

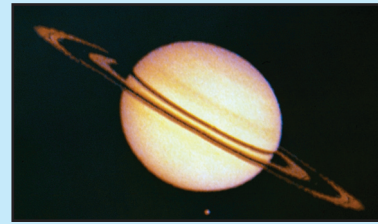
## Lake Casitas Recreation Area Announcements

Casitas Water Adventure will be open every day from June 15 to August 25. Hours of operation are 11 am to 6 pm Sunday through Thursday and 11 am to 7 pm on Friday and Saturday.



## 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**

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](http://www.ventura.watersavingplants.com).



# 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

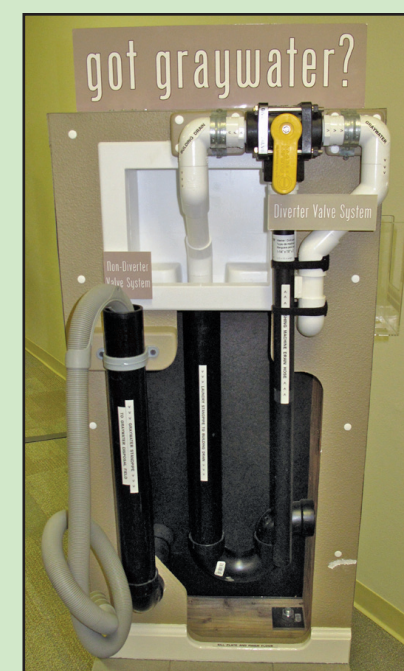
**Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**

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](mailto: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.*



1055 Ventura Ave.  
Oak View, CA 93022  
805-649-2251  
[www.casitaswater.org](http://www.casitaswater.org)



**Your Board in Action**  
Bill Hicks, Division I  
James W. Word, Division II  
Pete Kaisers, Division III  
Mary Bergen, Division IV  
Russ Baggerly, Division V  
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](http://www.facebook.com/fbsitecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict)

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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 State's 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](http://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-



termine 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](http://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.

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.



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