CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2020 – 01

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC USE OF THE CASITAS RESERVOIR AREA AND NON-PUBLIC USE OF THE OPEN SPACE LANDS AND VENTURA RIVER PROJECT

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District as follows:

1. **DEFINITIONS**. As used in this Ordinance, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following words have the following meanings:

1.1 "District" means the Casitas Municipal Water District.

1.2 "Board" means the Board of Directors of the District.

1.3 "Lake Casitas" is the reservoir created by Casitas Dam.

1.4 "Lake Casitas Recreation Area" is the title of lands adopted by District for the lands of the Casitas Reservoir Area.

1.5 "Casitas Reservoir Area" means lands used or planned for public use for recreational purposes identified in Exhibit A, pursuant to Act of Congress Public Law 423, 84th Con., 2d session approve March 1, 1956

1.6 "Open Space Lands" are the non-public use lands identified in Exhibit A, pursuant to Public Law 93-493 October 27, 1974

1.7 "Ventura River Project" means the non-public use lands identified in Exhibit A, pursuant to Act of Congress Public Law 423, 84th Cong., 2d session approve March 1, 1956

1.8 "Jurisdiction Boundaries" means the area within the Ventura River Project, Casitas Reservoir Area and Open Space Lands, Robles Casitas Canal, and Robles Diversion Dam and Forebay where Park Rangers have authority shown in Exhibit A.

1.9 "General Manager" means the General Manager of the District or the person acting in that capacity.

1.10 "Park Services Manager" means the Park Services Manager of the District or the person acting in that capacity.

1.11 "Park Ranger" means an employee regardless of rank or title who is a sworn Peace Officer of Casitas Municipal Water District.

1.12 "Department" means personnel section of the District that is assigned to administer this Ordinance.

1.13 "Waters" means any watercourse within the Jurisdiction Boundaries where waters eventually flow into Lake Casitas, including Lake Casitas.

1.14 "Aquaplane" means any plank, surfboard, water ski, or other device used for transporting, conveying, or carrying a person who is towed or pulled by any vessel by means of a rope, chain, cable, wire, or other connection.

1.15 "Horse" means any member of the equine family.

1.16 "Animal" means an organism in the kingdom Animalia except humans that is under a human's control.

1.17 "Trail" means any non-paved roadway or footpath capable of being used by a vehicle or pedestrian.

1.18 "Vehicle" includes any mechanically propelled device including, but not limited to, cycles, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, motor driven scooters, and/or as defined in the applicable section(s) of the California Motor Vehicle Code.

2. GENERAL

2.1 Powers granted to the Department or its personnel under this Ordinance shall be construed to be powers delegated by the Board to the General Manager and re-delegated by the General Manager to the Park Services Manager for the purpose of management control, and re-delegated by the Park Services Manager to Department personnel, as deemed appropriate.

2.2 The General Manager may make variances to this Ordinance as approved by the Board of Directors. The variances will apply only for the time specified. The variances will be kept on file in the Casitas Reservoir Area while they are in effect.

2.3 Public safety within the Jurisdiction Boundaries shall be enforced and maintained by the Park Rangers and their support staff.

2.4 Park Rangers shall have peace officer status in accordance with State of California Penal Code Section 830.34 (d) and California Water Code Section 71341.5.

2.5 Within the Jurisdiction Boundaries, Park Rangers shall have all the powers of peace officers under the laws of the State of California, with the exceptions outlined in the Park Ranger Policy Manual enacted by the Board.

2.6 Park Rangers shall have the authority to enforce within the Jurisdiction Boundaries the provisions of this Ordinance, and any amendment or amendments thereto, and the laws of the State of California, including but not limited to, California Water Code Section 71660, the California Administrative Code Title 14, relating to Fish and Game regulations, and the California State Boating Law.

2.7 Any person who resists, delays, obstructs, threatens or attempts to intimidate a Park Ranger in the discharge of, or attempted discharge of, their duty shall be subject to criminal prosecution.

2.8 It shall be unlawful for any person to distract or otherwise interfere with the duties of any Department personnel.

2.9 The provisions of Section 71660 of the California Water Code make it a misdemeanor to violate any of the regulations adopted by this Ordinance relating to vehicle or vessel speed limits, defacement of Jurisdiction Boundaries property, title use, possession or discharge of firearms, weapons or fireworks, the creation of fire hazards, being under the influence of intoxicating beverages or dangerous drugs, or remaining on, or reentering Jurisdiction Boundaries premises after authorized District personnel have specifically withdrawn consent for a person to utilize District facilities. It is an infraction to violate any other regulations of the District adopted pursuant to this section. The following procedures shall be subject to citation issuance within the Jurisdiction Boundaries of the Park Rangers, as authorized by the General Manager, of persons suspected of the violation of regulations adopted by this Ordinance.

2.10 When any person is issued a Notice of Ordinance Violation, or Parking Ordinance Violation hereafter referenced as Notice of Violation the person issuing the Notice of Violation shall prepare, a written Notice of Violation, containing the name and address of the person violating the Ordinance, the offense charged, and the fine as approved by the Board.

2.11 The fine specified in the Notice of Violation must be paid to the District within thirty (30) days of issuance.

2.12 The Department is authorized to revoke any permit and to expel any person from the Jurisdiction Boundaries for violation of any applicable law ordinance, rule, or regulation.

2.13 The Department shall have the authority to cause to be towed, removed or disposed of, any property in the Jurisdiction Boundaries at the owner's expense when it has been left without written authorization of the Department, becomes a navigational or safety hazard on a trail or waterway, has or may potentially introduce pollution into Lake Casitas or when the permit of the person(s) leaving the property has expired or has been revoked for violation of any applicable law.

2.14 The General Manager is authorized to direct the visiting public in its use of the Casitas Reservoir Area, according to statutes, Ordinances, rules, and regulations applicable to the Casitas Reservoir Area. In the event of fire or other emergency or to expedite vehicle or boating traffic, to expedite the launching or removal of vessels, to ensure the safety of persons in the Casitas Reservoir Area, to ensure against pollution of Lake Casitas or to protect lands and facilities in the Jurisdiction Boundaries.

3. PUBLIC USE FEES

3.1 Public use fees shall be established by the Board and may be revised from time to time by the Resolution of the Board, provided that nothing contained herein shall be construed to permit the collection of a fee from any pedestrian for entering the Casitas Reservoir Area for day use. Public access to the Casitas Reservoir Area is through the main gate only, unless a special use permit is granted by the General Manager and is on file.

3.2 Public use fees shall be due and payable upon entering the Casitas Reservoir Area. They shall be considered earned upon receipt and may not be subject to refund by the District. Receipts and fees are not transferable. It shall be unlawful to be in or to enter the Casitas Reservoir Area without paying all fees that may be applicable under the public fee schedule in effect at the time of entry.

4. ANNUAL DECALS / PLACARDS

4.1 Annual vehicle decals are issued to a specific vehicle and are transferable to a new owner in the event of transfer or sale. An application to the Department and an execution of a new agreement and payment of a transfer fee must be complete pursuant to the terms of this ordinance.

4.2 If an owner wishes to transfer an existing annual vehicle decal, owner must return the existing permit (decal), execute a new agreement and pay the transfer fee.

4.3 Annual frequent visitor placard can be used by any vehicle and shall be valid for only one vehicle in the Casitas Reservoir Area at a time.

4.4 Annual vehicle decals or frequent visitor placards shall be valid for the period ending on the month and year indicated on the decal or placard.

4.5 Annual vehicle decals or frequent visitor placards issued are the property of the District and may be revoked at any time with cause.

4.6 Annual vehicle decals or frequent visitor placards are only valid when on display and visible through the front windshield of the permitted vehicle and must remain with the vehicle while in the Casitas Reservoir Area.

4.7 Annual boat permits are issued to specific vessels and are transferable to a new owner in the event of transfer or sale. An application to Lake Casitas Recreation Area and an execution of a new agreement and payment of a transfer fee must be completed. Annual boat permits are not transferable between vessels in the event owner has more than one vessel in use at the same time pursuant to the terms of this ordinance.

4.8 An annual boat permit shall be affixed by District personnel to the side of the vessel immediately behind the break of the bow at least 12 inches from the CF numbers, state registration and Quagga Mussel fee sticker.

4.9 If an owner wishes to transfer an existing annual boat permit to a new boat, owner must return the existing permit (decal), execute a new agreement and pay the transfer fee.

4.10 Vessels owned by the Bait & Tackle Concessionaire for rental purposes shall not be required to obtain boat permits but shall be subject to all other regulations of this Ordinance.

4.11 The Department may take possession of any certificate, card, or decal issued hereunder upon revocation, cancellation or suspension thereof or which is fictitious or which has been unlawfully or erroneously issued or altered.

4.12 Camping or day use permits shall be affixed by the customer to the inside windshield of the vehicle viewable from the front side of the campsite.

4.13 The storage facility is for storage of recreational items such as travel trailers, 5th wheel trailers, vessel trailers, vessels, campers, motor homes, etc., as determined by the General Manager.

4.14 All customers who store a recreation vehicle, vessel or other vehicle approved by the General Manager shall sign and comply with all terms and conditions as set forth in the "Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement" including, but not limited to, California Business and Professional Code, Chapter 10, Sections 21700-

21716 and the most current Public Use Fees for the Casitas Reservoir Area as established by the Board. Storage fees are due monthly in advance of the first day of each month following entry into the storage area. Fees shall be considered unpaid if not paid in accordance with the terms of the Lake Casitas Recreation Area Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement, as amended from time-to-time. The District may terminate the Self-Service Storage Facility Rental Agreement when said fees are unpaid for fourteen (14) days. The District may then take all actions required by law to remove the items.

4.15 At the discretion of the General Manager, in lieu of the remedies provided for in 4.14 above, the District may proceed to sue the owner or the person contracting for said storage in any court of competent jurisdiction or take any other proper steps to effect collection.

4.16 Should a check be returned by a bank for any reason, the customer shall be charged a returned check charge for each such check returned as determined by the Board. In the event the District is unable to collect the amount due, the returned check(s) will be forwarded to the Ventura County District Attorney's office, or other jurisdiction as applicable, for processing.

5. OPERATIONS

5.1 The schedule of operations for the Casitas Reservoir Area shall be set by General Manager and may be revised from time to time.

5.2 The Department is authorized to restrict the public use of the Casitas Reservoir Area by closing the Casitas Reservoir Area or any of its facilities, or restricting the hours of operation for good and sufficient reasons including, but not limited to, health and safety, construction or maintenance, protection of individuals and lands from natural or Federal emergencies.

6. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Sanitary Regulations. It shall be unlawful for any person within the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project:

6.1 To throw or discharge into the lands or waters of the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project any litter, waste products, trash, motor oil or other debris.

6.2 To enter or reach into trash cans, recycle containers or dumpsters for the purpose of retrieving discarded materials.

6.3 To clean fish in the Casitas Reservoir Area except at fish cleaning facilities provided by the District.

6.4 To operate a bilge pump while on Lake Casitas, or to allow wastewater from vessel washing or other means to discharge into the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project.

6.5 To wade or swim in, or have body contact with the waters of the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project or to engage in any aquaplane, parasail, or wind sail activities in, on, or over the above areas.

6.6 To operate, or permit to be operated, any vessel under that person's supervision to tow or pull an aquaplane or similar device.

6.7 To permit any animal to enter or remain within the Casitas Reservoir Area unless the animal is on a leash of no more than six feet in length and under the immediate control of a person or confined in a vehicle.

6.7.1 To keep any noisy, vicious, or dangerous animal, or one that is disturbing to other persons, as determined by District personnel.

6.7.2 To allow any animal to come in contact with any waters within the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project.

6.7.3 To have more than two such animals per campsite.

6.7.4 To abandon any animal in or adjacent to the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project.

7. BOATING

7.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to have, use, or operate a vessel in the Casitas Reservoir Area that does not meet the minimum requirements for, or that does not have a Department boat permit.

7.2 All vessel owners and/or operators intending to launch or take any type of vessel into the waters shall be required to complete a written acknowledgement provided by the Department, and declare under penalty of perjury that all of the information provided is true and correct.

7.3 The Board may establish and have the Department enforce policies and/or Regulations, that will cause the Department to inspect vessels, trailers and tow vehicles to the degree necessary to determine if the vessel, trailer or tow vehicle is a threat to Lake Casitas due to contamination from Quagga or Zebra mussels in any of their life stages or other invasive species such as, but not limited to, hydrilla. Contamination may take the form of dreissenid mussels in any of their life stages (Quagga or Zebra), mud, biological debris, moisture,

water, fish scales, weeds, sand/pebbles, and trash. The Department reserves the right to deny public access to the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project based on any potential for lake contamination.

7.4 Each vessel, prior to being issued a boat permit, may be inspected by Casitas Reservoir Area Department personnel to determine that it meets the following standards:

7.4.1 It shall possess sufficient buoyancy to keep the vessel afloat if overturned or swamped when loaded to capacity.

7.4.2 It shall be not less than 11 feet in length or narrower in width than 4 feet nor over 35 feet in length, centerline measurement. It shall have a minimum of 1 foot of freeboard and, if fitted with a motor, shall have a capacity of not more than 400 horsepower. Nonstandard vessels may be issued a special boat permit.

7.4.3 It shall be in a seaworthy, clean, dry and sanitary condition.

7.4.4 It shall be a vessel of standard design as determined by the General Manager.

7.4.5 It shall be a vessel not possessing a holding tank or toilet unless such is sealed or otherwise rendered inoperable or designed so that no wastes can be discharged into the Casitas Reservoir Area.

7.4.6 It shall not be equipped with any motor or other methods of propulsion machinery beyond its safe power capacity, taking into consideration the type and construction of such watercraft and other existing operating conditions.

7.4.7 Each vessel issued a permit hereunder or in the Casitas Reservoir Area without a valid permit shall be subject to re-inspection and re-evaluation at any time the vessel is in or enters the Casitas Reservoir Area to ascertain whether such vessel is properly rated and complies with the regulations for granting a boat permit. If any vessel, upon such inspection, is found not to meet the requirements of this Ordinance, then the permit for such vessel shall be revoked and the vessel shall be removed from the Casitas Reservoir Area or impounded at the owner's expense until the deficiency is corrected.

7.4.8 No person shall move, use or tamper with any impounded vessel, vehicle or equipment.

7.4.9 No person shall move, use or tamper with any device used to impound a vessel, vehicle or equipment.

7.5 It shall be unlawful for any person within the Casitas Reservoir Area:

7.5.1 To operate a vessel at speeds in excess of those posted.

7.5.2 To operate a vessel at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility and the number of other vessels, and at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

7.5.3 To engage in a boat regatta, race, tournament, or exhibition without a permit issued by the Department.

7.5.4 To operate any amphibious seaplane unless authorized by the General Manager.

7.5.5 To allow a minor under twelve (12) years of age to occupy a vessel unless such minor is wearing a Coast Guard approved child's vest type life preserver.

7.5.6 To operate a vessel within a prohibited area designated by markers or posted on the bulletin board at the ramp.

7.5.7 To tie a vessel to, or mutilate, damage, or move from position, any buoy or connecting line, chain, or cable.

7.5.8 To operate any vessel without allowing at least 250 feet clearance behind trolling fishing vessels so as to avoid fouling the trolling lines. Trolling fishing vessels shall display a white flag not less than two feet square, to give adequate warning of such vessel's trolling activities.

7.5.9 To operate or navigate any commercial vessel while carrying passengers for hire without a special use permit or concession contract issued by the Department.

7.5.10 To take, use or operate any vessel without the specific consent of the owner or person in charge thereof, or to be an accessory to the taking, or use or operation of any vessel without such consent of the owner or person in charge thereof.

7.5.11 To operate a siren on any vessel used, operated or driven or propelled except a vessel used by authorized Department personnel in the performance of their duties.

7.5.12 To launch, retrieve or land any vessel except at an approved dock, ramp or such beaching areas as may be specifically designated by the General Manager.

7.5.13 To keep any vessel on shore overnight except in the designated area:

7.5.14 To operate or occupy any vessel between the time of sunset and sunrise unless a special use permit is issued by the General Manager.

7.5.15 To allow any person to ride or sit on either the gunwales or on the decking over the bow of the vessel while underway, unless such vessel is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from being lost overboard. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that passengers or other persons aboard a vessel cannot occupy the decking or the bow of the vessel to moor or cast off from a landing, or for any other necessary purpose.

7.5.16 It shall be unlawful for the owner of any vessel or any person having such in his charge or control to authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person who is incapable of operating such watercraft under the prevailing circumstances for any reason.

7.5.17 To operate, occupy or load any boat beyond the safe carrying capacity of such boat.

7.6 Any person having, using or operating a vessel in the Casitas Reservoir Area shall abide by the applicable sections of the California Administration Code Title 14, California State Boating Law and the provisions of this Ordinance.

7.7 The following such speed limit restrictions that may be posted shall apply:

7.7.1 Maximum of forty (40) miles per hour sunrise to sunset except as qualified below.

7.7.2 Five (5) miles per hour within 200 feet of any vessel landing, dock, ramp, or beaching area.

7.7.3 Five (5) miles per hour within 100 feet of any vessel not underway.

8. VEHICLE REGULATIONS

8.1 It shall be unlawful for any person within the Casitas Reservoir Area.

8.1.1 To operate a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour or to exceed 5 miles per hour in a picnic area, campground or parking lot, or to exceed the speed limit posted in any area.

8.1.2 To drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, traffic, the surface and width of the roadway, and in no event at a speed, which endangers the safety of persons or property.

8.1.3 To operate a motor vehicle except on designated roadways and parking areas, unless otherwise directed by the General Manager.

8.1.4 To throw or otherwise dispose of any burning material, trash, waste or other debris from a vehicle.

8.1.5 To park a vehicle in other than a designated parking area, or to park or leave parked a vehicle in a parking lot between the hours of sunset and sunrise, unless otherwise permitted by the General Manager. Vehicles parked in unauthorized areas will be towed away at the owner's expense.

8.1.6 To operate a vehicle in a careless or reckless fashion so as to endanger the said vehicle, its occupants, or any person, equipment, facilities, or property.

8.1.7 To park more than two (2) vehicles per campsite without specific permit.

8.2 Any person having, using or operating a motor vehicle, vehicle, or trailer shall abide by all sections of the California Vehicle Code.

9. CONSERVATION

It shall be unlawful for any person within the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands, or Ventura River Project:

9.1 To receive, bring, or cause to be brought into the lands or waters any wildlife, terrestrial plant, fish, crustacean, amphibian or aquatic plant from any place.

9.2 To place, bury, deposit or scatter human or animal remains or place memorials, markers, vases or plaques on lands, waters or facilities.

9.3 To cut, pick, mutilate or destroy any vegetation, except when authorized by permit.

9.4 To remove soil or rock except when authorized by permit or contract.

9.5 To mutilate, vandalize, or destroy any equipment or facility of others.

9.6 To receive, bring, or cause to be brought or use, possess, or discharge, fireworks, firearms, or other explosives other than fuels except by permit.

9.7 To possess or discharge a firearm, bow and arrow, projectile launching device, air or gas weapon or any device capable or injuring or killing any animal or damaging or destroying any property except when authorized by the General Manager.

9.8 To build, ignite, or utilize fires except in fire pits, stoves, incinerators, or other facilities provided by Casitas Reservoir Area for the use of the public, except in portable barbecue pits or portable stoves of a type approved by Department permit.

9.9 To leave any fire unattended or to fail to put out a fire prior to departure, or to leave a fire burning unattended while a person sleeps.

9.10 To molest, injure, or kill any animal, wildlife or to allow any child or animal under that person's supervision to molest, injure or kill any animal or wildlife except that controlled hunting may be authorized by the Board.

9.11 To bring into, possess, or use any firearm or other weapon except for peace officers when on a duty statute, except as may be authorized by the Board.

9.12 To possess fish in number and size, including but not limited to trout, catfish, pan fish or bass, other than as specified in the Casitas Reservoir Area Fisheries Management Plan, as periodically amended.

9.13 No person under the age of twenty-one years shall use or possess any alcoholic beverage.

10. CLOSED AREAS

It shall be unlawful for any person:

10.1 To take fish or attempt to fish except during the posted daylight hours unless otherwise posted for special events.

10.2 To fish in an area or on a structure posted "Closed to Fishing".

10.3 To enter any area which is posted against entry or is designated as a closed area.

10.4 To remain on or re-enter premised or facilities after Department personnel have specifically withdrawn consent and given notice thereof for a person to utilize said premises or facilities.

10.5 To operate any aircraft or drone of any nature, or parachute, on or over Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project premises or waters without prior written permission from the General Manager.

10.6 To fail to obey signs posted in the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project.

10.7 To use a loud speaker, public address system, or amplifier without a valid special event permit or written permission from the General Manager.

11. CAMPING

11.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy a campground without first obtaining a camping permit or possessing a valid camping permit. Camping permits shall be issued based on per camping day, per campsite and per vehicle.

11.2 Campsites will be assigned at the entrance gate. Camping units and camp gear left on campground(s) without first obtaining a camping permit will be removed at the owner's expense.

11.3 Camping is limited to fourteen (14) days per party, during any 30 consecutive day period. Special permits may be issued by the General Manager in concurrence with the Bureau of Reclamation for extended stays beyond the above described limit.

11.4 If, in the discretion of a Park Ranger, for accommodation purposes, when a particular campsite is of sufficient size, an excess of a maximum of two vehicles and eight (8) persons may be permitted to camp within the same campsite.

11.5 Campers may use plumbing and electrical hookups by permit only.

11.6 It shall be unlawful for any person to disturb the peace and quiet of other.

11.7 It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen (18) years to occupy a campsite between the hours of 10:00 pm and 8:00 am unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

11.8 It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or hang a clothesline, swing, or place any type of line on trees within the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project.

12. CASITAS WATER ADVENTURE

12.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to obey the directions of any Department personnel regarding the posted rules and regulations.

13. HORSES

13.1 It shall be unlawful for any person to bring a horse with the exception of service miniature horses into the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project without a valid special event permit or written permission of the General Manager.

14. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

14.1 It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to engage in any commercial activity within the Casitas Reservoir Area, Open Space Lands or Ventura River Project, except by permit.

CONSTITUTIONALITY. If any competent court shall find any portion of this Ordinance unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of any other portion thereof.

REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 18-1. This ordinance supersedes and repeals the provisions of Casitas Municipal Water District Ordinance No. 18-1.

REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 81-2. This ordinance supersedes and repeals the provisions of Casitas Municipal Water District Ordinance No. 81-2

EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance becomes effective this 12th day of August, 2020.

Russ Baggerly, President
Casitas Municipal Water District

ATTEST:

Angelo Spandrio, Secretary
Casitas Municipal Water District