



THE CASITAS WATER NEWS



Low Flow Showerheads are available for free at the Casitas Office.

Casitas' Speakers Bureau: Provides an opportunity for customers and the community to learn more about water issues in the Western Ventura County area. Please contact Ron Merckling, Water Conservation and Public Affairs Manager, (805) 649-2251 Extension 118 to invite a speaker to your next community group or organizational meeting.

Water Conservation Tips to Help Us Protect Our Local Water Supply

- * Take 5 minute showers or less! Advise all family members to do the same. Long showers waste a lot of water.
- * Wash only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher.
- * Catch tap water in the sink when rinsing fruits and vegetables to water plants.
- * Catch water in the shower when waiting for it to warm up for watering plants.
- * Turn off the tap when shaving and brushing teeth.
- * Sweep rather than hose down driveways, stairs or walkways.
- * Fix all broken sprinklers, especially if they are watering driveways and sidewalks.
- * If sprinkler water begins to run off onto the driveway or sidewalk you are watering too long.
- * Landscapes need to be watered only 1-2 times per week during cooler months.
- * If rain is in the forecast turn off sprinklers two days before and two days after.

New State Water Legislation What Does It Mean to You?

Residents and businesses will need to cut back even further on water use as a result of action taken by the California State legislation to approve a comprehensive water package last fall that includes a statewide goal of reducing water demand by 20% by the year 2020. This legislation provides several water conservation goals to include limiting indoor water use to 55 gallons per day per person. The Casitas Municipal Water District will be required to get urban customers to use 20% less water as a result of this legislation, which requires all urban water suppliers to set an interim urban water use target and meet that target by December 31, 2015 and meet the overall target by December 31, 2010. Casitas will no longer be eligible for state grants or loans if it does not comply with this legislation.

"This legislation requires us to get more residents, businesses and institutional customers (schools and hospitals) to use less water," said Ron Merckling, Casitas Municipal Water District's Water Conservation Manager. "We will need to encourage our customers to have smaller lawns and more native plants placed in their landscapes so that we can comply with this new legislation," said Merckling. "We currently provide rebates for high efficiency appliances and smart irrigation controllers, which should assist customers in their efforts to use their water more wisely."

residential water customers within the district boundaries.

The indoor survey includes a test of showerhead and faucet flow rates, an estimate of toilet flush volumes, a review of all water-using appliances and a test for leaks.

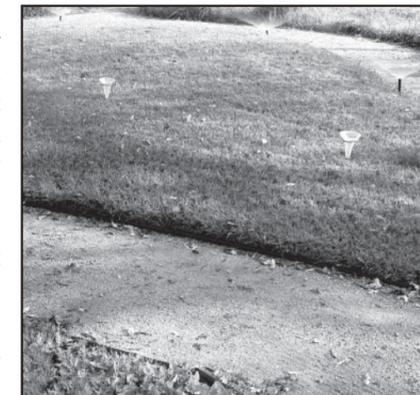
The landscape survey includes a review of the irrigation system, irrigation design and watering schedules. The survey also includes reading the meter to reveal possible system leaks in the customers system. Casitas Water survey program is a free service offered to customers to help them save water inside and outside, and lower their water bill.

"Our customers will work one-on-one with a trained surveyor to analyze how water is being used both indoors and outdoors," said Casitas' Water Conservation Manager Ron Merckling. "Customers will learn how to tell when they are over-watering their landscape and how they might alter their landscape to save additional water and possibly improve upon the aesthetics."

Customers will be provided recommendations for improving water-use efficiency; and information on toilet, clothes washer and landscape rebate programs. Casitas will also provide free conservation devices including low flow showerheads and faucet aerators.

"The free water audits show customers how implementing recommended conservation measures can result in significant water savings. Casitas is committed to giving our residents within the district the knowledge and resources necessary to reduce their water use and save money," said Merckling.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for a home water survey and to schedule an appointment by contacting Larry Harris at (805) 649-2251 Extension 128 or email at lharris@casitaswater.com. If you are receiving this newsletter you are likely to live within the district.



Catch-cans are pictured above. They will be used by Casitas staff during water surveys to determine landscape irrigation efficiency.

See inside: Lake Casitas Recreation Area Coupons for Great Savings!



1055 Ventura Ave.
Oak View, CA 93022
805-649-2251
www.casitaswater.org



ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

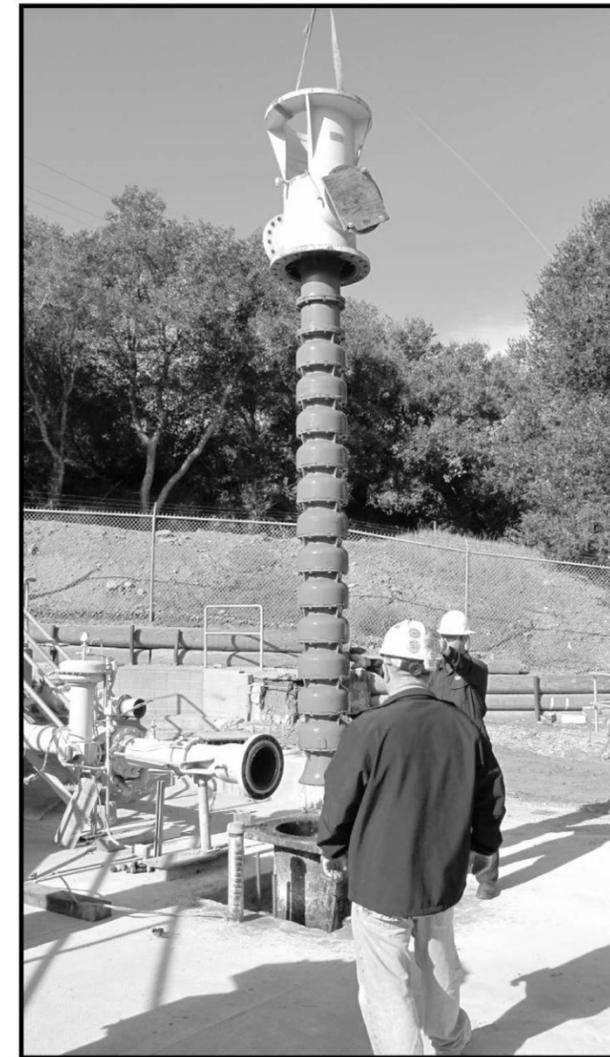
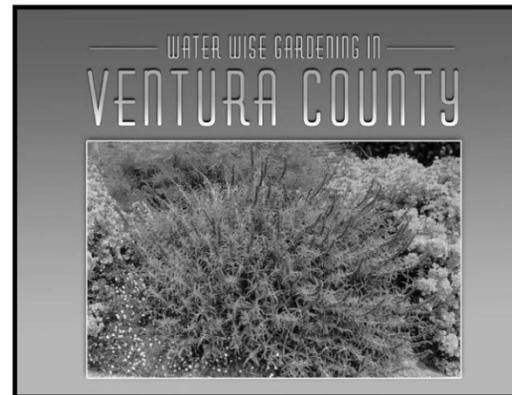
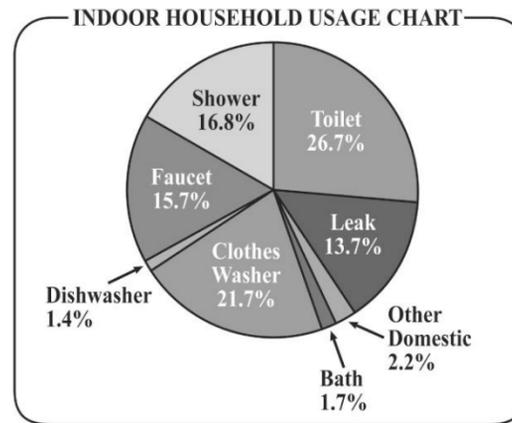
Your Board in Action

Bill Hicks, Division I
James W. Word, Division II
Pete Kaiser, Division III
Richard Handley, Division IV
Russ Baggerly, Division V

The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 4:30 p.m. in the board room located in the main office at 1055 Ventura Ave., Oak View, on the 2nd and 4th wednesday of every month.

How Is Your Family Conserving Water? We want to hear from families that have considerably reduced their water usage. Share your conservation ideas and stories on how you and your family are saving water. Or, send us some new and old pictures of landscapes or appliances. Another idea, have the kids make charts showing how water usage has changed in your home from one period to the next. We would like to highlight what our customers are doing to conserve our local water supply in future newsletters. We are also interested in sharing pictures of water conserving landscapes that could inspire and encourage other residents in the district. Our website has a large list of popular plants and local landscapes with instructions on how to plan and plant for an easy-care garden that needs little water or maintenance, while at www.casitaswater.org click on the Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County Icon shown on the right.

You can send pictures and stories to Ron Merckling, Water Conservation Manager, Casitas Municipal Water District, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, California 93022 or rmerckling@casitaswater.com.



How Can I have a Beautiful Landscape that is Fire Resistant, Low Maintenance, and Will Conserve Water?

Anyone interested in learning more about the many benefits of native plants and how to best integrate them with existing non-native plants now have an opportunity to do so. The California Native Plant Society, Channel Islands Chapter will host a Native Plant Landscape Symposium from 8 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, 2010. It will take place at the Camarillo Ranch House Barn at 201 Camarillo Ranch Road, Camarillo, California 93012. The cost is \$60.00 for the general public. Registration information is available at www.cnpsci.org

The photo to the left shows improvements being made at the Rincon pump plant. The improvements will make the plant more efficient and replace deteriorating concrete. This picture is from the second phase of the project. The final phase of the project is now underway.



As part of Casitas ongoing maintenance, water tank reservoirs are periodically emptied of water, the interior cleaned and repainted. The picture to the right shows a temporary door cut in to the side of the tank. This door makes the job quicker by allowing easy access for materials and equipment. Once the job is finished, the door is welded shut and the tank is as good as new.



Enjoy Winter Savings at Lake Casitas!

- Buy 1 Burrito Get 1 Burrito Free
Marina Cafe (805) 649-2514
Limit one Coupon Per Customer • Expires 04/01/10
- Buy 1 7lb. Bag of Ice Get 1 7lb. Bag of Ice Free
Casitas Store (805) 649-1202
Limit one Coupon Per Customer • Expires 04/01/10
- Buy 1/2 Day Boat Rental Get The Rest of the Day Free
Casitas Boat Rentals (805) 649-2043
Limit one Coupon Per Customer • Expires 04/01/10
- Stay 1 Night Get 1 Night Free
Lake Casitas Rec. (805) 649-2233
Limit one Coupon Per Customer • Expires 04/01/10

coupons!

Lake Casitas Recreation Area
11311 Santa Ana Rd., Ventura, CA 93001
Information (805) 649-2233 • Reservations (805) 649-1122

free camping

(Restrictions may apply)