

Free Workshops

Please join us for our free water conservation workshop.

- **Regrowing from the Ashes: An Opportunity to Reestablish & Reclaim Our California Landscape** - Please join Dr. Sabrina Drill, UC Cooperative Extension’s “Natural Resources Advisor” to understand local fire ecology, and maximize our opportunity to transform our burnt, ash-blanketed, and recently muddied landscapes and hillsides back to their vibrant, lush, and resilient natural states. Learn what to do, and what NOT to do to bring back your landscape or our hillsides - 9 a.m. to noon, February 24, 2018.
- **Community Drought Workshop** – Get an update on Casitas’ water supply conditions, drought status, conservation, and water supply projects. Time will be provided for questions and answers. 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, June 23, 2018.
- **DIY: Indoor/Outdoor Water Saving Tips** – 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, August 18, 2018.

Please RSVP early at bsandoval@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 105. The workshop 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.

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.

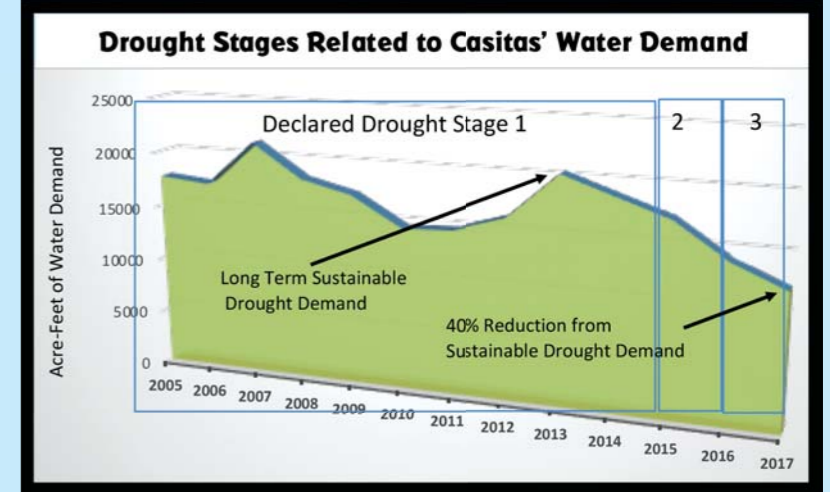


Please visit the Water Wise Gardening in Ventura County website at www.ventura.watersavingplants.com.



Historic Drought – 7th Year

Western Ventura County remains in the grips of a historic drought. January brought one brief rainstorm that flashed through our watershed with Thomas Fire ash. California may continue to be under the control of a high pressure ridge throughout February that may impact all of California water supplies. Local surface and groundwater supplies did not recover enough with 2017 rains to change local drought conditions. Given no additional rainfall during the 2018 winter (January through March), Lake Casitas supply could decrease to the 30 percent storage level (71,328 acre-feet). A Stage 4, drought condition could be declared and in place on July 1, 2018. During Stage 4, customers will be asked to further cutback outdoor watering, to include an additional 10% reduction in allocation.



Water Reliability Up with Water Demands Down 40%

follows the recommendations of the California State Water Resources Control Board and Governor’s Orders to “Make Water Conservation a California Way of Life.” For more information about the Casitas Water Efficiency and Allocation Program, please refer to go www.casitaswater.org and click Drought Declaration link.

Water demands from Lake Casitas have been near the 40% reduction level for 2017. Water customers in all areas of the District are adapting to conserve every drop of water to maintain future supplies.

“Be active with your water use by comparing your water consumption with the assigned allocation in your water bill; Look, listen, find and immediately repair water leaks; and make wise decisions each day to lessen your water use,” said Steve Wickstrum, General Manager for Casitas.

Casitas is actively pursuing local and imported water supplies. The development of local groundwater sources appear to have the shortest timeline, less than two years, and will be the least expensive source of additional water supply. A key project underway is the investigation of the Matilija Formation Horizontal Bore, a local well project, which could possibly generate up to 8,000 acre-feet of local water each year. Total water demand in 2017, was 12,220 acre-feet. One acre-foot equals about one football field filled one foot high with water.

Casitas is managing water supplies in accordance with its Water Efficiency and Allocation Program that

Thomas Fire

The Thomas Fire has impacted everyone receiving this newsletter, in one way or another. The Fire also burned approximately 99 percent of the watershed of Lake Casitas and the Ventura River. Casitas has installed 2000 feet of turbidity curtains to settle the ash entering Lake Casitas. Casitas is monitoring the Lake water quality for fire impacts.



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

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.



POSTAL CUSTOMER
ECRWSS

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OXNARD, CA
PERMIT NO. 1839

Update for Casitas' Ojai Customers

Consultants for Casitas are finalizing a water system assessment and priority recommendations for the Ojai water system. The initial completed projects to change water meters and repair water main leaks has given Casitas an insight on the condition of the system. There are a multitude of additional issues that Casitas will need to address. "Improvements will take time and money, and most of all the cooperation and assistance of the Ojai community," said Wickstrum.

Ojai customers can now enroll in automatic pay like the rest of Casitas' direct customers. Any Casitas customer interested in autopay needs to go to the website ojaiwater.org and under the Quick Links column on the left side of the page, click on the "Make A Payment" link. After clicking on the link, customers will need to register and there will be



Downtown Ojai

an autopay option to choose in the registration process. There is a \$1.25 fee per month to use autopay.

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Rebate Rebate



Casitas is offering several water conservation rebates to assist customers in using their water more efficiently.



1. Turf Removal Rebate: This long awaited program is only available to customers directly served by Casitas or the City of Ventura.

If you were planning to replace your grass or have been looking at ways to save more water, here is your chance. Details on this program are available at www.removeyourturf.com or by calling (866) 983-9232. Residential customers can receive up to \$3,200 dollars and commercial customers can receive up to \$6,400, subject to available funding.

High Efficiency Toilet & Washing Machine



2. High Efficiency Toilet and Washing Machine Rebates: The biggest users of indoor water use can be from toilets and washing machines made prior to 1991. Here is your chance to get paid to use less water indoors. Rebates

for qualifying toilets are \$100 for residential



3. Weather Based Controller Rebate Program: A smart irrigation controller can be programmed to match your irrigation zones based on plant

types, slope, soil type, and sun exposure. They automatically adjust irrigation schedules based on the season and weather conditions. Casitas offers a rebate up to \$250 for the purchase of a qualifying device for anyone within the district boundaries. One requirement is the customer agrees to participate in a free water survey by a Casitas staff member to offer suggestions on how to save more water indoors and outdoors. More information is available at www.casitaswater.org under the Smart Irrigation Controller Rebates or by calling (805) 649-2251 Extension 128.

WWW.LAKECASITAS.INFO

OPEN REGISTRATION

American Red Cross Lifeguarding & First Aid for Public Safety Personnel (Title 22)

Register for a course today!

\$45.00 Course Fee

Includes: Lifeguarding Blended Learning Online Course Registration Lifeguard Manual, CPR Mask, Lifeguard Pack and American Red Cross Certification.

Training Course Dates

Course #1- 2/3, 2/23, 2/24, 2/25, 3/3, 3/4

Course #2- 3/10, 3/16, 3/17, 3/18, 3/24, 3/25

Course #3- 4/7, 4/13, 4/14, 4/15, 4/21, 4/22

Course #4- 6/18, 6/25, 6/26, 6/27, 6/28, 6/29

*course #4 applicants will not be considered for hire until after July 1st

John Sofer

(805) 649-2233x116

jsofer@casitaswater.com
11311 Santa Ana Rd.
Ventura, CA 93001

Call to Sign Up for a Course Today!



"The purpose of the American Red Cross Lifeguard Course is to provide entry-level lifeguard participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize and respond to aquatic emergencies and provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illness until EMS personnel take over."



Hourly Pay

\$11.85 - \$13.04



Participant Requirements

- Must be age 15 by the final day of instruction.
- Must pass a pre-course swim test.
- Must be able to swim 300 continuous yards.
- Must be able to recover a 10 lb. dive brick from the bottom of a pool.
- Must tread water for 2 minutes using only legs.
- Full participation in all drills and exercises is required to pass course.



Update for Casitas' Ojai Customers

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Casitas is working to develop water allocations for all Ojai customers by early 2018. Allocations are like water budgets for each customer. They are meant to encourage water efficiency and help Casitas provide incentives to customers to reduce their water usage during droughts. Residential customers will be given 10 units a month per dwelling unit for their essential or indoor water usage. For outdoor water usage, a calculation will be made based on the irrigable landscape on the property up

to two acres. The outdoor water allocation is considered non-essential, and it will vary monthly, more in the warmer and less in the colder months. The outdoor allocation will be reduced in each stage of the drought. Non-residential customer allocations will be based on either their 2012-13 water usage or if usage data is unavailable, then the allocation will be based on the type of business and the square footage of the facility.