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# Is It Irritation or Irrigation?

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Welcome to the first (and hopefully not last) article on irrigation issues! The purpose of this column is to offer tips and suggestions on irrigation. In each newsletter I will briefly address issues regarding irrigation systems on golf courses. Everything from irrigation design concepts to irrigation maintenance will be covered. Please feel free to drop me an email if you (or your crew) have questions on irrigation problems you encounter. I will do my best to answer any questions in a timely manner via this *ThruTheGreen* column.

## Irrigation Education

Most superintendents/assistants superintendents/irrigators obtain most of their irrigation knowledge through practical field experience - which is the best way to learn about irrigation as far as I am concerned. However, it is always a good idea to complement this practical experience by attending classes offered on irrigation topics.

Oftentimes irrigation product distributors or local turf/golf associations will offer classes specifically on irrigation topics. By attending classes on irrigation, you will invest in you and your employee's knowledge of irrigation and will hopefully be able to make informed decisions when irrigating your golf course. In addition, new irrigation products are being introduced to the marketplace that may be of value in helping your irrigators to do their job better.

Electricity and troubleshooting are always confusing topics for most people working with irrigation systems, so I would recommend taking classes on these topics when they are available. Don't be afraid to attend education classes you may have attended in the past either, as class material may have changed, and review of irrigation principles is always a good idea!

The Irrigation Association (IA) often offers regional classes on topics from irrigation basics to irrigation troubleshooting. For more information on when classes will be in Northern California go to: [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org).

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## Waste Management Plan Soon to Be Required at Large Events

The Assembly passed A.B. 2176, to require the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), by June 30, 2005, to make available for adoption model local agency ordinances to facilitate waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs at large venues and events. A "large event" is one that charges an admission price, or is operated by a local agency, and serves an average of more than 2,000 individuals per day of operation of the event. This would include municipal, public and private golf courses. Other highlights of the bill:

- \* Requires an operator of a large event, by June 30, 2005, and on or before June 30 annually thereafter, to submit documentation of waste management activities to a local agency upon request.
- \* Authorizes a local agency to collect a fee from a large event in order to recover estimated costs in complying with provisions of the bill.