



MAY 2023

# THE WATER DROP

Official Newsletter of Ventura River Water District

## General Manager's Corner by Bert Rapp

### Improved Water Supply Outlook

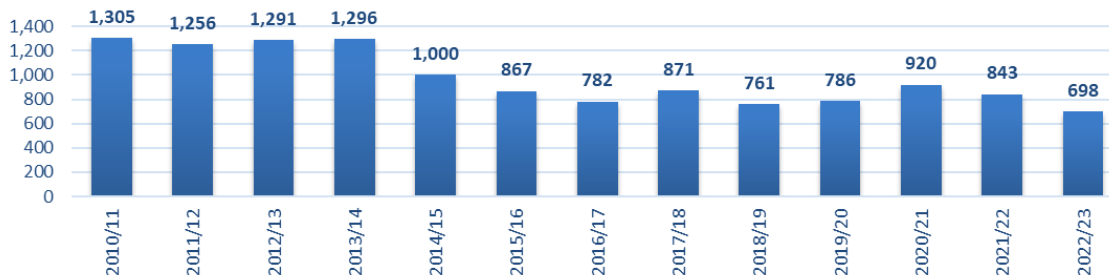
This year's winter rains have significantly improved the District's water supply outlook, with Lake Casitas at 73% of capacity - the highest since 2011. The exceptional rainfall across California has improved water supply conditions and moved us from a Stage 3 drought declaration to Stage 1.

Even with all the rainfall this year, we know that using water wisely remains important given the history of dry conditions and cyclical drought.

Within the District's service area, customers are still conserving at a rate of 40% as compared to the 2013, making our customers among the most efficient water users. Over the last decade, customers have done a phenomenal job reducing overall water use.

Thank you for all your efforts to use water responsibly!

Acre-Feet Sold per Fiscal Year



## District Directors

Ed Lee, President  
Bruce Kuebler, Vice-President  
Jack Curtis, Director  
Peggy Wiles, Director  
Nathan Rosser, Director

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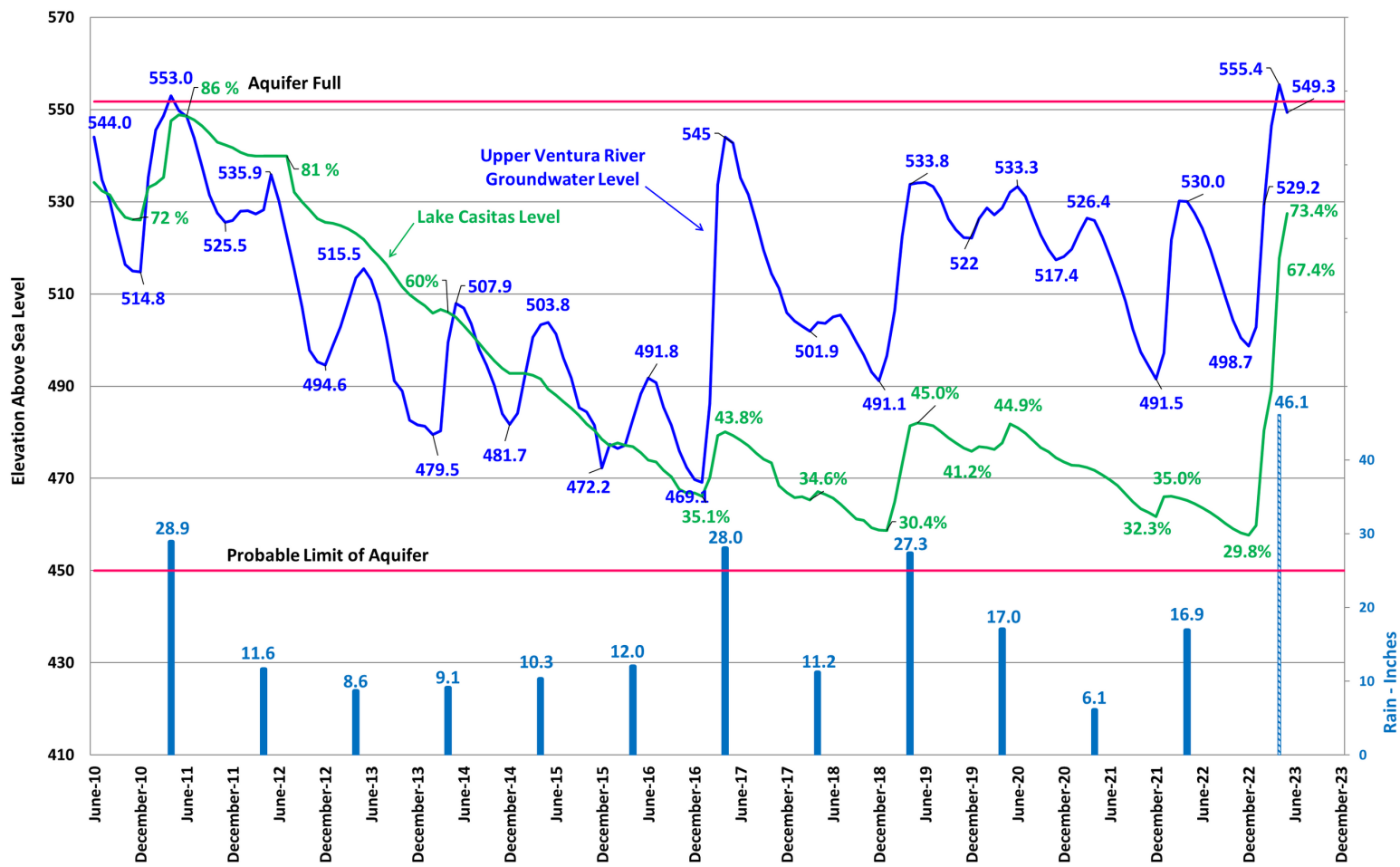


# Water Supply Status Update

The Upper Ventura Groundwater basin filled to the top along with the Ojai Basin. Lake Casitas increased from 29.8% to 73.4% of capacity, rising 58.7 feet. This winter delivered a much needed 46 inches of rain! The District has officially moved from a Stage 3 drought with mandatory 30% conservation to Stage 1 with 20% voluntary conservation.

VENTURA RIVER UPPER BASIN & LAKE CASITAS LEVELS  
May 15, 2023

Chart 9



# Water Conservation Matters

Even with improved aquifer and lake levels, the District encourages its customers to continue conserving at a voluntary 20% reduction to make us more resilient during the dry years. If we continue to use water responsibly, the District can continue to maintain a sustainable water system that is both reliable and efficient.

# New Water Rates in Effect

On May 10, 2023, at the Public Hearing for Water Rate adjustments, the Board of Directors approved two-year water rate increases, including a tier width adjustment. Customers will see the new rates reflected on their June 30th bill. Water rate increases will support daily operation of the water system, along with planned capital improvement projects. The District received 14 protest notices; 1,089 were required to prevent the rate increase from going forward.

## WATER VOLUME RATES

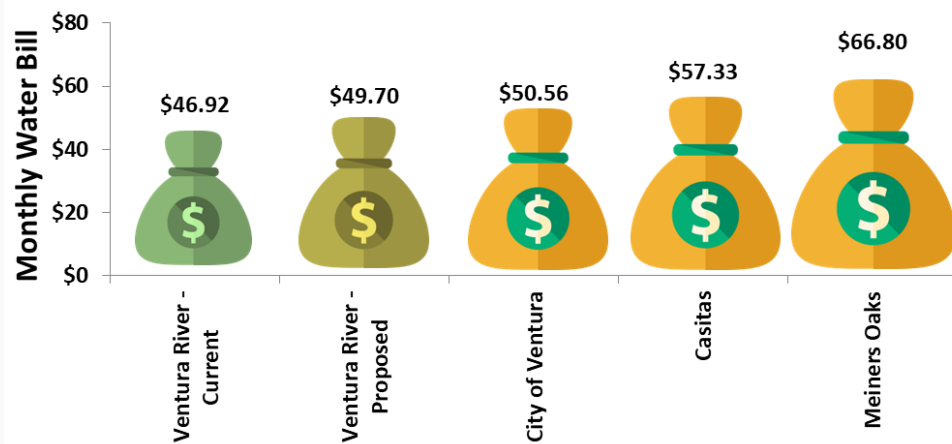
Tier	Units	Single-Family Residential	Multi-Family Residential	Commercial
1	1 to 5 (5 Units)	\$5.59 / unit	6.98 / unit	6.81 / unit
2	6 to 12 (7 Units)	7.25 / unit		
3	13 to 33 (21 Units)	9.64 / unit		
4	Above 33 Units	13.44 / unit		

\*One unit = 748 gallons = 1 Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF)

## How Do Our Rates Compare?

The vast majority of our customers use 8 units of water or less each month. Here is how the District's rates compare with other water providers. Even with the rate increases, the District's rates are at the lower end. Our rates are based on volumetric sales, meaning you only pay for what you use. This allows our customers to control the amount of their water bill.

### 8 Units of Water Per Month



# STAGE 1 DROUGHT

## **Stage 1 Drought- What does it mean for you?**

On April 19, 2023 Ventura River Water District's Board of Directors declared a Stage 1 water supply condition for all VRWD customers in response to significant rainfall that occurred in the Ventura River Watershed in recent months, and Lake Casitas storage being approximately 73% of its full capacity.

The following Stage 1 conditions became effective April 15th, 2023:

- 20% reduction in water use is encouraged but not mandatory
- 100% water budgets allotted to customers outdoor irrigation
- Be advised: Mandatory water use restrictions may be necessary in future years should climate conditions return to dry conditions that result in decline in Lake Casitas water levels

Water Waste Prohibitions remain in effect at all times.



## **Past Due On Your Water Bill?**

You may qualify for assistance with Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. A one-time payment program that can help with both water or wastewater bills. You may be eligible even if you are current on payments. Apply by visiting [www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill](http://www.csd.ca.gov/waterbill).

## **Interested in Gray Water Reuse? Or Low Water Landscape?**

Ventura River Water District customers are eligible for FREE design services to harvest rainwater and graywater reuse. Customers are also eligible for water use audits for their yard and can work with a design engineer to plan their yard for climate appropriate plantings and irrigation efficiencies. To sign up for the program call the office 805-646-3403 or email [office@venturariverwd.com](mailto:office@venturariverwd.com).



## **2022 Consumer Confidence Report**

The Consumer Confidence Report for 2022 is available on our website. It is all about quality of water we serve you. The majority of our customers receive well water disinfected with chlorine. Our customers in Casitas Springs and Monte Via neighborhood in Oak View receive Casitas water disinfected with chloramines. With chloraminated water you need to use a special de-chlorinator for your fish tank to remove the chlorine and if you are on dialyses you need a special activated carbon filter to remove the chloramines ahead of the dialyses.

<https://venturariverwd.com/reports/#quality>