

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

Dear Water Customer,

You are invited to two important meetings:

Wednesday, January 10, 2018, 7:00 PM - WATER BUDGET WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 15, 2018, 7:00 PM - WATER RATE PROTEST HEARING

Both meetings will be held at:

The Oak View Park & Resource Center, 7:00 P.M. at 555 Mahoney Avenue, Oak View

Park in the parking lot, not in front of the residences please!

WATER BUDGET PROGRAM - January 10, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

The Water Budget Program is designed to serve as a tool to help customers know how much water they need compared to how much they are using and to use water efficiently so water supplies can be properly managed. Each customer will have a water budget for each month of the year. Each single family customer's monthly water budget includes 10 units of Health and Safety water plus budgets for irrigation, pools and livestock. Multi-family, commercial and industrial customers have not been assigned water budgets.

If a customer believes their assigned water budget is incorrect they may request adjustments by filling out and returning the Water Budget Adjustment Form which is available on the District website at <http://venturariverwd.com> or in the District office.

If a customer's water usage exceeds their monthly water budget there will be a financial penalty. The penalty for usage up to 25% over budget will be \$0.50 per unit. Usage greater than 25% over budget will have a penalty of \$1.00 per unit. If the customer is under budget the water savings cannot be rolled over to future months.

PROPOSED RATE CHANGES - February 15, 2018, 7:00 P.M.

At this public hearing the Board of Directors of the Ventura River Water District will consider implementing a Water Budget Program and a proposed five-year schedule of increases to the District's water charges. A study of the District's Revenue Requirements, Cost of Service and Rate Setting Analysis was conducted by Robert D. Niehaus, Inc. A copy of this study is

available on the District Website at <http://venturariverwd.com/finance> or at the District office at 409 Old Baldwin Road.

If adopted, proposed rate increases and charges will become effective on February 15, 2018, January 15, 2019, January 15, 2020, January 15, 2021, and January 15, 2022. The public hearing will be conducted per California Constitution Article XIII D, Section 6 (also known as “Proposition 218”). This notice is being sent to property owners and customers whose parcels receive water service from Ventura River Water District, who would be impacted by imposed rates and charges.

All members of the public are invited to attend the public hearing. Additionally, under California State Law, all property owners in the Ventura River Water District may submit a written protest to the proposed rate changes. Only one protest per parcel is permitted. No specific form is required, however each protest 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 409 Old Baldwin Road, Ojai, CA 93023 either by mail or in person before the close of the Public Protest Hearing on February 15, 2018 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.

The following section presents current and proposed rate structure and rates.

TIER WIDTH: The current four-tiered rate structure for single-family residential customers, and uniformed rate structure for multi-family residential and commercial customers will remain the same. Tier widths for Tier 1 and 2 will remain 5 HCF and 7 HCF respectively, but the allocation for Tier 3 will be increased from 18 HCF to 33 HCF.

Table 1. Current vs. Proposed Tier Width for Single-Family Residential Customers

Tiers	Current Tier Width	Proposed Tier Width
Tier 1	5 HCF	5 HCF
Tier 2	7 HCF	7 HCF
Tier 3	18 HCF	33 HCF
Tier 4	30+ HCF	45+ HCF

MONTHLY BASE RATES: The base rate will be kept at \$10.00 per month for ¾" and 1" meters for the first year. The rates for bigger meter sizes also remain the same as those for FY 2017-18. The cost differentials between meter sizes were determined using the equivalent meter size capacity ratios recommended by American Water Works Association.

Monthly Base Rates

EFFECTIVE DATE:	Current	February 15, 2018	January 15, 2019	January 15, 2020	January 15, 2021	January 15, 2022
¾" & 1" Meter	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.62	\$11.28	\$11.98	\$12.72
1-1/2" Meter	\$33.30	\$33.30	\$35.37	\$37.56	\$39.89	\$42.36
2" Meter	\$53.30	\$53.30	\$56.61	\$60.12	\$63.84	\$67.80
4" Meter	\$210.00	\$210.00	\$223.03	\$236.86	\$251.53	\$267.13
Additional Dwelling Unit	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.31	\$5.64	\$5.99	\$6.36
Temporary Meter (Hydrant)	\$82.71	\$82.71	\$87.84	\$93.29	\$99.07	\$105.21
Private Fire Standby: 1 1/2" to 6"	\$40.91	\$40.91	\$59.72	\$63.42	\$67.35	\$71.53

Water Volume Rates

Single-Family Residential Customers

			2/15/2018	1/15/2019	1/15/2020	1/15/2021	1/15/2022
	Current Zone 1 & 4	Current Zone 2 & 3	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
Tier 1	\$3.99	\$4.39	\$4.48	\$4.76	\$5.06	\$5.37	\$5.71
Tier 2	\$4.33	\$4.76	\$5.09	\$5.41	\$5.74	\$6.10	\$6.48
Tier 3	\$6.87	\$7.31	\$7.15	\$7.60	\$8.07	\$8.57	\$9.11
Tier 4	\$7.13	\$7.57	\$9.80	\$10.41	\$11.06	\$11.75	\$12.48

Multi-Family Residential Customers

			2/15/2018	1/15/2019	1/15/2020	1/15/2021	1/15/2022
	Current Zone 1 & 4	Current Zone 2 & 3	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
Tier 1	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.85	\$6.22	\$6.62	\$7.04
Tier 2	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.85	\$6.22	\$6.62	\$7.04
Tier 3	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.85	\$6.22	\$6.62	\$7.04
Tier 4	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.85	\$6.22	\$6.62	\$7.04

Commercial Customers

			2/15/2018	1/15/2019	1/15/2020	1/15/2021	1/15/2022
	Current Zone 1 & 4	Current Zone 2 & 3	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed	Proposed
Tier 1	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.63	\$5.77	\$5.91	\$6.05
Tier 2	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.63	\$5.77	\$5.91	\$6.05
Tier 3	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.63	\$5.77	\$5.91	\$6.05
Tier 4	\$5.35	\$5.89	\$5.50	\$5.63	\$5.77	\$5.91	\$6.05

All water rate charges will begin with the first unit used for all types of water service.

FEES & CHARGES SCHEDULE:

DEPOSITS**

Residential 3/4" to 1" (minimum)	\$120.00*
Residential 1 1/2 or 2" (minimum)	\$250.00*
Business - General Mgrs. Discretion (minimum)	\$150.00
Temporary 2 1/2" Hydrant Meter (minimum)	\$250.00***

* Or 2 times the highest water bill whichever is greater.

** Deposits may be doubled with each disconnect for non-payment.

*** Deposit is required for Hydrant Meters and is refunded when the meter is returned undamaged

INSTALLATION FEES: (If unusual conditions: All costs, direct & indirect):

Temporary Hydrant Meter	\$50.00
Customer Service Valve, 3/4"	\$85.00
Customer Service Valve, 1"	\$105.00

METER TESTING FEES: 3/4" to 2" = \$20.00; 2 1/2" & up = \$50.00

LOCK CUTTING FEE (If a customer service is locked off and the lock is cut): \$125

FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TEST FEE: \$500

FAILURE TO TEST BACKFLOW DEVICE: \$100
(AFTER 3RD REQUEST TO HAVE TEST PERFORMED)

COLLECTION CHARGES:	<u>EXISTING</u>	<u>PROPOSED</u>
DELINQUENT FEE:	\$11.00	\$14.00
FIELD SERVICE CHARGE (On/Off, NSF):	\$46.00	\$50.00

PASS-THROUGH FOR WHOLESALE WATER RATE INCREASES:

Any increases in the District's wholesale cost of water fees and charges from Casitas Municipal Water District may be passed through on the District's water volume rates. Under no circumstance will the District's water rates exceed the cost of service.

PURCHASED WATER SURCHARGE POLICY

When supplemental 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) is 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 Tiers in Single Family Residential and Commercial accounts beginning with the usage in Tier 4 and then proceeding down to the lower Tiers until the quantity of water in the Tiers is greater than the quantity of water purchased. See the example below. The additional laboratory testing costs associated with using the Casitas water 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:	\$1.64
Credit: Electricity & Disinfection:	<u>-\$0.13</u>
Cost per unit:	\$1.51
 Total Cost:	 \$15,100

Cost Class	Usage		Purchased Water Surcharge Allocation		PWS Allocation	Total PWS Charge
					per unit	
Tier 1	5,000	Units	0	Units	\$0	\$0
Tier 2	8,000	Units	0	Units	\$0	\$0
Tier 3	8,000	Units	2,000	Units	\$0.38	\$3,020
Tier 4	8,000	Units	8,000	Units	\$1.51	\$12,080
	29,000 Units		10,000 Units			\$15,100

USAGE FLUCTUATION ADJUSTMENTS

Because the revenue generated by water sales is sensitive to decreases in water usage because of drought conservation and the District is mandated by the State to maintain the revenues of the District to be revenue neutral, the Board shall have the authority to add to the Single Family Tiers 1 through 4 a percentage increase equal to 0.87% of the percentage drop in usage for drops in usage greater than 3% to maintain revenue levels. For example: if there is a 3% drop in usage, the Single Family water volume rates may be increased by 2.61%. Such increase may be implemented after a 30 day written notice to the customers. Under no circumstance will the District's water rates exceed the cost of service.

***THE DROUGHT IN OUR AREA CONTINUES TO BE SERIOUS.
WE ARE IN STAGE 3, 30% CONSERVATION REQUIRED. LAKE
CASITAS IS AT 35% WITH ABOUT 4 YEARS OF WATER
REMAINING.***

WATER USE PROHIBITIONS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT

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

1. 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. Outdoor irrigation of ornamental landscapes or turf more than two days a week (on the days 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.)

For periodic drought and water issue e-mail updates please sign up on our website:

<http://venturariverwd.com/>

VENTURA RIVER WATER DISTRICT
409 OLD BALDWIN ROAD
OJAI, CA 93023

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FIRST CLASS
MAIL
US POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT
312

Payment Options Now Include:

- FREE Auto-Pay
- Credit/Debit Card & E-Checks (small processing fee)
- Go to: www.VenturaRiverWD.com or call (805) 646-3403

Mailing Address: [Edit](#)
BALANCING ENTRY
BALANCING ENTRY
OJAI
CA 93023

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

Bill Preference: [Edit](#)
Electronic Bill

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Go to www.venturariverwd.com and
select "Edit" next to Auto-Pay