



## **Casitas Municipal Water District Agricultural Low Interest Loan Program Guidelines and Requirements**

**Purpose:** Casitas Agricultural Low Interest Loan Program was created to encourage greater water efficiency in agriculture. The program is designed to finance Casitas' agricultural customers' water conservation projects aimed at decreasing Casitas' long-term water demands. Through this program, Casitas sponsors loans that are issued by the Ojai Community Bank to Casitas' agriculture customers to purchase and install more efficient irrigation equipment or to provide for well rehabilitations or installations.

**Funding:** In July of 2007, Casitas deposited \$100,000 with the Ojai Community Bank to initiate this loan program. The minimum loan amount per Agricultural Customer is for \$5,000 and the maximum loan amount is for \$25,000. Loans may not exceed 100% of the project costs.

Casitas shall not be liable for any failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a loan, or any failure to make any payments or any other losses or expenses that occur directly or indirectly from the program.

An applicant may only have one active application at any given time. A person shall not receive approval of an application if a previous loan under the program is in default.

Casitas reserves the right to accept or deny any application.

### **Project Selection Criteria**

#### **Agricultural applicants must meet the following criteria:**

1. A Casitas agricultural customer.
2. A minimum credit rating of 650 plus a no greater than 50% debt to income ratio.
3. Project cannot result in greater water demand upon Casitas or local ground water sources.
4. Project cannot expand total number of acres planted.
5. Project must be within Casitas' District boundaries.

#### **The following priorities will be used to evaluate applications but Casitas may choose to use additional priorities:**

1. Highest priority given to applicant proposing the greatest reduction in number of gallons of demanded from Casitas annually.
2. Highest priority will be given to applicants that currently use on average greater than 3 acre-feet of Casitas' water per acre per year.
3. Projects with greatest life expectancy will be given greater weight.
4. Applicants will be given higher priority if they participated in Casitas' Distribution Uniformity Evaluation Program.
5. Projects that require the least amount of dollars per units of water saved.
6. Project readiness.
7. Share of non-Casitas funds contributed to project costs (in-kind contributions, grants, or personal dollars invested).
8. Project feasibility.