



Casitas Newsletter

Fall 2026

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 wet start to the year, the Ventura River Watershed experienced a very dry remainder of the rainy season in 2026. Water supplies remain high, with some diversions through the Spring. After a few years of abundant rainfall in 2023 and 2024, 2025 and 2026 show the boom/bust rainfall cycle is still with us.

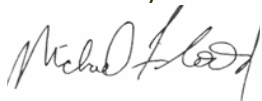
Your District At Work

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. Construction started in March 2026 on the intertie pipeline. 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 and allow Casitas and our partner, Carpinteria Valley Water District, to provide water to each other during emergencies.

Recreation Area

The Lake Casitas Recreation Area has shown its popularity after a few years of off-season renovations. The newest addition, the Clubhouse at the Casitas Water Adventure, has been one of those popular spots. Adjacent to the waterpark, the Clubhouse combines a large space for gatherings with waterpark fun. 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

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WATER SUPPLY STATUS

Lake Casitas 96% of Capacity

Early rains in the 2026 season brought an extraordinary amount of precipitation that filled Lake Casitas to its full capacity in April 2026. Casitas' groundwater wells also experienced significant recharge and recovery.

The Ventura River 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.

This boom/bust rain cycle in the watershed highlights the continued importance of customer water conservation efforts that allow Casitas to stretch its water supply during the driest times.



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

Ojai Groundwater Basin at 88% 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.

The heavy rainfall in December and early January continued to keep the Ojai Basin groundwater levels high, measuring 88% full at the end of July.

More information on groundwater levels, visit: www.obgma.com



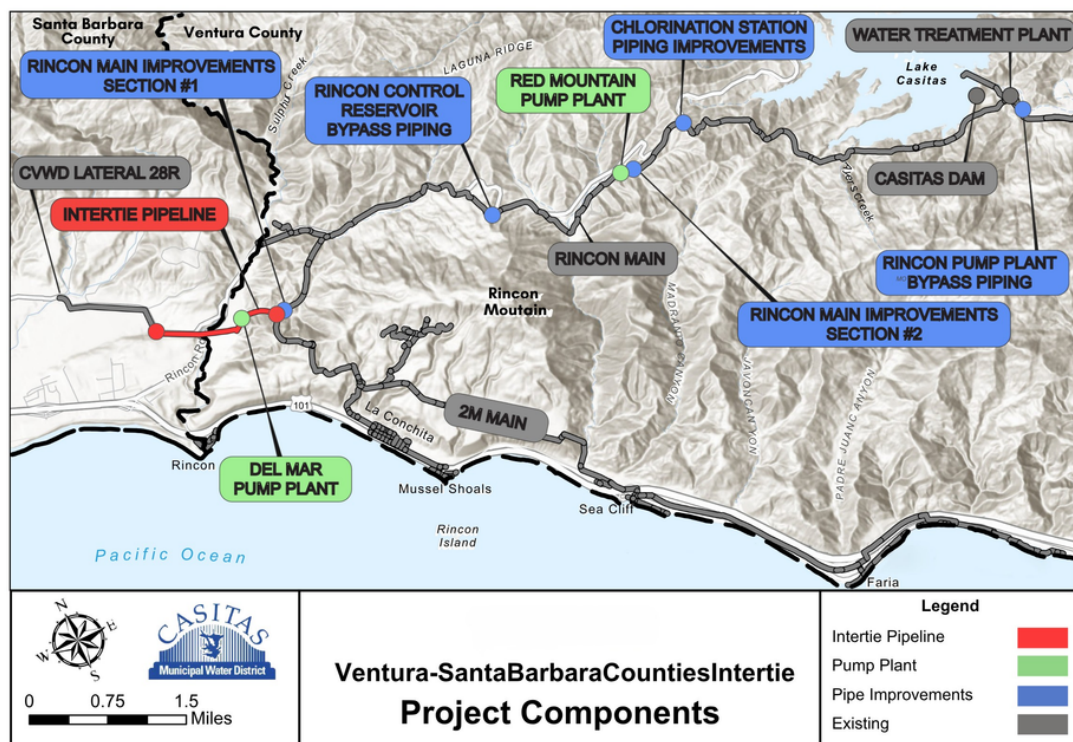
YOUR DISTRICT AT WORK

VTa/SB Intertie Update

Construction on this significant water supply and emergency response project started in March 2026. The intertie pipeline connecting to Carpinteria Valley Water District is underway and is expected to be completed by December 2026.

Other improvements to existing Casitas facilities are also underway, specifically the bypass piping needed when water is supplied from the Santa Barbara County side of project.

Two pump stations will also be constructed. Casitas has received grant and loan funding from several state and federal agencies for the project including California Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation.



Casitas/Ojai System Consolidation

The grant agreement to provide funding for the Casitas/Ojai System Consolidation is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

Upon execution of the agreement, design of multiple improvements will commence including, additional water treatment facilities, pipelines, a pump plant, and a tank in the Ojai System.

These projects will enable Casitas to operate these systems as one entity, rather than two, and streamline operations and regulatory reporting.

These new water facilities will allow for the removal of other facilities that are past their useful service life from the system.

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



LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA

Recreation Update

As summer begins to wind down at the Lake Casitas Recreation Area, the pace of activity gradually changes. Campsites become less occupied, the Casitas Water Adventure begins to quiet down, pickleball courts see fewer players, and cooler evenings signal the transition into the Fall season.

With another successful summer behind us, Recreation staff are preparing to welcome our Snowbird campers back while also beginning our annual maintenance and improvement projects. These projects help maintain the quality, safety, and enjoyment of the Recreation Area for our visitors.



The 2026 maintenance plan will include continued modifications around the Casitas Water Adventure area, main road asphalt work, additional cabins, and restroom and campsite upgrades.

Please excuse our dust during this time. We sincerely appreciate your patience and look forward to providing an even better experience for our visitors.

Off-Season Maintenance & Activities

- **Restrooms:** Several restrooms around the lake will receive the maintenance and upgrades needed to address cleanliness, functionality, and visitor comfort.
- **Additional Cabins:** We anticipate adding two new cabins, providing visitors with additional lodging opportunities at Lake Casitas.
- **Casitas Water Adventure:** Upgrades will continue in and around the Casitas Water Adventure and surrounding picnic areas.
- **Campgrounds:** Several campgrounds will undergo maintenance and changes to enhance the camping experience and address needed repairs.



We appreciate your patience and continued support as our staff works throughout the off-season to complete these projects.

Our goal is to ensure that Lake Casitas Recreation Area remains a safe, clean, well-maintained, and enjoyable destination for campers, families, and visitors throughout the year.

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

Assembly Bill 1572 (AB 1572): Non-Functional Turf Watering Ban

The California Legislature passed AB 1572 to help California prepare for long-term water shortages by eliminating unnecessary irrigation on nonfunctional turf/lawns that serve no recreational or community purpose at most commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) properties, including common areas managed by homeowner associations (HOAs).

As required by AB 1572, the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) updated its Water Waste Ordinance 2026-01 on July 8, 2026, to include compliance with AB 1572. Nonfunctional turf/lawn refers to irrigated lawn that is ornamental and not regularly used for recreation or public gatherings. AB 1572 features a phased implementation schedule to allow property owners and managers time to adapt and transition their landscapes.

For information about AB 1572 and its phased implementation, please visit:
casitaswater.org/nft

For information about CMWD's Water Waste Ordinance, please visit:
casitaswater.org/waterwasteordinance

Nonfunctional Turf



Functional Turf



A MORE CONVENIENT WAY TO MANAGE YOUR WATER ACCOUNT!

In 2027, Casitas Municipal Water District will upgrade our customer billing and account management system. This upgrade is designed to make managing your account easier, more convenient, and more secure, while providing an improved overall experience.

With the new system, you will continue to be able to:

- View and pay your bill online
- View your billed monthly water usage history
- Set up or manage automatic payments
- Enroll in paperless billing

No action is required from you at this time.

We'll provide additional information as we get closer to the launch to ensure a smooth transition for all customers.

Stay tuned for more updates in the coming months!





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VENTURA RIVER WATERSHED ADJUDICATION

Casitas MWD, the City of Ventura, the Ventura River Water District, the Meiners Oaks Water District and the Wood-Claeyssens Foundation (Taylor Ranch) submitted a watershed-wide plan to the Court on August 5th.

This plan, which is known as a Physical Solution, is expected to bring an end to this costly litigation. Judge Highberger (the judge in this case) is expected to review the plan along with comments from the other parties regarding the plan in the coming weeks.

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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