



The newsletter of IRWD

November 2013 | Number 11

## Don't Put Fats, Oils and Grease in Your Sink

**D**id you know that the day after Thanksgiving is a very busy day for plumbers?

With holiday cooking just around the corner, Irvine Ranch Water District would like to remind our customers that pouring fats, oils and grease down the drain could not only result in a costly plumbing repair bill, but could cause sewer overflows, as well.

When FOG—or fats, oils and grease—are put down the sewer system, they build up over time and constrict the flow of wastewater. The grease sticks to sewer pipes and blocks the entire pipe, resulting in costly repairs and cleanups—and a big plumbing bill for you!



Did you know that nearly 50 percent of sewage overflows nationwide are caused by homeowners who improperly dispose of everyday fats, oils and grease? These overflows are not just public health issues, but can result in serious damage to the environment, especially pollution of streams, bays and the ocean.

Protect the environment as well as yourself from a costly plumbing bill caused by FOG—because who wants to spend on plumbing during the holiday season?

For additional information on FOG, visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com).



### Tips for Getting Rid of FOG

- Minimize the use of excess cooking oils and grease when cooking or frying.
- Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal.
- Place left over grease into containers with lids, such as jars, and place into a trash receptacle for pick up on trash day.
- Mix oils with absorbent materials, such as coffee grounds, put it in a lidded container and dispose with the trash.
- If cleaning a greasy pan, pour grease into a container and wipe excess grease from the pan with paper towels.
- If using a deep fat fryer, mix oils with absorbent material, such as cat litter, or soak up excess oil with newspaper and put into the trash.

## IRWD Holiday Hours

In observance of the holiday season, IRWD will be closed on:

**November 28** (Thanksgiving Day)

**November 29**

**December 24** (Christmas Eve)

**December 25** (Christmas Day)

**December 31** (New Year's Eve)

**January 1** (New Year's Day)

To access your account during this time, please visit [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) and click on Customer Login.

## Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day

**E**ighty volunteers showed up to clean San Diego Creek of trash and recyclables on Inner-Coastal Watershed Clean Up Day, September 21. IRWD has hosted the San Diego Creek site for the past 13 years. The goal is to clean trash and debris from creeks and streams that empty out into bays and beaches. If you're interested in getting involved next year, please email [info@irwd.com](mailto:info@irwd.com).



## Poster Contest Winner Recognized



**B**en Zolner, a seventh grader from Serrano Middle School in Lake Forest, was honored at a recent IRWD Board meeting. Ben, pictured here with his parents, was a fifth grader when his poster was chosen for publication in the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's "Water is Life" 2013 calendar.



## Customer Service Information

[IRWD Website Link & Social Media Channels »](#)

### 24 Hour Customer Access

(949) 453-5300

email: [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)

### Irvine Ranch Water District

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Visit us: [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com)



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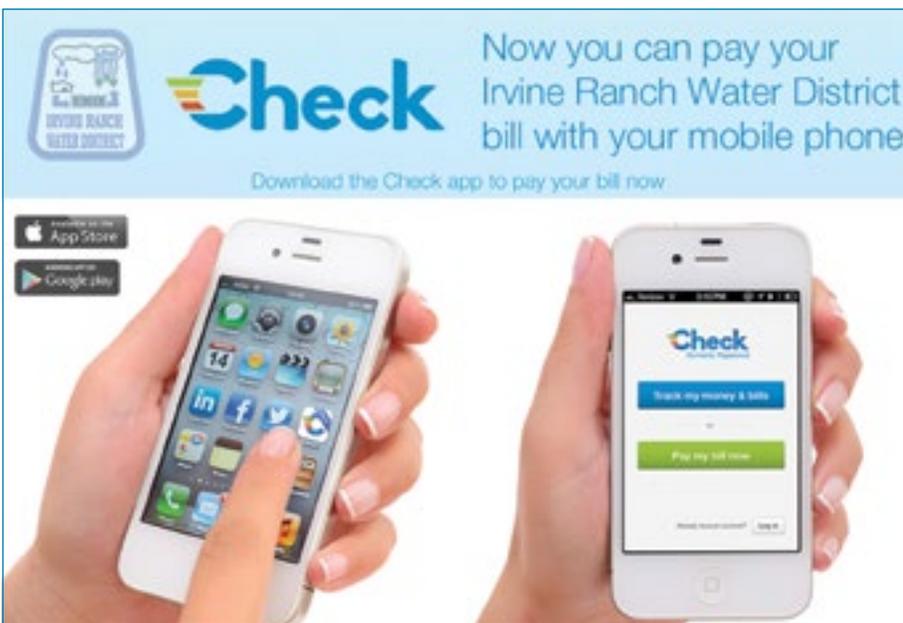
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### IRWD Pipelines Newsletter

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Comments about this publication?  
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