

Appendix M

Examples of CMWD's Public Outreach Materials

Free Landscape Classes

Please join us this year, for our free water conservation workshops, so you can learn more about how to save water and money. Workshops are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to noon:

- **Landscape Design for Fire Protection** – You do not need a moonscape to protect your home from fire. You can have a beautiful landscape and a fire safe zone. This workshop will focus on “Firescaping” – Landscape design in wildfire areas. *Saturday, February 27, 2016*
- **Orchard and Oaks Care** – With extreme weather and invasive insects, it seems more difficult than ever to keep our trees healthy. Find out what you can do to protect your trees by attending this fun and informative workshop. *Saturday, May 14, 2016*
- **Rainwater Capture and Graywater** - Learn how to install a small scale system that meets all county health and safety requirements. *Saturday, August 13, 2016*

Please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Workshops will be held at Oak View Park & Resource Center (formerly the Oak View Elementary School) located at 555 Mahoney Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park in the parking lots instead of the street.

The 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.

Please visit the Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County website at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com.



Casitas' Graywater Workshop

One El Nino Year is Unlikely to Fill Lake Casitas

Large rainfall this winter is unlikely to fill Lake Casitas. What does this mean for Western Ventura County water customers? Continued conservation efforts will be needed to help sustain our local water supplies for the foreseeable future.

Entering into this winter, the amount of water stored in Lake Casitas declined to a fifty year low of 100,000 acre-feet.

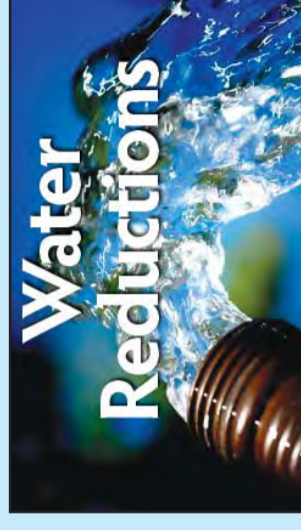


Lake Casitas - at historic lows
One acre foot is roughly a football field filled with one foot of water. It will take about two years of historic large El Nino water inflows into Lake, which average 60,000 acre-feet to fill Lake Casitas.

Until Lake Casitas recovers to full capacity, the drought will continue for Western Ventura

that water customers continue to be vigilant even through the rainy season. Should this winter not produce full water resource recovery, all customers are going to be asked to continue with water use reduction measures,” declared Ron Merckling, Public Affairs/Resource Manager for Casitas.

State Water Reduction Mandates to Continue



The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has extended the statewide drought emergency through October 2016. For Casitas’ direct customers, a continuation of the 32% water reduction mandate can be expected. For most residential, business, and institutional customers this means significant outdoor water use

on the amount of water stored in Lake Casitas after April 1, 2016.

If there is little water supply recovery in Lake Casitas from the 2016 winter storms, water allocations could be reduced further for all customers. Casitas’ highest priority is to maintain water supply for health and safety.

reductions. For Casitas customers, water allocations and surcharges may be adjusted based

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Join the Casitas Municipal Water District Facebook page to get the latest updates on water conservation and the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at: www.facebook.com/fbstecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict.



Your Board in Action
The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 3:00 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.

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

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



Casitas Working on Urban Water Management Plan Update

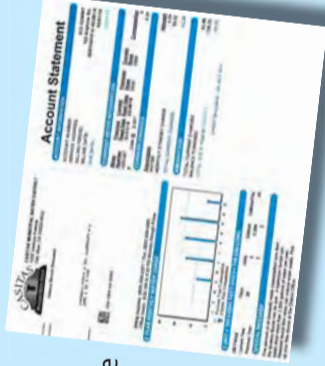
Casitas plans to hold a public workshop on the draft Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) this coming May. Casitas is required to submit an updated UWMP to the California Department of Water Resources every five years. The plan is a summary of water supplies, demands, conservation, and overall water service reliability for the next 25 years.

Urban Water Management Plan



Coming Soon – E-pay for Casitas’ Direct Customers

Although customers can now make payments online at www.casitaswater.org, it is about to become easier to make a payment. Casitas’ direct customers will soon be able sign-up for monthly emails that will provide an online link for easy bill payment. Additional updates on this program will be made available in an upcoming bill insert. Once the program is launched, customers will be able to sign-up to participate by



visiting Casitas’ website under the Quick Links tab “Make-A-Payment.”

Any Casitas customer with billing related questions is encouraged to visit the website or to call for customer assistance at (805) 649-2251.

Water Wasters Now Subject to Fines

No one likes to get a fine and Casitas’ staff takes no pleasure in giving them. The seriousness of the drought now makes it necessary to issue fines to prevent water waste so we can protect the limited local water supply. Casitas’ Water Waste Ordinance states that a first violation will result in a written warning. Subsequent violations will incur fines up to \$600, for each incident.



Report Water Waste

Casitas’ staff depends on the public to assist with getting everyone to comply with Casitas’ water waste ordinance to protect our limited local water supplies. If you see anyone violating Casitas’ water waste provisions please call Casitas’ hotline at (805) 649-2251 Extension 128 or visit our website at www.casitaswater.org and complete an anonymous reporting form. Please be sure to include the address of water waste; date and time of water waste; if possible please send a photo; and type of water waste from the list below:

- ◆ Outdoor irrigation limited to two days per week
- ◆ Leaks must be fixed by property owners within a reasonable period of time (usually 48 hours)
- ◆ Fountains and water features must have a recirculating water system
- ◆ No outdoor irrigation from 10 am to 6 pm
- ◆ Keep irrigation runoff from spilling on to streets and sidewalks
- ◆ Use a hose nozzle shut-offs at all times when cleaning vehicles or hand watering landscapes
- ◆ Sweep, don’t wash sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas with a hose except for safety and sanitary reasons.
- ◆ No irrigation during rainfall or for 48 hours following rainfall.



- ◆ Restaurants must not serve drinking water unless requested by the customer
- ◆ Restaurants must use water saving dish wash spray valves
- ◆ Hotels and motels must give guests the option to decline daily bed linen and towel changes
- ◆ No installation of “single pass cooling systems” in buildings requesting new water service
- ◆ No installation of non-recirculating water systems at car washes and laundry systems

WWW.LAKECASITAS.INFO

Application Forms Available for download at:

www.lakecasitas.info
Under the employment tab

Send Applications to:

Jessica Lugotoff
(805) 649-2233x116
jlugotoff@casitaswater.com
11311 Santa Ana Rd.
Ventura, CA 93001



**NOWHIRING
LIFEGUARDS FOR
SUMMER 2016**

Call to Sign up for One of Our American Red Cross Lifeguarding Courses

Pre-Course Swim Test 1/30, 2/27 & 3/26

In order to register for a swim test applicants must contact us five business days prior to test date.

11311 Santa Ana Rd., Ventura, CA 93001



OUTDOOR WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT

The Casitas Municipal Water District has established prohibitions on water waste to help manage Casitas' potable water supply and to minimize the effects of drought within Casitas' urban service area.

Mandatory Water Restrictions to Include the following:



- Limit of Two days per week outdoor irrigation
- No outdoor irrigation from 10 am to 6 pm



Sweep, don't wash sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas except for safety and sanitary purposes



Keep irrigation on the landscape
Not on sidewalks or streets



Hose nozzle shut-offs are required at all times

- Cleaning vehicles
- Hand watering landscape areas

Please adjust irrigation timer and sprinkler heads to meet the mandatory restrictions



Please call (805) 649-2251 Ext. 128 or report on website www.casitaswater.org the address, time, date, and type of water waste witnessed

Violations and Penalties

Notices of water waste violations will be by telephone, mail, hand-delivery, or posting at premises. A written notice will be issued stating time, place and general description of violation or repeat of violation, as well as a time frame to correct the violation. Penalties for failure to comply with mandatory watering restrictions are as follows:

- **First violation** – Written notice to customer by a hang tag at customer's address
- **Second violation** – If corrective action is not taken within the given time frame provided for the first violation or a second violation occurs within the preceding 12 months after the first violation, second notice of violation will be issued with a fine of \$100
- **Third violation** – A third violation within the preceding twelve months after the second notice is punishable by an administrative fine of \$250
- **Fourth & Subsequent violations** – Each day of violation beyond the remedy allowance provided in the third notice of violation will be subject to discontinuance of water service. A fine of not more than \$600 or imprisonment in county jail for not more than 30 days, or both fine and imprisonment may be imposed upon conviction.

Please visit Casitas' website at www.casitaswater.org to find out about additional information on water conservation, landscape classes, and rebates. Or, Call (805) 649-2251 Ext. 110 to schedule a free home water survey.



BUSINESS & OTHER

WATER RESTRICTIONS NOW IN EFFECT

The Casitas Municipal Water District has established prohibitions on water waste to help manage Casitas' potable water supply and to minimize the effects of drought within Casitas' urban service area.

Mandatory Water Restrictions to Include the following:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit of two days per week outdoor irrigation - Limit irrigation hours to 10 am to 6 pm 		<p>Sweep, don't wash sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas except for safety and sanitary purposes</p>
	<p>Keep irrigation on the landscape Not on sidewalks or streets</p>		<p>Hose nozzle shut-offs are required at all times when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning vehicles - Hand watering landscape areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating and drinking establishments provide drinking water served upon request only • Food preparation establishments prohibition against non-water conserving dish wash sprays 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide option to not launder linen and towels daily at hotels, motels, and other lodging establishments • Fountains and decorative water features must be recirculated 	

Please adjust irrigation timer and sprinkler heads to meet the mandatory outdoor restrictions

Large Landscaped areas greater than 3 acres may request a variance for the two day watering restriction conditioned upon a 20% overall reduction in usage from 2013 monthly usage. Contact Casitas to inquire about a conditional variance. (Large landscapes include areas such as golf courses, parks, schools, and cemeteries.)

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Please visit Casitas' website at www.casitaswater.org to find out about additional information on water conservation, landscape classes, and rebates or call (805) 649-2251 Ext. 110.



Restricciones del uso del Agua

El Distrito Municipal de Agua de Casitas (The Casitas Municipal Water District) ha establecido restricciones respecto al desperdicio de agua. Esto es para controlar el agua potable de Casitas y para reducir los efectos de la sequía dentro de las áreas de servicio de Casitas.

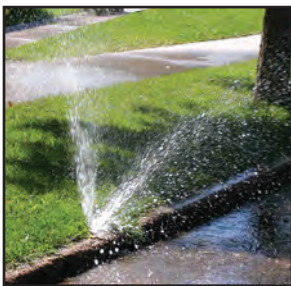
Las Restricciones Obligatorias de Agua incluirán lo siguiente:



- Riegue antes de las 10 a.m. o después de las 6 p.m.
- Se permite regar solo dos días por semana.



- No lave las banquetas/ aceras, ni las áreas de estacionamiento, mejor use la escoba a excepción si es por seguridad y salubridad.



- Riegue el jardín, no en las banquetas/aceras, ni la calle.



- Se requiere manguera con interruptor:
 - ◆ para lavar autos
 - ◆ Regar el jardín a mano



- Si ve que están desperdiciando agua, por favor, llame al (805) 649-2251 Ext. 128 ó reportelo en la página del Internet www.casitaswater.org provea el domicilio, la hora, la fecha y el tipo de desperdicio de agua.

Violaciones y Penalidades

Avisos de violaciones por desperdiciar agua se harán por teléfono, por correo, por entrega directa, o poniendo el aviso en las propiedades. El aviso escrito especificará la hora, el lugar y descripción en general de la violación, repetición de la violación, así como el tiempo que se espera para que la corrijan. Las penalidades por no cumplir con estas restricciones son las siguientes:

- ◆ **Primera violación** - Por escrito y se pondrá el aviso en el domicilio/propiedad
- ◆ **Segunda violación** - De no corregirse el problema durante el tiempo que se le dio en la primera violación o si ocurre una segunda violación entre los 12 meses de cuando ocurrió la primera violación, se dará un segundo aviso con una multa de \$100
- ◆ **Tercera violación** - Una tercera violación entre los doce meses del segundo aviso recibirá una multa de \$250
- ◆ **Cuarta & más violaciones** - Por cada día después de la solución permitida y después del tercer aviso, estará sujeto a que se le cancele/discontinúe el servicio de agua. Podría recibir una multa de no más de \$600 ó encarcelamiento por no más de 30 días, o de ser encontrado culpable se le podría imponer ambas.

Por favor, visite nuestra página www.casitaswater.org para obtener más información en como conservar agua, clases en mantenimiento de jardines, y reembolsos o llame al (805) 649-2251 Ext. 110 y pida una cita para una encuesta/evaluación gratuita de como conservar agua.



[Home](#) [Lake Level](#) [Contact](#) [Water Conservation](#) [Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

[Home](#) [Water Conservation](#) **[Water Conservation Tips](#)**

Water Conservation Tips

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. So set the sprinklers for longer interval times or days in between watering. Saves 750 to 1,500 gallons a month. Also, make sure your sprinklers are not watering the sidewalks
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. Saves 20 gallons a day for every leak fixed.
3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. Saves 150 gallons each time. For a two-car family that's up to 1,200 gallons a month
4. Install water-saving showerheads or flow restrictors. Saves 500 to 800 gallons a month.
5. Watch your water use when brushing your teeth, doing dishes by hand, shaving to make sure you are not letting water run freely down the drain.
6. When washing your dishes or clothes only do full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. Saves 300 to 800 gallons a month.
7. Slightly shorter showers. One to two-minutes less in the shower can save up to 700 gallons a month.
8. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. Saves 150 gallons or more each time. At once a week, that's more than 600 gallons a month.
9. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. Saves 400 to 600 gallons a month.
10. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. Saves 200 to 300 gallons a month.



[Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

11311 Santa Ana Road Ventura, CA
93001

General Information: 805-649-2233

Reservations: 805-649-1122

[Casitas Municipal Water District - Office](#)

1055 Ventura Ave Oak View, CA 93022

Phone: 805-649-2251 Fax: 805-649-4485



Water Conservation Links

[2004 Water Supply and Demand Study](#)

[1989 Water Supply and Demand Study](#)

[Agricultural Irrigation Improvement Recommendations for Western Ventura County Farmers](#)

[Free water conservation devices](#)

[Water Conservation Programs](#)

[Water Conservation Rebate](#)

[Irrigation Contoller Rebate](#)

Waterwise Information for Residents:

[Be Water Wise - Metropolitan Water District's Water Conservation Page \(for LA area residents\)](#)

[Water Saver Home Tour - California Urban Water Conservation Council Water Saver Home.](#)
Take a tour of water saving opportunities in your home.

[Saving Water in your Swimming Pool - Money saving tips from Marin Water District.](#)

[Software for Environmental Awareness - Save an amazing amount of water money while protecting the environment. \(Self-extracting zipfile 0.9 Mb\)](#)

[WaterWiser Drip Calculator - Measure and estimate water wasted due to leaks.](#)

Waterwise Information for Businesses:

[Water Savings Calculator: Multi-housing Laundry Association - For common area laundry rooms. <http://www.laundrywise.com/>](#)

[Global Environmental Management Initiative: Water Sustainability Tool - Information useful to businesses interested in saving water. <http://www.gemi.org/>](#)

Waterwise information for Landscape Maintenance:

[Water Right - Irrigation information from the Center for Irrigation Technology.](#)

[EPA Water Efficiency Measures for Landscaping - Landscaping tips during non-drought conditions.](#)

[Be Water Wise Plant Database: Find beautiful plants that use minimal water.](#)



Conservation Programs

Casitas MWD offers many water Conservation programs to assist both residential and commercial customers.

Casitas offers free water surveys to all residential customers that live within the district. This service is open to residents living within Casitas MWD's district and not just to Casitas' direct customers. The district includes the upper Ojai, Rincon, and East Ventura, please call if you need to verify if you live in the district. Casitas also provides rebates for high efficiency washing machines, high efficiency toilets, and other devices. Please contact Ron Merckling, Water Conservation Manager at (805) 649-2251 Extension 118 for further information.

Water conservation Services for agricultural customer

Casitas plans to offer in the summer of 2012 distribution uniformity evaluations to agricultural customers. Those customers with the highest water usage per acre will be given first priority. Please contact Ron Merckling, Water Conservation Manager for more information at (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Water conservation for teachers and students

Casitas provides state approved curriculum that teaches students about water conservation. Free educational materials are available to teachers and students. Please contact Ron Merckling Water Conservation Manager at (805) 649-2251 Extension 118 for additional details.

Creating Your Own Water-wise Landscape

Here are some basic water-wise landscaping suggestions that will help you arrive at beautiful landscape solutions that work in the Southern California's climate.

1. Limit non-functional turf.
2. Ask your local nursery for suggestions on native plant species that will meet your landscape needs the most effectively.
3. Install proper irrigation systems throughout your yard, conventional sprinklers are best for turf, while low-volume irrigation, such as drip, is best for trees, shrubs and perennials.
4. Group plants with similar water needs. Maximize the use of low-water-use plants especially in sunny, dry and windy areas. Plants that need more water should be used sparingly and planted close to the house in either shady areas or placed in containers.
5. Improve the texture of the soil, if needed, by adding amendments. Amendments can either increase water retention or improve drainage, depending on the soil composition.
6. Use a thick layer of mulch around your plants to help the soil retain moisture. Mulch also inhibits weeds.
7. Plant trees to lower air and soil temperatures. This reduces plant and soil moisture loss.
8. Use low, spreading shrubs and trees to cover large slopes rather than shallow-rooted groundcovers. Minimize water runoff with drip irrigation



[Home](#) [Lake Level](#) [Contact](#) [Water Conservation](#) [Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

[Home](#) [Water Conservation](#) **[Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates](#)**

Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates

The goal of the irrigation controller rebate program is to increase irrigation efficiency and promote healthy and attractive landscaping within Casitas' district boundaries. It saves water and lowers your bill.

A new generation of irrigation controllers are now available that automatically adjust irrigation scheduling based on actual site and weather conditions. They stop irrigating when it rains and apply more water when it is dry. They will automatically cycle and soak to reduce runoff on slopes

Casitas is offering up to \$250 rebates for qualifying irrigation controllers.

NOTE: As of October 1st, 2011, the Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate requirements and amounts will be changing. The new Rebate amount will be \$250. Applicants will be required to demonstrate an average summer use in excess of 25 units of water per month. A site visit by Casitas staff will also be required.

Application process:

Review terms and conditions

Select and install qualifying irrigation controller, shown on Makes and Models list, according to manufacture's directions. Contact manufacture for installation, programming questions and for a list of distributors that may have a list of professional installers if you choose not to install yourself.

Complete application with attached receipt and deliver it to Casitas MWD, 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, California 93022. Casitas reserves the right to inspect for proper installation.

[Online or PDF Application](#)

[Approved Makes and Models List](#)

[Brochure](#)



[Home](#) [Lake Level](#) [Contact](#) [Water Conservation](#) [Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

[Home](#) [Water Conservation](#) **[Free Water Conservation Devices](#)**

Free Water Conservation Devices

Casitas MWD provides the following water conservation devices for free to all customers living in the service area. Customers can pick up these devices between 8:00 and 4:30 p.m. at the District's main office located at 1055 Ventura Avenue, Oak View, California.



EARTH SHOWERHEAD

(Massage Showerhead) This showerhead will provide an effective spray but use much less water.



KITCHEN AERATOR WITH SWIVEL

Swivel action for effective cleaning, both with aerated jet and wide spray.



1.5 GALLONS-PER-MINUTE BATHROOM FAUCET AERATOR

Flows at only 1.5 gpm, but delivers the force of gallons more. Easy to install.



TOILET FLAPPER

Toilet flappers will begin to leak with age. It is important to maintain them. These sturdy universal flappers install easily in to your toilet tank.

DYE TABLETS

(Packet with 2 tablets) Drop these blue dye tablets into your toilet tank to check for toilet leaks.



SHOWER SHUT-OFF VALVE

Install this device above your showerhead so that you can easily turn-off your shower while lathering. This will limit the number of minutes that your shower will be running, which will add to many gallons of water savings per day.



Lake Casitas Recreation Area

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93001

General Information: 805-649-2233

Reservations: 805-649-1122

Casitas Municipal Water District - Office

1055 Ventura Ave Oak View, CA 93022

Phone: 805-649-2251 Fax: 805-649-4485



[Home](#) [Lake Level](#) [Contact](#) [Water Conservation](#) [Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

[Home](#) [Water Conservation](#) **[Landscape Suggestions](#)**

Landscape Suggestions

Landscaping water requirements represent over fifty percent of residential water needs. Homes and businesses have a great opportunity to save more of our limited local water supply by planting drought tolerant plants and installing and maintaining efficient irrigation systems.

Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County – This web-resource offers you a personalized database that you develop for your specific landscape needs. You can populate your database using the vast selection of plants and garden plans that will help you design a beautiful and drought tolerant landscape that is specifically designed for Ventura County. All the homes and plans depicted are from Ventura County. Plant lists include details on needs for sun and water and attributes such as butterfly or bird attraction.

Are you adjusting your irrigation controller at least twice a year?

An easy way to remember to adjust your irrigation controller sprinkler is to turn it back in the fall when you change your clock for daylight savings time and spring it forward in the spring. Also, take the time to see if all of your sprinkler heads are working properly. Look for broken, bent or sunken sprinkler heads and clogged nozzles.



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[Home](#) [Lake Level](#) [Contact](#) [Water Conservation](#) [Lake Casitas Recreation Area](#)

[Home](#) **[Report Water Waste Anonymously](#)**

Report Water Waste Anonymously

Please assist us by reporting water waste such as a water running off a property, middle of the day lawn irrigation, or a faucet left running. Your help will assist Casitas MWD staff to investigate and offer assistance in resolving the problem. Complete the form anonymously or contact our Water Waste Hotline at (805) 649-2251 Ext. 128.

Date Observed *

Time Observed *

Location Type *

Address/Location *

Type of Water Waste

- Outdoor irrigation more than two days a week
- Outdoor irrigation between 10 am and 6 pm
- Over watering or runoff onto pavement, street or gutter
- Not using a hose nozzle shut-off when cleaning vehicles, or hand watering landscapes
- Using a hose to wash a driveway, sidewalk, and/or other exterior hard or paved surface
- Broken sprinkler
- Other, please describe in comment field below:

Comments:



Request for Allocation Adjustment

The Casitas Municipal Water District's Water Efficiency and Allocation Program is designed to serve as a tool to help meet State mandated water use reductions and to manage local water supply. If you believe you need an adjusted allocation based on the reasons listed below, you must complete and return this form. Adjustments may be approved subject to verification and periodic review by Casitas Staff. Allocation adjustments are based on Stage 1 drought conditions and are subject to further limits due to drought conditions.

NAME: _____ ACCOUNT NO. _____
Email: _____ Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____
Mailing Address: *(if different from service address)*: _____

I have read the ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENT GUIDELINES (on back page) and request an adjusted water allocation for the following reason(s):

CIRCUMSTANCE. *Please explain circumstance, attach additional page if needed. A home water survey and/or verification may be required.*

PLEASE NOTE: *Submissions with incomplete information or missing documentation(s) will be returned to applicant. Approval of an allocation adjustment does not constitute a release from conserving in your home and penalties may be incurred if you exceed your water allocation. Processing may take 30 days. Casitas will respond to your request in writing. If approved, new allocation will apply starting with the next bill. For questions, call (805) 649-2251 Ext. 118.*

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION BY:
(MAIL) Casitas Municipal Water District, Oak View, CA 93022, (FAX) 805-649-3001, or (EMAIL) rmerckling@casitaswater.com.

I have completed this form and affirm that I am the above account holder and the information contained herein, including attachments, is complete and accurate. I further understand that all variances are subject to change and I may be liable for back charges for providing false information.

PRINT NAME: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

For District Use Only, Date Received: _____ Allocation Adjustment Essential _____ Non-Essential _____
Documentation Submitted _____

Allocation Adjustment Guidelines

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The customer is responsible for contacting Casitas and submitting a Request for Allocation Adjustment in writing
2. Documentation subject to verification and review by Casitas' staff.
3. Upon verification and approval of customer's request, the allocation adjustment will be applied to the next bill and will not be retroactive
4. Refusal or failure of applicant to provide documentation acceptable to and requested by Casitas shall result in denial or revocation of adjustment
5. Reasons for requesting allocation adjustments cannot be related to water waste.
6. Variance applications may be subject to annual review

B. RELEVANT FACTORS THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR ALLOCATION ADJUSTMENTS

1. Livestock (15 gallons of water per day per animal weighing more than 100 pounds)
2. Licensed 24/7 child or adult care facility
3. Correction of irrigable area square feet
4. Correction of number of dwelling units on property

Before submitting an application , please read the following:

Information contained on the application form is subject to an audit (Casitas reserves the right to audit Variance Applications). As an applicant subject to an audit, you must agree to: Provide documentation to support claims. If information supplied in the application is found to be false, the fees and charges will be adjusted retroactively to the date of the application and penalty fees may apply. Appropriate fees and charges will be added to the next water service bill for the address on the application.

Free Landscape Class

Please join us for our last free water conservation workshop for this year. Learn more about how you can save water and money. The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 8, 2015.

- **Rainwater Capture and Graywater** – Learn how to install a small scale system that meets all county health and safety requirements.

Please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Workshops will be held at Oak View Park & Resource Center (formerly the Oak View Elementary School) located at 555 Mahoney Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park in the parking lots instead of on the street.



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CASITAS WATER NEWS

Summer 2015

Historic Drought Continues

The Casitas Board declared a Stage II condition for the Lake Casitas water supply in April 2015. Local groundwater and Lake Casitas water levels declined to historic lows not seen in fifty years. It is critical all residents, businesses, and institutions in Western Ventura County take extra measures to conserve water now and into the future.

Conserving water now can prolong water supplies for the future. Water savings measures are now mandatory per the State of California, Casitas Ordinances, and other local water agencies' requirements.



Lake Casitas - at historic lows

State Mandated Water Reductions

The State has proclaimed a state of emergency based on the current drought conditions and enacted emergency regulations to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water. The regulations are aimed at reducing urban water use to the State's goal of 55 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) and now water agencies throughout California are required to implement efforts to significantly reduce all urban water use. For most residential, business, and institutional customers this means significant outdoor water use reductions compared to each month in 2013.

The State mandated water

use reduction requirements vary for each water agency. The State required greater reductions for agencies with customers using higher gallons per capita day water usage. The table at the right indicates the mandated water reduction requirements from 2013 water use.

The State goal of 55 GPCD means that a family of four will use 9 units of water each month. Residential customers that use less than 10 units on their monthly bill have met the State's goal and are doing a great job on water conservation. However, for customers that

State Mandated Water Demand Reductions		
Water Agency	% of Water Reduction	Gallons Per Capita Day Use
Casitas MWD	32%	182.9
City of Ventura	16%	91.3
Golden State Water Co. Ojai	36%	261
Small Water Agencies (Ventura River Water District, Meiners Oaks Water Agency, local Mutual Water Companies)	25%	

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Your Board in Action

The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 3:00 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.

Join the Casitas Municipal Water District Facebook page to get the latest updates on water conservation and the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at: www.facebook.com/fbsitecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict.



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



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Casitas' Board Adopts New Water Allocation Plan

Casitas' Board of Directors approved a revised Water Efficiency and Allocation Program on June 5, 2015. The Program implements Casitas' water demand reduction measures based on storage levels in Lake Casitas. The program describes water demand reduction strategies and measures to address water shortage conditions, promote water conservation and water efficiency, and the creation of a conservation penalty to customers wasting water. A key revision in the program includes



methods to assign individual allocations to Casitas' customers.

The allocations were designed to be fair and not require unreasonable cutbacks from those who already conserve. They will provide customers with the necessary amount of water to meet public health and safety. They also take into account property variations and provide additional amounts of water for seasonal landscape needs.

Choose to Save More

Take extra steps to conserve and save thousands of gallons each year. Several suggestions include:

- Let your turf go brown or replace water-thirsty turf with water smart landscape
 - Use mulch around plants to prevent evaporation
 - Turn off the faucet when shaving, brushing teeth and scrubbing dishes
 - Run full loads of laundry and dishes
 - Take shorter showers, five minutes or less
 - Install efficient fixtures and appliances – Look for rebates on Casitas' website
 - Talk to your family, friends and coworkers
- Check out the websites: www.casitaswater.org and www.h2ouse.org for additional suggestions on water savings.

Water Wasters Subject to Fines

No one likes to get a fine and Casitas' staff takes no pleasure in giving them. The seriousness of the drought now makes it necessary to issue fines to prevent water waste so we can protect the limited local water supply. Casitas' Water Waste Ordinance states that a first violation will result in a written warning. Subsequent violations will incur fines up to \$600, for each incident.



Report Water Waste

Casitas' staff depends on the public to assist us with getting everyone to stop wasting our local water supplies. If you see anyone violating any of the Casitas water waste provisions, please call our hotline at (805) 649-2251 extension 128 or visit our website at www.casitaswater.org and complete an anonymous reporting form. Please be sure to include the address of water waste; date and time of water waste; if possible please send a photo; and type of water waste from the list below:

- Outdoor irrigation limited to two days per week. No outdoor irrigation from 10 am to 6 pm
- Leaks must be fixed by property owners within a reasonable time period (usually 48 hours)
- Fountains and water features must have a recirculating water system
- Restaurants must not serve drinking water
- Restaurants must use water saving dish wash spray valves
- Hotels and motels must give guests the option to decline daily bed linen and towel changes
- Keep irrigation runoff from spilling on to streets and sidewalks
- Use a hose nozzle shut-offs at all times when cleaning vehicles or hand watering landscapes
- Sweep, don't wash sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas with a hose except for safety and sanitary reasons
- No irrigation during, or 48 hours after, rainfall.

The Return of Astronomy Nights at Lake Casitas

Far, far away from city lights, Lake Casitas Recreation Area is a perfect place to stargaze with NASA accredited astronomer Ernest Underhay. Peek through our super big telescope and/or bring your own binoculars or telescope. Mr. Underhay is as entertaining as he is knowledgeable.



Everyone is welcome. Park entrance fees apply. You may want to bring your blanket or lawn chair.

- Meet at Picnic #1 by Santa Ana Launch Ramp, Event starts at 8:30 pm:
- **Saturday, June 27** - "New Moon and Venus"
 - **Saturday July 18** - "Saturn, Lord of the Rings"
 - **Saturday, August 15** - "Summer Milky Way and Scorpion's Stinger"
 - **Saturday, September 5** - "Farewell to Summer"
 - **Sunday, September 27** - "Blood Moon Solar Eclipse"

WHAT DOES A 20% REDUCTION in water use look like?

OUTDOOR WATER USE
The average Californian uses 196 gallons of water per day and 30-60% of their water outdoors. Here are some easy outdoor tips to reduce water use. Find the right combination for you to reduce by 20% or 38 gallons a day.

USE A BROOM TO CLEAN OUTDOOR AREAS
saves **8-18 GALLONS** per minute

ADJUST SPRINKLER TO WATER PLANTS, NOT DRIVEWAY
saves **12-15 GALLONS** each time you water

USE MULCH ON SOIL SURFACE
saves **20-30 GALLONS** per 1,000 sq. ft. each time

WATER PLANTS EARLY IN THE AM
saves **25 GALLONS** each time you water

SET MOWER BLADE TO 3" (ENCOURAGES DEEPER ROOTS)
saves **16-50 GALLONS** per day

PLANT DROUGHT-RESISTANT TREES AND PLANTS
saves **30-60 GALLONS** per 1,000 sq. ft. each time

INSTALL DRIP-IRRIGATION
saves **15 GALLONS** each time you water

INSTALL A "SMART" CONTROLLER
saves **24+ GALLONS** per day



For more tips on reducing water use, visit www.casitaswater.org or www.h2ouse.org

Free Landscape Class

Please join us for one of our free Saturday morning classes to learn more about how you can save water and money.

Rainwater capture/Graywater Workshop – from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 16, 2014.

This workshop is sure to answer all of your questions related to rainwater and graywater systems. You will learn how to install your own systems according to permit standards in Ventura County.

Please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Workshops will be held at Oak View Park & Resource Center (formerly the Oak View Elementary School) located at 555 Mahoney Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park in the parking lots instead of the street.



The 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.

Please visit the new and improved Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County website at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com.



CASITAS WATER NEWS

Summer 2014

Statewide Drought Requires Local Response

Western Ventura County's water resource systems will be stretched as the worse statewide drought in recent memory continues. By early summer, many local groundwater resources will reach historical low levels and groundwater pumpers will rely on Lake Casitas to meet local water demands. By the end of the summer months, Lake Casitas' storage will drop to below fifty percent for the first time since 1968. At fifty percent storage, Casitas will ask all water users in the district to further reduce non-essential water use.



Lake Casitas is currently at 58% of full.

"It is important for all water users throughout the district to begin to take extraordinary steps to curtail water usage," said Ron Merckling, public affairs/resource manager for Casitas. "Although, there are several years of water supply remaining, it is critical for all water users to take action now, the only water available for our service area is from local water supplies," said Merckling.

Western Ventura County is not alone in facing the drought. The current statewide drought is impacting most of the state's population and water systems. In many areas, water rationing and

crop following are now in place due to the scarcity of water.

Casitas' district boundaries encompass a population of approximately 70,000 residents, 5,800 acres of agriculture, and a wide variety of commercial and industrial businesses that are served by more than eight different public and private water providers. If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, you are likely a water customer within the boundaries of the Casitas Municipal Water District.

is aimed at making it as easy as possible for residents, businesses and farmers to save even more water. The campaign includes workshops, rebates for high water efficiency devices, and free agricultural, residential, and business water surveys. State resources on water conservation are also available at www.saveourH2O.org, or join the effort on Facebook and Twitter. Anyone interested in finding out more information about these incentives and programs is encouraged to visit Casitas' web site at www.casitaswater.org or call to call Ron Merckling at (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Casitas' "Drought On/Tap Off" water conservation campaign

Your Board in Action

Bill Hicks, Division I

James W. Word, Division II

Pete Kaiser, Division III

Mary Bergen, Division IV

Russ Bagerly, Division V

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Homeowner Uses Free Casitas' Consultation to Save Water

Carole Iles, a resident in the Meiners Oaks Water District scheduled a free water survey offered by the Casitas Municipal Water District. "I wanted to remove my lawn to reduce my water consumption. I thought the survey might give me some good ideas so I scheduled a consultation through Casitas' free home water survey program," said Iles. She received a home water survey and a consultation with Cinnamon McIntosh, Casitas' Water Conservation Specialist, who offered advice on how she could save on both indoor and outdoor water use.

"I was happy with all of the suggestions Cinnamon gave me. I saved water and removing the lawn improved my landscape," said Iles. Since implementing the recommendations in the survey Ms. Iles has noticed a reduction in her water use.

Anyone living in the Casitas district boundaries that is interested in getting a free home water survey is encouraged to email



Cinnamon McIntosh, Casitas' water conservation specialist, performs a free home water survey at the residence of Ms. Carole Iles.

cmcintosh@casitaswater.com or call (805) 649-2251 extension 110 to schedule an appointment.

Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System and Save

Now is the perfect time to spruce up your irrigation system before you ramp up your watering efforts this summer. To get started, follow these four simple steps: *inspect, connect, direct, and select.*

- **Inspect.** Check your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled irrigation program.

- **Connect.** Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water is pooling in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

- **Direct.** Are you watering the driveway, house,



or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to your lawn or prized plants.

- **Select.** An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule with the seasons, or select a smart irrigation controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling. Casitas offers rebates of \$250 for a smart irrigation controller, please see details on qualification requirements at www.casitaswater.org.

Learn more about maintaining a water-smart yard by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.



Eagles Return to Nest at Lake Casitas

For the second year in a row, a pair of bald eagles hatched two chicks in a nest near Lake Casitas this spring. The last recorded nesting of Bald Eagles on Ventura County's mainland before last year's nesting at Lake Casitas was in 1922.

If you plan to visit the Lake Casitas Recreation Area to see the eagle nest it is VERY important not to disturb the nest. The nesting area is closed to vehicle, bicycle, and foot traffic (a 500 foot radius) to reduce disturbance to the eagles, which is located in a eucalyptus tree near Teacup #1, within the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. The best viewing location, located far enough



A nest with an adult eagle near Lake Casitas.

Department of Fish & Wildlife. They are also protected under both the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

away to avoid disturbing the birds, is at Teacup #2, a picnic table area. There will likely be others there with spotting scopes to show you where the nesting is occurring. It is recommended that you bring a good pair of binoculars or a telescope.

Although bald eagles were delisted as federally endangered species in 2007, nesting and wintering Bald Eagles remain listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. They are also protected under both the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

Protecting Lake Casitas Don't Move a Mussel

meant to improve inspections of boats that may be at risk of harboring invasive mussels.

Casitas Municipal Water District recently adopted additional measures to stop devastating invasive mussels from moving into Lake Casitas in response to the continued spread of mussels in California lakes. Casitas' invasive quagga and zebra mussel protection program was already recognized as the most extensive anti-mussel prevention program in the state before these measures were adopted.

Casitas' Board of Directors in January 2014, extended the boat quarantine period from 30 to 35 days as an additional protective measure. When a boat owner comes to Lake Casitas they must accept an initial boat inspection. They then participate in a tamper proof tag program to assure their boats are not allowed to enter any other water body during a waiting period. In May, recreation staff completed an intensive two-day watercraft inspection and decontamination training. The training qualifies staff to be level I inspectors and decontaminators. It is

Invasive mussels can be spread inadvertently from one water body to another by boaters and, once introduced, can rapidly devastate that water body with the formation of massive colonies that litter beaches, cling to boats and docks, clog and damage water intake equipment, and even cause a collapse in the population of sport fish. The spread of these invasive mussels has progressed from their first introduction into North American waters in the Great Lakes in 1988 all the way to their recent discovery in Lake Piru.

Casitas water quality staff analyzes water samples each month to ensure the lake remains free of invasive mussels. For questions, information and to make a boat inspection appointment, please call (805)-649-2233.

Free Landscape Classes

Please join us for one of our free Saturday morning classes to learn more about how you can save water and money.

- **Convert Your Turf** – from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, February 22, 2014. This workshop will provide training on how to remove turf and what aesthetic alternatives are available to replace your lawn.
- **Design with Native Gardens** – from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 17, 2014. This workshop will explore how to design beautiful landscapes with native plants.
- **Rainwater Capture/Graywater Workshop** – from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 16, 2014. This workshop is sure to answer all of your questions related to rainwater and graywater systems. You will learn how to install your own systems according to permit standards in Ventura County.

Please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or 805-649-2251 Extension 118.

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Historic Drought Strains Local Water Supplies



Lake Casitas is currently at 60% of full. Above is the Santa Ana boat ramp.

The State of California, Ventura County, and the Ventura River Watershed, begin 2014 in the grip of one of the driest recorded rain periods in history. Governor Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency on January 17, 2014, calling on every Californian to reduce their water usage by 20%. The lack of rain recently has left Lake Casitas at less than sixty percent capacity, its lowest point in more than two decades. Without any significant additional rainfall this year, it is expected to decline to 50 percent capacity, a critical point at which Casitas will implement additional water conservation measures and actions to encourage less water use. Casitas is presently re-

viewing and revising these measures, and will provide additional information in the near future.

As the current drought continues, there is greater demand on Lake Casitas' water supply. Lake Casitas was built in the 1950s to be a back-up water supply to local groundwater supplies. Many of Casitas' resale agencies and agricultural customers that traditionally use groundwater supplies have started to use more of Casitas' water as their own groundwater supplies have diminished. "When the Ventura River Project was built by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1959, it was intended that Lake Casitas would be a supplemental

water supply during extended drought conditions, as local groundwater sources depleted," said Steve Wickstrum, general manager for the Casitas Municipal Water District.

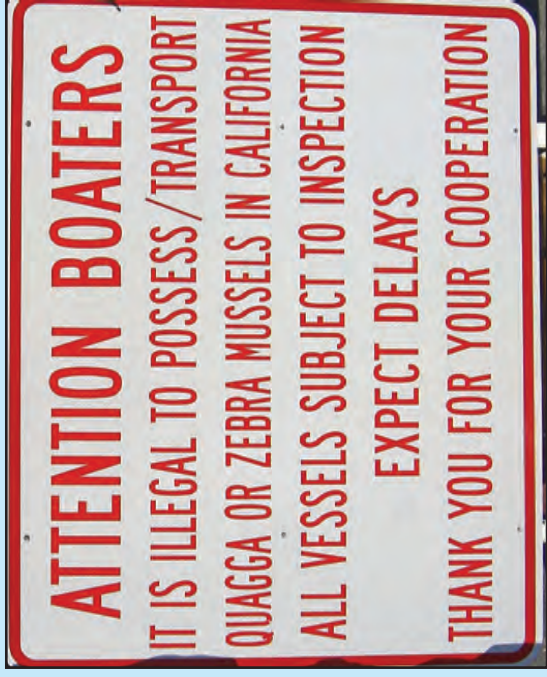
Casitas encourages constituents throughout the district to use their water wisely through an active water conservation campaign that offers workshops, rebates for high water efficiency devices, and free agricultural, residential, and business water surveys.

Casitas' district boundaries encompass a population of approximately 70,000 residents, 5,800 acres of agriculture, and a wide variety of commercial and industrial businesses that are served by more than eight different public and private water providers. The area relies solely on local surface water and groundwater supplies. Unlike most of Southern California, there is no importation of State Water into the district's boundaries.

Anyone interested in finding out more information about incentives and programs is encouraged to visit Casitas' website at www.casitaswater.org or to call Ron Merckling at 805-649-2251 Extension 118.

Emergency Measures Implemented Due to Quagga Mussel Threat

Lake Casitas Recreation Area responded to the December 2013 discovery of invasive Quagga mussels at Lake Piru by implementing emergency actions to include subjecting all new vessels wishing to use Lake Casitas to a mandatory 35 day quarantine period.



The Casitas Municipal Water District Board on January 22, 2014 took additional action by calling on the California Natural Resources Agency to act on its authority to plan for the control or eradication of invasive mussels from Lake Piru. Lake Piru is the first lake in Southern California to get invasive mussels from a source, likely recreational boats, other than the Colorado River aqueduct. It is feared that any further spread of invasive mussels in Ventura County will result significant environmental and economic impacts.

Quagga sign post at Lake Casitas Recreation Area entrance gate.

smaller water body with chemical treatment, options that would be difficult to implement at Lake Casitas.

Anyone interested in having their boat inspected at Lake Casitas, required before the 35 day quarantine period begins, is encouraged to make an appointment with the main gate at 805-649-2233 Extension 103.

Invasive mussels reproduce rapidly and attach themselves to hard surfaces. This creates maintenance problems related to keeping water intake structures operational. Invasive mussels cause additional damage to fisheries, water-damage, and water quality because they are filter feeders that filter out food supply for most fish in a water body and allow for more favorable conditions for disruptive algal blooms. The only known eradication methods include drying out a lake or in the case of a smaller water body with chemical treatment, options that would be difficult to implement at Lake Casitas.

Casitas to Offer Free Agricultural Irrigation Evaluations and Rebate Programs



Water efficient agricultural irrigation lines. Photo courtesy of Hunter Industries.

Casitas aims to further increase agricultural water use efficiency by offering a couple of additional programs to assist agricultural growers.

One program provides rebates to Casitas' agricultural customers up to \$650 per customer on equipment that will assist them to improve their irrigation efficiency. All eligible customers will first receive an irrigation evaluation by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District, which are currently offered at no cost.

The second program will fund free irrigation evaluations on hobby farms with less than two acres of planted crops, and provide rebates for water use efficiency equipment up to \$125 per customer.

Funds for these programs are limited. Irrigation evaluations and rebates will be provided on a first come first served basis. For additional information on how to participate, and on eligibility requirements and program terms and conditions, customers are urged to contact Ron Merckling at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or 805-649-2251 Extension 118 or to Ventura Resource Conservation District directly at info@vrcrd.org or 805-764-5130.

How Can I Reduce My Water Use by 20%?

- Stop over watering plants, which causes them to have shallow roots, and trains them to want more water. Plants need to be more independent, which requires they receive less watering days but deeper soaks so roots grow further down into the soil.
- If you have a struggling tropical plant, consider replacing it with a drought tolerant plant that will thrive in its place. Or even better, plant a native plant that will benefit local butterflies, birds, and bees.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn areas.
- Mulch your landscape to help increase water retention in your soil. Mulch is any substance that provides cover over your landscape such as wood chips or rocks.
- Irrigate your landscape during early morning hours before wind and sunlight can evaporate most of your irrigation water.
- Maintain your irrigation system by checking it once a month! All irrigation systems need regular maintenance to remain efficient. Drip systems require constant maintenance to repair lines chewed by critters, emitters clogged by hard water, and emitters blown off by high water pressure. Even bubblers and spray valves can be damaged by lawn mowers and trimmers, children and cars, and sunlight.
- Install high efficiency toilets, washing machines, showerheads, and faucet aerators.
- Operate clothes washers and dishwashers with full loads.
- Do not let faucets run while brushing teeth and shaving.
- Call Casitas at 805-649-2251 Extension 118 to schedule a free home water saving survey.

Visit the following websites to find out more information: Casitaswater.org or Ventura.watersaving-plants.com

Lifeguards Needed!



The Lake Casitas Recreation Area is now accepting applications online for part-time lifeguards this summer to work at the Casitas Water Adventure. Applications can be downloaded at www.casitaswater.org under the employment tab. Applications can be mailed or turned in by hand to the front entrance of the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at 11311 Santa Ana Road, Ventura, California 93010, from now until the end of May.



Astronomy Nights at Lake Casitas

Far, far away from city lights, Lake Casitas Recreation Area is perfect for stargazing with NASA accredited astronomer Ernest Underhay. Peek



through our super big telescope and/or bring your own binoculars or telescope. The event is free, park entrance fees apply. Bring blankets and chairs. For more information please call 805-649-2233 X 103.

All summer shows are 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
Meet at Picnic # 1 (by Santa Ana Launch Ramp).

- Saturday, June 29**
- Saturday, July 27**
- Saturday, August 10 and 31**
- Saturday, September 14**

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CASITAS WATER NEWS

Municipal Water District

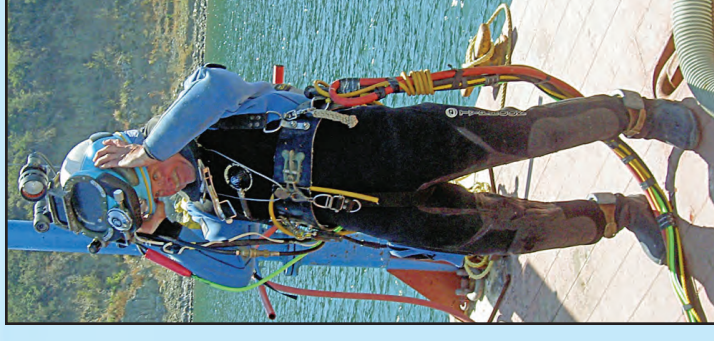
Summer 2013

Casitas Goes to Great Depths to Maintain Casitas Dam

Buried under a few feet of fine sediment at approximately 191 feet underwater at the Casitas Dam is an abandoned inlet. It was originally installed in 1959 as part of a mercury sensing line used to measure how full the lake was at any given time. This measuring system was replaced by an electrical/mechanical bubbler system in the mid-1980s. The old system including the mercury has since been removed. Inside the intake tunnel at the bottom of the lake, where the previous sensor entered from the outside, a small leak started that posed a risk for a greater leak to form that could

potentially flood the intake tunnel of the dam if it further deteriorated.

Casitas' staff determined the best way to repair the leak was to have a diver plug the inlet from the outside, at the bottom of the lake. Casitas went out to bid for the work and Harbor Offshore's quote for \$83,989 was the lowest of three bids. Since the dive was below 185 feet, federal regulations require divers to use a mixed gas system and a decompression chamber. The leak was successfully capped on May 20.



Greg Gutshall, diver with Harbor Offshore, Inc preparing to dive.

Another dry winter means that we must continue to use our water wisely.

Free Graywater Workshop

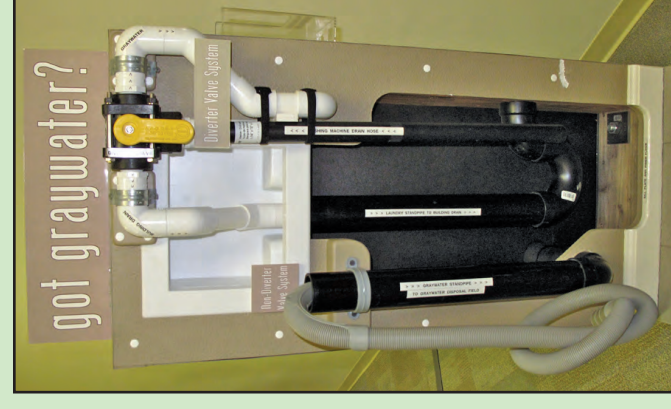
Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Please join us for our free Saturday morning class to learn the ins-and-outs of installing a graywater system at your home.

Back by popular demand, this workshop is sure to answer all of your questions related to graywater systems. Learn how to install your own system according to permit standards in Ventura County.

Attendance is limited to forty persons per class so please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or 805 649-2251 Extension 118. All workshops will be held in the boardroom at Casitas main offices located at 1055 Ventura Avenue in Oak View.

Ventura County's graywater model presented at the last class.



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Why Did Casitas Respond to Golden State Water Customers Request to Join Casitas?

In June 2011, a grassroots organization named Ojai Friends of Locally Owned Water (Ojai FLOW) approached Casitas with petitions signed by approximately 1,900 Ojai customers of Golden State that requested Casitas consider acquiring Golden State's Ojai service area. The petitions were based primarily on the fact Golden State's customers pay far higher water rates than the prevailing rates in surrounding communities. Golden State's customers have endured rate increases of over 75% since 2008, and Golden State's water rates continue to climb rapidly. Customers of Golden State Water in Ojai are constituents of Casitas, which means they pay property taxes to Casitas and vote for a representative to serve on Casitas' Board of Directors. Golden States' Ojai system also relies on Casitas' water as a backup water supply when drought conditions occur.

Casitas independently reviewed Ojai FLOW petitions and supporting studies and determined the proposed acquisition is feasible and would save Golden State's customers substantial costs. On March 13, 2013, the Casitas Board of Directors held a well-attended public hearing to consider formation of a

Community Facilities District (CFD) and the imposition of a special tax on properties in Golden State's Ojai service area to finance the acquisition. *The main objective of the CFD is to provide a mechanism that allows Golden State water customers to pay for the water system in Ojai without burdening Casitas' existing customers that live outside of that service area.* The Ojai community overwhelmingly supported Casitas moving forward. At the close of the hearing, the Casitas Board of Directors voted unanimously to form the CFD and set a special election date for August 27, 2013, at which time all registered voters in Golden State's Ojai service area can make the final decision on whether to proceed or not. Casitas will only be authorized to proceed with the acquisition if two-thirds or more of the voters vote in favor.

If the election is successful, Casitas will proceed with making an offer to Golden State for the purchase of their Ojai system.

Additional detailed information on this proposal can be found on the homepage of Casitas website at www.casitaswater.org.

What Are the Facts About Golden State Water's Lawsuit?

Golden State Water Company served Casitas Municipal Water District with a lawsuit that seeks to stop the citizens of Ojai from voting on whether to approve Casitas' proposed acquisition of Golden State's Ojai water service area. Golden State further claims it is illegal for Casitas to use a Community Facilities District (CFD) to finance acquisition of Golden State's property. The lawsuit was filed in Ventura County Superior Court on March 29, 2013. The hearing regarding this lawsuit will occur on June 10, 2013 after this issue has gone to print. It could de-



termined whether or not the election set for August 27, 2013 will occur or be delayed. Updates will be available on Casitas' website at www.casitaswater.org.

"We have reviewed Golden State's lawsuit and believe it has no merit whatsoever," Casitas General Counsel John Mathews stated. "Casitas intends to vigorously defend its right to use the well-established CFD law to acquire Golden State's Ojai water utility if that is what the citizens of Ojai wish us to do," Mathews added.



Eagles Nesting at Lake Casitas



A pair of young Bald Eagles hatched two chicks in a nest near Lake Casitas around April 6, 2013. The last recorded nesting of Bald Eagles on Ventura County's mainland was in 1922. The young adult pair was spotted over the last three to four years at the lake, but this is the first year they were successful in hatching chicks.

Nest with adult eagle near Lake Casitas.

If you plan to visit the Lake Casitas Recreation Area to see the eagle nest it is VERY important not to disturb the young eagle parents. The nesting area is closed to vehicle, bicycle, and foot traffic to reduce disturbance to the eagles, which is located in a eucalyptus tree near Teacup # 1, within the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. There are two excellent viewing locations located far enough away to

avoid disturbing the birds. One is outside the fence, to the east of the RV storage area. Inside the recreation area, the best spot is at Teacup #2, a picnic table area. There will likely be others there with spotting scopes to show you where the nesting is occurring. It is recommended that you bring a good pair of binoculars or a telescope.

Although Bald Eagles were delisted as federally endangered species in 2007, nesting and wintering Bald Eagles remain listed as endangered by the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. They are also protected under both the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918.

Feds Help Fund Recreation Projects

The United States Bureau of Reclamation and Casitas entered into a cooperative recreation agreement almost two years ago. This agreement has allowed federal matching grants to date totaling \$536,748 for a variety of projects in the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. This additional funding has allowed for some long overdue improvements in the Lake Casitas Recreation Area to campgrounds, roads, and Casitas Water Adventure.

"We have two very exciting improvements on tap to begin after the busy summer season. They include a new redesigned front entrance and a new roof structure at

Picnic 8, also known as Teapot," said Recreation Manager, Carol Belser. The objective of the front gate project is to improve lake security, increase recreational vehicle height capacity and to assist with boating inspections related to invasive species such as Quagga mussels. It is anticipated that the overhead structure demolition and the construction of a new overhead structure will occur in the fall of 2013.



Teapot structure with old roof removed prior to new roof installation.

In Picnic number eight, also known as Teapot, there will be an overhead cover replacement. The old wooden structure that once covered the area has been removed. The new structure will use existing metal and cement footings.

It is anticipated the new roof will be completed by the end of Summer 2013.

Free Landscape Classes

Since our landscape classes have been so popular we have decided to offer three more classes for this next year. Please join us at one of our free Saturday morning classes and learn how to create a beautiful, water-smart garden.

- Find and Fix a Leak - from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 27, 2013. – Learn how to maintain, troubleshoot, and repair your irrigation system and find out about some basic indoor plumbing tips. Discover a few ideas that will make it efficient and easy for you to repair and maintain your irrigation system. Get the basics on good maintenance practices that will help save you water, money, time, and keep your landscape looking beautiful. Participants to receive free high efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators, leak detection dye tablets, and toilet flappers.
- Graywater Workshop – from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Back by popular demand, this workshop is sure to answer all of your questions related to graywater systems. Learn how to install your own system according to permit standards in Ventura County.

Attendance is limited to forty persons per class so please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118. All workshops will be held in the boardroom at Casitas main offices located at 1055 Ventura Avenue in Oak View.

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.

Please visit the new and improved Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County website at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com



The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 3:00 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.

Your Board in Action

Bill Hicks, Division I

James W. Word, Division II

Pete Kaiser, Division III

Mary Bergen, Division IV

Russ Bagerly, Division V

Join the Casitas Municipal Water District Facebook page to get the latest updates on water conservation and the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at: www.facebook.com/fbsitecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict.



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CASITAS WATER NEWS

Winter 2013



Landscape design from the Ventura County Water Wise Gardening website, courtesy of GardenSoft.

Check Out the New and Improved Ventura County Water Wise Website

Go to www.ventura.watersavingplants.com to view the new and improved landscape website that now boasts bigger images and photos to assist you with this year's winter planting in your garden. Visitors to the site can now store plant images and garden images to a private file on the site that can help you with planning your landscape. There are also six new garden tours and hundreds of additional garden gallery images added to the site. All of the gardens and plants on the site are from residential landscapes located within Ventura county.

"The new site has a handy revised watering guide to assist homeowners with adjusting their irrigation controllers so they can water their landscapes more efficiently," said Ron Merckling, Water Conservation Manager. The site now includes a partial plant name search tool. Typing the first few letters of a plant's botanical or common name will generate a list of photos and information about the plant from the site's extensive database.



Landscape design on website courtesy of GardenSoft.



use our QR Code with your smart phone to visit: "Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County"



1055 Ventura Ave, Oak View 93022

FREE WATER SURVEY

available to customers of

Casitas Municipal Water Dist.
Golden State Water Co.
Hermitage Mutual Water Co.
Meiners Oaks County Water Dist.
Senior Canyon Mutual Water Co.
Siute Robles Mutual Water Co.
Sisar Mutual Water Co.
Tico Mutual Water Co.
Ventura River County Water Dist.

(805) 649 - 2251 ext 110



Brian Taylor, Pipeline Forman for Casitas climbs down into Casitas' three-way structure.

Reliable Water Service Requires Continuous Maintenance

The primary goal of the Casitas Municipal Water District is to provide reliable water service to each and every customer. To achieve this goal, the District continually performs preventative maintenance, repairs and replacements of water infrastructure. In many instances, the work to maintain, repair or replace water infrastructure requires an additional effort to provide continuous water service or minimize the water outage experienced by the customer.

On September 21, 2012, residents, farmers, and businesses were asked to reduce outdoor and non-essential indoor water use while the primary water main from Casitas Dam was temporarily shutdown, repaired, and restored to service. The work took place at the three-way structure, located in Ventura County's Foster Park. Once the 42-inch diameter pipeline was dewatered, Casitas' crew replaced a critically located elbow line in need of repair, and then began to refill the pipeline. Many residents of Casitas Springs experienced a water outage for the day. Casitas provided portable water tanks at various locations for use by the community.

"Casitas would like to express appreciation to customers that were without water during the day and to customers that curtailed their water usage to avoid unexpected water outages," said Steve Wickstrum, General Manager. "We are also thankful for the cooperation by the City of Ventura in assisting with the dewatering of the pipeline," said Wickstrum.

Maintaining Casitas Dam is Critical to Western Ventura County

Maintaining a safe and reliable water supply for the public starts with ongoing repairs and maintenance of Casitas Dam. Since Casitas Dam's construction in 1959, it has remained essential to public health and safety, vital to the local economy, and indispensable to the quality of life of western Ventura County. "The most noticeable value of Casitas Dam to many members of the public is an improved quality of life through recreational opportunities, scenic values, and wildlife habitat, but the most important value is for water supply storage," said Ron Merckling, Public Affairs Manager.

"Usually the public pays very little attention to basic water systems; that is, until a pipe bursts, the street floods, or, more tragically, a dam fails", said Merckling. Casitas must work continuously to maintain infrastructure such as the Casitas Dam to prevent interruptions in water service and serious failures in the system. To ensure Casitas Dam remains safe and meets all regulatory standards, the District conducts ongoing monitoring and maintenance programs under the direction of the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

A few recent and ongoing Casitas Dam projects include:

- 1) An inspection and repair of the interior and exterior of the dam's intake and outlet works, infrastructure that allows water to be taken from the lake and brought into the treatment plant before it can be delivered to the public. This work is completed every three years;
- 2) Refurbishment of the intake gate assemblies. There are nine separate assemblies that allow for water to be taken at different depths in the lake. Water quality varies by lake depth depending on temperatures and biological processes in the lake so being able to select the best depth to take water from the lake improves the raw water quality that is brought into the treatment plant;
- 3) Recoating of the dam's control house hoist, metalwork, work platforms and intake track. This infrastructure is what allows for the intake gate assemblies to be placed into the lake and removed when needed for maintenance.



Newly refurbished intake gate assembly arriving ready to be returned to service.



Scott MacDonald performing maintenance on 4'x4' emergency gate guides deep inside dam's outlet works.



Setting up scaffolding for recoating of dam's hoist house equipment and intake track.

Customer Water Service Kept on throughout Reservoir Tank Work

How do you complete work on the only water tank in a service area and keep customers happy by keeping their water running? Casitas' answer is to use temporary water tanks! Casitas is planning to avoid any interruption in water service to customers in the Upper Ojai Valley while completing interior painting and seismic improvements on the Upper Ojai Reservoir tank. The temporary water tanks will provide the necessary water storage during the work. After this work is complete, the temporary tanks will be used during future reservoir maintenance activities.



Neil Cole, Principal Civil Engineer stands in front of 16 temporary water tanks to be used during work on Upper Ojai Reservoir tank.

Lake Casitas Recreation Area Announcements:

Summer Lifeguards Needed!

Casitas Water Adventure is now recruiting for summer lifeguard jobs for the 2013 season. Employment applications can be downloaded at www.casitaswater.org under the employment tab. Applications can be mailed or turned in to the Lake Casitas Recreation Area 11311 Santa Ana Rd. Ventura, CA 93001. Requirements include being 15 years old by February 1st 2013; successful completion of American Red Cross Lifeguarding course; and clear a background check and drug test.

For additional information, please contact Aaron Wall, Parks Services Officer 3 at awall@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2233 Extension 114.



Lake Casitas Lifeguards Garrett Carlson and Angela Amico at work in the Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

Don't Miss Out on this Year's Kid's Fishing Day, Saturday March 23, 2013.