

SPRING · 2025

CASITAS

NEWSLETTER

General Manager's Corner

Hello:

I am pleased to bring you the Casitas Municipal Water District's Spring 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 two extraordinarily wet rainy seasons, the Ventura River Watershed experienced a very dry rainy season in 2025. Customer water demands increased after a year of very low water demands not seen since 1966. Water supplies remain high with Lake Casitas at 95% full. Continued efficient use of water is still necessary in order to cope with the next drought cycle.

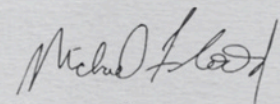
Your District At Work:

- 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 Update:

- Casitas continues to improve the facilities at the Lake Casitas Recreation Area. This includes upgrades to existing facilities and also new facilities such as the Pickle Ball Courts, Camping Cabins, and the Casitas Water Adventure Clubhouse! If you haven't been to Lake Casitas recently, now is a great time to plan your next visit.

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



Regards,
Mike Flood, General Manager



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CONNECT WITH US!

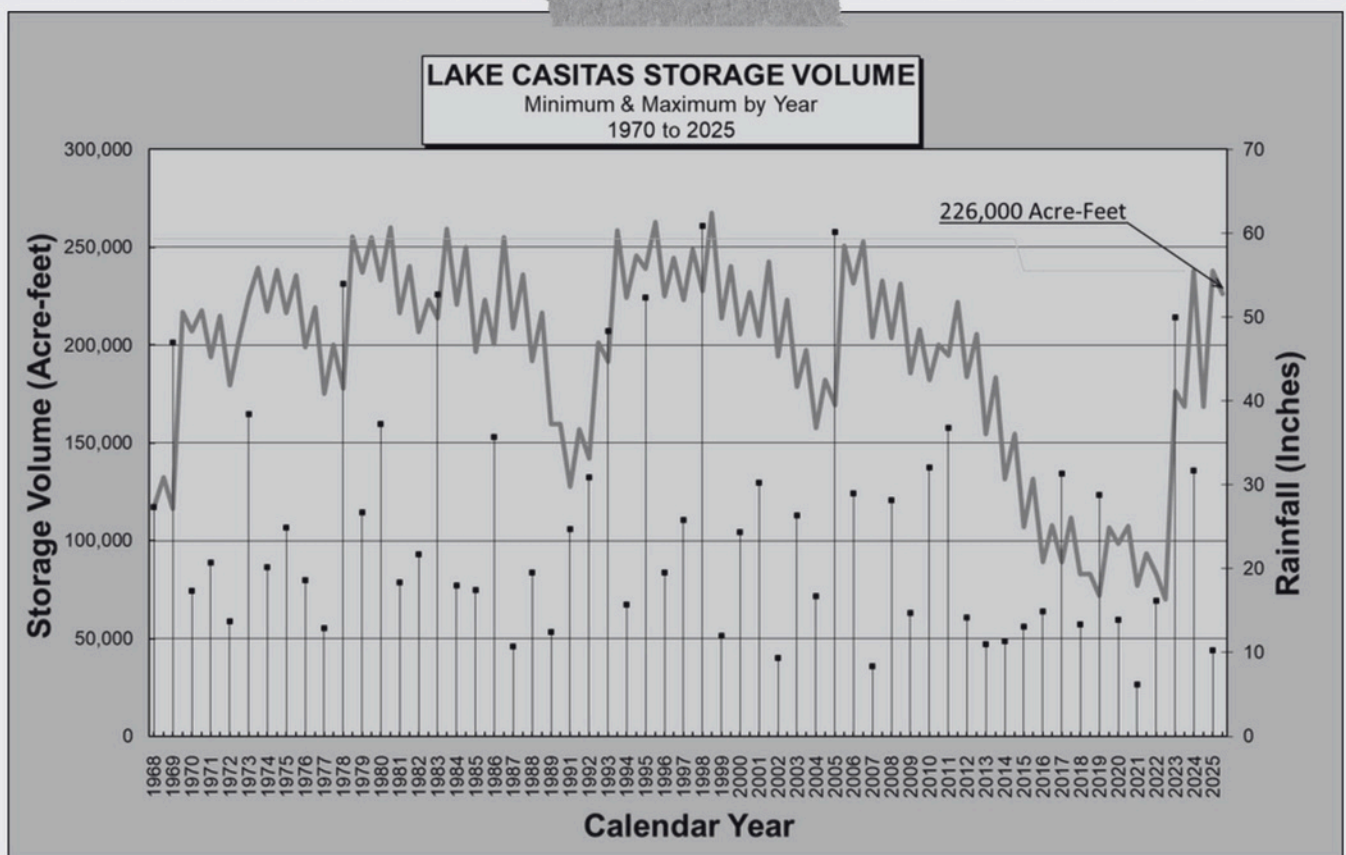
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Water Supply Status

Lake Casitas at 95% Capacity

2023 and 2024 brought an extraordinary amount of precipitation that filled Lake Casitas to its full 238,000 acre-foot capacity in April 2024. Casitas' groundwater wells also experienced significant recharge and recovery.

As can be seen over the last nine months, the Ventura River Watershed also has cycles of drought conditions that follow very wet years. Continued customer water conservation efforts will be important in making this abundant supply last through the coming years.



If you are interested in the current lake levels, daily updates are found here:
www.casitaswater.org/lake-level

Ojai Groundwater Basin at 80% Full

Casitas operates seven water wells in the Ventura River Watershed with the majority being in the Ojai Groundwater Basin.

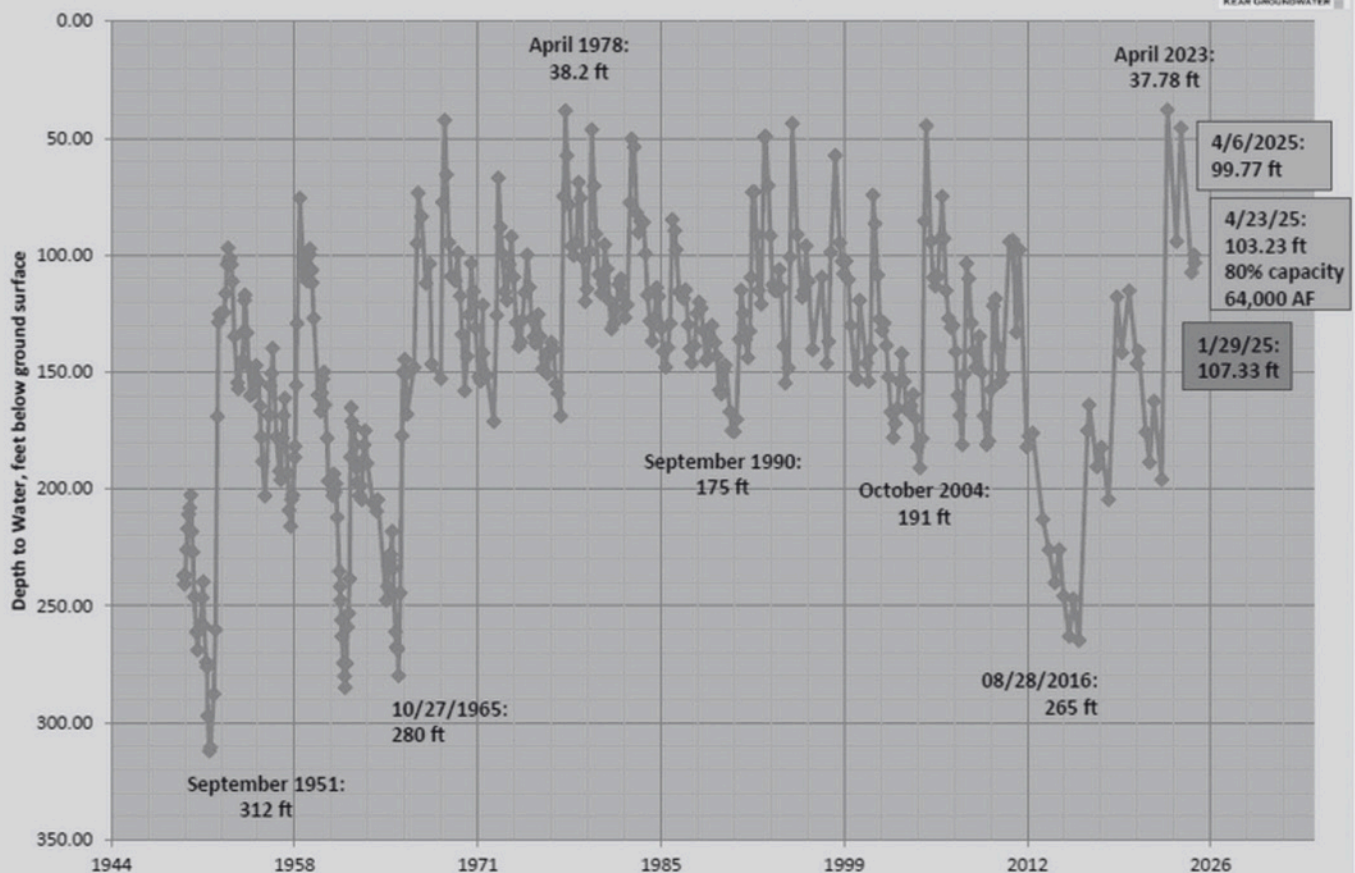
Water supply for Casitas' Ojai System contains approximately 80% groundwater with the balance coming from Lake Casitas.

The record rainfall in 2023 and 2024 added significant supply to the Ojai Basin, with current Valley groundwater levels at 80% of the basin's full capacity after hitting the 99% full mark in April of 2023.

The District's wells in the Ojai Groundwater Basin have seen a reduction in pumping levels recently as the dry rainy season caused a reduction in recharge rates.

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

Depth to Water: Ojai Basin Key Well Area 04N/22W-5L8 & 5L5
(Carne and Grand)

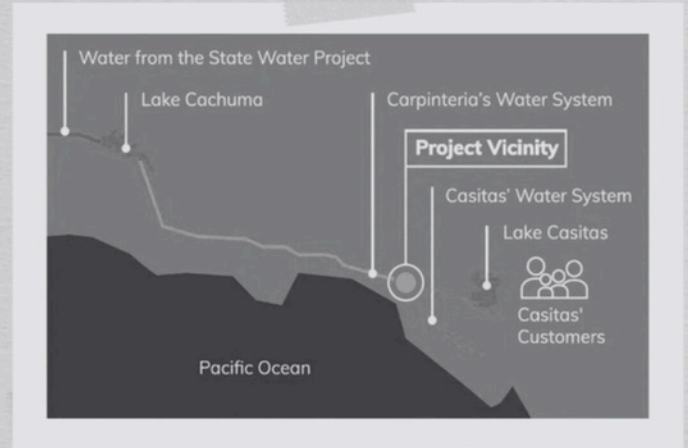


Your District At Work

Ventura/Santa Barbara Counties Intertie

The Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie includes an interconnection pipeline to 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.

The 100% design milestone was reached in January 2025. Permit applications have been submitted to Caltrans, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura.



To date, two grants have been awarded, totaling \$4.8 million, with additional funding expected from the State Water Resources Control Board (pending completion of federal environmental compliance milestones). Casitas hopes to start construction in 2026 for this important water supply and emergency intertie project.

Emergency Preparedness-Rincon Pump Plant Generator

As a result of the Thomas Fire, Casitas received grant funding from FEMA for installation of an emergency generator at the Rincon Pump Plant. The Rincon Pump Plant pumps water from the base of Casitas Dam up and over the mountains to the west to provide service to customers along Casitas Pass Road, westward to the Santa Barbara County line, then south along the coast to serve beachside communities.

The project started in August 2018 with the grant application. A contract was awarded in June 2022 for construction. Due to COVID, the lead time for the generator and electrical transformer was over two years.

The transformer finally arrived in April 2025. Final connections and testing are scheduled for this summer. The generator will then be available when electrical power is interrupted during emergencies or maintenance, limiting the impact to Casitas customers.



For more information on completed and in-progress projects, or to sign up for project updates, please visit

www.casitaswater.org/your-district-at-work

Lake Casitas Recreation Area

Construction around Lake Casitas has become nearly ubiquitous this offseason. Projects are being done at every turn, and things are looking good. The big projects that have received recognition and deserve it are the paving of the main road towards the Coyote launch ramp, Fox campground improvements, Fox cabins, Pickleball courts, and the Clubhouse at Casitas Water Adventure.

Paving the Main Road towards the Coyote launch ramp began in 2021 and will be completed later this year. This will improve the ride for boaters to Coyote and provide guests with a safer road to walk or ride bicycles.

Improvements to Campground Fox will give campers more room with wider concrete pads and a larger area to sit around the new fire pits and grills, enhancing their camping experience.

New to Lake Casitas Recreation Area are the Fox Cabin and Pickleball courts. The cabin project began in 2021 and is becoming a reality, with two cabins slated for this season, so keep an eye on our website for open reservations. The Pickleball courts, which are located at Picnic One, were completed in November 2024 and have enticed campers and locals to hit one of our three courts with beautiful lake views.

Casitas Water Adventure will open May 24, 2025, and now offers shaded cabanas upon reservations. Coming later this season is the Clubhouse! The Clubhouse is a 1200 square foot air-conditioned event center. It is the perfect space for hosting birthday parties, family reunions, office meetings, and trainings.

Visit our website for more information and updates!
www.casitaswater.org/recreation





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GROUNDWATER ADJUDICATION UPDATE

Casitas is committed to defending the District's water rights on behalf of you, our valued customer. A temporary stay in the case was put into place earlier this year to allow a mediation process to continue through early 2026. The mediating parties include both local water users and providers as well as State agencies, which include the State Water Resources Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Progress has been made through the mediation process with all parties continuing to work through the highly technical and complex nature of the case. Casitas is focused on an outcome based on the best science and an effective long-term management structure.

All of Casitas' court filings are publicly available at:

<https://www.casitaswater.org/ventura-river-watershed-adjudication>

RECEIVE-NOTIFICATIONS!



- RFP/Bidding Jobs
- District Updates
- Public Works Contracts
- Board Meetings
- CMWD Newsletter

www.casitaswater.org/e-notifications

UPCOMING EVENTS



- Casitas Water Adventure Season, Opens May 24
- Ojai Day - October 18
- Casitas Water Security & Facility Tour- October 25 and November 1