



Casitas Newsletter

Spring 2026

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The 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

After a very wet December, the Ventura River Watershed experienced a very dry remainder of the rainy season in 2026. Water supplies remain high, with Lake Casitas having a small spill event in March 2026, and it remains at 100% full with some continued diversions. The dry months of early 2026 remind us that the next drought cycle is always just around the corner.

Your District At Work

Casitas is always managing its water supplies and working to make improvements for future droughts through its water security projects. These projects include the Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties Intertie pipeline with construction expected to begin in 2026. This project will allow access to the District's imported water supply from the State Water Project for the first time since it was originally contracted in 1971.

Recreation Area

The Lake Casitas Recreation Area has completed a series of facility upgrades surrounding the Casitas Water Adventure during the off-season. These improvements include enhancements to existing amenities and the addition of new features designed to make your visit more enjoyable. Plan your next getaway and discover everything the Recreation Area has to offer.

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



Regards,
Mike Flood, General Manager



WATER SUPPLY STATUS: Lake Casitas 100% of Capacity

Early rains in the 2026 season brought an extraordinary amount of precipitation that filled Lake Casitas to its full 238,000 acre-foot capacity* in April 2026. Casitas groundwater wells also experienced significant recharge and recovery.

The Ventura Watershed has cycles of drought following very wet years, and the 2026 season started wet but was followed by very dry conditions for the rest of the season.

Continued customer water conservation efforts will be important in making this abundant supply last through the coming years.

**The initial design capacity of 250,000 AF is currently 238,000 AF due to sedimentation over time.*



For current lake levels and daily updates , visit: www.casitaswater.org/lake-level

Groundwater Wells: Ojai Groundwater Basin at 95% Full

Casitas operates seven water wells in the Ventura River Watershed, with the majority being in the Ojai Groundwater Basin. Water supply for Casitas' Ojai System contains approximately 80% groundwater, with the balance coming from Lake Casitas.

Heavy rainfall in December added significant supply to the Ojai Basin, with current groundwater levels at 95% of the basin's full capacity after hitting the 99% full mark in April of 2025.

The District's wells in the Ojai Groundwater basin have seen a reduction in pumping levels recently as the dry January-April portion of the rainy season caused a reduction in recharge rates.

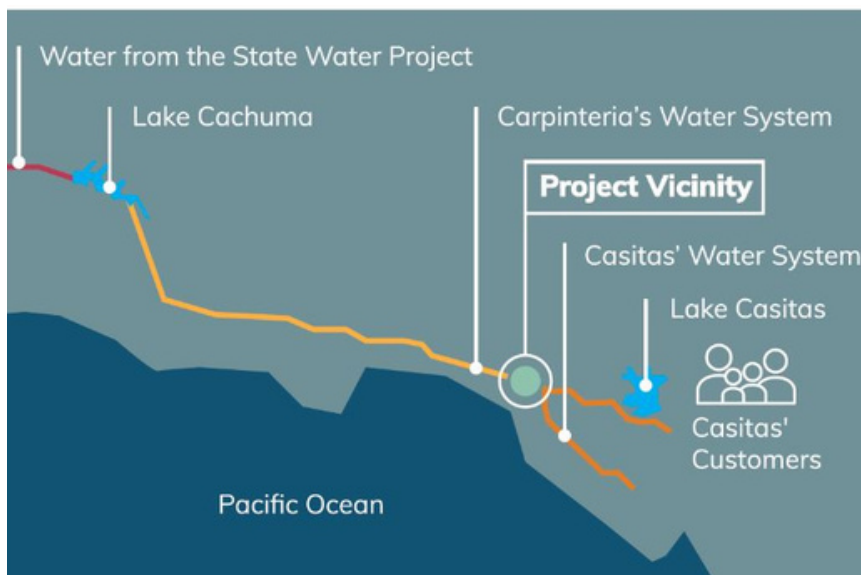
More information on groundwater levels in the Ojai Groundwater Basin can be found at: www.obgma.com

YOUR DISTRICT AT WORK

VTA/SB Intertie Update

The Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie includes an interconnection pipeline to the Carpinteria Valley Water District, two booster pump stations, and improvements to existing pipelines. The project will provide Casitas with access to State Water Project water to improve resiliency in times of emergency.

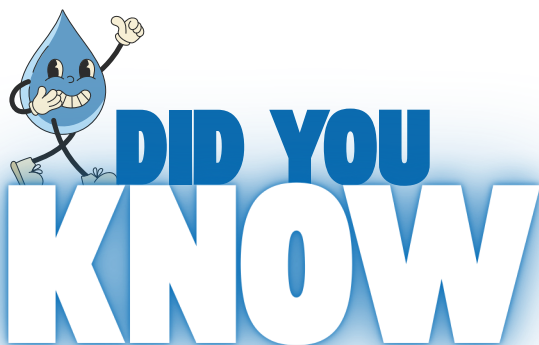
Construction was awarded to Mountain Cascade, Inc in December 2025, and construction is expected to continue through 2026. One interesting aspect of the work is a 16-inch pipeline installed using a trenchless construction method called horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The HDD portion of the pipeline will stretch across the Ventura – Santa Barbara County border, under agricultural land, Highway 150, Rincon Creek, and Highway 192.



Casitas/Ojai System Consolidation

Casitas is also pursuing grant funding for the Casitas/Ojai System Consolidation, which includes additional water treatment facilities, pipelines, a pump plant, and a tank in the Ojai System. Portions of the Ojai System will be taken out of service, as well. These projects will enable Casitas to operate these systems as one entity, rather than two, and streamline operations and regulatory reporting.

For more information, visit: www.casitaswater.org/your-district-at-work



During the severe drought in 2016, the remnants of the Santa Ana School were exposed. The school served the local community throughout the 1950s before the site was transformed into a man-made reservoir.

LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA

Recreation Update

As our offseason projects near completion, we are gearing up for another vibrant summer season at Lake Casitas. Whether you're camping, walking, hiking, biking, playing pickleball, enjoying a round of disc golf, fishing from the lake, shoreline, or docks, or cooling off in the Lazy River or on one of five slides at the Casitas Water Adventure, there's truly something here for everyone.

No matter how you choose to spend your day, you'll find plenty of opportunities to relax and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds Lake Casitas.

Off-Season Improvements

Throughout the offseason, Lake Casitas Recreation Area staff focused on maintenance projects and targeted facility enhancements, particularly around the Santa Ana parking area and the Casitas Water Adventure.

Key Improvements Include:

- Santa Ana Parking Area:
 - The parking area received a fresh slurry seal to extend pavement life and improve visitor safety. This project was funded primarily by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).
- Marina Café Restrooms:
 - Restrooms near the Marina Café were refreshed with new paint and updated plumbing fixtures.
- Casitas Water Adventure Enhancements:
 - The attraction now features an improved picnic area, upgraded cabana space, and a brand-new Clubhouse building designed for parties, events, and staff trainings.

We appreciate your patience as these improvements were completed. Our team remains committed to making Lake Casitas a safe, enjoyable, and memorable destination for all visitors.

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



THE CLUBHOUSE

**AT CASITAS WATER ADVENTURE
IS THE PLACE FOR YOUR NEXT PARTY!**

Whether you're hosting a small gathering up to 15 guests or a larger celebration with up to 40 guests, we've got you covered. We'll help coordinate and arrange the setup—so there's no cooking and no cleanup for you.

Call Guest Services To Reserve 805-649-1122





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VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED ADJUDICATION Trial Set for June 2026



Casitas MWD submitted a plan to the Court in January, known as a Physical Solution, that the District believes will help bring an end to this costly litigation. Judge Highberger (the judge in the case) set a trial date for June 1, 2026, to consider the trying of evidence and facts in the case. It is not known at this time if Casitas' plan will be considered by the court during this trial.

Background on the Ventura River Watershed Adjudication case can be found on Casitas' website at:
www.casitaswater.org/ventura-river-watershed-adjudication

Connect With Us!

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