

Program Description

The General Manager's Office implements the policies established and direction provided by the Board of Directors and, in so doing, provides overall direction to staff to complete that effort. The office also includes Strategic Advocacy, Community Relations, and Deputy General Counsel divisions. These divisions develop and advocate for policies at the federal, state, and local levels that promote a reliable high quality and cost-effective water supply for Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) customers and demonstrate the efficient use of resources. The Advocacy and Community Relations staff represent IRWD's policies and provide technical expertise to the legislative and regulatory development process, particularly on issues of water recycling, water use efficiency, water rates, water supply reliability, and governance, among others, and engage with community leaders, key stakeholders, and groups on behalf of the District.

The General Manager's Office also:

- Provides direct services to and communications with the Board of Directors;
- Produces and distributes Board and Board Committee meeting packets;
- Schedules all Board and Board Committee, and annual/special independent corporation meetings;
- Produces the minutes of all Board meetings;
- Maintains all Board resolutions;
- Schedules other meetings and functions on behalf of the Board members and makes travel arrangements, as needed;
- Maintains records of all inter-agency agreements, deeds, and easements;
- Maintains records for the various independent corporations;
- Shapes, guides, and engages on local, state and federal policies, legislation, and regulations;
- Manages and coordinates the legal resources utilized by the District;
- Responds to, or directs response to, all media inquiries; and,
- Responds to, or directs response to, all public information requests, and subpoenas.

The General Manager's Office works with the Board of Directors and staff to establish the District's strategic vision for all departments. On December 17, 2024, staff reviewed the 2025 Goals and Target Activities with the Board. The Goals described below reflect the *Strategic Objectives*, as well as the *Mission, Vision and Values* of Irvine Ranch Water District as adopted by the Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE

OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

Major Goals

The District's Major Goals for calendar year 2025 are summarized as follows:

- Optimize and protect IRWD's local groundwater utilization.
- Optimize use of Irvine Lake as a water resource facility for IRWD and its current and future partners.
- Develop water recycling facilities and applications for optimal benefit.
- Maximize resource recovery from fully functional biosolids and other resource recovery facilities.
- Develop and implement maintenance and replacement programs and other systems that enhance safety, sustained operations at the District's facilities.
- Improve energy service reliability, manage demands, control greenhouse gas emissions, and control costs.
- Implement opportunities that enhance safety, security, and emergency preparedness throughout the District.
- Maximize water use efficiency in the community.
- Maximize watershed protection.
- Evaluate and invest in projects and programs that will enhance future long-term water supply reliability and resiliency to climate change.
- Develop water banking supplies for IRWD by working with current and future partners.
- Develop and implement the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project through the Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority.
- Ensure financial and rate stability.
- Identify, assess, and implement new technologies, systems, and facilities to improve operating efficiency.
- Recruit, develop, and retain a highly skilled, motivated, and educated work force.
- Collaborate with other agencies and entities through leadership and innovation.
- Enhance customer communications and community outreach.
- Guide and lead local, state, and federal policies and legislation.
- Influence new policies and regulations put forth by local, state, and federal agencies.