

FALL · 2024

CASITAS

NEWSLETTER

General Manager's Corner

Hello:

I am pleased to bring you the Casitas Municipal Water District's Fall newsletter: an update on the District's work to deliver quality service, a more secure water supply and public recreation opportunities.

Water Supply Status:

- The Ventura River Watershed recently experienced two back-to-back extraordinarily wet rainy seasons, raising the level of Lake Casitas from a low of 30% in December 2022 to 100% full in April 2024. Recent months have been both warm and dry with Casitas MWD water demands slightly increasing but remaining well below average. Water supplies at Lake Casitas and local groundwater basins are expected to see typical summer declines but are still significantly high. Customers continued efficient use of water is still necessary to ensure the ability to cope with the next inevitable drought cycle.

Your District At Work:

- Casitas continues to prepare for the next drought through its water security projects. Progress continues on water supply security projects such as the Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties Intertie pipeline with construction expected to begin next year.

Recreation Update:

- The summer season at Lake Casitas Recreation Area has ended, but families still visit on weekends for camping, fishing, and boating. Boaters should stay cautious due to vegetation and debris near the shoreline. Off-season work begins mid-September in Fox campgrounds, improving RV sites, fire rings, and ADA accessibility.

Thank you for your interest in your local water district, serving our community since 1952.



Regards,
Mike Flood, General Manager

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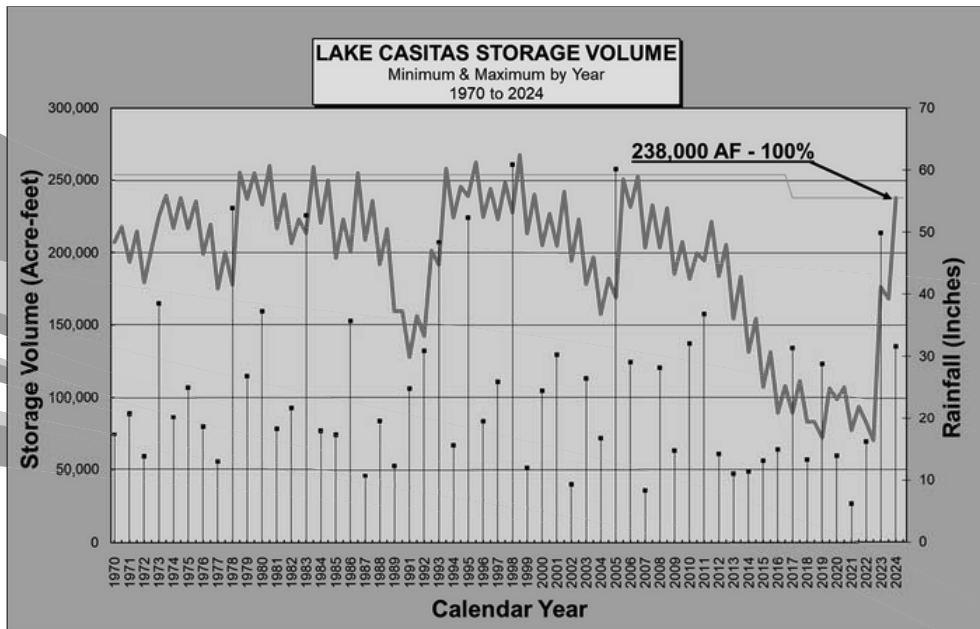


Water Supply Status

The past two rainy seasons brought an extraordinary amount of precipitation and increased water supply. We experienced record-high inflows to the lake with staff working to optimize diversions.

In April 2024, the water level in Lake Casitas reached 238,000 acre-feet or 100% of capacity -- a substantial increase from 30% of capacity in December 2022.

The last time Lake Casitas was at full capacity was 1998. Local groundwater basins experienced remarkable recharge and recovery.



The Ventura River Watershed has cycles of extended drought conditions followed by very wet years that fill Lake Casitas. Lake Casitas has spilled nine times since its construction in 1958.

If you are interested in the current lake levels, daily updates are found here:

www.casitaswater.org/your-water/lake-level



Your District At Work

Casitas looks ahead to continue to meet the water needs of our customers and our community for years to come, we are partnering with the neighboring Carpinteria Valley Water District to connect our two water systems that are only 1.3 miles apart.

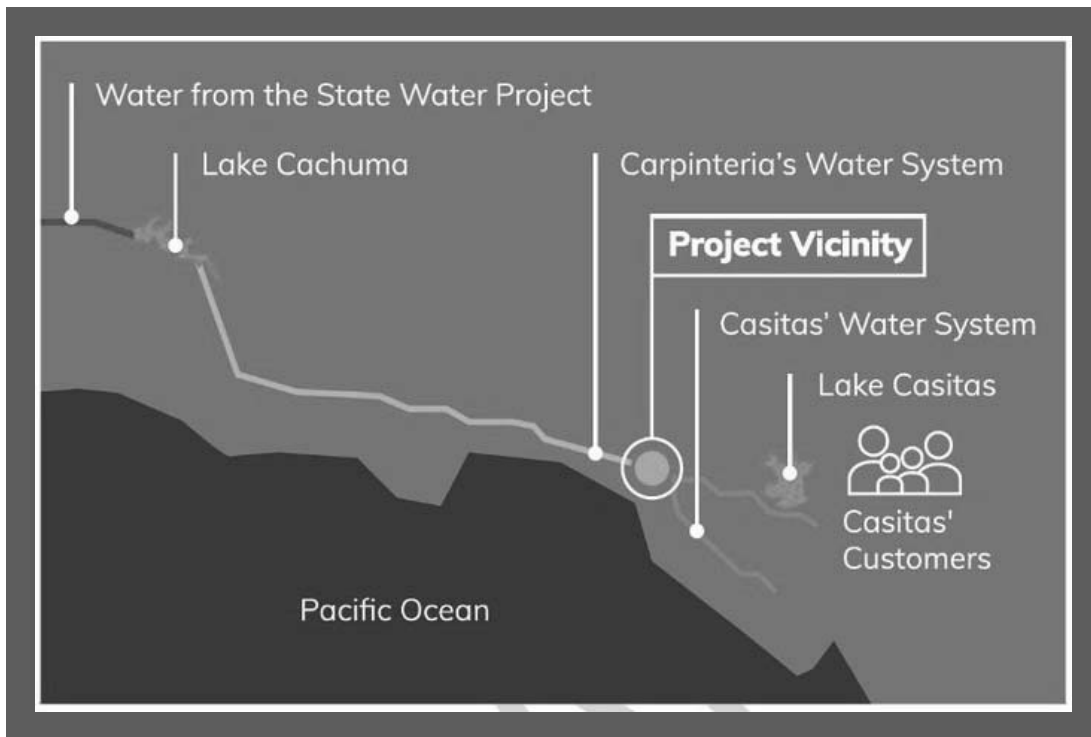
The Ventura-Santa Barbara Intertie Project will allow access to the State Water Project (SWP) – the backbone of California’s water supply.

The Ventura-Santa Barbara Intertie project will provide an average of 2,000 acre-feet per year of water supply to Casitas from the State Water Project.

The bi-directional pipe and two pump stations will also allow each agency to provide the other with water during emergencies such as earthquakes or wildfires.

Project Benefits

1. Protect long-term casitas water supply
2. Mitigate short-term drought risk.
3. Diversify water supply sources.
4. Improve local water management.
5. Increase regional emergency preparedness



Upcoming milestones include: Design complete by December 2024, federal environmental compliance complete by December 2024, agreement with State Water Resources Control Board for funding by December 2025, and construction complete by June 2027.

For more information on completed and in-progress projects, or to sign up for project updates, please visit

www.casitaswater.org/your-district-at-work

Lake Casitas Recreation Area

With a full lake and green scenery, Lake Casitas Recreation Area (LCRA) is the place to visit this year. In addition to camping and fishing, there are attractions for just about everyone. A few examples are the Wadleigh Arm trail for a quiet stroll around the east side of Lake Casitas, the Coyote Point Disc Golf Course which is a beautiful and challenging course overlooking Lake Casitas.

The professionally designed course is set in rugged terrain with concrete tee pads. Plenty of tight shots and elevation changes make every shot imaginable with a few different discs. The Ventura Disc Golf Club maintains the course and hosts the annual Coyote Classic Disc Golf Tournament each fall.



Casitas Water Adventure

Prepare to create an unforgettable summer in 2025 with the grand opening of Casitas Water Adventure's spectacular family entertainment center! Imagine this: not just one, but two versatile rooms, each capable of accommodating up to twenty-five guests, nestled within the thrilling ambiance of our water park.

Whether you're commemorating a special occasion or simply craving a day of excitement, our center guarantees the ideal combination of festivity and aquatic thrills in the Lazy River, and the Splashtacular Mega Play Unit. Join us and create memories that will endure for a lifetime!



For more information, visit
www.casitaswater.org/recreation



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GROUNDWATER ADJUDICATION UPDATE

Casitas is committed to defending the District's water rights on behalf of you, our valued customer.

Several parties have requested a temporary stay in the case to allow a mediation process to occur. A major outcome of mediation has been an order exempting small water users.

The mediation initially included discussions among local parties and has recently extended to discussions with the State agencies, which include the State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. While progress has been made through the mediation process, the parties continue to work through several issues due to the highly technical and complex nature of the case.

In the most recent Court hearing on May 3, 2024, all of the major parties in the mediation effort requested an extension of the stay to allow the mediation process to continue. The Santa Barbara Channelkeeper organization objected to the length of the stay and pushed to bring the case back into litigation, which would eliminate the progress made by the mediation parties working together outside of the Court.

Casitas believes mediation continues to be the most efficient and cost-effective path forward to resolution of a lawsuit. The Court ordered a stay until November 27, 2024 to allow for mediation to continue. The adjudication process may take several years to resolve, and Casitas is focused on an outcome based on the best science and an effective long-term management structure.

All of Casitas' court filings are publicly available on our website:

www.casitaswater.org/your-district-www.casitaswater.org/ventura-river-watershed-adjudication-work

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come see us at Ojai Day!
October 19th, 10 am to 5PM

E-NOTIFICATIONS

Receive e-notifications for:

RFP/Bidding Jobs
District Updates
Public Works Contracts
Board Meetings
Newsletter

www.casitaswater.org/e-notifications