

Casitas Water Adventure Now Open for 2012 Season

The Casitas Water Adventure is now open for the summer. Children and adults alike can enjoy two distinct water playgrounds. Younger children can splash around and climb on a multi-level jungle gym with waterfalls, bridges and slides in a lagoon with water up to 18 inches deep. "Parents can relax in a shady spot while children play, or join their youngsters for a splashing good time," said Aaron Wall, Park Services Officer.

The Lazy River is a water ride with inner tubes that float along a scenic waterway featuring waterfalls,

fog filled bridges and jet sprays. Single, double or triple inner tubes are available. And for the smallest of tots, a zero-depth pool sprays water from all angles, providing a safe, fun play area. Shaded decks, lounge chairs, showers, restrooms and a snack bar are provided for comfort and convenience. Certified life-guards are on hand at all times and life jackets are available at no extra charge while supplies last. Locker rentals are available for a nominal fee. Tickets for the Casitas Water Adventure can be purchased by calling 805-649-1122 or visiting www.reservations.casitaswater.org/



Due to safety concerns, food and drinks, with the exception of bottled water, are not allowed inside the Casitas Water Adventure. If you wish to bring your own food and drinks, picnic tables are conveniently located just outside the Waterpark. The Waterpark Snack Bar offers a variety of food, drinks and snacks to purchase for your day at the Waterpark.

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.

Check out Casitas' website for more water savings tips at www.casitaswater.org or QR Code.



CASITAS WATER NEWS



Spring 2012

Safety, Reliability of Water Service and Efficiency Improved at Pump Plants

This year's work at Casitas' Upper Ojai Pump plant is part of a larger effort to upgrade electrical equipment and safety labels throughout the district to improve safety standards, reliability of water service and efficiency. In 2010, Casitas contracted with Littlefuse to assess the electrical conditions at all nine pump plants. Many of the pump plants were operating with 1950s high voltage electrical equipment, which posed both safety hazards and maintenance

problems. Littlefuse's recommendations included a number of items for making upgrades at Casitas' nine major pump plants to improve safety, compliance with current regulatory guidelines and to increase operational efficiency. "Casitas is continuing to upgrade electrical equipment in each pump plant to create safe operations for our employees and reliable water service to customers," said Casitas General Manager Steve Wickstrum.



Mike Kenney with Oilfield Electric and Motor works on Casitas' electrical circuits.

How Do We Manage Our Water in the Local Watersheds?

If you receive this newsletter, all of the water delivered to your house, business, ranch or farm comes from the rainfall in our local watersheds. Once the rain hits the ground, it permeates the soil to fill local groundwater aquifers or the rain flows in local streams and a part of that flow ends up in our local rain barrel, Lake Casitas. Water stored in the aquifers and Lake Casitas are treated to meet health standards and delivered to your tap.



Lake Casitas canal.

forest and land conservation practices that result in a high quality source of water.

"Our community is continuing to learn and apply ways to protect our watersheds and water sources," said Casitas General Manager Steve Wickstrum.

"Meeting the public needs for a reliable water supply from our local resources has a

challenging history to which our communities have responded with creative actions. With the foresight and decisions made by our communities in the face of extensive drought in the 1940s and 1950s, the Ventura River Project was constructed to supplement local groundwater supplies and provide

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The condition of our local watersheds and water storage basins are critical to the health of the water we eventually drink. The majority of the Ventura River watershed is pristine and native, protected by national

Your Board in Action

Bill Hicks, Division I
James W. Word, Division II
Pete Kaiser, 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.



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What Is the Safety of Dams Payment?

The Safety of Dams payment is the Casitas District's obligation to pay the United States Bureau of Reclamation for the seismic modernization work performed on Casitas Dam under the Federal Safety of Dams Act.



Casitas Dam.

In 2002, the Bureau completed the Casitas Dam Seismic Modernization Project under federal authorization and initial funding provided by the Federal Reclamation Safety

of Dams Act. The project design and construction minimizes the risk of a catastrophic failure of the Casitas Dam in the event of a severe earthquake.

The project cost is \$35 million and the act requires reimbursement of 15 percent of this amount by

Casitas. Casitas and the Bureau are finalizing the terms of a payment contract.

Astronomy Night - Fun, Informative and Free



Summer is here and it's time for Astronomy Nights at Lake Casitas!

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

Meet at Picnic Area #1 (down by the Santa Ana launch ramp) at 8:30 p.m. for an hour with the knowledgeable and entertaining Mr. Underhay. All stargazers

are welcome.

The event is free though park entrance fees apply. Bring blankets and chairs. Call Park Services Officer Rob Weinerth at 805-797-1702 or email him at rweinerth@casitaswater.com for more information.

All shows are on Saturdays from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Astronomical Highlights:

- May 26** - Saturn Rings, the best viewing in five years
- June 2** - Saturn Rings
- July 7** - Saturn Rings
- Aug. 4** - Moonlit Night
- Aug. 11** - Meteor Shower Night
- Sept. 1** - Farewell to Summer the Stars

Casitas received the 2012 Excellence in Communications Award for the Spring 2011 issue of this Newsletter from the California Association of Public Information Officers (CAPIO). "We focus on creating an easy to read newsletter on a tight budget," said Ron Merckling, Water Conservation/Public Affairs Manager for Casitas. Public agencies throughout the state of California compete for the CAPIO communications' awards. The graphic design and layout for the newsletter were completed by Joan Phelps with Whisenhunt Communications.

Do You Have a Common Irrigation Problem that Is Wasting Water?

What are the most common irrigation problems that can plague your landscape watering and cause water to be wasted and water bills to be higher? The following is a brief list of issues that cause some of the most costly watering problems for homeowners:

1. Sprinkler heads are turned in the wrong direction or broken so that they fail to apply water efficiently on grass or plants.
2. Long grass blades, leaves or

branches fully or partly obstruct sprinkler heads from applying water to grass or plants.

3. Different sprinkler heads that apply water at various rates on the same irrigation valve, which irrigate plants with similar water requirements. This causes some plants to be either over or under watered. Installing one efficient sprinkler head on only one location within the same irrigation zone can cause this

problem. This problem can also result when sprinkler heads with half coverage have the same gallons per minute application as sprinkler heads with full coverage if they are all on the same irrigation valve. The half coverage valve would be watering twice as much over its application area if it had the same gallons per minute as the full coverage head.

4. How well do sprinkler heads distribute water over a lawn? Water from each sprinkler head should begin to overlap with water from surrounding sprinkler heads. Ensuring as close as possible an equal application of water across a grassy area means achieving high distribution uniformity.
5. Irrigation scheduled incorrectly can cause a variety of problems. If irrigation is scheduled too long it will cause run-off to occur. If it is scheduled too frequently, it will apply too much water. Soil, slope and weather can all impact whether irrigation settings are efficiently timed.

Local Watershed

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a reliable water supply during a future prolonged drought. Now we have other challenges that cause us to conserve every drop of water for use during future drought conditions," Wickstrum said.

Casitas maintains a treatment facility at Casitas Dam, nine pump plants, 13 water storage tanks, and more than 140 miles of underground pipeline to carry water to customers and wholesale agencies.

"Casitas board members and staff are committed to providing the highest quality water possible to all customers. This includes taking consistent and constant actions to protect the local watershed, effective lake management, careful treatment and filtration practices, and timely maintenance and replacement of water infrastructure," explained Wickstrum. Casitas, as the manager of the backup local water supply, also works to ensure adequate water supplies will always be available to everyone receiving this newsletter.

Free Landscape Classes

Please sign-up for one or both of the two remaining free workshops planned for the year, before they fill up:

- **Soils, Mulches and Amendments Workshop**
- Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 9 a.m. to noon.
- **California Friendly Plant Choices Workshop**
- Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Attendance is limited to 40 people per class so please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or 805-649-2251, ext. 118. All workshops will be held in the boardroom at Casitas' main offices.

Want to learn more about your irrigation system and how your unique landscape might be made more efficient? Casitas offers free indoor/outdoor water use surveys to help customers use their water more efficiently. To make an appointment, please contact Cinnamon McIntosh at 805-649-2251, ext. 110, or cmcintosh@casitaswater.com.