

**CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Interdepartmental Memo**

Date: September 15, 2016
To: Steve Wickstrum, General Manager
From: Carol Belser, Park Services Manager
Subject: **2016/2017 PROPOSED FEES & CHARGES**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Directors approve all fees and charges as outlined below which were reviewed and recommended by the Recreation Committee on September 6, 2016 and schedule a public hearing for the proposed recreation fee structure.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The United States constructed the Ventura River Project pursuant to Act of Congress (Public Law 423, 84th Cong., 2d session) approved March 1, 1956 for irrigation, furnishing water for municipal and domestic use and for providing incidental recreation and fish and wildlife benefits as defined by the report submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior entitled, "Ventura River Project, California, Feasibility Report".

Since that time the Casitas Municipal Water District "District" has developed recreation facilities and operations to accommodate the visiting public and has continued to manage the facilities. On October 7, 2011 the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, entered into an updated formal agreement with the District for the Maintenance and Development of Recreation Uses and Facilities at Lake Casitas. That formal recreation management agreement was a spring board for the Bureau of Reclamation "BOR" to support the District's recreation facilities financially and to date the District has received over one million dollars in federal government funding support for infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

The Lake Casitas Recreation Area "LCRA" is part of the District's responsibility, as is providing water, and the District has operated the LCRA on a user fee basis. No water revenue or property tax received by the District from residents should offset costs of the LCRA. Revenue received directly at the gate or from camping covers the costs associated with the operation. It is the intent that the Recreation Area operate with a balanced budget without subsidy from the District.

ANALYSIS

The goal of the user fees are to off-set costs and allow for the development of a fund balance that can then be used for capital improvement projects. At a glance, direct costs and direct revenue dollars balance, but the LCRA also relies on administrative services provided by District staff such as the finance department, payroll, human resources, General Manager and the Board. The formula used for the District to recoup these costs is based on the total number of full-time and part-time staff and the percentage they represent for both the "Recreation" and "Water" side. This formula fluctuates annually

and the dollar amount is represented as the administrative overhead % in the budget. This representing percent changes with the actual number of full-time and part-time employees in any particular fiscal year.

Staff costs are the single highest cost of LCRA operations, second is the administrative overhead. The Recreation Area is in motion to hire additional staff for a Park Ranger division. Additionally, benefit costs also increase. Full-time employee wages also increase in sync with the cost of living and part-time with changes in the minimum wage. It is recommended, since staff costs increase and administrative overhead increases the identified user fees should also adjust.

Although camping was raised in early 2016, the need for additional revenue was identified and an approximate 5% increase is recommended. Vehicle entry fees during weekends and holidays between Easter and Labor Day were also identified for an increase. The last time the vehicle entry fee was raised was in 2008. The increase for vehicle use only affects weekend days during the high season and holidays between Easter and Labor Day. The recommended fee is an increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 per vehicle. Weekday and off season will remain the same at \$10.00 per vehicle as it has been since 2008.

The fee schedule recommendation was discussed at the Recreation Committee meeting on August 2, 2016 and again reviewed and approved for forwarding to the Board on September 6, 2016. Anticipated additional revenue received for the increase is over \$100,000 per fiscal year.

LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA – PUBLIC USE FEES

DAY USE FEES:	Current	Current Sat-Sun & Holidays	Recommend	Sat-Sun & Holidays
	Non Season	Easter W/E thru Labor Day	Non Season	Easter W/E thru Labor Day
1. Motor Vehicle Permits:				
Per day, per motor vehicle	\$10.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Per day, per passenger bus	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
2. Pet Permits:				
Per day, per animal	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
(1 Pet Free with FV Annual Decal)				
3. Boat Permits:				
Per day, per boat (Subject to Quarantine)	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$13.00
Per day, per canoe, kayak (Subject to Quarantine)	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
Non-Emergency Boat Tow	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Tamper Proof Cable & Lock	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
4. Annual Permits:				
Frequent Visitor Annual Decal	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
2nd FV Annual Decal (Same household only)	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
3rd FV Annual Decal (Same household only)	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Subsequent FV Decals 1/2 of previous (Limit 8 total)				
Annual Boat Permit	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$130.00	\$130.00
Annual Canoe/Kayak Permit	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00	\$35.00
Replacement/transfer of Annual Permit	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
5. Picnic Area Reservation:	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
6. Casitas Water Adventure				
Single Splash Pass	\$12.00	\$14.00	\$12.00	\$14.00
Late Day Pass recommend last 3 hours	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$6.50	\$6.50
2 Day Pass (Total for two consecutive days)	\$22.00- \$26.00	\$22.00 - \$26.00	\$22.00 - \$26.00	\$22.00- \$26.00
Season Pass	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00	\$65.00
Group Sales 35 minimum	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Reservation Fee	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
		Fri- Sat & Holidays		Fri- Sat & Holidays
Camping/ Overnight Fees:		Easter W/E thru Labor Day		Easter W/E thru Labor Day
1. Non-Refundable Reservation Fee, Per Site	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Cancel/Change Reservation Fee, Per Site	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
2. Camping Permits:				

	Current	Fri- Sat & Holidays	Recommend	Fri- Sat & Holidays
	Non Season	Easter W/E thru Labor Day	Non Season	Easter W/E thru Labor Day
Per camping night, per vehicle, per site				
Maximum in all sites - 6 persons				
Tent Sites:	\$26.50	\$31.50	\$30.00	\$35.00
Basic hook-up sites				
Electric & water only	\$36.50	\$42.00	\$38.00	\$45.00
Deluxe hook-up sites				
for self contained units, includes				
concrete pad with grass	\$47.50	\$52.50	\$50.00	\$55.00
Executive hook-up sites				
for self contained units includes, concrete pad				
with grass & sewer hook-up	\$57.50	\$63.00	\$60.00	\$66.00
Overflow , per fully self-contained unit, per night	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$42.00
Extra vehicle drive in , per night, per vehicle - based on availability	\$12.50	\$18.00	\$12.50	\$18.00
Per Person, Per Night Fee (Every person over 6 per site)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00
Late Check-Out/Renewal Fee	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00
Boat permit , per night, per boat (Subject to Quarantine)	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Canoe/Kayak permit , per night/unit (Subject to Quarantine)	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
Pet permit , per night, per animal (1 Pet Free with FV Annual Decal)	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$3.00
3. Organizational Camping:				
Lake & Owl Group Camp Areas - Reservation Fee	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$90.00
Owl Court - Per camping night, per vehicle (10 min.)	\$31.50	\$31.50	\$35.00	\$35.00
Trout Group Camp Area – Reservation Fee	\$90.00	\$90.00		
Trout - Per camping night, per vehicle (10 minimum)	\$31.50	\$31.50	\$35.00	\$35.00
Pollywog Group Camp Area – Reservation Fee	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$45.00
Pollywog – Per camping night, per vehicle (5 min.)	\$31.50	\$31.5	\$35.00	\$35.00
4. Recreational Vehicle Storage:				
Per calendar month non pull-through space	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$84.00
After the 15th day of the month	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$42.00	\$42.00
Per calendar month pull-through space	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00	\$102.00
After the 15th day of the month	\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00	\$51.00
Impound Fee /Each – Cuff on & Cuff Off	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00