



ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND ASSESSMENT

JULY 2024

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- B FY 2022-2023 Water Supply and Demand Assessment, May 2022

Abbreviations

AF	Acre-feet
AFY	Acre-feet per year
AWSDA	Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment
BO	Biological Opinion
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CVWD	Carpinteria Valley Water District
CWC	California Water Code
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FY	Fiscal year
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GSWC	Golden State Water Company
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
OBGMA	Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency
OGB	Ojai Groundwater Basin
OWS	Ojai Water System
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWP	State Water Project
USBR	US Bureau of Reclamation
UVRGA	Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency
UVRGB	Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VCWPD	Ventura County Watershed Protection District
WEAP	Water Efficiency and Allocation Plan
WSCP	Water Shortage Contingency Plan

1. Introduction and Background

Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas or District) is required by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to prepare an Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (AWSDA) and provide it to DWR by July 1 each year. The AWSDA covers the period from July 1 to June 30 and includes the current year and one dry year in the assessment. The data will be transmitted to DWR through their WUEdata Portal.

The dry year is consistent with that shown in Table 7-1 in Casitas' 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Anticipated shortages and actions are included.

Casitas operates two water systems, the Casitas System and the Ojai Water System (OWS) as described in the following subsections. The Casitas System is both a wholesale and retail system; the OWS is retail only.

1.1. Casitas Water System

Lake Casitas was formed by the construction of Casitas Dam by the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in 1958. The total lake capacity is 237,761 acre-feet (AF) as of 2017. The Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility (Robles Facility) is located on the north end of the Ventura River and allows Casitas to divert river flow to the Robles Canal to feed Lake Casitas. Operation of the Robles Facility is in accordance with the 2003 non-jeopardy Biological Opinion (BO) prepared by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) due to the listing of steelhead trout as an endangered species.

As of June 30, 2024, Lake Casitas was at approximately 99.8 percent of capacity (237,307 AF in storage). In April 2021, the Board of Directors adopted a lake safe yield of 18,420 acre-feet per year (AFY) and applied a supply safety factor of -15 percent and a climate change adjustment of -4.3 percent for planning purposes. The Casitas System also includes one groundwater well, the Mira Monte well, located in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin. The combined planned operational yield from Lake Casitas and the Mira Monte Well is 15,010 AFY.

1.2. Ojai Water System

In 2017, Casitas acquired the OWS from Golden State Water Company (GSWC). Prior to this, GSWC had been a wholesale customer of Casitas. OWS customers are now direct customers of Casitas. The OWS includes the Ojai Wellfield on the east end of Ojai with seven groundwater wells. These wells are located in the Ojai Groundwater Basin (OGB) and provide approximately 2,300 AFY of supply. The OGB is not considered to be in an overdraft condition. The OWS also includes distribution system interconnections to the Casitas System which are used to supplement groundwater supplies during high demand periods, or when wells are out of service for repair or rehabilitation.

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2. Decision-Making Process to Determine Water Supply Reliability

This section describes the decision-making process Casitas uses to determine water supply availability on an annual basis and complies with California Water Code (CWC) §10632(a)(2).

Table 1 shows Casitas' Annual Assessment Information as required by DWR.

Table 1. Annual Assessment Information	
Type of Supplier	
Supplier is a Wholesaler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supplier is a Retailer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If you are both a wholesaler and retailer, will you be submitting two separate reports or a combined report?	A combined report ¹
Year Covered By This Shortage Report	
Start: July 1,	2024
End: June 30,	2025
Volume Unit for Reported Supply and Demand: <i>(Must use the same unit throughout)</i>	AF
Supplier's Annual Assessment Planning Cycle	
Start Month:	July
End Month:	June
Data Interval:	Annually (1 data point per year)
Water Supplier's Contact Information	
Water Supplier's Name:	Casitas Municipal Water District
Contact Name:	Kelley Dyer, PE
Contact Title:	Assistant General Manager
Street Address:	1055 N. Ventura Avenue
ZIP Code:	93022
Phone Number:	805.649.2251
Email Address:	kdyer@casitaswater.com
Report Preparer's Contact Information	
Preparer's Organization Name:	Not Applicable (NA)
Preparer's Contact Name:	NA
Phone Number:	NA
Email Address:	NA

¹ The Casitas System is wholesale and retail; the Ojai system is retail only. Two sets of tables are provided, one for Casitas and one for Ojai.

Table 1. Annual Assessment Information	
Supplier's Water Shortage Contingency Plan	
WSCP Title	Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Section 8 of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan)
WSCP Adoption Date	6/23/2021
Other Annual Assessment Related Activities	
Activity	Timeline/ Outcomes / Links / Notes
Annual Assessment/ Shortage Report Title:	FY 2022-2023 Casitas Water Supply and Demand Assessment
Annual Assessment / Shortage Report Approval Date:	4/7/2023
Other Annual Assessment Related Activities:	Water Efficiency and Allocation Plan, May 2021
	2021 Lake Casitas Water Supply and Demand Study, February 2022

According to the most current Water Efficiency and Allocation Plan (WEAP), the General Manager shall report to the Board of Directors in April of each year with an assessment of the current water storage in Lake Casitas and local groundwater basins, current water use trends, predicted weather conditions, and an evaluation of current water use reduction goals. The reporting is timed as the rainfall season is ending and water resources can be evaluated at the maximum for the year, or as Lake Casitas storage reaches a change in Stage action level. The Board of Directors may, at their sole discretion, declare a Stage condition of water supply in Lake Casitas exists and implement the appropriate demand reduction goals and measures in response to current and/or predicted water availability conditions. Casitas shall make such determinations public and follow with appropriate and timely notification to all customers. An action to declare and implement a Stage may occur by either an action of the Casitas Board of Directors based on unanticipated changing lake supply conditions or in accordance with the following general schedule:

Target Dates	Action
June – April	Monitor water demands, rainfall, reservoir level trend, groundwater trends, and diversion and runoff amounts.
Early April	Staff presents water status report and a recommendation to the Casitas Board of Directors. Publish a notice of a public hearing if changes are recommended.
Late April	Casitas Board of Directors formally declares a Stage, and/or water shortage emergency, adopts recommendations for demand reduction actions.
May	Customer Notification of change in Stage, allocation, and overuse penalties.
June	Finalize Annual Water Assessment and submit to DWR.
July	Stage demand reduction actions are effective and are implemented.

Under the WEAP adopted in May 2021, revised in March 2023, and included as Appendix A, Casitas has an existing annual assessment process in place that goes beyond the annual assessment requirements. Casitas also prepares an annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment (fiscal year [FY] based, July 1 to June 30), which summarizes significant or unusual events over the last year, weather conditions, status of water resources, past and current demands, current water management programs and policies in place, and recommended demand management measures. The FY 2023-24 Casitas Water Supply and Demand Assessment was adopted by the Board in April 2023 and is included as Appendix B. Since Lake Casitas and the groundwater basins are at near capacity and the Stage action level has not changed (from 0), an assessment was not performed for FY 2024-2025.

Key Data Inputs to Determine Water Supply Reliability

This section describes the factors taken into consideration to determine water supply reliability including: current year unconstrained demand; current year available supply; existing infrastructure capabilities and plausible constraints; locally applicable evaluation criteria; and description and quantification of available water supply sources.

2.1. Current Year Unconstrained Demand

Unconstrained demand is water demand absent any water supply and demand restrictions. The planned unconstrained demand in Casitas' adopted 2020 UWMP reflects the average annual demands over a 10-year period (Calendar Years 2011-2020), which are 14,525 AFY on the Casitas System and 1,850 AFY on the Ojai System.

When Casitas declared Stage 2 in FY 2015-2016 and Stage 3 in FY 2016-2017, mandatory conservation restrictions under the WEAP were implemented. Fiscal year deliveries decreased for several reasons: response to the WEAP; water resource changes by large customers; and the heightened customer awareness of water resource conditions. Due to persistent dry conditions, Casitas remained in Stage 3 from FY 2016-2017 through most of FY 2022-2023. With extraordinarily wet conditions in Winter 2022/Spring 2023, water supply conditions improved and mandatory conservation restrictions were lifted, although customers are encouraged to continue conservation efforts voluntarily.

Since Casitas operates two separate water systems, there is a Table 2 – Casitas and Table 2 – Ojai, each of which shows the projected Water Demands for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, as required by DWR. (Casitas' 2020 UWMP was prepared using the demand based on calendar year; the same 'annual' demand totaled in June is used in both cases). Neither Casitas nor OWS have non-potable demands. Each table shows unconstrained demands as adopted by the Board for planning purposes for each system.

	= From prior tables
	= Auto calculated

Table 2: Water Demands – Casitas System ¹															
Use Type		Start Year:	2024		Volumetric Unit Used ² :										AF
Drop-down list May select each use multiple times These are the only Use Types that will be recognized by the WUEdata online submittal tool (Add additional rows as needed)	Additional Description (as needed)	Level of Treatment for Non-Potable Supplies Drop-down list	Projected Water Demands - Volume ³												Total by Water Demand Type
			Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Demands Served by Potable Supplies															
All Demands														14,525	14,525
Total by Month (Potable)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14,525	14,525
Demands Served by Non-Potable Supplies															
N/A															0
Total by Month (Non-Potable)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notes: List considered factors impacting demands															
¹ Projections are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual demand volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When opting to provide other than monthly volumes (bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual), please see directions on entering data for Projected Water Demand in the Table Instructions.															

	= From prior tables
	= Auto calculated

Table 2: Water Demands – Ojai System ¹															
Use Type		Start Year:	2024		Volumetric Unit Used ² :								AF		
Drop-down list May select each use multiple times These are the only Use Types that will be recognized by the WUEdata online submittal tool (Add additional rows as needed)	Additional Description (as needed)	Level of Treatment for Non-Potable Supplies Drop-down list	Projected Water Demands - Volume ³												
			Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total by Water Demand Type
Demands Served by Potable Supplies															
All Demands														1,850	1,850
Total by Month (Potable)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,850	1,850
Demands Served by Non-Potable Supplies															
N/A															0
Total by Month (Non-Potable)			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notes: List considered factors impacting demands															
¹ Projections are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual demand volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When opting to provide other than monthly volumes (bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual), please see directions on entering data for Projected Water Demand in the Table Instructions.															

2.2. Current Year Available Supply

The primary water resources for Casitas MWD are surface water diverted from the Ventura River to Lake Casitas and the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (UVRGB) and the OGB. Table 3 shows the projected Water Supplies for the period July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, as required by DWR; separate tables are provided for the Casitas and Ojai systems. Neither the Casitas system nor the OWS have non-potable supplies.

Casitas typically plans for multi-year demands rather than single-year demands. Though Lake Casitas and the groundwater basins may have supplies that exceed a typical year of demand, these existing supplies must stretch for multiple years until the lake and groundwater basins are replenished and/or the connections to imported water are in place.

Table 3: Water Supplies – Casitas System¹

Water Supply		Start Year:	2024		Volumetric Unit Used ² :										AF		Water Quality Drop-down List	Total Right or Safe Yield* (optional)
Drop-down List May use each category multiple times. These are the only water supply categories that will be recognized by the WUEdata online submittal tool (Add additional rows as needed)	Additional Detail on Water Supply	Projected Water Supplies - Volume ³																
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total by Water Supply Type				
Potable Supplies																		
Surface water (not desal.)	Lake Casitas														14,865	14,865		
Groundwater (not desal.)	Mira Monte Well														145	145		
Total by Month (Potable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,010	15,010		0
Non-Potable Supplies																		
N/A																0		
Total by Month (Non-Potable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

Notes: Supplies are based on Table 7-1 of 2020 UWMP and the Casitas System operational yield adopted by the Board. No imported SWP water deliveries projected in FY 2024-25.

¹Projections are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual supply volumes could be different due to many factors.
²Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent.
³When opting to provide other than monthly volumes (bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual), please see directions on entering data for Projected Water Supplies in the Table Instructions.

Table 3: Water Supplies - Ojai¹

Water Supply		Start Year: 2024	Volumetric Unit Used ² : AF														
Drop-down List May use each category multiple times. These are the only water supply categories that will be recognized by the WUEdata online submittal tool (Add additional rows as needed)	Additional Detail on Water Supply	Projected Water Supplies - Volume ³													Water Quality Drop-down List	Total Right or Safe Yield* (optional)	
		Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total by Water Supply Type			
Potable Supplies																	
Surface water (not desal.)	Lake Casitas													461	461		
Groundwater (not desal.)	OWS Wells													2,300	2,300		
Total by Month (Potable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,761	2,761		0
Non-Potable Supplies																	
NA															0		
Total by Month (Non-Potable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0

Notes: Supplies are based on Table 7-1 of the 2020 UWMP. No imported SWP water deliveries projected in FY 2024-25.

¹Projections are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual supply volumes could be different due to many factors.
²Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent.
³When opting to provide other than monthly volumes (bi-monthly, quarterly, or annual), please see directions on entering data for Projected Water Supplies in the Table Instructions.

2.2.1. Surface Water

As of June 30, 2024, Lake Casitas was at 99.8 percent capacity or 237,303 AF. There were several days when the Casitas Dam experienced minor spillage at its spillway. Diversions from the Robles Facility are still occurring as of the date of this report.

2.2.2. Groundwater

The winters of 2022/23 and 2023/24 brought extensive recovery to the local groundwater basins within Casitas' boundaries.

2.2.2.1. Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

Ventura River Water District reported groundwater level at 100% of storage as of June 1, 2024. Many wells in the basin experienced artesian conditions.

2.2.2.2. Ojai Groundwater Basin

The OGB is a primary water source for the Ojai Valley's urban and agricultural water demands. The Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (OBGMA) has reported the Ojai basin has an estimated storage of 75,200 acre-feet (94% of capacity) as of June 26, 2024. This supply should allow most groundwater pumpers in this basin to minimize their use of Lake Casitas supply during the next twelve months.

2.3. Existing Infrastructure Capabilities and Plausible Constraints

Factors relating to infrastructure capabilities and plausible constraints are discussed in this subsection.

Under the California Water Action Plan, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are working to identify potential actions to enhance and establish instream flow for anadromous fish in five priority streams, including the Ventura River. The State's potential actions to establish instream flows could have a significant impact to available water supplies within the Ventura River watershed. Casitas is carefully monitoring and reviewing the State's work and providing technical comments throughout the process. There will likely be no impact on water supply for the next twelve months resulting from these studies.

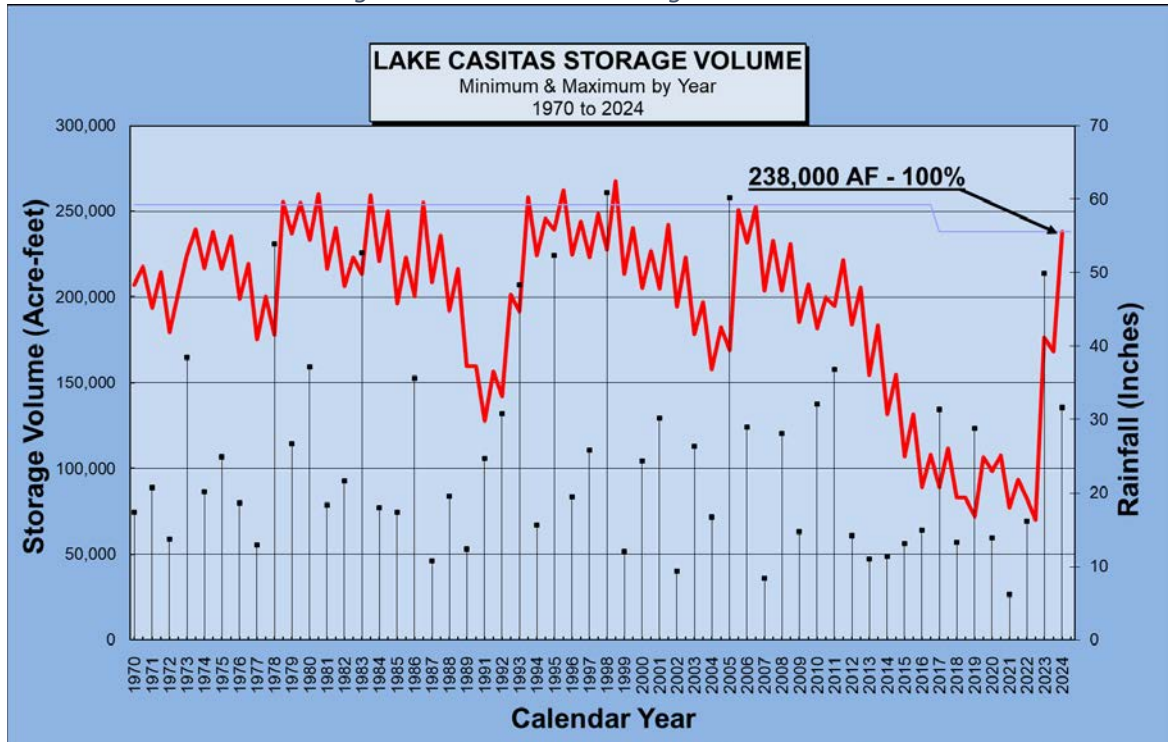
A groundwater adjudication commenced in the Ojai Valley area through an amended cross complaint filed with the California Superior Court on September 21, 2018. This action included not only Casitas but also many public and private water users in the Ojai Valley. This is of special significance to the District due to its operation of groundwater wells within the basins under question in addition to its right to divert water from the Ventura River. There will likely be no impact on the water supply for the next twelve months due to this action.

2.3.1. Surface Water

Lake Casitas is the primary source of water supply for the Casitas Municipal Water District. Its construction in the 1950s was as a supplemental supply to local groundwater and as a primary source for areas that do not have groundwater. Figure 1 presents the annual water storage fluctuations Lake Casitas has experienced since 1970. Prior to 2024, Lake Casitas storage was last at full storage capacity in May 2006. The declining storage trend since 2006 was due to drought conditions, evaporation, environmental conditions, and water use. The storage levels recovered significantly in 2023 and 2024 due to abundant precipitation.

Long-term average rainfall at Matilija Dam and Casitas Dam are 28.23 and 23.31 inches, respectively, based on records dating back to the 1957-1958 Water Year. During the period of 2012 through 2022, the Ventura River watershed was in an extreme to moderate drought condition with less than average rainfall amounts that were insufficient to cause the restoration of local water resources to previous levels. Rainfall during the last two winter seasons was far above the long-term average rainfall and has had a positive impact on District water supplies.

Figure 1 - Lake Casitas Storage Volume since 1970



The winter storms of 2023-2024 provided more than 69,573 AF of water supply to Lake Casitas. The annual rainfall totals during the period of October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, at Matilija Dam and Casitas Dam are 65.97 and 53.63 inches, respectively.

Wet conditions also affected the State of California as a whole with Ventura County classified as being in a ‘None’ condition by the United States Drought Monitor as of June 30, 2024.

2.3.2. Groundwater

Casitas has one production well in the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin and several production wells in the Ojai Groundwater Basin as described in the following subsections. There are no anticipated constraints to groundwater supply for FY 2024-2025.

2.3.2.1. Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

The UVRGB levels have seen a recovery during the last twelve months as described in Section 3.2.2.

Casitas’ Mira Monte Well has a capacity of 300 AFY although pumping is limited due to the groundwater having high nitrate levels. Casitas blends this water with Lake Casitas water to achieve water quality that is well within regulatory standards for drinking water, and the planned operational yield is 145 to 180 AFY on average.

2.3.2.2. Ojai Groundwater Basin

Casitas’ groundwater wells for the OWS are located on the east and west sides of San Antonio Creek on the south side of Grand Avenue within the OGB. The east side is referred to as the San Antonio Wellfield and the west side is referred to as the Mutual Wellfield. The San Antonio Wellfield has three wells. The Mutual Wellfield has four wells. All pumped water is treated at the onsite iron and manganese treatment plant and meets state and federal drinking water requirements. The total well capacity used for planning purposes is 2,300 AFY.

2.3.3. Imported Water

Casitas maintains a contract for up to 5,000 AFY from the State Water Project (SWP) but currently has no local infrastructure to physically deliver this water to its system. In 2019, Casitas initiated the Ventura – Santa Barbara Counties Intertie project to connect to the transmission system of Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD), which could allow delivery of imported water to Casitas. The project includes approximately 1.5 miles of 16-inch pipeline and two booster pump stations. Design is underway and the project is anticipated to be under construction in 2025.

2.4. Assessment Methodology: Locally Applicable Evaluation Criteria

Casitas has established the implementation of various stages of action based on the amount of water in storage in Lake Casitas, as shown below, which reflects the most recently adopted WEAP. These stages apply to both the Casitas system and the Ojai system. The recommended stage will be based on whether the projected lake levels over the next year fall within the action levels.

Drought Stage as Determined by Lake Casitas Volume

Stage	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Percent Storage	100%	50%	40%	30%	25%
Volume (AF)	237,975	118,988	95,190	71,393	59,494

Note: This is not a DWR-required table

2.5. Description and Quantification of Each Water Supply Source

Casitas’ water supply sources include surface water and groundwater. Descriptions and quantification of these sources for the current year and dry year are included in this section.

2.5.1. Surface Water

Casitas has multiple sources of surface water that feed into Lake Casitas as described in the following subsections.

2.5.1.1. Coyote Creek

Coyote Creek is located on the west side of Lake Casitas and its drainage area contributes directly to Lake Casitas storage. Casitas and Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD) maintain a stream gaging station on Coyote Creek. Coyote Creek gaging station was damaged during the 2017 Thomas Fire and continues to be impacted by sediment transport and re-channelization, rendering poor quality flow data.

2.5.1.2. Santa Ana Creek

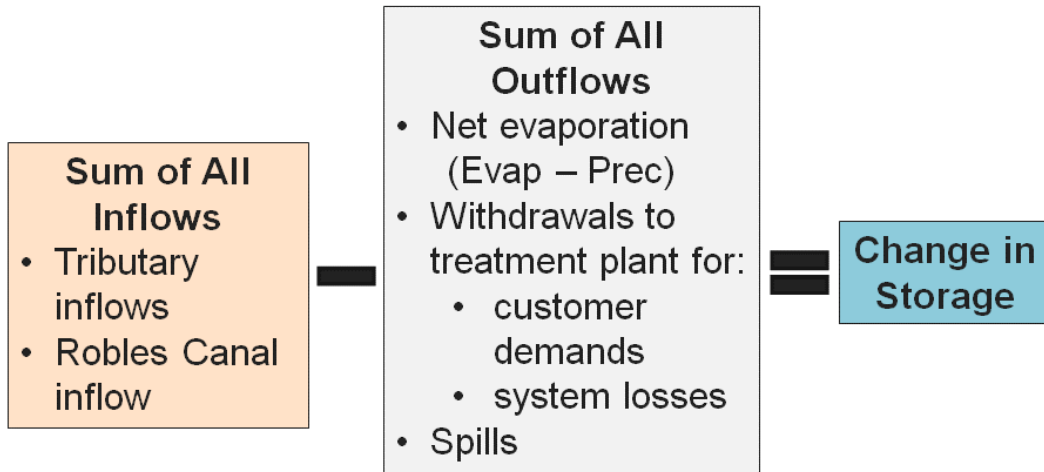
Santa Ana Creek is also a major tributary to Lake Casitas. Casitas and VCWPD also maintain a stream gage to monitor flow. This station was not damaged during the Thomas Fire but did experience heavy sediment transport and re-channelization following the fire, rendering poor quality flow data.

2.5.1.3. Lake Casitas

Lake Casitas has a capacity of 237,761 AF based on bathymetric survey performed in 2017. The recent drought resulted in record low storage levels in 2019 with Lake Casitas at 30 percent of storage capacity.

The water supply availability from Lake Casitas was previously studied by the USBR in the 1954 evaluation of the Ventura River Project, and later by the District in 1989 and 2004. In the “Water Supply and Use Status Report” (Casitas, 2004), the Safe Yield of Lake Casitas was determined to be 20,480 AFY based on a mass-balance model that tracks Lake Casitas inflows, outflows (including evaporation) and change in storage to simulate operations over a time series of assumed hydrology conditions, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Mass Balance Model for Estimating Lake Casitas Yield



The yield model was updated in 2020 to include:

- Extended hydrologic period of record of 1945-2018 (from previous of 1945-1999)
- Incorporated results of recent Lake Casitas bathymetric survey – reduced maximum storage capacity from 254,000 AF to 237,761 AF
- Added function to compute reservoir spills

- Incorporated Robles Diversion operations based on 2003 Biological Opinion requirements and 2018 Critical Drought Protection Measures
- Reduced modeled Robles diversions based on a diversion efficiency of 70 percent, consistent with operational data since the Fish Passage Facility was constructed
- Improved method of calculating monthly net evaporation loss

On April 21, 2021, the Board of Director adopted a planned Casitas System operational yield of 15,010 AFY². The new operational yield is based on the updated modeling results, a -4.3 percent climate change adjustment based on the anticipated changes to precipitation, and a -15 percent supply safety factor to account for uncertainty in modeling assumptions.

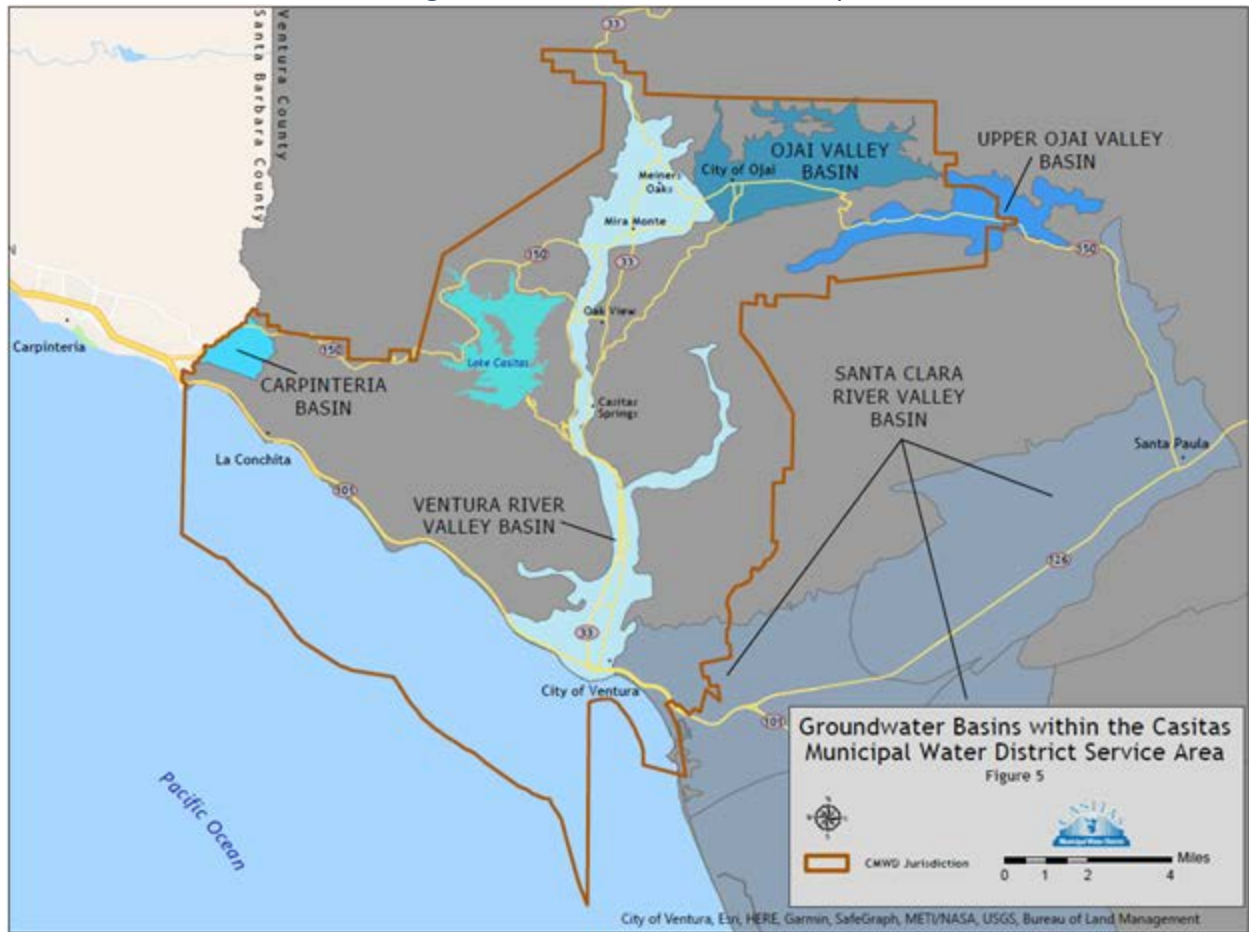
Surface water from Lake Casitas is treated at the Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant using pressure filtration before it enters the transmission and distribution system. There are no anticipated constraints to surface water supply for 2024-2025.

2.5.2. Groundwater

Three groundwater basins are within the Casitas service area: 1) Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin, 2) Lower Ventura River Groundwater Basin and 3) Ojai Basin. Figure 3 shows the boundaries of these basins. The following subsections describe each basin and current issues associated with each.

² The planned operational yield is 14,865 AFY from Lake Casitas and 145 AFY from Mira Monte Well.

Figure 3. Groundwater Basins Map



2.5.2.1. Basin Description – Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin

The UVRGB is managed by the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency (UVRGA). Casitas’ Robles Diversion Facility and Mira Monte Well are located within the boundaries of this watershed. The UVRGB is the largest of the groundwater basins in the Ventura River watershed. All water in the watershed is local precipitation; there are no outside or imported water sources. Similar to the overall Ventura River watershed, precipitation in the UVRGB is extremely variable.

In compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the UVRGA prepared their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and submitted it to DWR in January 2022. The GSP is available on DWR’s website at: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/77>.

The Overdraft Assessment in the GSP states “The water budget results do not indicate an overdraft condition in the Basin currently or in the future. Groundwater levels have not been observed to decline over a period of years without fully recovering. Numerical model results for the projected water budget indicate that groundwater levels will continue to fully recover following droughts.”

Regarding sustainable yield, the GSP states: “Modeling results for the future projection period indicate that the projected inflows and outflows will be approximately balanced during the 50-year SGMA implementation period even with climate change considered. Therefore, an estimate of the sustainable yield is the modeled projected groundwater extractions minus the modeled surface water depletions that could potentially cause undesirable results for the depletions of ISW sustainability indicator. This calculation results in an estimated sustainable yield of ~5,500 to 5,600 acre-feet per year, depending on climate change assumptions. However, there are two very important caveats to the sustainable yield estimate. First, it is noted that more groundwater could be extracted during wet periods without causing undesirable results because the Ventura River can readily recharge more water into the Basin. Second, undesirable results could occur during dry periods even if the sustainable yield is not exceeded on average over a long-term period of average hydrologic conditions because the Basin has a very small amount of groundwater storage which naturally and rapidly drains to the Ventura River during dry periods. In summary, the concept of a sustainable yield over a long-term average period is not relevant to the management of the UVRGB.”

2.5.2.2. Basin Description – Lower Ventura River Groundwater Basin

While Casitas’ service area includes the Lower Ventura River Groundwater Basin, Casitas does not have any groundwater wells in this basin.

2.5.2.3. Basin Description – Ojai Groundwater Basin

The OGB is a relatively deep, bowl-shaped basin bounded on the west and east by non-water-bearing Tertiary aged rocks, on the south by the Santa Ana fault and Black Mountain, and on the north by the Topa Topa Mountains³.

The OGB is managed by the OBGMA which was established in 1991 by State legislation. The OBGMA monitors, records, and reports groundwater conditions of the Ojai Valley Basin. According to the OBGMA website, approximately 60 percent of groundwater use within the basin is for agricultural demand and 40 percent is for ‘urban’ demand.

In compliance with SGMA, The OBGMA prepared their GSP and it was adopted by the OBGMA Board of Directors in January 2022. The California Department of Water Resources approved the OBGMA GSP on October 22, 2023. The GSP can be found on the OBGMA website at:

<https://www.obgma.com/sustainability>

According to the GSP, “undesirable results within the Ojai Valley Basin have not occurred historically...The water budget indicates that over the 48-year period from 1971 to 2019 the OVGB has operated within its sustainable yield based on available data.”

³ <http://obgma.com/the-ojai-valley-basin/>

3. Supply and Demand Analysis

This section incorporates the supplies and demands presented in Section 2 to calculate potential shortages and determine water shortage response actions. The WSCP presented in Section 8 of the 2020 UWMP identifies current and potential actions to address anticipated shortages of water supply. Table 4 – Casitas and Table 4 – Ojai summarize data from their respective tables in Section 2, Tables 2 and 3.

As mentioned in Section 2.2, Casitas typically plans for multi-year demands rather than single-year demands. Though Lake Casitas and the groundwater basins may have supplies that exceed a typical year of demand, these existing supplies must stretch for multiple years until the lake and groundwater basins are replenished and/or the connections to imported water are in place.

Table 4 Water Shortage Assessment – Casitas System													= Auto calculated	
Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for §10632.1													= From prior tables	
Table 4(P): Potable Water Shortage Assessment¹													= For manual input	
Start Year:					2024	Volumetric Unit Used²:						AF		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun ³	Total	
Anticipated Unconstrained Demand												14,525	14,525	
Anticipated Total Water Supply												15,010	15,010	
Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action												485	485	
% Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action												3%	3%	
State Standard Shortage Level												0	0	
Planned WSCP Actions⁴														
Benefit from WSCP: Supply Augmentation												0	0	
Benefit from WSCP: Demand Reduction												0	0	
Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP												485	485	
% Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP												3%	3%	
¹ Assessments are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When optional monthly volumes aren't provided, verify Tables 2 and 3 use the same columns for data entry and are reflected properly in Table 4 and make sure to use those same columns to enter the benefits from Planned WSCP Actions. Please see directions on the shortage balancing exercise in the Table Instructions. If a shortage is projected, the supplier is highly recommended to perform a monthly analysis to more accurately identify the time of shortage. ⁴ If you enter any WSCP Benefits, then you must enter the corresponding planned Actions into Table 5.														

Table 4 Water Shortage Assessment – Casitas System													= Auto calculated	
Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for §10632.1													= From prior tables	
													= For manual input	
Table 4(NP): Non-Potable Water Shortage Assessment¹						Start Year:	2024	Volumetric Unit Used²:					AF	
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun³	Total	
Anticipated Unconstrained Demand: Non-Potable												N/A	N/A	
Anticipated Total Water Supply: Non-Potable														
Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action: Non-Potable														
% Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action: Non-Potable														
Planned WSCP Actions⁴														
Benefit from WSCP: Supply Augmentation														
Benefit from WSCP: Demand Reduction														
Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP														
% Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP														
¹ Assessments are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When optional monthly volumes aren't provided, please enter yearly volumes in the June column (Jun ³). If a shortage is projected, the supplier is highly recommended to perform a monthly analysis to more accurately identify the time of shortage. ⁴ If you enter any WSCP Benefits, then you must enter the corresponding planned Actions into Table 5.														

Table 4 Water Shortage Assessment – Ojai System													= Auto calculated	
Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for \$10632.1													= From prior tables	
													= For manual input	
Table 4(P): Potable Water Shortage Assessment¹					Start Year:	2024	Volumetric Unit Used²:					AF		
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun³	Total	
Anticipated Unconstrained Demand												1,850.0	1,850.00	
Anticipated Total Water Supply												2,761.0	2,761.00	
Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action												911.0	911.0	
% Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action												49%	49%	
State Standard Shortage Level												0	0	
Planned WSCP Actions⁴														
Benefit from WSCP: Supply Augmentation												0	0	
Benefit from WSCP: Demand Reduction												0	0	
Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP												911.0	911.0	
% Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP												49%	49%	
¹ Assessments are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When optional monthly volumes aren't provided, please enter yearly volumes in the June column (Jun ³). If a shortage is projected, the supplier is highly recommended to perform a monthly analysis to more accurately identify the time of shortage. ⁴ If you enter any WSCP Benefits, then you must enter the corresponding planned Actions into Table 5.														

Table 4 Water Shortage Assessment – Ojai System													= Auto calculated		
Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment for §10632.1													= From prior tables		
Table 4(NP): Non-Potable Water Shortage Assessment ¹													Start Year: 2024	= For manual input	
													Volumetric Unit Used ² :		AF
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun ³	Total		
Anticipated Unconstrained Demand: Non-Potable												N/A	N/A		
Anticipated Total Water Supply: Non-Potable															
Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action: Non-Potable															
% Surplus/Shortage w/o WSCP Action: Non-Potable															
Planned WSCP Actions ⁴															
Benefit from WSCP: Supply Augmentation															
Benefit from WSCP: Demand Reduction															
Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP															
% Revised Surplus/Shortage with WSCP															
¹ Assessments are based on best available data at time of submitting the report and actual volumes could be different due to many factors. ² Units of measure (AF, CCF, MG) must remain consistent. ³ When optional monthly volumes aren't provided, please enter yearly volumes in the June column (Jun ³). If a shortage is projected, the supplier is highly recommended to perform a monthly analysis to more accurately identify the time of shortage. ⁴ If you enter any WSCP Benefits, then you must enter the corresponding planned Actions into Table 5.															

4. Planned Shortage Response Actions

Triggered shortage response actions, compliance and enforcement actions, and communication actions consistent with the WSCP and the WEAP are shown in Table 5 – Planned Water Shortage Response Actions which applies to both the Casitas and Ojai systems. Casitas adopted a Stage 0 which is voluntary 20% conservation effective June 1, 2023.

Table 5: Planned Water Shortage Response Actions					July 1, 2024	to June 30, 2025	
Anticipated Shortage Level Drop-down List of State Standard Levels (1 - 6) and Level 0 (No Shortage)	ACTIONS ¹ : Demand Reduction, Supply Augmentation, and Other Actions. (Drop-down List) These are the only categories that will be accepted by the WUEdata online submittal tool. Select those that apply.	Is action already being implemented? (Y/N)	How much is action going to reduce the shortage gap?		When is shortage response action anticipated to be implemented ² ?		
			Enter Amount	(Drop-down List) Select % or Volume Unit	Start Month	End Month	
<i>Add additional rows as needed</i>							
0 (No Shortage)	No Actions	Yes					
NOTES: Casitas adopted a Stage 1 which is voluntary 20% conservation effective June 1, 2023.							
¹ If you plan Supply Augmentation Actions then you must enter WSCP Benefits from Supply Augmentation Actions into Table 4. If you plan Demand Reduction Actions then you must enter WSCP Benefits from Demand Reduction Actions into Table 4. ² If an Action is planned to be implemented in multiple non-contiguous periods of the year, please make separate entries on multiple rows for the same action spanning the different implementation periods.							

Appendix A

Water Efficiency and Allocation Plan

May 12, 2021

WATER EFFICIENCY AND ALLOCATION PROGRAM

Casitas Municipal Water District

May 12, 2021

Revised March 22, 2023 per Ordinance 2023-02

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

In 1992 the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) adopted a series of ordinances, resolutions, and a Water Efficiency and Allocation Program (WEAP) in response to the increasing water demands and declining water storage in Lake Casitas experienced during the 1987-1991 drought period. The collective work in 1992 set the starting point for a system of water allocation assignments and demand response criteria that are based on the level of water storage in Lake Casitas. Since 1992, there has been a significant outreach by Casitas to raise the public's awareness on the importance to conserve local water supplies, changes in the water supply and demand, regulatory compliance directives pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and system outage events that temporarily activated Casitas' emergency response plan. All of these factors, including the responses and experiences of the current drought, are considered in the update of the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program.

1.1 Purpose and Principles of the Plan.

The purpose of this update of the WEAP is to provide guidance on water supply and demand strategies that (1) conserve the water supply of the Ventura River Project, Lake Casitas and other water resources that are in the direct control of Casitas, for the greatest public benefit, (2) mitigate the effects of a water shortage on public health and safety and economic activity, (3) allocate water use so that a reliable and sustainable supply of water will be available for the most essential purposes under all water storage conditions of Lake Casitas, and (4) adapt to changing conditions of water supply demand and constraints.

The WEAP describes the water demand reduction strategies and measures to address future water shortage conditions, promote water conservation and the efficient use of water, and the application of a conservation penalty to customers who waste water.

1.2 Relationship between this Document, Water Codes, and Other Plans.

This WEAP shall be guided by State regulations and planning requirements as provided by the California Water Code that provides Casitas with broad powers to implement and enforce regulations and restrictions for managing a water shortage (§71640-71644), to implement water conservation programs (§375--378), to implement allocation-based conservation water pricing (§370-374), and to declare a water shortage emergency (§350-359).

As required by Water Code Section 10632, this WEAP shall be integrated as a part of the Casitas Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), as amended or updated every five years. The Casitas 2010 UWMP has been accepted and approved by the State Department of Water Resources. The UWMP provides an in-depth description of the Casitas water system, water resources and demands, and water supply reliability. For the purposes of integration and lessening the conflicts due to the replication of

information, the WEAP shall rely on the updates of the Water Code Sections provided in the attached Appendices and UWMP, as amended or updated every five years.

SECTION 2: WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONDITIONS

2.1 Water Supply.

The water supply for Casitas is derived from (1) the watersheds that flow directly and indirectly by diversion from the Ventura River of water during wet years to carryover storage in Lake Casitas for use during dry years, and (2) groundwater to the extent that Casitas has its own groundwater supply. The watersheds of the Ventura River region are subject to an extreme variation in the weather patterns, ranging from multiple years of drought to sometimes significant wet year events that are associated with El Nino conditions that add to the uncertainty of available local water supplies.

2.1.1 Surface Water.

The primary goal of Casitas is to provide a safe and reliable water supply. Due to the uncertainty of weather conditions that provide water to the local watersheds, a safe yield modeling has been implemented to provide guidance on water supply availability. The safe yield modeling criteria for the Casitas surface water supply provides a theoretical rate of decline in available water supply during a critical drought period, that if given a specific annual extraction rate from storage, that would reduce Lake Casitas to an exhausted minimum pool.

The sizing of Lake Casitas storage volume and the determination of the annual safe yield of water from Lake Casitas was originally determined by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1954, based on the hydrologic modeling for the critical drought period that started in 1919 and continued through 1936. The storage volume of the off stream reservoir, Lake Casitas, was set to be 254,000 acre-feet and the annual safe yield was determined to be 28,000 acre-feet. In 2004, Casitas recalculated the annual safe yield of Lake Casitas for the drought period of 1944 to 1965 based on newer knowledge of the diminished value of Matilija Reservoir and its impending removal, and the change in Robles Diversion operations resulting from the 2003 Biological Opinion established by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act. The recalculated annual safe yield of Lake Casitas was determined to be 20,840 acre-feet per year.

The safe yield trend for the 1944-1965 critical drought period is illustrated in Figure 1, with the assumption that the critical drought period begins with a full reservoir. The modeling applies the hydrology, river diversions operations, and lake evaporation for the period (1944-1965) that contribute to the Lake Casitas storage. The safe yield is a constant extraction rate from lake storage that contribute to the decline in Lake Casitas storage during the critical drought period, taking lake storage from full capacity to a minimum pool condition. Based on the safe yield model with a continuous and steady extraction rate, or safe yield, of water at 20,840 acre-feet each year, Lake Casitas would decline from full storage to minimum pool in approximately twenty years.

Also included in Figure 1 is the Recovery Period of Lake Casitas, which illustrates the actual filling rate experienced at Lake Casitas during the 1959 to 1978 period. The recovery of the Lake Casitas volume during the Recovery Period that is illustrated in Figure 1 cannot be assumed as the normal or common sequence given the variability of the rainfall amounts in the Ventura River watershed, constraints, and other influences to Lake Casitas inflow and storage. Casitas may experience elevated water supply risks that could be associated with a delay in the start of the recovery period while at minimum pool in Lake Casitas, or there could be a condition where the critical drought period begins with a partially recovered storage level in Lake Casitas.

The availability of the Lake Casitas supply can be influenced or impacted by long-term droughts, changes to lake water quality, and/or changes to diversion and storage conditions. The safe yield of Lake Casitas and annual water availability may need to be reconsidered in the future as a result of changing conditions or new information that differs from the present conditions.

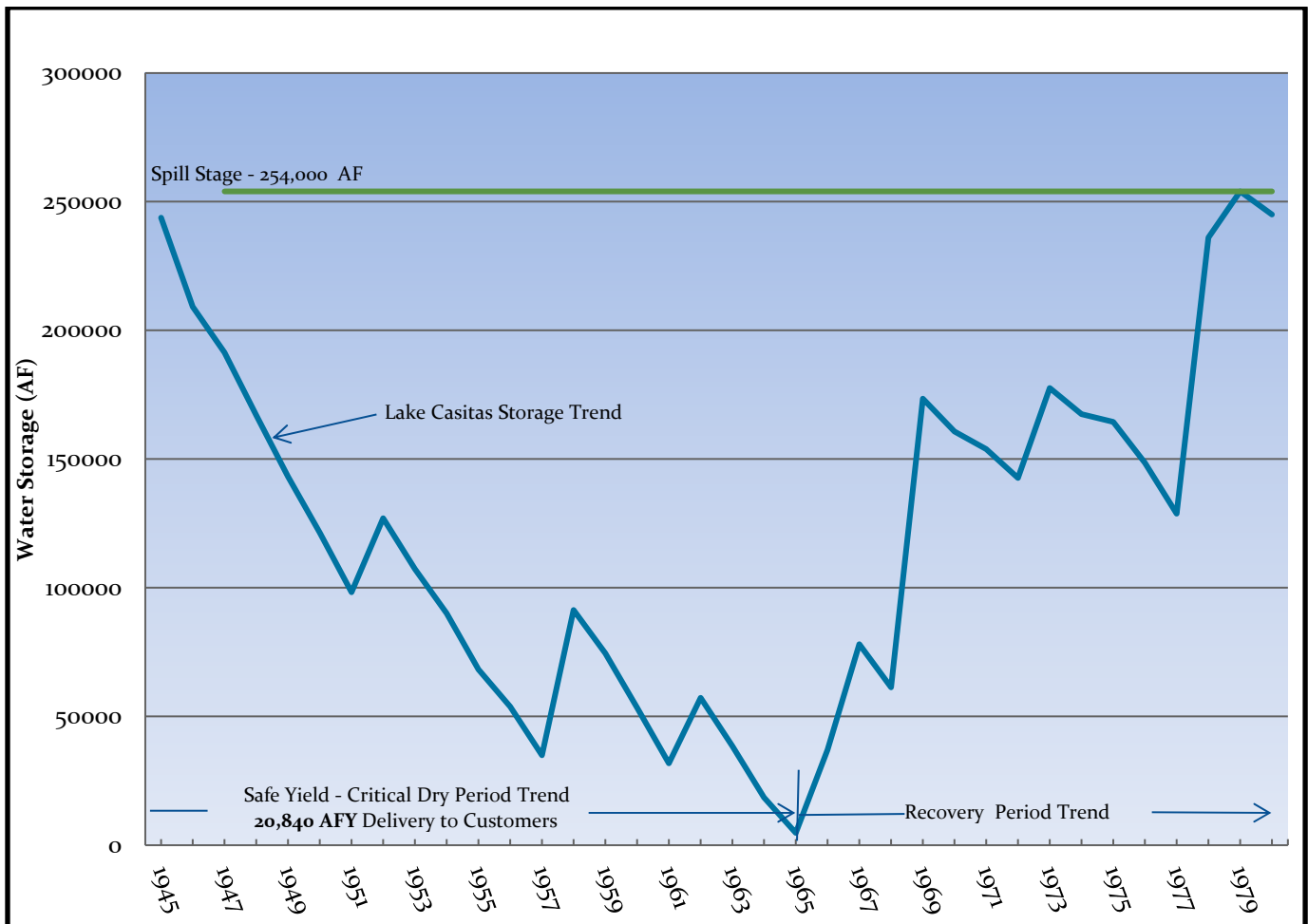


Figure 1 – Lake Casitas Safe Yield Storage and Recovery Period Trends

2.1.2 Groundwater.

Within Casitas’ district boundaries, there are several local groundwater basins that are primary and critical sources of water supply for other local water purveyors (public, mutual and private), individual residential use and agriculture. During extended periods of drought with several years of less than average rainfall (20-inches) the local groundwater basins can become depleted due to pumping, natural drainage and evapotranspiration. The Lake Casitas surface water supply serves as a back-up water supply to the groundwater supply during times of extended drought.

Table 1 – Groundwater Basins of the Ventura River Watershed

Groundwater Basin	Acres	Max. Capacity (AF)	Approx. Safe Yield (AF/Yr.)
Upper Ojai	2,840	5,681	Unavailable
Ojai Valley	6,471	85,000	5,026
Upper Ventura River	9,360	35,118	9,482
Lower Ventura River	6,090	8,743	2,130

Source: Ventura River Watershed Council

The groundwater basins have demonstrated an ability to recharge rapidly in any one year with sufficient rainfall events, upon which time groundwater becomes the preferred source for those with well pumping access to the groundwater basins.

2.2 Water Demand.

The Casitas Board of Directors has established that the average long-term demand upon Lake Casitas must not exceed the annual safe yield of Lake Casitas supply. As a result of the 1987-1991, multi-year drought that resulted in water demands exceeding the annual safe yield, Casitas implemented specific actions in 1992 to limit water demands. The actions included the declaration of a voluntary twenty percent reduction in water demand, the assignment of water allocations based on 80 percent of FY1989-90 water usage that reflects a reduction in demand that comports more closely to safe yield of the Lake Casitas Supply, the implementation of water conservation measures to assist water users in adapting to less water consumption, and the limiting of new water service connections and expansions of agricultural plantings. Table 2 provides a comparison of classification water use, from prior to the action being taken by Casitas, to the level of water use during the recent drought. The FY 1989-90 water demand is recognized as being a high extreme water demand year at the end of the four year drought period.

Table 2 – Water Use Comparison by Customer Classification

Classification	No. of Service Connections		Water Demand – Lake Casitas (AF)		
	FY 1989-90	FY 2013-14	FY 1989-90	FY 2012-13	FY 2013-14
Residential	2424	2700	1603	1678	1738
Business	93	108	821	663	724
Industrial	12	9	155	23	22
Other	33	41	530	244	255
Resale Gravity	8	8	7724	4642	5614
Resale Pumped	15	15	1027	551	1182
Irrigation	253	251	11706	7978	9385
Interdepartmental	21	21	343	120	119
Temporary			11	13	55
Total	2,859	3,153	23,909	15,899	19,094

The local groundwater resources of the Ojai Valley and Ventura River provide on average 7,385 acre-feet per year (Daniel B. Stephens, 2010) to municipal, residential and agricultural pumpers. During multiple dry years, the groundwater basins become depleted and groundwater demands are met by supplementing groundwater supply from the Lake Casitas supply. In most cases, groundwater pumpers have a water service connection to Casitas as a backup supply of water. During any year or multiple dry year sequence of less than average rainfall, Casitas can anticipate that a portion of the 7,385 acre-feet of groundwater demand may be supplemented by the Lake Casitas supply. When groundwater basins are restored by rainfall events, groundwater pumpers convert back to the less expensive groundwater supply. The demand shifts are illustrated in Table 2 and Figure 2 for various classifications of water consumers. The FY 1989-90 and FY 2013-14 water demands occurred at the end of a three-year drought sequence.

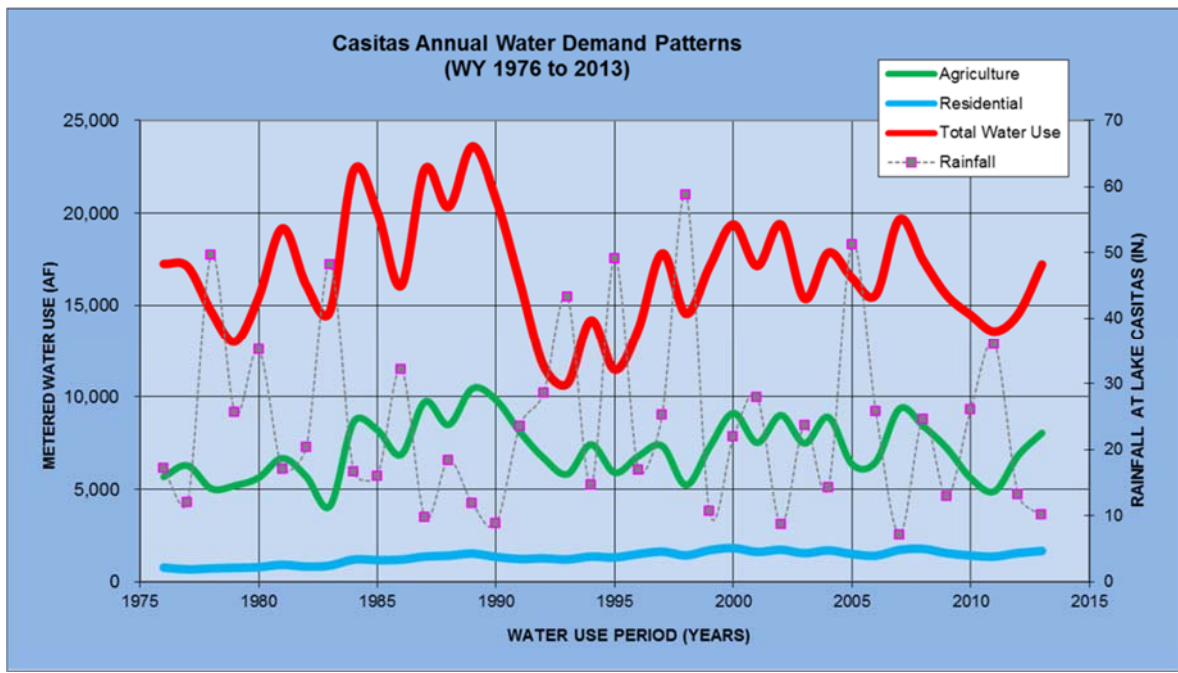


Figure 2 – Casitas Annual Demand Patterns

2.3 Priorities of Water Use.

Casitas recognizes the following priorities for potable water:

- 1) Public safety, health and sanitation;
- 2) Economic sustainability; and
- 3) Quality of life for the district’s customers.

Within each of the customer classifications there may be water uses that are considered non-essential to public health and sanitation and may have no significant impact to the economic productivity of the western Ventura County. The non-essential water uses may be asked at any time to be curtailed during times of extreme water shortages.

Casitas recognizes that the agricultural crops in western Ventura County are primarily tree orchards that require a substantial period of time before becoming productive, and if fallowed will experience several years of non-production. To maintain water supplies into the future that will meet the local water demands, Casitas and the public may be faced with additional decisions on water use reductions that may impact the agricultural classification.

SECTION 3: WATER SHORTAGE EMERGENCY ACTIONS

3.1 Urban Water Contingency Analysis.

Water Code 10632 requires that the agency’s Urban Water Management Plan provide an urban water shortage contingency analysis that includes specific elements that are within the authority of the urban water supplier. The required water shortage analysis is performed in the Casitas 2010 Urban Water Management Plan, and is further supported by this WEAP and the Casitas Emergency Response Plan, as amended.

3.2 Water Shortage Emergencies.

Water Code §350-359 provides that the governing body of a distributor of a public water supply may declare a water shortage emergency condition to prevail within the service area whenever it finds and determines that the ordinary demands cannot be satisfied without depleting water supplies to the extent that there would be insufficient water for human consumption. When deemed as a water shortage emergency in accordance with Water Code 350, Casitas shall follow the procedures provided by the Water Code in the implementation of the water shortage declaration and actions.

The State of California, through its authority under the Water Code and Government Code, may declare a water shortage emergency and require curtailment of water use that is above and beyond the requirements of the Casitas WEAP. Customers of Casitas must respond and comply with the orders of the State in a timely manner. A failure to comply may cause the State to impose fines and penalties that will be redistributed to the customers of Casitas in a manner determined by the Casitas Board of Directors.

3.3 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

The District has prepared a Water Shortage Contingency Plan (Resolution 92-11), and further defined in the Casitas Urban Water Management Plan, that addresses emergencies under short-term, catastrophic events, and long-term water shortages that may occur as a result of a prolonged drought.

A water shortage emergency may be determined to exist in the event of a short-term interruption of water supply or as a result of long-term diminishment of the Lake Casitas water supply. A short-term interruption of water supply can be the result of earthquakes, regional power outages, landslides, or other major and minor events that impact Casitas water facilities or supply. These events are more often a short term interruption of water supplies until the water system can be restored to the customers. A long-term or district-wide condition may be the result of drought conditions or a reduction in local water supplies that will require long-term water supply-demand management.

The Casitas response to a short-term interruption of water supply may cause the implementation of the Casitas Emergency Action Plan that is structured under the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), in coordination with federal, state and county emergency response planning that provides the framework for an organized response to catastrophic events.

3.4 Water Waste Prohibitions on Certain Uses.

Water Code § 71640 provides the District the authority to restrict the use of district water during any emergency caused by drought, or other threatened or existing water shortage, and the district may prohibit the wastage of district water or the use of district water during such periods for any purpose other than household uses or such other restricted uses as the district determines to be necessary. The District may also prohibit use of district water during such periods for specific uses which it finds to be nonessential.

SECTION 4: STRATEGY FOR MANAGED WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND

4.1 Strategy Principles.

The communities and rural agricultural areas of western Ventura County recognize that there is a reliance on limited local groundwater and surface water supply to serve all of the beneficial uses within the District, and there is a local responsibility required to sustain those supplies during

extended drought periods. The continuous implementation of water conservation education and measures (Best Management Practices) has had a significant influence on the beneficial use and sustainability of local water supplies. Ongoing water conservation efforts can ease the impact on normal activities during drought periods, but may not completely eliminate the need for reductions in water use during periods when Lake Casitas water supplies are severely impacted by extended drought. The main mechanism to respond to water supply conditions is to rely on informed customers working in partnership with Casitas to limit water use to no more than the assigned water allocation and support the water use limitations with appropriate conservation penalties for water use in excess of the assigned, or adjusted, allocation.

To address the water shortage risk that may occur during an extended drought, the Casitas Board established in the Casitas Urban Water Management Plan of 1995 a series of five storage levels of Lake Casitas at which the Board could take actions to restrict the annual water extractions from Lake Casitas. The safe yield trend and the five stages of restrictive actions are illustrated in Figure 3.

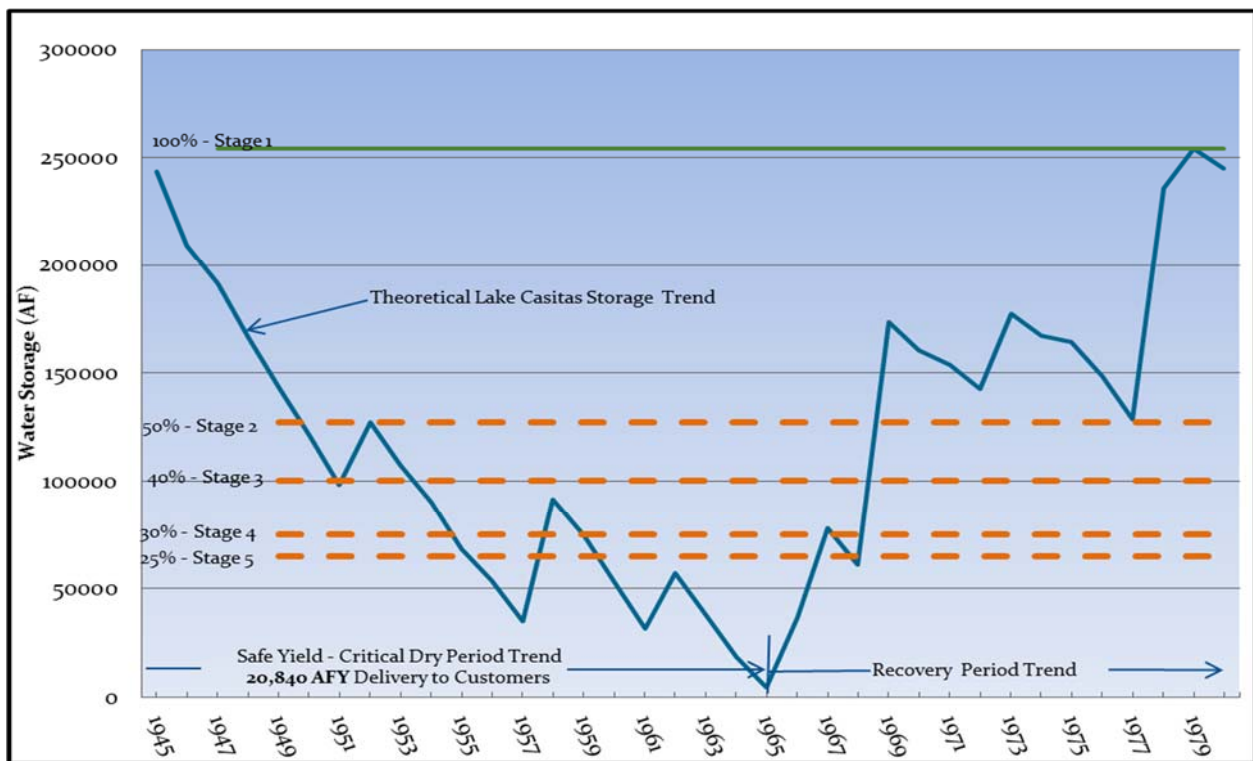


Figure 3 – Lake Casitas Safe Yield Storage Trend and Stages for Demand Reduction

4.2 Water Allocation Principles.

Each and every water service provided by Casitas is metered and a basic water use allocation is established for each customer account that provides a reasonable amount of water for the customer’s needs and property characteristics (WC § 372). The following principles are to be followed for the Casitas water allocations:

- 1) Each Casitas water service shall be assigned either a monthly water allocation in the terms of Units or an annual water allocation in terms of Units and Acre-feet.
- 2) Allocation shall not mean an entitlement or imply water rights in favor of the customer.

- 3) The assignment of allocations shall be based on reasonable and necessary water use, the application of water conservation practices and standards, and other relevant factors associated with water use during Stage 1 conditions at Lake Casitas.
- 4) The Casitas Board of Directors reserve the right to make individual allocation assignments and to change water allocations at any time within each classification based on the changes to the availability of water stored in Lake Casitas, changes in water use that appears to compromise the reliability of the Lake Casitas water supply, and changes in water conservation practices and standards.
- 5) Water allocations provided by Casitas are assigned to property or water purveyors and are not transferrable from one property or water purveyor to another.
- 6) In cases where the tenant has been authorized as the water service account holder, the allocation for the service account is assigned to the property and cannot be transferred to another service account or property.
- 7) All requests for allocation adjustment must be made by the property owner.
- 8) Casitas' water allocations shall not be sold, exported, bartered or traded by or between Casitas' customers.
- 9) Casitas water allocated shall not be transported from the property or by any agency served to any other property or agency without prior written agreement with Casitas.

4.3 Allocation Assignments to Water Service Classifications.

Casitas has established the definitions of water customer classifications as provided by the Casitas Rates and Regulations for Water Service and has made specific allocation assignments to each and every water account by either (1) written agreement, or (2) the application of historical water use data, or (3) the application of documented water use standards. Where deemed necessary by Casitas, Casitas may perform site specific water use audits and survey to determine the appropriate level of allocation to be assigned to any one service connection or customer. Water allocations may change by action of the Casitas Board of Directors based on the Lake Casitas storage level or trend, water use trends, and the performance by customer classification in meeting water consumption reduction goals.

The following subsections describe the method used to assign the water allocation for each classification of water service at **Stage 1** condition:

Business

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an **annual** allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) Allocation assigned by recorded agreement; or
- 3) Where not defined by recorded agreement, the lesser of the historical water consumption recorded for either the 80% of the 1989-90 water use or the Fiscal Year 2012-13 water use.
- 4) In cases where historical consumption is not available for a new business, an initial allocation may be assigned based on standard water demand factors used in Engineering Department review of new or expanded uses. Any increases in water allocation over the prior assigned allocation for the property are subject to Casitas' discretion on the limits of available water allocation and subject to the charges for new and/or expanded water use (Section 4.8).

Fire

There is no water allocation for the Fire classification. This water use is for emergency only, and not a part of a continuing annual water use.

Industrial

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an **annual** allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) Allocation assigned by recorded agreement; or
- 3) Where not defined by recorded agreement, the lesser of historical water consumption recorded for either the 80% of the 1989-90 water use or the Fiscal Year 2012-13 water use.
- 4) In cases where historical consumption is not available for a new business, an initial allocation may be assigned based on standard water demand factors used in Engineering Department review of new or expanded uses. Any increases in water allocation over the prior assigned allocation for the property are subject to Casitas' discretion on the limits of available water allocation and subject to the charges for new and/or expanded water use (Section 4.8).

Interdepartmental

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an annual allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) The **annual** allocations for individual Interdepartmental classification services shall be based on the Fiscal Year 2012-13 water use.

Irrigation (Commercial Agriculture)

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an **annual** allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) Qualifying acreage for each Irrigation account shall be limited to acreage that can be identified as under irrigation prior to March 1, 1992. There will be no allocation for irrigation acreage that has been expanded after March 1, 1992, except as otherwise approved in written and recorded agreement between Casitas and the property owner. Casitas' records and mapping will be the standard for the identification of lands in irrigation prior to March 1, 1992.
- 3) Allocation assignments to lands served by multiple meter services shall consider the proportion of the allocation that each meter is intended to serve. The aggregation of meter readings and allocations from multiple meters shall not be allowed except under the terms and conditions of an approved addendum to the Application for Water Service to provide an aggregation variance. The customer may apply for the aggregation of allocations and water volume for accounts serving contiguous parcels under a single ownership, subject to the conditions of the Casitas addendum to the Application for Water Service. The aggregation variance must be approved and on file for the current year during which the variance is applicable. The issuance of the aggregation variance is subject to the discretion of the General Manager.
- 4) The Stage 1 water allocation assigned to each Irrigation water account is the greater volume of either (1) the water use recorded at each meter service during fiscal year 2012-13 or (2) eighty (80) percent of recorded water volume metered to the account in fiscal year 1989-90, neither of which shall exceed a water volume of 3 acre-feet per acre applied to the qualifying acreage.
- 5) The residential water use for Agricultural/Domestic classification that is directly associated with the Irrigation shall be considered as Irrigation for purpose of allocation assignments and meeting the demand reduction requirements for Irrigation.

Multi-Family Residential

- 1) Stage 1 water allocations are assigned to each existing Multi-Family Residential account by either a recorded agreement or based on the standards set in 1992 by Casitas.
- 2) The Multi-Family Residential water allocation for each account shall be distributed by either a monthly or bi-monthly scheduling of the allocation.
- 3) A part of the Multi-Family Residential allocation is provided for health and sanitation and shall be set at **120 units per year per dwelling**, distributed evenly each month as 10 units per month for each dwelling.
- 4) The essential water use portion of the allocation is not subject to adjustment by the Staged Demand Reduction Program, unless otherwise deemed by the Board to be a necessity during extreme water supply conditions or during emergencies.
- 5) The part of the Multi-Family Residential allocation that is in excess of the essential allocation shall be specified as a monthly allocation and distributed proportionally to reflect varying seasonal water use, as follows:

Month	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
% of Total Annual Allocation	.12	.11	.11	.11	.08	.08	.04	.06	.05	.05	.09	.10

- 6) The part of the Multi-Family Residential allocation that is in excess of the essential allocation is subject to adjustment by the Staged Demand Reduction Program.
- 7) Where not previously assigned a residential allocation, a residential allocation shall be based on the following:
 - a. The essential health and sanitation portion of the residential allocation shall be set at **120 units per year per year per dwelling**, and be constant for each month of the year;
 - b. Non-essential portion of the annual residential allocation shall be based on a maximum limit of 1.99 acres (86,684 square feet) of irrigated landscape area and set as follows:
 - i. For the first 5,000 square feet of landscape area, 15 gallons per square foot;
 - ii. For the next 10,000 square feet of landscape area, 10 gallons per square foot
 - iii. For the next increment up to 71,684 square feet of landscape area, 3 gallons per square foot;
- 8) In cases where a Single Family residence is proposing to construct an Accessory Dwelling Unit, the customer will be reclassified to Multi-Family residential and there will be no required change to the allocation. Staff may make adjustments to the distribution between essential and non-essential provided the adjustments are consistent with similar properties and WEAP allocation standards. The customer may request an increase in allocation provided the amount is consistent WEAP allocation standards. However, any increases in total allocation are subject to approvals for new and/or expanded water use (Section 4.8).

Other

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an **annual** allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) Allocation assigned by recorded agreement; or
- 3) Where not defined by recorded agreement, the lesser of historical water consumption of either the 80% of the 1989-90 water use or the Fiscal Year 2012-13 water use.
- 4) In cases where historical consumption is not available for a new business, an initial allocation may be assigned based on standard water demand factors used in Engineering Department review of new or expanded uses. Any increases in water allocation over the prior assigned

allocation for the property are subject to Casitas' discretion on the limits of available water allocation and subject to the charges for new and/or expanded water use (Section 4.8).

Resale

- 1) Water allocation shall be specified as an **annual** allocation based on a fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).
- 2) The Stage 1 allocation for each individual Resale customer shall be incorporated into a memorandum of understanding (MOU), and assigned to provide water to supplement the Resale agency's primary source of water supply.
- 3) An objective of a MOU is to achieve parity between the Resale agency customers and Casitas customers in applying similar overall water use restrictions and financial penalties in each Stage.
- 4) The Resale agency shall determine the reliability of its water sources and ensure that the annual water requirements from Casitas do not exceed their annual water allocation from Casitas.
- 5) The allocation assignment from Casitas shall not be used by the Resale agency for growth within the Resale service area, unless additional allocation for growth is authorized by written agreement with Casitas.
- 6) The Resale agency shall implement water conservation measures in accordance with the State's or California Urban Water Conservation Council's Best Management Practices, responsibly maintain water system metering and pipeline systems to reduce water losses, and when necessary or when asked to do so, implement water demand reduction measures similar to or more restrictive than those imposed by Casitas to assure the continued availability of water for health and safety purposes.

Residential

- 1) Stage 1 water allocations are assigned to each existing Residential account by either a recorded agreement or based on the standards set in 1992 by Casitas.
- 2) The Residential water allocation for each account shall be distributed by either a monthly or bi-monthly scheduling of the allocation.
- 3) A part of the Residential Allocation is provided for health and sanitation and shall be set at **120 units per year**, distributed evenly each month as 10 units per month for each dwelling.
- 4) The essential water use portion of the allocation is not subject to adjustment by the Staged Demand Reduction Program, unless otherwise deemed by the Board to be a necessity during extreme water supply conditions or during emergencies.
- 5) The part of the Residential Allocation that is in excess of the essential allocation shall be specified as a monthly allocation and distributed proportionally to reflect varying seasonal water use, as follows:

Month	July	August	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
% of Total Annual Allocation	.12	.11	.11	.11	.08	.08	.04	.06	.05	.05	.09	.10

The part of the Residential Allocation that is in excess of the essential allocation is subject to adjustment by the Staged Demand Reduction Program.

- 6) Where not previously assigned a residential allocation, a residential allocation shall be based on the following:
 - a. The essential health and sanitation portion of the residential allocation shall be set at **120 units per year**, and be constant for each month of the year;

- b. Non-essential portion of the annual residential allocation shall be based on actual irrigated landscape area of the parcel with a maximum limit to 1.99 acres (86,684 square feet) of irrigated landscape area and set as follows:
 - i. For the first 5,000 square feet of irrigated landscape area, 15 gallons per square foot;
 - ii. For the next 10,000 square feet of irrigated landscape area, 10 gallons per square foot
 - iii. For the next increment up to 71,684 square feet of irrigated landscape area, 3 gallons per square foot;

Temporary

- 1) There is no water allocation assigned for the Temporary classification. Temporary water service is not property related on a permanent basis.
- 2) Temporary water use is limited for a short-term, as provided in the Rates and Regulations for Water Service, for such purposes as construction projects, or short-term water supply emergencies, or temporary backup water to non-metered agricultural parcels.
- 3) Temporary meters that are issued to serve supplemental commercial irrigation shall be temporarily allocated water based on the allocation assignment provided at the time of the application for the Temporary service based on the same water use standards as provided for the Irrigation classification, and reduced by Stage conditions,. The allocation does not extend beyond the period of the temporary water service application, unless the Casitas Board of Directors approves a limited continuance of the temporary service.

4.4 Allocation Adjustments.

A property owner with Casitas water service may request the reconsideration of their initial assigned Stage 1 water allocation where the request does not include a consideration for either an expansion in the area of use or new construction. The property owner shall submit a water allocation adjustment application in order to have their request considered by the General Manager of the District. The information contained on the application may be subject to an audit and, if necessary, additional documentation may be required in order to substantiate the requested adjustment.

Adjustments to water allocations that have been assigned through a recorded Water Service Agreement between the property owner, or prior property owner, and Casitas must proceed through an amendatory agreement, will be subject to the capital facility charges for the amount of water provided as the allocation adjustment, and subject to the availability of water allocations.

Adjustments to water allocations will not be granted in amounts that exceed 80 percent of the FY 1989-90 metered usage of water by the meter service account without prior Board approval.

4.5 Standards for a Water Allocation Adjustment.

Water allocation adjustments may be considered by Casitas during initiation of the WEAP that appropriately assigns a Stage 1 allocation, to ensure that the needs of the water customer are reasonably balanced against the purpose of this Plan.

Water allocations may be considered for adjustment for:

- a. Correction of irrigable area square footage;
- b. Correction of number of dwelling units (Multi-family accounts only);
- c. Exemption granted for a licensed in-home childcare or elderly care facility;

Water allocations will not be adjusted to accommodate:

- a. Pools, ponds, spas, or hot tubs;
- b. In-home businesses or hobbies that use an increased amount of water;
- c. Gardens and orchards;
- d. Homeowner's Association requirements for turf areas in excess of that water allocation specified by Casitas for a Residential classification;
- e. Where an allocation has been assigned through a recorded agreement.

Agricultural Irrigation Allocation Adjustment Standards:

- a. Limited to acreage planted in commercial agricultural production prior to March 1, 1992. Casitas shall also consider the assignment of an appropriate allocation to lands that are verified as being in a crop rotation status, or temporarily in a fallowed state, having been in a planted status prior to March 1, 1992.
- b. Comparative (same crop type and average use of various parcels) crop usage in FY2012-13 for full irrigation, not to exceed 3 AF/AC/YR, which is located within a 1-mile circumference of the parcel seeking the appeal for a change in water allocation.

4.6 Appeals Process.

Customers that are denied an adjustment of water allocation may request a review of the request by submitting a written appeal to the Casitas Water Resources Manager stating the nature of the appeal. The appeal shall be reviewed by the Casitas Water Resources Manager and a recommendation shall be reported to the General Manager. The decision of the General Manager shall be reported to the customer in written form. If the customer is not satisfied with the General Manager's decision, the customer must request within 10 days that the appeal be placed on the agenda of the Casitas Board of Directors. The determination by the Board of Directors shall be final.

4.7 Availability of Allocations.

The determination of supplies being available for issuance of new allocations of water shall be made upon staff recommendation at a regular Board of Directors meeting. The determination that water is or is not available shall be within the determination of the Board of Directors. The determination that a supply is available shall be based upon more detailed information about existing supplies, the availability of new supplies, new water supply projects, or contracts or proposed contracts for additional supplies where, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, the supply of water is definite enough to provide the assurance to the County of Ventura that there is a forty year supply.

4.8 Allocation for New or Expanded Water Uses.

A property owner may request a change to a water allocation assignment for the purposes of obtaining new or expanded use of water that is associated with a new building permit, new or existing conditional use permit, or agricultural irrigation acreage expansion. The approval of an addition or change to the water allocation for new and/or expanded water allocation is subject to Casitas' discretion on the limits of available water allocation and subject to the charges for new and/or expanded water allocation.

When the Board of Directors determine that additional new water supplies are available, either from the safe yield of the existing CMWD project supply or additional new supplies, supplies shall be allocated in accordance with the following criteria:

- a) No single property owner or applicant for the given type of service (municipal, industrial or agricultural) shall receive a new water allocation greater than 10 percent of the total new available supply or the minimum standard residential allocation, whichever is greater. If the applicant's allocation requirements are not fully met, the applicant may maintain a position of priority until more water is available.
- b) All applicants seeking an allocation shall provide Casitas with a detailed description of the project, the use of water for which the water is sought, and information on peak flow and annual water requirements. Casitas shall determine meter size and amount of allocation based upon reasonable and necessary needs and Casitas' Rates and Regulations.
- c) The amount of water to be allocated shall be at Casitas' sole discretion. The assignment of an allocation shall be limited to the availability of water from the Lake Casitas safe yield, and be based on current water demand factors as adopted by the District and as amended. The amount of water required for the project may be calculated and submitted for the consideration of Casitas by a civil engineer, registered in the State of California, representing the project proponent.

4.8.1 Expansion of Residential and Commercial Water Use During Water Shortage

It is Casitas' policy that no expansion of water service use will be permitted during the period of declared water shortage, when mandatory water use reductions are being implemented in accordance with the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program, unless the Board of Directors deems an appropriate expansion of water use to be permissible. In the event that no expansion of water service use is permitted by the Board of Directors, the following minimum requirements shall be a condition of approval for residential and business remodels, additions, and replacements:

Remodels and Additions to Existing Buildings

- a) **No Additional Plumbing Fixtures:** If no additional plumbing fixtures are required, the project may be approved and a standard will-serve letter may be issued.
- b) **Additional Plumbing Fixtures:** If additional plumbing fixtures are required, the installation of ultra-low flow toilets and low-flow shower heads will be required throughout the building. This requirement, plus evidence that total water use should not increase as a result of the remodel, will be included in any will-serve letter issued.
- c) **Swimming Pools, Spas, and Pool Cabanas:** Swimming pools, spas, and pool cabanas normally involve installation of additional plumbing fixtures and result in an ultimate increase in total water demand. Such additions may be permitted if the applicant can provide documented evidence that the total water demand for the property will not increase.

Replacement of Residential Units

The replacement of structures may be approved contingent upon installation of water efficient plumbing devices and documented evidence of no additional water use.

Commercial

Existing commercial structures which have inactive water services may reactivate service based upon evidence that water use will not exceed the standard allocation or the historical water use.

Water Service Approved by Resale Agencies

Water service approved by resale agencies shall be supplied by that resale agency without reliance upon Casitas water. A statement to that effect shall be indicated on any revised will-serve letters by a resale agency.

4.8.2 Expansion of Agricultural Service During Water Shortage

No expansion of agricultural service will be permitted during the period of water shortage when mandatory water use reductions are in effect under the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program.

During a period of the water shortage, lands classified by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation as Class 1-4 and not previously irrigated for agricultural use regularly, will not receive water from Casitas. All such Class 1-4 lands must have been under regular agricultural irrigation prior to the declaration of the water shortage unless a request for such expansion was submitted to Casitas for consideration prior to the water shortage.

Under no circumstances will expansion of agricultural irrigation usage onto Class 6 lands be permitted.

Replacement of Agricultural Crops

Trees and crops which have been damaged within the past two years may be replaced upon approval by Casitas. Application outlining crop type, acreage, and schedule of replacement must be filed with Casitas prior to replacement.

SECTION 5: STAGED DEMAND REDUCTION IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Staged Demand Reduction Principles.

The primary source of water that is available to the Casitas Municipal Water District is the amount of water stored behind Casitas Dam, forming Lake Casitas. The quantity of water stored in Lake Casitas is dependent upon the local hydrology, watershed conditions, diversions from the Ventura River, and the outflow from lake evaporation and water deliveries to beneficial uses. There may be times during which Casitas must consider implementing staged water demand reductions to ensure a sustainable water supply and prevent a complete depletion of water supply in Lake Casitas.

The District has assigned five stages of water storage in Lake Casitas that serve as a guidance to triggering the implementation of water use reduction goals and measures. The overarching goals of the Staged Demand Reduction Program are:

- 1) conserving the water supply for the greatest priority and public benefit; and
- 2) mitigating the effects of a water shortage on public health, safety, and economic activity.

5.2 Water Resource Conditions and Actions.

The General Manager shall report to the Board of Directors each year (*April*) with an assessment of the current water storage in Lake Casitas and local groundwater basins, current water use trends, predicted weather conditions, and an evaluation of current water use reduction goals. The time of the reporting can be each April, as the rainfall season is ending and water resources can be evaluated at the maximum for the year, or as Lake Casitas storage reaches a change in Stage action level. The Board of Directors may, at their sole discretion, declare that a Stage condition of water supply in Lake Casitas exists and implement the appropriate demand reduction goals and measures in response to current and/or predicted water availability conditions. Casitas shall make such determinations public and follow with appropriate and timely notification of all customers. Casitas has established

the implementation of various Stages of action based on the amount of water in storage in Lake Casitas, as shown in Table 3. An action to declare and implement a Stage may be by either an action by Casitas Board of Directors based on unanticipated changing lake supply conditions or by the following schedule in Table 4.

Table 3 – Stage Conditions

Stage	Stage Title	Lake Casitas Storage - %	Lake Casitas Storage Action Level (acre-feet)
1	Water Conservation	100% - 50%	237,761 to 118,880
2	Water Shortage Warning	50% - 40%	118,880 to 95,104
3	Water Shortage Eminent	40% - 30%	95,104 to 71,328
4	Severe Water Shortage	30% - 25%	71,328 to 59,440
5	Critical Water Shortage	25% - 0%	59,440 to 3,000

Table 4 - Stage Action Schedule

<u>Target Dates</u>	<u>Action</u>
June - April	Monitor water demands, rainfall, reservoir level trend, groundwater trends, and diversion and runoff amounts.
Early April	Staff presents water status report and a recommendation to the Casitas Board of Directors. Publish a notice of a public hearing if changes are recommended.
Late April	Casitas Board of Directors formally declares a Stage, and/or water shortage emergency, adopts recommendations for demand reduction actions.
May	Customer Notification of change in Stage, allocation, and conservation surcharge.
June	Stage demand reduction actions are effective and are implemented.

5.3 Demand Reduction Goals and Measures.

The demand reduction goals and measures begin with Stage 1, where reasonable and appropriate water allocation assignments are made to each Casitas service connection and the end water users are implementing the Best Management Practices that conform to State requirements for water conservation and water use efficiency measures. Upon determination of a Stage 2 condition and continuing through Stage 5 conditions, the primary actions to achieve the demand reduction goal is the adjustment of allocations that were made available for each classification during Stage 1 by a reduction of the allocation during the duration of the declared Stage condition.

5.4 Stage Adjustments to Allocations.

The five stages of storage in Lake Casitas and the initial guideline for water allocation adjustments for each classification at each Stage are presented in Table 5. Upon recommendation of the General Manager and approval of the Board of Directors at the onset of a specific Stage, the District shall apply appropriate demand reduction factors to the allocations for each customer classification, as deemed necessary. The Board of Directors retain the sole discretion to make allocation changes as a result of declaring a change in Stage, or during any Stage, that are more or less severe than that provided in Table 5. Examples of applying this discretion may include, but not be limited to, the change in any water resource conditions or the demand reduction goals are not being attained by the customer classification.

Table 5 – Staged Water Demand Reductions for Water Classifications

Note: Initial Stage 1 Allocations include a 20% reduction from the 1989-90 demands.

Demand Reduction Stage	1	2	3	4	5
Volume Range of Lake Casitas	254,000 to 127,000	127,000 to 100,000	100,000 to 75,000	75,000 to 65,000	65,000 to 3,000
% Lake Storage	100% - 50%	50% - 40%	40% - 30%	30% - 25%	25% - 0%
Water Use Reduction Response Goal	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Residential & Multi-Family Residential Essential Use Non-essential Use	0% 20%	0% 20%	0% 30%	0% 40%	0% 50%
Business	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Industrial	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Other	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Resale	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Irrigation	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%
Interdepartmental	20%	20%	30%	40%	50%

Essential Use Allocations will remain the same and not adjusted, except as otherwise determined by the Board to be a necessity to preserve water supply during extreme conditions. The measures to achieve the demand reduction goal may be selected from a menu of options as provided in Table 6, or should water supply conditions become worse than anticipated the Casitas Board may adopt more stringent requirements as deemed necessary.

5.5 Customer Notification.

The customers of each and every classification shall be notified in a timely and appropriate manner of any and all actions to declare and implement Demand Reduction Stage. The methods of communication to the customer shall be through direct mailings, public meetings, and billing information that provides the customer the comparison of water use with allocation.

5.6 Water Rates and Conservation Penalty.

- a. The Casitas Board of Directors shall annually consider the setting or adjustment of water rates that reflect the cost of water service, consistent with State law.
 1. Casitas has implemented a tiered inclining rate structure for the Residential and Multi-family Residential classifications that represents the proportional cost of service that is attributable to the parcel that is served water.
- b. The Casitas Board of Directors shall annually set the Conservation Penalty for each classification that will be applied to each individual customer billing for each unit of

water that is in excess of the customer's allocation, or the adjusted allocation pursuant to a change in Stage. The Conservation Penalty is imposed to curtail the potential for adverse effects of excessive water consumption.

- c. Upon determination of a change in the Demand Reduction Stage, or at such time the Board deems that the customer response does not appear to attain the desired demand reduction goals, the Board may consider the modification of the Conservation Penalty.
- d. Revenues recovered from the Conservation Penalty will supplement Casitas' water conservation costs, provide revenue for water shortage related projects, and cover costs associated with implementing changes to the WEAP as directed by the Board.

5.7 Appeals for Exception to Staged Adjustments of Allocation or Conservation Penalty Assessment.

a. A Casitas customer may file an appeal for:

- 1. An Exception to Staged Adjustment of Allocation, as provided in Section 5.4 above;
or
- 2. The assessment of a Conservation Penalty

by submitting a written appeal, on a form provided by Casitas, directly to the General Manager or his/her designee.

b. The following paragraphs provide the criteria or reasons for an appeal for an Exception to Staged Adjustments of Allocation and an appeal for an Exception to Staged Adjustments of Allocation may be granted for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. The staged adjustment would cause a condition affecting the health, sanitation, fire protection, or safety of the customer or the public;
- 2. Strict application of the water allocation adjustment provisions imposes a severe or undue hardship on a particular business, or renders it infeasible for a business or class of business to remain in operation;
- 3. The customer is a hospital or health care facility using industry best management practices;
- 4. The business has already implemented environmental sustainability measures and water conservation measures reducing water consumption to the maximum extent possible.

c. The customer must support their reason for an appeal for an Exception to Staged Adjustments of Allocation with supporting documentation or substantial evidence demonstrating the need for an exception. A failure to provide supporting documentation or evidence shall result in a denial of the appeal.

d. The appeal for an Exception to Staged Adjustments of Allocation will be first reviewed, approved or denied, by the General Manager or his/her designee. The decision of the General Manager or his/her designee shall be reported to the customer/appellant in written form. If the customer is not satisfied with the General Manager or his/her designee's decision, the customer/appellant must request, within 10 days of the date of the General Manager or his/her designee's decision, that the appeal be placed on the agenda of the Casitas Board of Directors

for their review and determination based on the criteria set forth in Section 5.7(b)(1)-(4). The determination by the Casitas Board of Directors shall be final.

- e. The criteria and process for an appeal from a Conservation Penalty shall be in accordance with the Bill Relief Program described in the Casitas Rates and Regulations for Water Service.

SECTION 6: EXPORT OF CASITAS WATER

Water Code Section 71611 authorizes Casitas to sell water under its control for use only within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Casitas Municipal Water District. The unauthorized export and use of Casitas water beyond the Casitas district boundaries can have significant negative impacts on the Casitas water supply reliability, and therefore shall be prohibited unless specifically authorized in writing by the Casitas Board of Directors. All customers receiving Casitas water into water conveyance systems which cross Casitas boundaries shall meet the following requirements as a condition of service:

- 1) Customers shall submit to Casitas a certified report on the last day of each month that demonstrates that no Casitas water was transported or used outside Casitas boundaries during the prior month without written approval by Casitas.
- 2) Customer shall install and maintain approved metering devices and shall be required to account for all Casitas water delivered in the customer's system.
- 3) In the event Casitas water is exported during any month, the customer shall be billed for exported water at five (5) times the Casitas rate for the Temporary Service classification.
- 4) In the event the customer fails to comply with the conditions of service stated in the above (1) and/or (2), all water purchased in excess of the allocation shall be considered exported water and shall be billed in accordance with the foregoing.
- 5) This Section, Export of Casitas Water, is in effect at all times.
- 6) The exceptions to the export are during a declaration by the Board of Directors of surplus water, and limited to the surplus water or exchange agreement between the Board of Directors and other party.

Continuing or reoccurring violations of this section by any Casitas customer may result in the restriction or disconnection of water service to the customer.

Table 6 – Stage Actions and Water Demand Reduction Measures

Water Shortage Condition	Key Casitas Communications and Actions	Customer Demand Reduction Measures	Penalties And Rates
<p>Stage 1</p> <p>Supply Range 100% - 50%</p> <p>Voluntary Demand Reduction To Stage 1 Allocation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate public information and advertising campaign. • Publicize ways to reduce water consumption. • Coordinate conservation actions with other water purveyors and cities. • Perform water audits and promote water efficient use/conversions. • Conduct water workshops. • Temporary staffing for public inquiries, as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water conservation practices requested of all customer classifications. • Adhere to Water Waste Prohibition Ordinance and State of California laws and regulations regarding water waste • Adhere to assigned water allocation or less. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and implement Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation. • Consider rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.
<p>Stage 2</p> <p>Supply Range 50% - 40%</p> <p>Mandatory Demand Reduction to Stage 1 Allocation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare Stage 2 • Implement demand reductions for each customer classification. • Intensify public information campaign. • Optimize existing water resources. • Intensify leak detection. • Develop appeals staffing. • Consult with major customers to develop conservation plans and water use audits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue all Stage 1 measures. • Landscape watering advised to two (2) watering days per week. • Require water audits for large water users; implement recommendations of the water audits. • Businesses display “save water” signage. • Increase public information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and implement Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation – response to reduced allocation. • Consider rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.
<p>Stage 3</p> <p>Supply Range 40% - 30%</p> <p>Demand Reduction From Stage 1 Allocation 10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare Stage 3 • Implement demand reductions for each customer classification. • Expand and intensify public information campaign. • Provide regular briefings, publish monthly consumption report. • Hire additional temporary staff in customer service and conservation. Water waste enforcement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Stage 1 and 2 measures. • Reduced water allocations. • Landscape watering advised to one (1) watering day per week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and implement Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation. • Consider rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.
<p>Stage 4</p> <p>Supply Range 30% - 25%</p> <p>Demand Reduction From Stage 1 Allocation 20%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare Stage 4 • Implement demand reductions for each customer classification. • Continue to provide regular media briefings. • Open drought information center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Stage 1 through 3 measures. • Reduced water allocations. • Landscape watering advised to one (1) watering day per week. • Consider prohibition of filling swimming pools and fountains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and implement Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation – response to reduced allocation. • Consider rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.
<p>Stage 5</p> <p>Supply Range 25% - 0%</p> <p>Demand Reduction From Stage 1 Allocation 30%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare Stage 5 • Implement demand reductions for each customer classification. • Minimize outdoor water use and non-essential uses. • Implement aggressive public outreach and education program. • Implement crisis communications plan. • Coordinate with State and local agencies to address enforcement challenges. • Water Shortage Emergency declaration to be considered. • Consider further Staged reductions and other future Board actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with Stage 1 through 4 measures. • Reduced water allocations. • Rescind Temporary meters issued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and implement Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation – response to reduced allocation. • Consider rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.

FY 2023-2024 Casitas Water Supply and Demand Assessment

April 7, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
From: Michael L. Flood, General Manager
RE: FY 2023-2024 Casitas Water Supply and Demand Assessment
Date: April 7, 2023

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss water supply and demand assessment and adopt a resolution declaring a Stage 1 Condition.

1. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the direction provided in the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program, adopted May 12, 2021 and revised on March 22, 2023, the Board of Directors are to receive an annual assessment of local water supplies, water demands, and current effectiveness of water demand reduction measures. The information in the assessment may necessitate the consideration and direction from the Board of Directors for further actions to preserve water supply for the future.

2. ANNUAL EVENT SUMMARY

The annual event summary is to provide insight to unusual events that have occurred within the boundaries of the Casitas Municipal Water District. The key events are as follows:

- a) Rainfall totals in the watershed reached levels not seen in two decades with some areas reaching totals of over 60" for the season. This has added more than 93,000 Acre-Feet of water supply to Lake Casitas bringing the reservoir to nearly 70% of full capacity.
- b) With the abundant amount of rainfall, large amounts of debris impacted the Robles Fish Passage and Diversion facility. Most significantly, the Robles Forebay is completely filled with boulders, rocks, and sediment which will require a cleanout in order to prevent operational impacts to the facility.
- c) Under the California Water Action Plan, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) are working to identify potential actions that may be taken to enhance and establish instream flow for anadromous fish in five priority streams, including the Ventura River. The State's potential actions to establish instream flows could have a significant impact to available water supplies within the Ventura River watershed. Casitas has been carefully monitoring and reviewing the State's work and providing technical comments throughout the process. There will likely be no impact on water supply for the next twelve months resulting from these studies.

- d) The Casitas Municipal Water District has continued to cope with the demands of the acquisition of the Ojai Water System. The acquisition transferred to Casitas the operations and maintenance of the Ojai Water System including six groundwater wells in the Ojai Groundwater Basin which have an ongoing goal of maximizing the use of groundwater for that system through both maintenance and planning for future improvements.

- e) A groundwater adjudication commenced in the Ojai Valley area through an amended cross complaint filed with the California Superior Court on September 21, 2018. This action included not only Casitas but also many public and private water users in the Ojai Valley. This is of special significance to the District due to its operation of groundwater wells within the basins under question in addition to its right to divert water from the Ventura River. There will likely be no impact on water supply for the next twelve months as a result of this action.

3. ASSESSMENTS

The assessments are to be considered in the implementation of a Water Shortage Condition Stage and the demand reduction measures for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Long-term average rainfall at Matilija Dam and Casitas Dam are 28.23 and 23.31 inches, respectively, based on records dating back to the 1957-1958 Water Year. During the period of 2012 through 2022, the Ventura River watershed was in an extreme to moderate drought condition with less than average rainfall amounts (Table 1) that were insufficient to cause the restoration of local water resources to previous levels. Rainfall totals during the 2023 winter season were far above the long-term average rainfall for Matilija and Casitas Dam locations and have had a positive impact to District water supplies in the early months of 2023.

Table 1 – Rainfall Totals for Matilija Dam and Casitas Dam (inches)

Water Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Avg.
Matilija Dam	14.21	11.85	14.76	17.57	13.35	31.98	16.75	37.54	16.46	6.42	19.68	63.33	21.83
Casitas Dam	15.11	10.99	9.90	11.65	11.07	30.75	9.89	24.77	13.93	6.39	15.22	45.91	17.13

The winter storms of 2022-2023 provided more than 93,000 Acre-Feet of water supply to Lake Casitas. The annual rainfall total during the period of October 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, at Matilija Dam and Casitas Dam are 63.33 and 45.91 inches respectively.

Wet conditions have also affected the State of California as a whole with Ventura County classified as being in a ‘None’ condition by the United States Drought Monitor as of April 4, 2023 (See Attachment #1).

WATER RESOURCES

The primary water resources that provide water to Casitas MWD are collectively the groundwater basins of the Upper Ventura River and Ojai; and surface water storage at Lake Casitas.

Groundwater Basins

The winter of 2022-23 brought extensive recovery to the local groundwater basins within Casitas' district boundaries. The rainfall events caused significant flows with large amounts of debris and silt from the watershed.

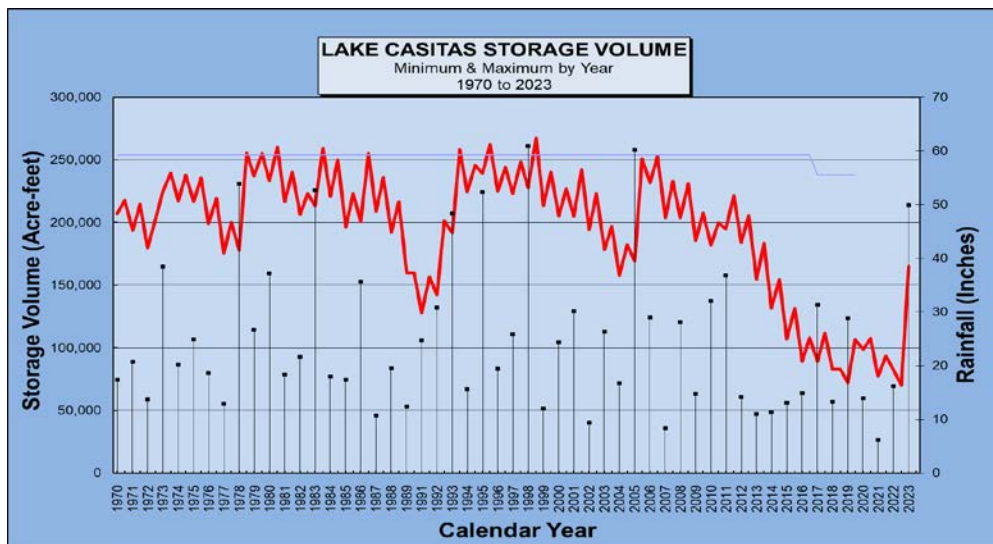
The Upper Ventura River groundwater levels have seen a recovery during the last twelve months. The recent data presented by the Ventura River Water District illustrates that groundwater levels are 21.0 feet above the April 1st static water level average (see April, 2023 VRWD Ground Water Level Chart – Attachment #2). The storage in the Upper Ventura River Basin will continue to allow groundwater pumpers in this basin to minimize their use of Lake Casitas supply over the next twelve months.

The Ojai groundwater basin is a primary water source for the Ojai Valley's urban and agricultural water demands. The basin's groundwater storage increased an approximate 109.62 feet in water elevation recorded at a key well in the basin since November 4, 2022. The Ojai basin Groundwater Management Agency has reported that the Ojai basin has an estimated storage of 77,600 acre-feet (97% capacity) at this same time (See OBGMA Summary Sheet – Attachment #3). This supply should allow groundwater pumpers in this basin to minimize their use of Lake Casitas supply during the next twelve months.

Surface Water Storage

Lake Casitas is the primary source of water supply for the Casitas Municipal Water District. Its construction in the 1950's was as a supplemental supply to local groundwater and as a primary source for areas that do not have groundwater. Figure 1 presents the annual high-low water storage fluctuations that Lake Casitas has experienced since 1970. Lake Casitas storage was last at full storage capacity in May 2006 and has since been in a declining storage trend due to drought conditions, evaporation, environmental conditions, and water use. This year has shown a sharp reversal of that trend.

Figure 1 – Lake Casitas Storage Volume and Annual Rainfall Trend (1970 to April 2023)



On January 1, 2018, Casitas officially changed the storage table based on a bathymetric survey conducted at Lake Casitas. The volume stored at each designated percentage specified in the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program (WEAP) is changed to reflect the data provided by the bathymetric survey as follows:

Table 2 – WEAP Stages and Lake Casitas Volumes

Stage	<u>Stage 1</u>	<u>Stage 2</u>	<u>Stage 3</u>	<u>Stage 4</u>	<u>Stage 5</u>
Percent Storage	100%	50%	40%	30%	25%
Volume (Acre-feet)	237,975	118,988	95,190	71,393	59,494

WATER DEMAND

In FY 2013-14, the Casitas water demands from Lake Casitas reached 20,417 acre-feet, while Lake Casitas was still in a Stage 1 condition. In April 2014, the State’s Drought Emergency Declaration raised the public awareness to the on-going drought throughout California, the severe conditions in the State Water Project, and the growing scarcity of water for agriculture and communities statewide.

In April 2015, Lake Casitas storage declined to fifty percent of its storage capacity and the Casitas Board of Directors declared that a Stage 2 condition existed for the Lake Casitas supply. In doing so, the Board of Directors initiated Stage 2 mandatory water demand reduction requirements with the further adoption of a revised Water Efficiency and Allocation Plan (WEAP). A key element of the WEAP was the assignment of individual water allocations for residential, commercial and agricultural beneficial water uses, and the assignment of a conservation penalty for water use that was in exceedance of the assigned water allocation.

In June 2016, the Casitas Board of Directors declared that a Stage 3 condition existed as Lake Casitas continued to decline to 100,000 acre-feet of water in storage. The Stage 3 declaration implemented a conservation penalty of \$5.00 per unit and limited the supply available for new water use to 10 acre-feet per fiscal year.

In April 2017, the Casitas Board of Directors continued the Stage 3 declaration, pending possible further decline of Lake Casitas storage to a Stage 4 level.

From December 2018 through February 2019, the Casitas Board of Directors considered the possibility of a Stage 4 declaration but decided to forego the declaration based on the strong conservation response from the community (near a Stage 5 level) combined with rainfall that added significant supply volume to Lake Casitas in early 2019.

Early April 2020 saw a moderate set of storms allowing Lake Casitas storage levels to remain above 105,000 Acre-Feet, however a Stage 3 declaration was left in place for the 2021 Fiscal Year.

The 2021 Fiscal Year water demands were 13,404 Acre-Feet, an increase of 3,604 Acre-Feet over the Fiscal Year 2020 demand coupled with the lowest local rainfall amounts in more than fifty years. The Stage 3 declaration was left in place for the 2022 Fiscal Year.

During the 2022 Fiscal Year, water demands were 12,067 Acre-Feet, a decrease of 1,337 Acre-Feet. The water year had started out promising with significant rainfall in December 2022 but led to a dry winter/spring. The Stage 3 declaration was left in place for the 2023 Fiscal Year.

At this time, Fiscal Year 2023 demands are down by 2,295 Acre-Feet as compared to the same time in Fiscal Year 2022 with demands expected to reach only 9,700 Acre-Feet by June 30, 2023.

Water Demand Response

A critical function of the WEAP is to manage water supplies in such a manner that prevents Lake Casitas from reaching a minimum pool condition through the implementation of water demand response measures – the assignment of individual water allocations and the implementation of a conservation penalty for water use in excess of the allocation.

Since FY 2013-14, the demand on the Lake Casitas supply continued to decline through the 2020 Fiscal Year (Table 3) in response to the WEAP, water resource changes by large customers, and the heightened customer awareness of water resource conditions. The dry Fiscal Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 saw a significant increase in demands. Estimates for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 indicate a continuation of efforts to reduce water use from Lake Casitas which will be, at least partially, attributable to abundant rainfall in the December 2022 through April 2023 period. (Note that the amounts in Table 3 are registered at the Marion Walker Treatment Plant and will differ from amounts reported on the District’s Monthly Consumption Reports).

Table 3 – Water Deliveries from the Lake Casitas Supply

Fiscal Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (Est.)
Lake Casitas Water Deliveries (AF)	20,417	17,339	15,662	13,200	12,322	9,340	8,802	12,460	11,301	9,000
% below 2013-14 Delivery	0	15	23	35	40	55	57	39	45	56
Declared Stage	1	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Since Fiscal Year 2016, Lake Casitas water demand has remained below the current Stage 3 demand reduction target of 16,736 Acre-Feet. The targeted goals for each WEAP Stage are listed in Table 4.

Table 4 – WEAP Targeted Demand Reduction Goals per Stage (Based of FY 1989-1990 Lake Casitas Demand of 23,909 Acre-Feet)

	Stage 1 20% Voluntary	Stage 2 20% Mandatory	Stage 3 30% Mandatory	Stage 4 40% Mandatory	Stage 5 50% Mandatory
Demand Reduction Goal (in Acre-Feet)	19,127	19,127	16,736	14,345	11,955

Supply and Demand Analysis

In consideration of an April 2023 start point of approximately 165,000 Acre-feet of storage in Lake Casitas, applying 2013 evaporation, no runoff additions to storage, and comparing three rates of water demands, Figure 2 illustrates the time for Lake Casitas to reach a particular level for the following estimated water demands:

1. A demand of **9,000 Acre-Feet/Year** reflects the estimated 2023 Fiscal Year Lake Casitas demand (middle line).
2. A demand of **8,100 Acre-Feet/Year** reflects a 10% reduction in the estimated 2023 Fiscal Year Lake Casitas demand (top line).
3. A demand of **9,900 Acre-Feet/Year** reflects a 10% increase in the estimated 2023 Fiscal Year Lake Casitas demand (bottom line).

Figure 2 illustrates that with the given demand rates, 2013 evaporation, with no additional rainfall and runoff, Lake Casitas would reach Stage 2 levels in 26 to 30 months, and Stage 3 levels in 42 to 48 months.

Given the conditions noted above, Figure 2 illustrates that Lake Casitas could decline to approximately a 150,000 Acre-Foot capacity by December of 2023.

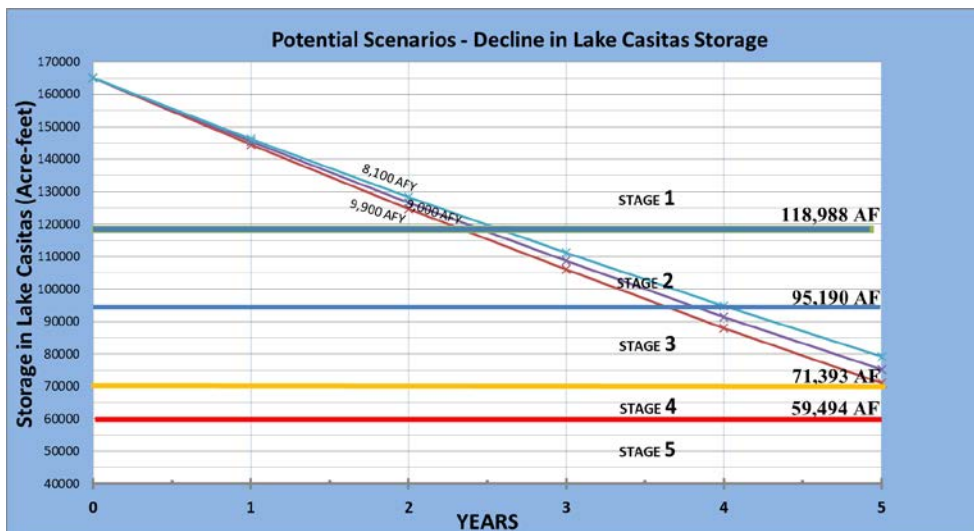


Figure 2 – Hypothetical Decline in Lake Casitas Storage with No Rainfall or Runoff; 2013 Evaporation Rate Every Year; Starting Storage at 165,000 Acre-Feet.

Conservation Penalty

The District has implemented a conservation penalty for water use in excess of the individual customer's Staged allocation. The funds resulting from the conservation penalty are to be applied toward new water supply projects and the water conservation efforts of the District.

In September 2015, and for the remainder of FY 2015-16, the residential water used in excess of the monthly allocation was billed as a conservation penalty at the rate of \$1.00 per unit. Effective July 1, 2016, and continued until the present, the conservation penalty was increased to \$5.00 per unit.

Growth

The service area of the District is experiencing extremely slow growth. Most requests that Casitas receives are related to expansions of residential housing construction. The slow growth rate is indicative of the information illustrated in Table 5. During the past eleven years, Casitas has installed 32 meters and issued 36.07 acre-feet of water allocation. On the average, three meters have been installed per year and new or additional allocation assignments have averaged 3.28 acre-feet per year.

Table 5 – Water Service and Allocation Assignments by Casitas (CY 2012-2022)

Calendar Year	No. of Meters Issued	Allocation Issued (AF)
2012	3	2.22
2013	1	1.88
2014	6	9.85
2015	1	1.27
2016	3	2.08
2017	3	5.54
2018	0	0
2019	6	6.92
2020	3	1.49
2021	4	3.77
2022	2	1.05
Total	32	36.07
Average	3	3.28

4. WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY AND PROGRAMS CURRENTLY IN PLACE

Management Priorities of Casitas Municipal Water District (Resolution No. 93-12)

On March 10th, 1993, the Casitas Board of Directors resolved by Resolution No. 93-12 (1) that Casitas shall manage Lake Casitas and its water supplies so that it can provide back up to other water systems and meet its direct customer demands during droughts.

Water Conservation Program - 1992

Since 1992, Casitas has actively assisted water customers throughout the district with fixture retrofits, irrigation surveys, residential and institutional water use surveys, provision of water conservation materials to local schools, public workshops and presentations on a wide variety of water conservation topics, public messaging, and financing assistance for water well improvements. The Water Conservation Program has partnered with other Ventura County agencies to obtain grants for additional water conservation measures. The Water Conservation Department has also adjusted staffing levels as needed during drought to provide increased customer assistance with meeting conservation targets.

Water Waste Prohibition Ordinance (Ordinance 22-01)

This Ordinance established water waste prohibitions and identified actions against violations of the Ordinance. Casitas staff has been actively engaged with the public reports of water waste.

Water Efficiency and Allocation Program (WEAP)

The WEAP is the key water management tool for long-term drought response and water demand. The WEAP was originally adopted by the Board of Directors in January 1992 and most-recently revised in March 2023. A critical element of the WEAP implementation is to cause water demands to be commensurate to the declared Water Shortage Stage of Lake Casitas.

State of California Drought and Conservation Measures

On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown lifted the January 17, 2014 drought declaration, leaving in place water waste prohibitions and requirements for continuing development of urban and agricultural water use standards to promote continued water conservation (Executive Order B-40-17).

In spring 2021, Governor Newsom proclaimed a drought emergency existed in portions of the State; and by October 2021 expanded the drought proclamation to include all 58 counties in California. In response, the SWRCB developed emergency water use regulations prohibiting wasteful water uses that took effect in January 2022. While most of the SWRCB emergency prohibitions were already adopted and implemented in Casitas' existing waste of water ordinance, Casitas adopted an updated Ordinance 22-01 to reflect all of the SWRCB recent water use prohibitions.

In March 2022, Governor Newsom released Executive Order N-7-22 directing the SWRCB to develop regulations for urban water suppliers to enact, at a minimum, Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans and to define "non-functional" turf and ban the irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial and institutional sectors.

On March 24, 2023, in response to improved Statewide water supply conditions, Governor Newsom released Executive Order N-5-23 ending the requirement that local water agencies implement Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans, but maintained that the SWRCB consider a ban of irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial and institutional sectors. The recent executive order preserves current emergency orders focused on groundwater supply where effects of the multi-year drought are still experienced and retains a state of emergency in all 58 counties to allow for drought response and recovery efforts to continue.

In response to the Governor's directives last year (Executive Order N-7-22), the SWRCB adopted regulations banning use of potable water for irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial,

and institutional sectors. To maintain consistency with State conservation regulations, Casitas MWD adopted Resolution 2022-30 which is set to expire on June 10, 2023 unless the SWRCB determines it is no longer necessary or the SWRCB renews the regulation. Staff will monitor the SWRCB regulations and return to the Board after the SWRCB decides on whether to terminate or renew the regulation banning irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial and institutional sectors.

Water Security Projects

The Casitas Municipal Water District is committed to investigating and implementing opportunities to further secure its water supply.

State Water Interties – The Casitas Municipal Water District is monitoring the development of the infrastructure needed for the direct and exchange drought-protection use of the State Water Project water supplies of Casitas, Calleguas MWD, the City of Ventura, and United WCD. This is an opportunity for regional collaboration to address common water supply reliability needs of the entirety of Ventura County. Participation in this project will require future decisions by the Casitas Board of Directors.

Additionally, Casitas and Carpinteria Valley Water District are pursuing State loan/grant funding to increase the size of a current intertie connection as well as build pump stations to provide the ability to move Casitas' State Water Project water supplies directly into Casitas' system.

The preliminary schedule for final completion of these projects is four to eight years.

Ojai Well Field Rehabilitation – This project restored production of the Ojai Well Field wells and included one replacement well. The replacement well has been drilled and equipped and the well began production during the 2023 Fiscal Year.

Comprehensive Water Resources Plan - In 2019, Casitas hired a consultant to analyze current water resources and develop supply options that will support the continued planning efforts of the District. Casitas' stakeholder input was also collected and the draft plan was released to the public in June 2020.

The Casitas Board of Directors continue to review planned water supplies and in 2022, adopted an important planning milestone by declaring a Casitas System Operational Yield of 15,010 Acre Feet per Year and a Planned Demand of 14,525 Acre-Feet per Year.

5. RECOMMENDED WEAP ACTIONS

The following are the staff recommendations for WEAP actions to be considered for adoption by the Board of Directors at the April 12, 2023 Board Meeting:

Customer Demand Reduction Measures

1. **Adopt a Stage 1 Condition**. The level of Lake Casitas has increased greatly in the first three months of 2023 with the addition of over 93,000 Acre-Feet of water supply. Water demands have also decreased over the last twelve months and are expected to remain far below the

WEAP Stage 2 demand target of approximately 19,127 Acre-Feet per Year. While these two factors bode well for next year's water supply, the District should remain cautious until the local weather pattern plays out over the next twelve months.

2. **Enact Stage 1 voluntary water allocations effective June 1, 2023.** If voluntary demand management by customers results in water use that exceeds Casitas' planned water demands during the course of FY 2023-24, the Board should consider additional demand management measures to ensure goals are met by customers.

The system for allocation assignment and billing should continue until such time that the Board makes a different determination. The Board reviews consumption and hydrology information monthly thus it can respond quickly to changes in customer conservation behavior or water supply conditions.

Penalties and Rates

1. **Effective June 1, 2023, discontinue the Conservation Penalty for water use in excess of allocation.**
2. **Continue planned rates for revenue stabilization and cost of service.** The Board adopted water rates to achieve revenue stabilization and cost of service that became effective July 1, 2017 and continued for the following four Fiscal Years with the final approved adjustment being made in July 2021. In early 2022, the Board has initiated a new cost of service study in order to understand the District's current revenue needs and adjustments to water rates. This study is expected to be completed later in the 2023 calendar year.

Issuance of Additional Allocations

1. **Discontinue an annual allocation limit for new or existing water service connections.**

Communications

1. **Communicate the Stage 1 Condition.** Stage 1 is identified as a "Water Conservation" reflecting voluntary conservation measures. Communications should include:
 - a. While water supply conditions have improved, next winter's hydrology is uncertain and ongoing customer efforts to use water efficiently and preserve water supplies remain important in the event of future dry conditions.
 - b. The public is strongly encouraged to continue efforts to save water, in particular continuing efficient landscape water use and taking advantage of the water conservation opportunities offered by the Casitas.
 - c. Extraordinary conservation actions previously taken on the part of the public to reduce water use in response to drought are encouraged but not mandatory.
 - d. Mandatory water use restrictions may be necessary in future years, should climate conditions return to dry conditions that result in a decline in Lake Casitas water levels;

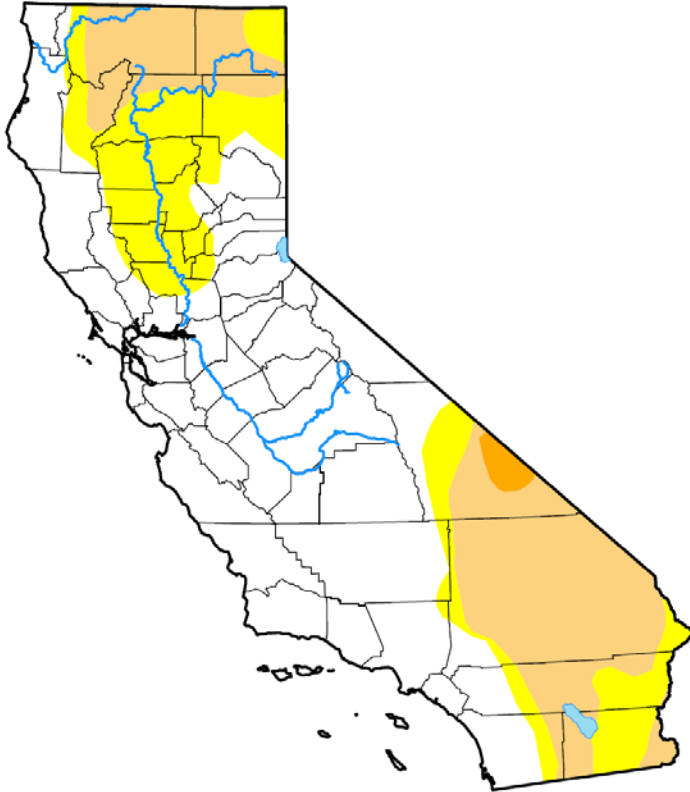
- e. Casitas will continue to enforce its established ordinance prohibiting water waste (Ordinance 22-01).
 - f. The State regulation banning use of potable water for irrigation of non-functional turf for commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors remains in effect.
2. **Continue the public information campaign.** Casitas needs to continue the messaging of local water supply reliability, water security project status, and responsible water use. This can be done through newsletters, website and social media posts, and public workshops.
 3. **Provide regular briefings, publish monthly consumption report.** The billing system provides each customer a monthly status on their water use and the application of conservation penalties. A monthly consumption report is provided to the Board.

ATTACHMENT #1







US Drought Monitor - California

**U.S. Drought Monitor
California**

April 4, 2023
(Released Thursday, Apr. 6, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

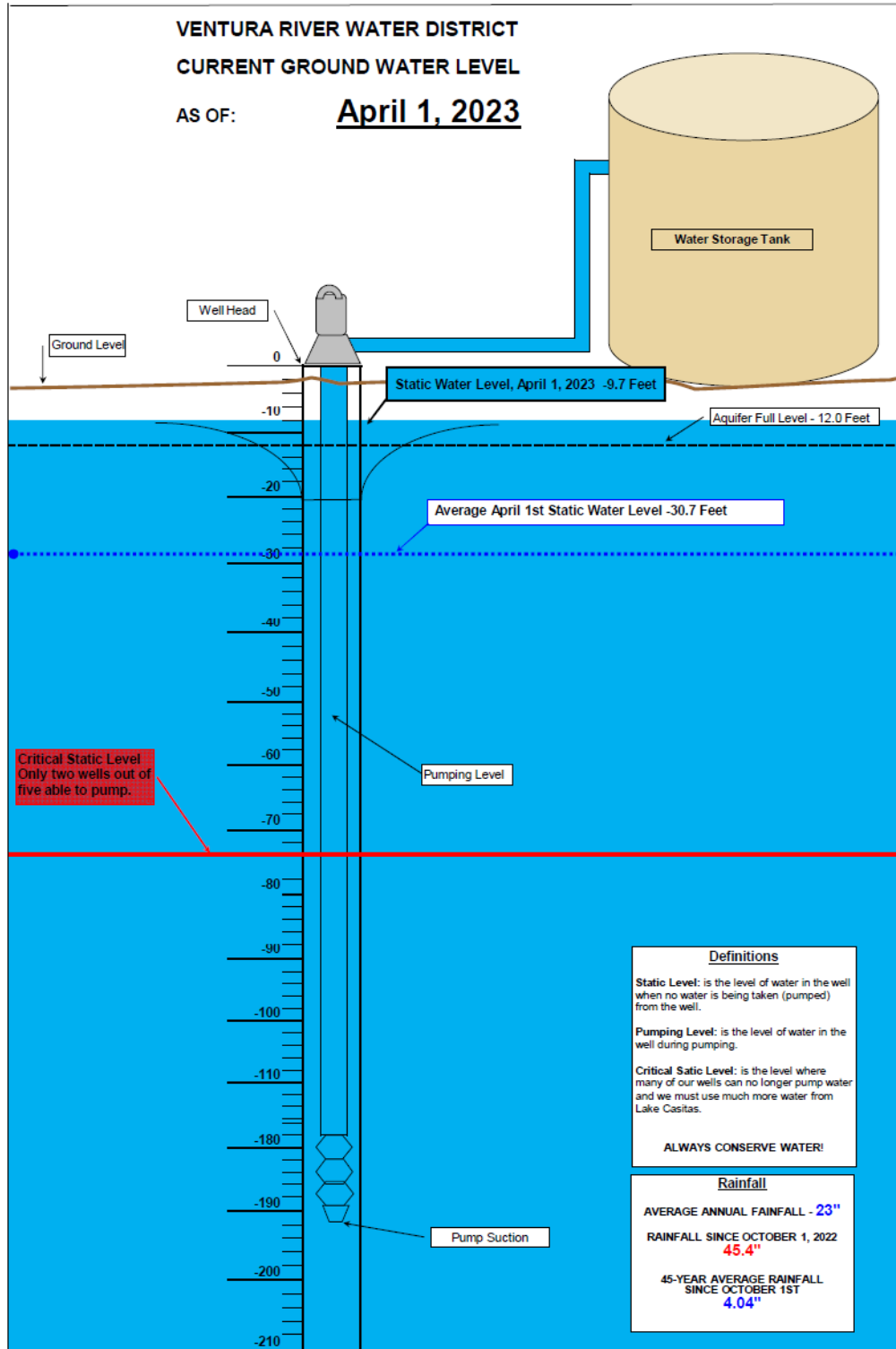
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

ATTACHMENT #2

Ventura River Water District April 1, 2023 "Current Groundwater Level" Graphic



ATTACHMENT #3

**OBGMA March 2023 Summary of Ojai Groundwater Basin Conditions
(from the Basin Status Report of the March 27, 2023 OBGMA Board Meeting)**

Key Well Level (March 2023): 48.13' above mean sea level

Key Well Level (November 2022): 195.97' above mean sea level

Current Basin Volume: 77,600 Acre-Feet; 97% of capacity