

Important Notice Regarding Your Water Usage and Rates
Notice of Public Protest Hearing
Ventura River Water District (VRWD)

Dear Water Customer:

This Notice is being resent to you because the addresses to some of the customers were incorrect on a previous notice mailed out earlier this month and because a new irrigation restriction has been imposed effective August 1, 2016 that limits irrigation to one day per week.

The following water use restrictions are required in the Ventura River Water District:

I. WATER USE PROHIBITIONS

No Ventura River Water District customer shall allow use of water for nonessential or unauthorized uses as defined herein:

- a. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures.
- b. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
- c. The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
- d. The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water feature except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
- e. Effective August 1, 2016, outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf more than one day a week (on the day the customer chooses).
- f. Outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf with potable water between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. unless performed by a watering can, handheld hose or through a drip system. (Exceptions may be authorized by the General Manager where there is no ability to not water between 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

PROPOSED COST OF SERVICE WATER RATES

A water rate change is proposed to replace the current tiered rate structure with a structure based upon cost of service. This change is necessitated by the ruling made by the Court of Appeal for the Fourth District Court in Orange County in the San Juan Capistrano Tiered Rate Case. In that ruling the courts determined that the water rate tiers that are intended to encourage efficient use of water must also be proportional to the cost of providing that water. Unfortunately, this new requirement will cause some customers rates to decrease while others increase.

The following is a summary of the major changes to the rate structure:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Old Rates</u>	<u>New Rates</u>
Monthly Base Rate, ¾" Meter	\$14.70	\$10.00
Additional Dwelling Charge	\$2.81	\$5.00
Quantity of water in:	Tier 1: HCF 01 – 10 (10 Units)	Cost Class 1: HCF 1 – 5 (5 Units)
	Tier 2: HCF 11 – 17 (7 Units)	Cost Class 2: HCF 6 – 12 (7 Units)
	Tier 3: HCF 18 – 50 (33 Units)	Cost Class 3: HCF 13 – 30 (18 Units)
	Tier 4: HCF Above 50	Cost Class 4: HCF Above 30

Commercial and Multifamily customer classes are currently charged tiered rates for water used. With the new rates they will be charged a fixed rate for water used.

The Purchased Water Surcharge (PWS) is imposed when supplemental water must be purchased from Casitas because the District wells cannot produce enough water to meet high demands for water. The PWS is presently charged to all customers at an equal cost per unit of water. With this change the Purchased Water Surcharge will only be charged to customers served well water (i.e. Casitas Springs and Monte Via neighborhoods are excluded) and it will be charged to the large water users starting with Cost Class 4 and progressing to lower Cost Classes until the usage in the Cost Classes matches the amount of water purchased from Casitas. See the example PWS distribution in Table 1 on Page 5.

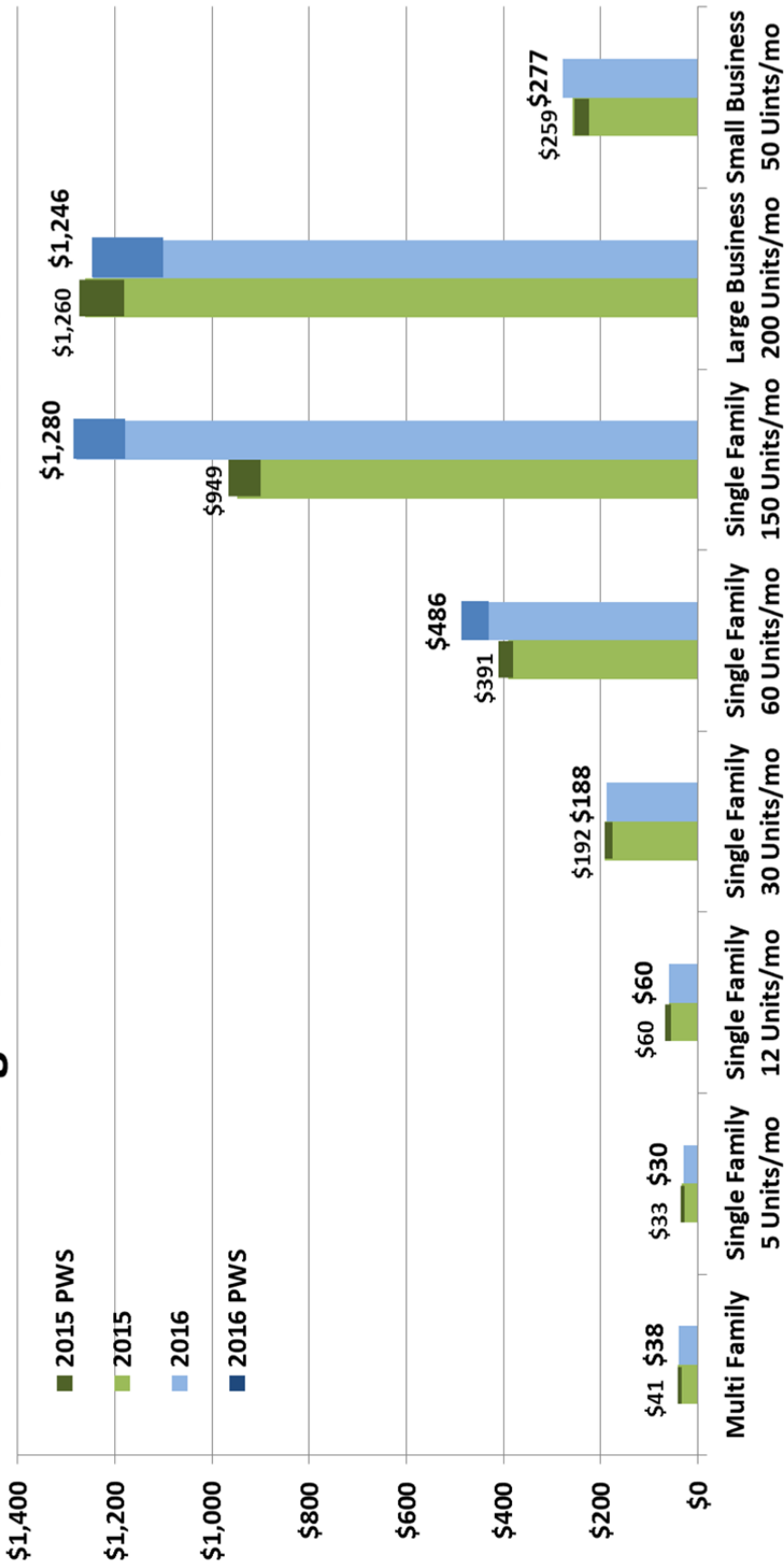
New Water Conservation Efforts

Starting in 2017 the District will offer texting water meters capable of notifying you once a day if you have a leak and will post your water usage each day.

This summer the District will be partnering with the Ojai Valley Green Coalition to provide water conservation education on such subjects as rain water capture, grey water reuse and low water landscaping.

In the spring of 2017 the District plans to implement Water Budget Rates where each customer is assigned a water budget based upon the number of persons, size of the lot, type of landscaping and the monthly evapotranspiration rates. The evapotranspiration rate is a measure of how much water plants need during different months like December verses August. This style of rates will help each customer determine if they are being conscientious with their water. The following chart shows how the 2016 Cost of Service rates affect typical customers:

Water Bill Comparison Existing Rates Vrs. Cost of Service Rates



The PWS is based upon October 2014 Casitas water purchases

Category/Usage Per Month

If you would like to review the detailed analysis of how the Cost of Service rates were determined please visit www.VenturaRiverWD.com and download the "Cost of Service Rate Analysis."

The following tables provide a detailed summary of the new Cost of Service Rates.

PROPOSED RATES

Monthly Base Rates		
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Current	September 15, 2016
5/8", 3/4" & 1" Meter	\$14.70	\$10.00
1-1/2" Meter	\$41.24	\$33.30
2" Meter	\$45.63	\$53.30
4" Meter	\$146.45	\$210.00
Each Additional Dwelling Unit Per Service	\$2.81	\$5.00
Temporary Meter (Hydrant)	\$79.53	\$82.71
Private Fire Standby: 1 1/2" to 6"	\$39.34	\$40.91
Private Fire Standby: 8" to 12"	\$78.68	\$81.83

Billing and Collection Charges		
Item	Current	September 15, 2016
Delinquent Fee	\$11.00	\$11.00
Field Service Charge (Turn on/off for non payment)	\$44.00	\$46.00

Water Volume Rates

Single Family Residential

ZONE 1 - Areas Served by Parker Tank & Casitas Springs		
HCF* used	Rates Per Unit Effective:	
	Current	September 15, 2016
HCF 1 – 5 (5 Units) HCF 01 – 10 (10 Units)	\$3.26	\$3.99
HCF 6 – 12 (7 Units) HCF 11 – 17 (7 Units)	\$4.00	\$4.36
HCF 13 – 30 (18 Units) HCF 18 – 50 (33 Units)	\$4.97	\$7.07
HCF Above 30 HCF Above 50	\$6.11	\$8.15
ZONE 2 - Areas served by Alto Tank pressure & Monte Via & Rio Via		
HCF 1 – 5 (5 Units) HCF 01 – 10 (10 Units)	\$3.50	\$4.39
HCF 6 – 12 (7 Units) HCF 11 – 17 (7 Units)	\$4.30	\$4.80
HCF 13 – 30 (18 Units) HCF 18 – 50 (33 Units)	\$5.33	\$7.78
HCF Above 30 HCF Above 50	\$6.54	\$8.97
ALL ZONES		
Temporary (or Hydrant Meter)	\$4.72	\$7.00

Multi Family Residential & Commercial

ZONE 1 - Areas Served by Parker Tank & Casitas Springs		
HCF* used	Rates Per Unit Effective:	
	Current	September 15, 2016
HCF 1 – 5 (5 Units) HCF 01 – 10 (10 Units)	\$3.26	\$5.35
HCF 6 – 12 (7 Units) HCF 11 – 17 (7 Units)	\$4.00	\$5.35
HCF 13 – 30 (18 Units) HCF 18 – 50 (33 Units)	\$4.97	\$5.35
HCF Above 30 HCF Above 50	\$6.11	\$5.35
ZONE 2 - Areas served by Alto Tank pressure & Monte Via & Rio Via		
HCF 1 – 5 (5 Units) HCF 01 – 10 (10 Units)	\$3.50	\$5.89
HCF 6 – 12 (7 Units) HCF 11 – 17 (7 Units)	\$4.30	\$5.89
HCF 13 – 30 (18 Units) HCF 18 – 50 (33 Units)	\$5.33	\$5.89
HCF Above 30 HCF Above 50	\$6.54	\$5.89

* HCF = 100 CUBIC FT = 748 GALLONS Note: Your zone is shown on your water bill on line 2 under "ZONE". If you cannot determine which zone your property is located in please call the office at (805) 646-3403.

PURCHASED WATER SURCHARGE POLICY

When Lake Casitas water is purchased by VRWD in an amount that exceeds 1,000 hundred cubic feet (hcf) in any monthly billing period, a Purchased Water Surcharge (PWS) will be billed to customers. The PWS will only be charged to customers served well water and will be charged as follows: The PWS will be assigned to upper Cost Classes in Single Family Residential and Commercial accounts beginning with the usage in Cost Class 4 and then proceeding down to the lower Cost Classes until the quantity of water in the Cost Classes is greater than the quantity of water purchased. See the example below. The additional laboratory testing costs will be included in the PWS. The use of purchased water lowers electricity and disinfection costs so these saved expenses will be deducted from the PWS each month.

Purchased Water Surcharge Application Example

Quantity of Water Purchased:	10,000 Units
Casitas Cost Per Unit:	\$1.49
Credit: Electricity & Disinfection:	<u>-\$0.13</u>
Cost per unit:	\$1.36
 Total Cost:	 \$13,600

Cost Class	Usage	PWS Allocation	Cost Allocation per unit	Total PWS Charge
Cost Class 1	5,000 Units	0 Units	\$0	\$0
Cost Class 2	8,000 Units	0 Units	\$0	\$0
Cost Class 3	8,000 Units	2,000 Units	\$0.34	\$2,720
Cost Class 4	8,000 Units	8,000 Units	\$1.36	\$10,880
				\$13,600

TABLE 1

Usage Fluctuation Adjustments

Because the revenue generated by Cost of Service rates are highly sensitive to decreases in water usage due to drought conservation and the District is mandated by the State to maintain the District to be revenue neutral, the Board shall have the authority to add to the Single Family Cost Classes 1 through 4 up to \$1.00 per unit to maintain revenue levels after a 30 day written notice to the customers. The Board shall also reduce the Single Family Cost Classes 1 through 4 as appropriate if there is a significant usage increase.

Zone 1 rate: Includes the properties receiving water from the Parker Reservoir located at the top of Highland Drive. This water is pumped only once to reach this reservoir.

Zone 2 rate: Includes the properties receiving water from our Alto Reservoir located at the top of Alto Dr. This water is pumped twice to reach this reservoir.

PUBLIC PROTEST HEARING ON THE COST OF SERVICE RATES

Wednesday September 14, 2016, 3:00 PM

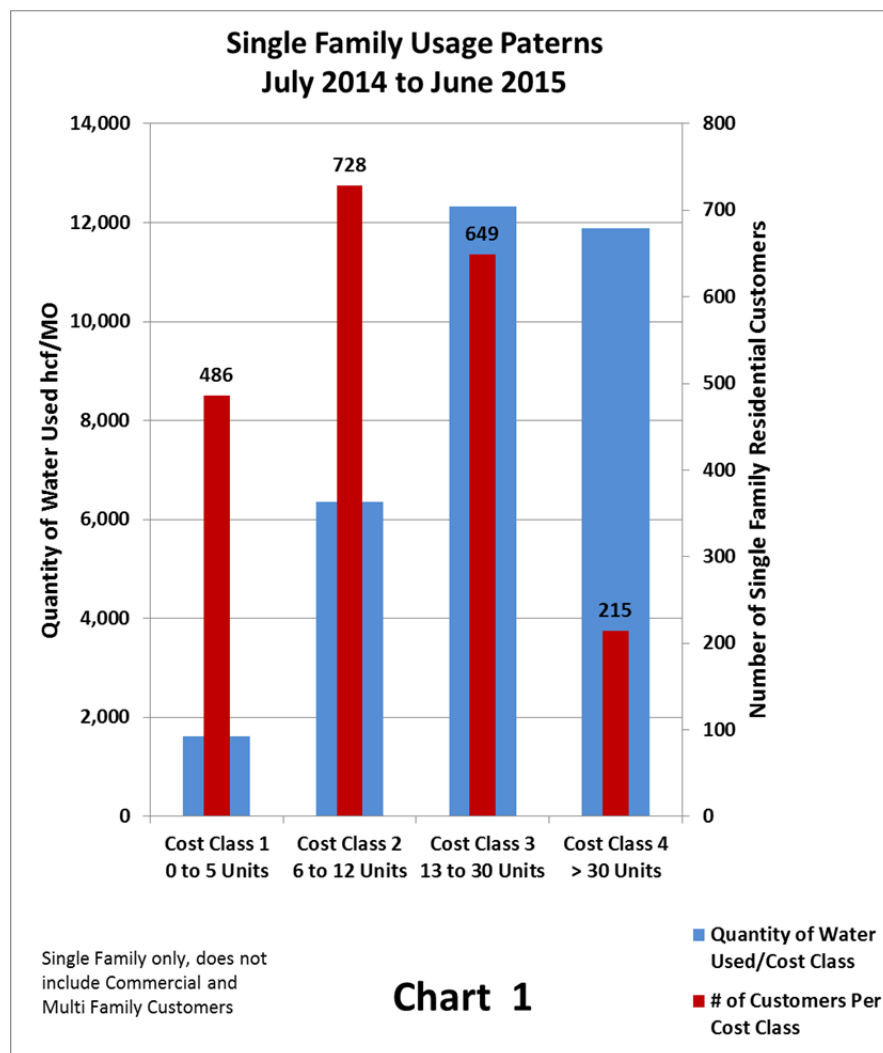
Ventura River Water District
409 Old Baldwin Rd. Ojai, CA 93023

Should a property owner desire to submit a written protest to this rate change no specific form is required, however, it must be submitted by the customer of record of the property, must be in writing, and must include the customer's legibly printed name and the Assessor's Parcel Number. If you do not know your Assessor's Parcel Number, your protest letter should include the street address or information sufficient for VRWD to identify the property.

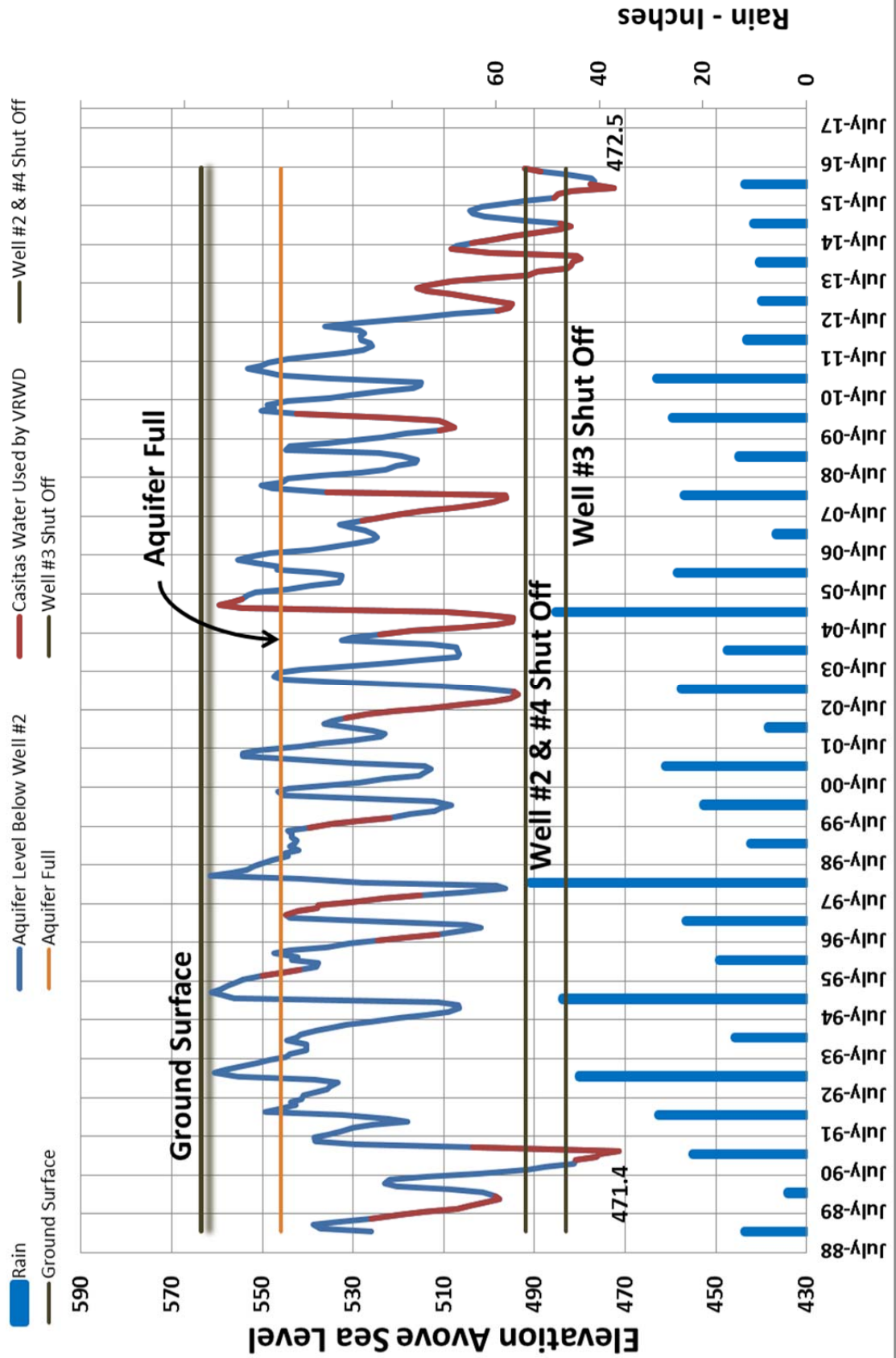
Your written protest must be fully completed, signed and submitted to the address listed above either by mail or in person before the close of the Public Protest Hearing on September 14, 2016 starting at 3:00 p.m.

If the District receives written protests from a majority of identified property owner customers in the District, the proposed change will not be imposed.

Additional information may be obtained from Bert J. Rapp, P.E., General Manager by e-mail at Bert@VenturaRiverWD.com or calling (805) 646-3403.



VENTURA RIVER UPPER BASIN AQUIFER LEVELS at VRWD Well #2



Automatic Bill Pay Now Available

- Automatic bill pay each month at no cost
- Credit Card or debit Card payments \$2.50 per transaction
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BALANCING ENTRY
BALANCING ENTRY
OJAI,
CA 93023

Contact Info: [Edit](#)
DON@VENTURARIVERWD.C
OM
None

Bill Preference: [Edit](#)
Electronic Bill

Auto Pay: [Edit](#)

Look for free “Auto Pay” in the lower left hand corner of the sign up web page.