no contaminants detected in the water supply, however the source is still considered vulnerable to contamination from historical mining operations.

Copies of the complete assessments may be viewed at the IRWD Water Quality Department, 3512 Michelson Drive, Irvine. You may request a summary of the assessments by writing to District Secretary, Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, California 92618.

Whether it's dry or rainy, it's always good policy to use water wisely.

Start outdoors

Your yard can be the biggest source of water waste — and offers the greatest opportunity to be more water-efficient. For lots of ideas, visit **IRWD.com/savewater**. Or (if you are viewing a digital copy of this report) click the links below.

Landscape:

- Beautify your yard with water-wise plants
- Read *The Dirt*, IRWD's quarterly electronic gardening newsletter
- Watch The Shed Show

Design:

- Check out our helpful tips for landscape design
- Plant a sustainable garden
- Hydrozone

Irrigation:

- Types of systems
- Money-saving rebates
- Watering guide

Planting tips:

- Planting workshops
- Healthy soil
- Benefits of mulch

Get water-saving tips customized for your home

Take the guesswork out of saving water with the IRWD WaterInsight Program. Register for free at **IRWD.waterinsight.com** and receive water savings recommendations specific to your household.

June 2023 Pipelines customer newsletter showing page 1 placement of 2023 Water Quality Report notification article with link (**IRWD.com/2023report**) to online report and directions on how to receive a printed copy in the mail.

Emergency?
Sign up for IRWD Alert, our new emergency notification service, at **IRWD.com/alert**.

pipelines

JUNE 2023

Irvine Ranch Water District

Congratulations, new WaterStars!

Local businesses continue to do their part to save water through IRWD's WaterStar certification program. Here's to our most recent members of this special group:

BCD Tofu House

The popular family-run Korean restaurant recently upgraded the kitchen and other features in its Irvine location for enhanced energy and water efficiency. This included a water-efficient spray valve and restroom upgrades.

Simpson Chevrolet

The company installed low-flush fixtures, converted its car wash to use 80% filtered recirculated water, and renovated its landscape with drought-tolerant plants that require 50% less water than the old turf. These upgrades save more than 1 million gallons a year!

IRWD WaterStars are at the forefront of water efficiency, and are industry leaders in their own right. Visit **IRWD.com/waterstar** to learn more, browse through the list of other WaterStars, and if you are a local business—we invite you to apply!

2023 Water Quality Report available

At IRWD, we come to work every day on a mission to ensure you receive high-quality drinking water. We fan out into the community, gathering samples from more than 100 locations throughout the District. Water from IRWD drinking water reservoirs and drinking water wells is also sampled and tested weekly in our state-certified water quality laboratory, one of a select group of in-house water quality labs in California.

All told, more than 250,000 tests are conducted annually, ensuring our water meets all state and federal water quality standards. The result: Your water is great to drink—right out of the tap.

Results of these tests are compiled in our annual Water Quality Report, which is updated each June. Visit **IRWD.com/2023report** to view this year's report. For a printed copy, email **info@IRWD.com** with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call **949-453-5500**.

Screen capture of early June 2023 Mail Chimp email blast informing customers about the availability of the 2022 IRWD Water Quality Report with link to actual report.

Irvine Ranch Water District

WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Be in the know.

Finding out what's in your water is as transparent as water itself.

Read the IRWD Water Quality Report

The 2023 Water Quality Report is now available. Learn about the measures Irvine Ranch Water District takes to ensure safe, reliable, quality drinking water. Simply visit IRWD.com/2023report.

To request a printed copy, email info@IRWD.com with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call 949-453-5500.

IRWD WATER AT A GLANCE

- Meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality standards
- Over 100,000 water quality analytical results are reported annually
- More than 100 sample points throughout the District

Front and back of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report notification postcard mailed June 14, 2023 to 2,616 IRWD eBill customers who do not receive printed bills or Pipelines customer newsletter.

Water Quality Report now available!

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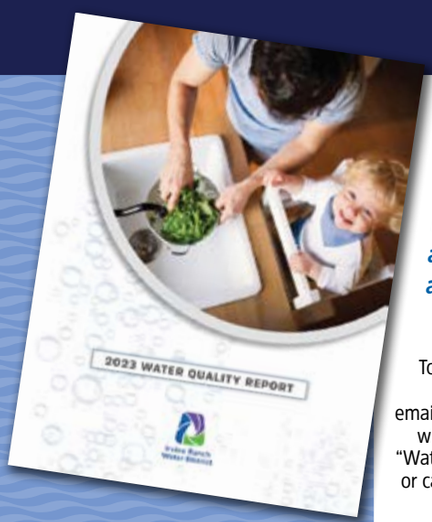

Finding out what's in IRWD water is as transparent as water itself.

To request a printed copy, tenants can email **info@IRWD.com** with the subject line "Water Quality Report" or call **949-453-5500**.

Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Avenue
Irvine, CA 92618

Presort STD
U.S. Postage
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< TBD >

Front and back of the 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report notification postcard mailed June 14, 2023 to 8,668 IRWD landlords / property managers who did not respond to email informing them of the availabilty of the 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report for their tenants.

Water Quality Report now available!

SO YOUR TENANTS ARE IN THE KNOW.

Finding out what's in your water is as transparent as water itself.

The 2023 Water Quality Report is now available. It explains the measures Irvine Ranch Water District takes to ensure safe, reliable, quality drinking water. Please inform your tenants that they can read the report at **IRWD.com/2023report**.

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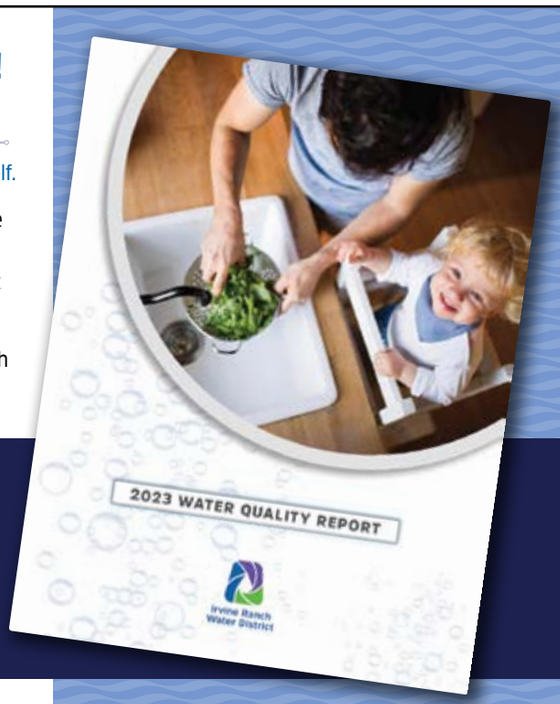

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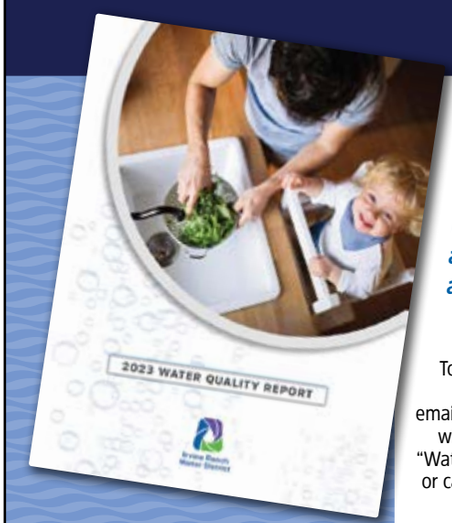

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June 15, 2023 Irvine World News ad notifying customers of availability of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report.

ENVIRONMENT

Holy cow! Cattle might help improve habitat

OC's 'last cowboy' is trying to prove pilot program can reduce wildfires and restore native plant life

By Brooke Staggs
bstaggs@scng.com

Among climate advocates, beef typically gets failing grades.

To stock feedlots for factory-farmed cattle, which is how 70% of America's cows are raised, crews often clear forests and use lots of water to grow grain. Once those cows eat, their burps and flatulence and decomposing manure emit high levels of planet-warming greenhouse gases.

Even grass-fed cattle are sometimes allowed to graze in one area too long or return to the same area too frequently, turning grasslands into virtual deserts.

But pilot projects underway in eastern Orange County are offering some promising evidence that suggest carefully planned cattle grazing might actually help restore native plant and animal life while also reducing wildfire risk.

The difference is visible to anyone who drives by Cook's Corner in Trabuco Canyon. After three years of controlled grazing, the open land across the street, which is owned by the agency that operates Orange County's toll roads, has transformed from being overgrown with invasive plants into a tidy, green field. A similar transformation is underway on Orange County Rescue Mission's nearby Double R Ranch, where people who once were homeless can get job training, equestrian therapy and other services.

"Using the cattle is great," said Jim Palmer, president of the Tustin-based nonprofit. "It creates a whole healthy cycle."

Some studies have cast doubt on the benefits of holistic or conservation grazing programs and the concept remains controversial among many environmentalists. But the teams behind these pilot programs hope that sharing their results will inspire other regenerative agriculture efforts throughout Southern California and beyond.

"We're definitely seeing positive results," said Michelle Miller, spokesperson for the Transportation Corridor Agencies. "So I think it's something people should look at."

NICK AGRO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rancher Frank Fitzpatrick herds his Barzona cattle as they graze in Silverado Canyon in 2016.

PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ryan Fitzpatrick lets cattle from the 5 Bar Beef ranch graze on land owned by the Transportation Corridor Agencies in Trabuco Canyon in 2021.

PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cattle from the 5 Bar Beef ranch graze at the Live Oak Plaza Conservation Area. The area is part of a pilot program of fire mitigation and native species replenishment.

The last cowboy

At the heart of the cattle-grazing projects is Frank Fitzpatrick, who owns 5 Bar Beef and is affectionately known as Orange County's last cowboy.

Fitzpatrick has been raising grass-fed cattle locally for more than four decades, confident that such a system is better for the land, the cows and the people who eat them. But he credits Allan Savory, a Zimbabwean scientist and livestock farmer, for introducing him to the holistic grazing system he now uses on his own 800-acre ranch and in the pilot projects on the TCA and Rescue Mission land.

In a popular TED Talk that Savory gave in Long Beach a decade ago, he promoted the use of strategic cattle grazing as a way to replicate the benefits that huge herds of native hoofed animals, such as buffalo and elk, once provided for soil and habitats. These animals eat non-native plants, which tend to sprout first. That clears the way for later-blooming native grasses and other vegetation to pop through as the animals move on. Meanwhile, the heavy animals churn the soil with their hooves, which prevents erosion. And they fertilize the soil with their urine and dung, which encourages healthy microbes to grow more plants and to sink more carbon.

The key to this system working is not to let the animals graze in one area too long. By moving them around frequently and keeping them away from certain areas for fixed times, Savory's theory says plant life and soil have time to recover. So in the plot across from Cook's Corner, the cattle only graze for about two weeks three times a year. That way, Fitzpatrick said, native plants can establish roots before the cattle return and chomp on what's growing above ground.

This system of holistic grazing was promoted in the recent Woody Harrelson-narrated documentary "Kiss the Ground," by a Los Angeles-based nonprofit of the same name. Several scenes from the documentary were filmed on Fitzpatrick's ranch, he said.

Over the years, the former owner of a 23-acre parcel of land at the intersection of El Toro Road and Live Oak Canyon Road occasionally let Fitzpatrick's herd of 800-pound Barzona bulls graze on the property. But in 2005, that owner sold the land to TCA and Fitzpatrick said his cattle hadn't grazed there for nearly 15 years.

Looking for solutions

TCA bought the Trabuco Canyon land to help mitigate environmental impacts of the toll roads.

The agency is charged with preserving 17 such sites in Orange County, a total of more than 2,000 acres.

Though some of those sites have been set aside as nature preserves, the parcel across from Cook's Corner sat undisturbed until February 2021 when the TCA used toll road revenue to start paying Fitzpatrick $11,500 a year to have his cattle graze there as part of a three-year pilot project.

The most recent grazing period wrapped up Saturday with one final round set to happen in late summer.

Miller said the pilot project has several goals. One is to reduce fire risk on the property. That happened in the first grazing period, in 2021 when Fitzpatrick's cattle cleared foot-tall invasive mustard that had browned on the plot, helping TCA win recognition such as the outstanding wildfire hardening project of the year from the local branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

If that was the project's only goal, the toll roads agency could have recruited goats to munch on the fields, as some other local agencies have done. But while goats help clear non-native plants that increase fire risks, Fitzpatrick said they aren't heavy enough to churn up soil or robust enough grazers to give native plants the space they need to come back. Since TCA also wanted to bring back some of the area's natural riparian grasses and coastal sage scrub, which support the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and the endangered Riverside fairy shrimp, Miller said research told them that cattle was a better option than goats.

Biologists working for the toll road agency recently finished an updated evaluation on the pilot project. Overall, a report said they've found a reduction in nonnative plants and fire risk, with an increase in native plant life and both gnatcatcher and fairy shrimp populations.

Biologists do recommend that TCA does some seeding of native plants because repeated wildfires in the area and overgrazing by previous landowners have leeched native seeds from the soil. The biologists also recommend some additional management to control the weeds that the cattle don't eat or trample.

Toll road staff will share those findings with the agency's board of directors by early next year, Miller said, as they consider whether to continue, tweak or possibly expand the cattle grazing program.

As for the Orange County Rescue Mission, Palmer said Fitzpatrick approached the nonprofit shortly after his team bought 35 acres of Trabuco Canyon land from St. Michael's Abbey two years ago when the monastery moved to a larger campus in nearby Silverado Canyon.

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Controversy remains

The concept of holistic grazing is appealing, particularly to those who want to protect the planet but still enjoy an occasional steak.

But environmental groups such as the Sierra Club insist that Savory's theory has been debunked, citing studies that suggest the system does little to improve soil quality. Instead, some equate promised solutions from the cattle industry to promised solutions from the fossil fuel industry, which they view as a clear attempt at self-preservation.

Most controversial is Savory's suggestion that there's no such thing as too many cows as long as they're not left to overgraze. Fitzpatrick, too, insists that his grazing program would be far more environmentally beneficial if he had lots more cows grazing on lots more land.

"All we need is about 16,000 acres and about 4,000 cows," he said, rather than the 60 to 80 head of cattle now grazing on TCA's 23 acres.

But grass-fed cows still emit lots of planet-warming methane with balanced grazing tricky to get right. That's why a 2017 study from the Food Climate Research Network at the University of Oxford argued that ditching factory-farm cattle isn't enough.

"Simply switching to grass-fed beef is not a solution," lead researcher Tara Garnett said. "Eating less meat of all types, is."

Asked about such pushback, Miller said they haven't received any negative feedback on their grazing program. It likely helps, she said, that Orange County has a long history of cattle ranching that dates back to the 1700s.

Already, county Supervisor Doug Chaffee, who chairs TCA's Joint Environmental Committee, said he believes the targeted cattle grazing program "has helped alter public perception of land use and how it can be managed in a holistic and sustainable way through regenerative agriculture."

To continue that mission, Fitzpatrick hopes to launch the Orange County Grazing Coalition, a group that would produce educational videos, offer ranch tours and otherwise promote holistic grazing as a tool to help fight climate change.

His message, really, is a simple one.

"If you save the soil, we'll make it. If you don't save it, we won't."

June 15, 2023 Anaheim Bulletin ad notifying customers of availability of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report.

ENVIRONMENT

Holy cow! Cattle might help improve habitat

Trying to prove program can reduce wildfires, restore plant life

By Brooke Staggs
bstaggs@scng.com

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The concept of holistic grazing is appealing, particularly to those who want to protect the planet but still enjoy an occasional steak.

But environmental groups such as the Sierra Club insist that Savory's theory has been debunked, citing studies that suggest the system does little to improve soil quality. Instead, some equate promised solutions from the cattle industry to promised solutions from the fossil fuel industry, which they view as a clear attempt at self-preservation.

Most controversial is Savory's suggestion that there's no such thing as too many cows as long as they're not left to overgraze. Fitzpatrick, too, insists that his grazing program would be far more environmentally beneficial if he had lots more cows grazing on lots more land.

"All we need is about 16,000 acres and about 4,000 cows," he said, rather than the 60 to 80 head of cattle now grazing on TCA's 23 acres.

But grass-fed cows still emit lots of planet-warming methane with balanced grazing tricky to get right. That's why a 2017 study from the Food Climate Research Network at the University of Oxford argued that ditching factory-farm cattle isn't enough.

"Simply switching to grass-fed beef is not a solution," lead researcher Tara Garnett said. "Eating less meat of all types, is."

Asked about such pushback, Miller said they haven't received any negative feedback on their grazing program. It likely helps, she said, that Orange County has a long history of cattle ranching that dates back to the 1700s.

Already, county Supervisor Doug Chaffee, who chairs TCA's Joint Environmental Committee, said he believes the targeted cattle grazing program "has helped alter public perception of land use and how it can be managed in a holistic and sustainable way through regenerative agriculture."

To continue that mission, Fitzpatrick hopes to launch the Orange County Grazing Coalition, a group that would produce educational videos, offer ranch tours and otherwise promote holistic grazing as a tool to help fight climate change.

His message, really, is a simple one.

"If you save the soil, we'll make it. If you don't save it, we won't."

NICK AGRO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rancher Frank Fitzpatrick herds his Barzona cattle as the cattle graze in Silverado Canyon in 2016.

PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fitzpatrick lets cattle from 5 Bar Beef ranch graze on land owned by the Transportation Corridor Agency at the Live Oak Plaza Conservation Area in Trabuco Canyon in 2021.

NICK AGRO — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fitzpatrick sits on his horse, Nick, in Silverado Canyon in 2016.

PAUL BERSEBACH — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

"Using the cattle is great," said Jim Palmer, president of the nonprofit Orange County Rescue Mission's Double R Ranch. "It creates a whole healthy cycle."

June 15, 2023 Saddleback Valley News ad notifying customers of availability of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report.

Today's crossword puzzle

ADOPTABLE DOG

Pit bull Zeke is a sweet, gentle boy

Breed: American pit bull terrier
Age: 2 years
Sex: Neutered male
Size: About 70 pounds
Zeke's story: Zeke is all ready for some cuddling. Despite his size, this goofy boy is a total lovebug and quite gentle. He is crate- and house-trained, knows the sit command and will eagerly learn more — all you need do is pay him with a tasty treat. Zeke loves toys and will have you laughing with his attempts to attack a ball you throw to him. He will accompany you on outdoor adventures or indoor couch potato lounging. This boy is sure to steal your heart.
Adoption fee: $350
Adoption procedure: Complete the required adoption application at icaredogrescue.org or contact I.C.A.R.E. Dog Rescue at rescue@icaredogrescue.org

I.C.A.R.E DOG RESCUE

Zeke is ready for cuddles and a pajama party.

—Maryanne Dell

ADOPTABLE DOG

Friendly German shepherd Five-O likes his quiet, hanging out with his people

Breed: German shepherd
Age: 5 years
Sex: Neutered male
Five-O's story: Five-O was found tied to a post with a man's tie. German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County was contacted, and one of the volunteers figured she was meant to save him. So she did. Five-O is safe with the rescue, and he enjoys getting out with volunteers. He's friendly to everyone he meets. He would enjoy a quiet home with people who are experienced with German shepherds and who will love him. He would do best as the only dog.
Adoption donation: $375; it provides microchip and vaccinations
Adoption procedure: Contact German Shepherd Rescue of Orange County at 714-974-7762 or go to gsroc.org to fill out an application.

—Maryanne Dell

GERMAN SHEPHERD RESCUE OF ORANGE COUNTY

Five-O would do best as the only dog in the family.

June 15, 2023 Coastal Current ad notifying customers of availability of 2023 IRWD Water Quality Report.

DUNN DEAL

Irrelevant Week founder was a world-class funnyman

Richard Dunn
Contributing Columnist

It has been an annual tradition for nearly five decades, a celebration of the underdog, doing something nice for someone for no reason, and honoring the last pick in the NFL draft with backward salutes, twisted merriment and unheralded charm from the hosts of Irrelevant Week.

While the founder of Irrelevant Week, Paul Salata, has passed on his legacy to his family, there continues to be a collective composite of unbridled mystery, drama and suspense each year as Mr. Irrelevant is unveiled at the NFL draft podium and subsequently roasted and toasted as the Man of the Hour at the All-Star Lowsman Trophy Banquet and presented the Lowsman Trophy, in which a bronze sculpted player is fumbling a football.

On the relevant side, more than $1 million has been raised for charity over the years, but the reason Irrelevant Week has become so famous is because of Salata. It is important to understand the man to fully comprehend Irrelevant Week and why it exists.

Salata, a former USC and NFL wide receiver and always a fan of the underdog, discovered a distinctive way to commemorate the largely unknown when he launched Irrelevant Week in 1976.

That's when the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers drafted University of Dayton wide receiver Kelvin Kirk with the 487th pick in the NFL draft, and the glee of the last player chosen started a grand tradition in Newport

CRAIG RUTTLE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In 2013, Orange County businessman and onetime NFL receiver Paul Salata, right, announces the 254th and last pick of the NFL draft at Radio City Music Hall in New York — a player designated Mr. Irrelevant every year and subjected to a round of good-natured ribbing, toasts and silly activities as part of Irrelevant Week, a chance for fun and fundraising.

Beach, where Salata lived for most of his adult life until he died Oct. 16, 2021, one day before his 95th birthday.

A noted funnyman, Salata would pitch Irrelevant Week to our local newspaper sports department every year with an array of creative ways to promote the event, including a "countdown" to the weeklong festivities with briefs, anecdotes and special-section advertisements. Salata was always a go-getter who would hustle around town to drum up excitement and interest, meeting and greeting folks anywhere he could, as well as build support from his vast network of friends and associates, including alumni from USC and the NFL.

He was charming, personable, fun-loving and caring, and it was nearly impossible to say no to Salata. The assembly of sports personalities who help celebrate Irrelevant Week continues today, with athletes, broadcasters, referees, coaches and sports agents (can you say Leigh Steinberg?).

Salata's self-deprecating humor ran deep, but the truth is, he was among the best receivers in the NFL during his time with the Baltimore Colts and San Francisco 49ers at the 20th century's midway point. Blessed with enormous hands, Salata was a favorite target of Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Y.A. Tittle of the Colts in 1950.

At USC, Salata earned extra money serving as a banquet emcee, taking modest fees and assignments that few others would touch.

After his football playing career, Salata turned to Hollywood, performing alongside some of the biggest stars on the silver screen, including movie epics "The Ten Commandments" and "Stalag 17," in which he played a prisoner of war.

Salata was a ballplayer in "The Winning Team," the Grover Cleveland Alexander story starring Ronald Reagan, and an ugly thug who sliced Frank Sinatra's nose in "The Joker Is Wild," the Joe E. Lewis story.

"I was a sheepherder" in "The Ten Commandments," Salata once said, "and I doubled for Moses in some of the action stuff."

As an entrepreneur, he owned one of the hottest sand, gravel and sewer pipe businesses in Southern California during the freeway and housing growth, and settled on ultra-exclusive Linda Isle in the 1960s.

Always an underdog, Salata decided to roll the dice on Irrelevant Week, and the event has been flashing on the NFL marquee since, created by a screwball millionaire with a quick wit and sense of humor.

"We're the only exciting thing about the last day" of the NFL draft, Salata once said, and there is nothing else quite like it in the world.

"When I played, I was sort of a champion of the guy who never gets recognized," Salata said in a 1978 Sports Illustrated story that never made it to print. "I always said if I ever could afford it, I was going to do something for the guy you never heard of."

This year's Lowsman Trophy Banquet is June 26 at the Cannery Restaurant in Newport Beach, honoring Toledo defensive lineman Desjuan Johnson.

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