



Coming Soon: Our Draft Plan to Ensure Our Community's Reliable Water Future

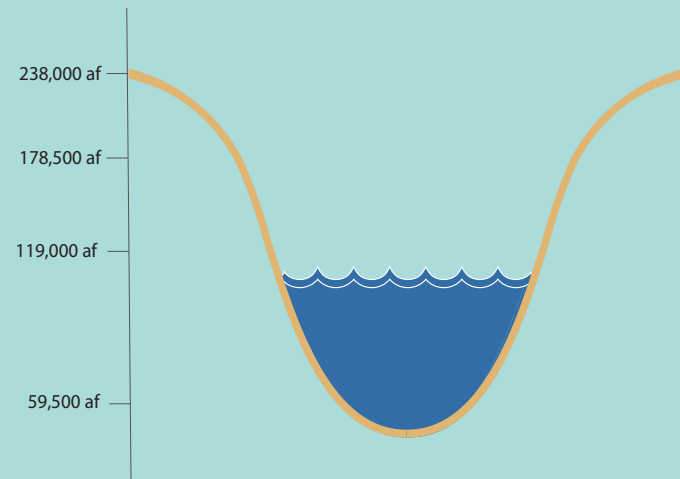
The District remains focused on conducting its essential business and securing a more reliable water future. In planning for the future, we are preparing the District's Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Plan.

The draft plan assesses the viability of the resources available to the District and forecasts how demand and climate factors will affect our water supply in coming years. This assessment is used to make recommendations on what actions are necessary to ensure reliable service into the future — all aimed at mitigating short-term risk, reducing our long-term supply gap and diversifying the sources of our water supply.

The plan will be a public document, and the District will seek public input on the draft. While in-person meetings may not be possible at this time, we want to assure our customers and community members that we will provide opportunities to learn about the plan and provide feedback. Once released, the draft plan and information about the public review process will be available online at www.casitaswater.org/your-water/casitas-water-security.



Casitas Spring 2020 Newsletter



Casitas Lake Level Update

As of May 14, Lake Casitas held 106,373 acre feet of water, 45% of its total capacity. Storms of the past few years and improved conservation practices have helped maintain these levels.

**An acre foot is defined as the volume of water necessary to cover one acre of surface area (approximately the size of a football field) to a depth of one foot.*



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“We would like our customers to know that the coronavirus has no effect on the safety of your tap water.”



Casitas' COVID-19 Emergency Response Provides Relief to Customers

The District is closely monitoring the coronavirus pandemic and taking reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of our customers and staff. Social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders led to the closure of the Lake Casitas Recreation Area until further notice. We will be providing refunds and credits to the patrons affected, and annual vehicle/boat passes will be extended on a prorated basis relative to the closure period.

The Casitas Water Adventure will remain closed for the 2020 season. Though the Water Adventure will be closed, the Lake Casitas Recreation Area is expected to open soon. The timing of re-opening will depend on the status of State and Ventura County park closures, including the re-opening of restrooms and parking areas at those locations. Please visit www.casitaswater.org/recreation for updated information on the closure period.

The Board adopted an Emergency Declaration that provides the following relief measures to support our customers through this challenging time:

- A suspension of all water service shutoffs for non-payment.
- A waiver of all billing delinquency fees and penalties from February – June 2020.
- A suspension of all conservation penalties from February – June 2020.

We would like our customers to know that the coronavirus has no effect on the safety of your tap water. The District's water system has highly regulated water treatment and disinfection processes preventing pathogens, including viruses, from contaminating drinking water. Water quality tests are continuously performed to ensure all drinking water standards are met.

While social distancing guidelines continue, the District has made modifications to its office hours to help protect our staff and community. During this Casitas-declared emergency, all board meetings are broadcast online, with opportunities for members of the public to participate by phone. Our office is closed to in-person visits from customers for the time being. However, we remain here to serve you. Please visit www.casitaswater.org/for-customers/covid-19 for updates on District operations, emergency relief measures, and more.

On a Brighter Note: We're Seeing Small Improvements in Lake Casitas' Water Levels

While recent storms and our customers' outstanding conservation practices have held Lake Casitas at about 45% full, we continue to be steadfast in planning for future dry years. On May 13, the District's Board of Directors declared a continuance of the Stage 3 water supply condition, which has been in place since April of 2016.

We want to thank you for preserving our precious water resources and encourage you to continue your conservation habits. Please be mindful that the following conservation measures remain in place:

- Residential landscape irrigation must take place before 1 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Note: Exceptions include using greywater/rainwater or hand watering using a hose with a shut-off nozzle.

- Water waste is prohibited, such as irrigation run-off from the property or onto hard surfaces.
- It is mandatory for all customers to hold to their Stage 3 allocation.

The Stage 3 declaration is largely dependent on the water levels at Lake Casitas, which remains our main source of local water supply. The recent prolonged drought highlights the importance of efficient water usage, and we are here to assist you in maintaining your conservation practices. Our customers have truly made conservation a way of life, and we appreciate the remarkable efforts you have made to go above and beyond the call to action.

For more about the updated drought stage and your current water supply, visit: www.casitaswater.org.



Photography by: John Carmen

GM's Corner

Hello Again,

I am pleased to reintroduce the Casitas Municipal Water District newsletter. This newsletter will be provided periodically throughout the year with updates on the work our District is doing to provide you with quality service and a more secure water supply. Our goal is to maintain communication with all those we have the privilege to serve.

While there is still much uncertainty with respect to this unprecedented pandemic, the safety and well-being of our customers and staff remain our top priority. To this end, the Casitas Board of Directors adopted an Emergency Declaration, which contains relief actions for our customers — suspending all water service shutoffs for non-payment and temporarily waiving conservation penalties and late fees. We understand that access to safe drinking water is essential for public health, and it is Casitas' hope that these measures provide some peace of mind in relation to your water service.

On a separate note, I know that many of our customers

have closely followed the ongoing Ventura River Watershed adjudication. I want to assure you that we are actively defending and protecting the District's water rights. While we are legally unable to give advice about what you should do, we want to provide as much information as possible. For more information about the adjudication process and case, please visit www.casitaswater.org/for-customers/adjudication-information.

On behalf of the District, I would like to extend our sincere wishes that you and your families are staying safe at this time. We remain at your service, and we would like to hear from you. I invite you to share any comments, questions or concerns you may have about Casitas' services at 805-649-2251 (ext. 0) or info@casitaswater.com.

Sincerely,

Mike Flood
General Manager, Casitas Municipal Water District