

Free Landscape Class

Please join us for our last free water conservation workshop for this year. Learn more about how you can save water and money. The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 8, 2015.

💧 **Rainwater Capture and Graywater** – Learn how to install a small scale system that meets all county health and safety requirements.

Please RSVP early at rmerckling@casitaswater.com or (805) 649-2251 Extension 118.

Workshops will be held at Oak View Park & Resource Center (formerly the Oak View Elementary School) located at 555 Mahoney Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to park in the parking lots instead of on the street.



The Casitas Speakers Bureau: Provides an opportunity for customers and the community to learn more about water issues in the Western Ventura County area. Please contact Ron Merckling, Water Conservation and Public Affairs Manager, 805-649-2251, extension 118, to invite a speaker to your next community group or organizational meeting.



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

Your Board in Action
 Bill Hicks, Division I
 James W. Word, Division II
 Pete Kaiser, Division III
 Mary Bergen, Division IV
 Russ Baggerly, Division V
 The Casitas Board of Directors is scheduled to meet at 3:00 p.m. in the board room located in the main office at 1055 Ventura Ave., Oak View, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month.

Join the Casitas Municipal Water District Facebook page to get the latest updates on water conservation and the Lake Casitas Recreation Area at: www.facebook.com/fbsitecasitasmunicipalwaterdistrict.



1055 Ventura Ave.
 Oak View, CA 93022
 805-649-2251
www.casitaswater.org



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CASITAS WATER NEWS

Summer 2015

Historic Drought Continues

The Casitas Board declared a Stage II condition for the Lake Casitas water supply in April 2015. Local groundwater and Lake Casitas water levels declined to historic lows not seen in fifty years. It is critical all residents, businesses, and institutions in Western Ventura County take extra measures to conserve water now and into the future.

Conserving water now can prolong water supplies for the future. Water savings measures are now mandatory per the State of California, Casitas Ordinances, and other local water agencies' requirements.



Lake Casitas - at historic lows

State Mandated Water Reductions

The State has proclaimed a state of emergency based on the current drought conditions and enacted emergency regulations to prevent the waste and unreasonable use of water. The regulations are aimed at reducing urban water use to the State's goal of 55 gallons per capita per day (GPCD) and now water agencies throughout California are required to implement efforts to significantly reduce all urban water use. For most residential, business, and institutional customers this means significant outdoor water use reductions compared to each month in 2013.

use reduction requirements vary for each water agency. The State required greater reductions for agencies with customers using higher gallons per capita day water usage. The table at the right indicates the mandated water reduction requirements from 2013 water use.

The State goal of 55 GPCD means that a family of four will use 9 units of water each month. Residential customers that use less than 10 units on their monthly bill have met the State's goal and are doing a great job on water conservation. However, for customers that

use substantially more than 10 units each month, it is expected water conservation will primarily come from reducing outdoor watering of landscapes.

State Mandated Water Demand Reductions

Water Agency	% of Water Reduction	Gallons Per Capita Day Use
Casitas MWD	32%	182.9
City of Ventura	16%	91.3
Golden State Water Co. Ojai	36%	261
Small Water Agencies (Ventura River Water District, Meiners Oaks Water Agency, local Mutual Water Companies)	25%	

The State mandated water

Casitas' Board Adopts New Water Allocation Plan

Casitas' Board of Directors approved a revised Water Efficiency and Allocation Program on June 5, 2015. The Program implements Casitas' water demand reduction measures based on storage levels in Lake Casitas. The program describes water demand reduction strategies and measures to address water shortage conditions, promote water conservation and water efficiency, and the creation of a conservation penalty to customers wasting water. A key revision in the program includes



methods to assign individual allocations to Casitas' customers.

The allocations were designed to be fair and not require unreasonable cutbacks from those who already conserve. They will provide customers with the necessary amount of water to meet public health and safety. They also take into account property variations and provide additional amounts of water for seasonal landscape needs.



Water Wasters Subject to Fines

No one likes to get a fine and Casitas' staff takes no pleasure in giving them. The seriousness of the drought now makes it necessary to issue fines to prevent water waste so we can protect the limited local water supply. Casitas' Water Waste Ordinance states that a first violation will result in a written warning. Subsequent violations will incur fines up to \$600, for each incident.



Report Water Waste

Casitas' staff depends on the public to assist us with getting everyone to stop wasting our local water supplies. If you see anyone violating any of the Casitas water waste provisions, please call our hotline at (805) 649-2251 extension 128 or visit our website at www.casitaswater.org and complete an anonymous reporting form. Please be sure to include the address of water waste; date and time of water waste; if possible please send a photo; and type of water waste from the list below:

unless requested by the customer

- ◆ Restaurants must use water saving dish wash spray valves
- ◆ Hotels and motels must give guests the option to decline daily bed linen and towel changes
- ◆ Keep irrigation runoff from spilling on to streets and sidewalks
- ◆ Use a hose nozzle shut-offs at all times when cleaning vehicles or hand watering landscapes
- ◆ Sweep, don't wash sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas with a hose except for safety and sanitary reasons
- ◆ No irrigation during, or 48 hours after, rainfall.
- ◆ Outdoor irrigation limited to two days per week. No outdoor irrigation from 10 am to 6 pm
- ◆ Leaks must be fixed by property owners within a reasonable time period (usually 48 hours)
- ◆ Fountains and water features must have a recirculating water system
- ◆ Restaurants must not serve drinking water

Choose to Save More









Take extra steps to conserve and save thousands of gallons each year. Several suggestions include:

- ◆ Let your turf go brown or replace water-thirsty turf with water smart landscape
- ◆ Use mulch around plants to prevent evaporation
- ◆ Turn off the faucet when shaving, brushing teeth and scrubbing dishes
- ◆ Run full loads of laundry and dishes
- ◆ Take shorter showers, five minutes or less
- ◆ Install efficient fixtures and appliances – Look for rebates on Casitas' website
- ◆ Talk to your family, friends and coworkers


Check out the websites: www.casitaswater.org and www.h2ouse.org for additional suggestions on water savings.

WHAT DOES A 20% REDUCTION in water use look like?

OUTDOOR WATER USE
The average Californian uses 196 gallons of water per day and 30-60% of their water outdoors. Here are some easy outdoor tips to reduce water use. Find the right combination for you to reduce by 20% or 38 gallons a day.

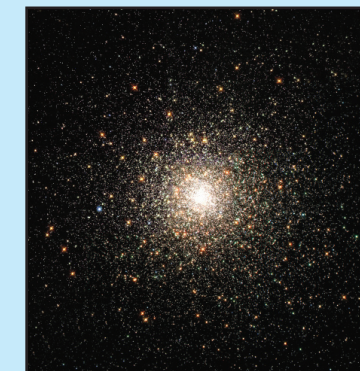
 <p>USE A BROOM TO CLEAN OUTDOOR AREAS saves 8-18 GALLONS per minute</p>	 <p>ADJUST SPRINKLER TO WATER PLANTS, NOT DRIVEWAY saves 12-15 GALLONS each time you water</p>
 <p>USE MULCH ON SOIL SURFACE saves 20-30 GALLONS per 1,000 sq. ft. each time</p>	 <p>WATER PLANTS EARLY IN THE AM saves 25 GALLONS each time you water</p>
 <p>SET MOWER BLADE TO 3" (ENCOURAGES DEEPER ROOTS) saves 16-50 GALLONS per day</p>	 <p>PLANT DROUGHT-RESISTANT TREES AND PLANTS saves 30-60 GALLONS per 1,000 sq. ft. each time</p>
 <p>INSTALL DRIP-IRRIGATION saves 15 GALLONS each time you water</p>	 <p>INSTALL A "SMART" CONTROLLER saves 24+ GALLONS per day</p>

For more tips on reducing water use, visit www.casitaswater.org or www.h2ouse.org



The Return of Astronomy Nights at Lake Casitas

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



Everyone is welcome. Park entrance fees apply. You may want to bring your blanket or lawn chair.

- Meet at Picnic #1 by Santa Ana Launch Ramp, Event starts at 8:30 pm:
- ◆ **Saturday, June 27** - "New Moon and Venus"
 - ◆ **Saturday July 18** - "Saturn, Lord of the Rings"
 - ◆ **Saturday, August 15** - "Summer Milky Way and Scorpion's Stinger"
 - ◆ **Saturday, September 5** - "Farewell to Summer"
 - ◆ **Sunday, September 27** - "Blood Moon Solar Eclipse"