



Meet Allen Erwin, a member of the Irish Beach Water District operations crew.

By Ken Weston

I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Allen Erwin. Allen is a newer member of the crew that keeps tap water safe and flowing in Irish Beach. Allen is known to me as an active community member in Irish Beach. I inquired about what he brings to the Irish Beach Water District.

Allen was born in L.A., grew up in Rancho Cordova, enjoyed fishing in childhood, and after some community college at 19 landed at Aerojet's solid fuels division. He worked in a variety of roles at Aerojet for 42 years, until his retirement in 2018. Allen recalled years of projects at the leading edge of rocket science. He was employed in Aerojet Testing at the time of his retirement.

About halfway through his career, he met his wife, Laura, and they were married in 2003. They were looking at Mendocino coast real estate in 2013 when they happened upon the home they currently enjoy. They liked the house when they saw it in the fog so much that they eagerly snapped it up, and only saw the lighthouse view it enjoys after escrow closed! They have been full-time residents since 2019.

Given his how-to skills and decades of technical experience, Allen was a good fit to join the talented crew of hands-on skilled labor at the Irish Beach Water District in January 2022. His team has lately been directly involved in the hard work of getting Tank 5 and Well 5 online, digging trenches when backhoes are not practical, assembling control sheds and a tank roof, and generally doing "grunt" work. I sensed his modesty prevented him from detailing his specific accomplishments; he values his team of co-workers highly.

Allen supports the notion of Irish Beach folks contributing to keeping our community running. A lot of the week-to-week work in the district is simply tending to the aging infrastructure, preventing some problems, and repairing others. Working for IBWD has given him an appreciation for the need for water district funding; his team must sometimes use their personal tools for IBWD work. He likes creating confidence in the plentiful, good water. He notes district operations seem to be improving over time. He enjoys going to his tap for "some of the best water (he's) ever tasted" without even thinking about it. Yet, he knows hard work is in every drop.



Thanks Allen. May your fondness for hard work and great water endure!