



JULY 2023

THE WATER DROP

Official Newsletter of Ventura River Water District

General Manager's Corner by Bert Rapp

Water Budgets Demystified

In 2018, the District implemented a Water Budget Program for customers. Since then our customers have done a remarkable job of reducing their water consumption making our customers among the most efficient water users.

With summer officially in full swing, we thought it prudent to remind everyone how water budgets are unique to each household.

The Water Budget Program serves as a tool to let customer's know how much water they need compared to their actual use. This supports the efficient use of water and stretches our water supply.

Each customer's budget is unique and includes Essential Use (people & livestock) and Non-Essential Use (water for irrigation).

Essential Use - Health & Safety

Each home receives 10 units per month for indoor use. This amount will not be reduced when drought stages are declared.

Non-Essential Use - Irrigation/Landscaping

Outdoor irrigation needs for each home are determined by infrared aerial photography and an automated program that measured landscape area, pools, driveways, roofs, etc. This amount will change from month to month as weather changes based on evapotranspiration data. Additionally, this amount changes monthly to account for higher water needs in the summer.

--continued on page 2 --

District Directors

Ed Lee, President

Bruce Kuebler, Vice-President

Jack Curtis, Director

Peggy Wiles, Director

Nathan Rosser, Director

Get Smart!

PAGE 02

Water Supply Status

PAGE 03

Pending Board Vacancy

PAGE 04

Customer Engagement Survey

PAGE 04

California Native Corner

PAGE 04

Water Budgets Demystified (continued from front page)

Adjustments

Adjustments for special situations, such as additional livestock will be made. You can request a water budget adjustment by filling out the form located here: <https://venturariverwd.com/finance-rates/> or by calling our office.



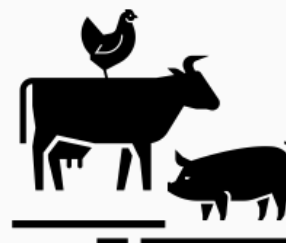
**Water
Budget**



**Essential
Use**



**Outdoor
Use**



Livestock

What if I Go Over My Budget?

Water use within the monthly water budget will be considered efficient and billed at the appropriate tiers. Use above the water budget will be considered wasteful and incur a penalty of \$5.00 for every unit over your budget.

If you need to fill a swimming pool let us know the month you fill it and we will increase your budget for that month. Water is not budgeted for native Coast Live Oak Trees. When we have a low rain year of 10" or less and you would like to water your oak trees in April or May to help your oaks get through the summer let us know and we will increase your budget for those months. If you are under budget, you cannot roll over the water savings to future months. The District does not have a base rate, therefore you only pay for the water you use. As always, thank you for all your efforts to use water responsibly!

Get Smart!

Have you considered upgrading your irrigation controller to a smart weather-based irrigation controller? This device helps homeowners maximize watering efficiency and can allow you to control your sprinklers from your mobile device. It can even tell your system not to water when rainfall is expected. You may qualify for a rebate! For more information, visit: www.casitaswater.org/for-customers/water-conservation/available-rebates

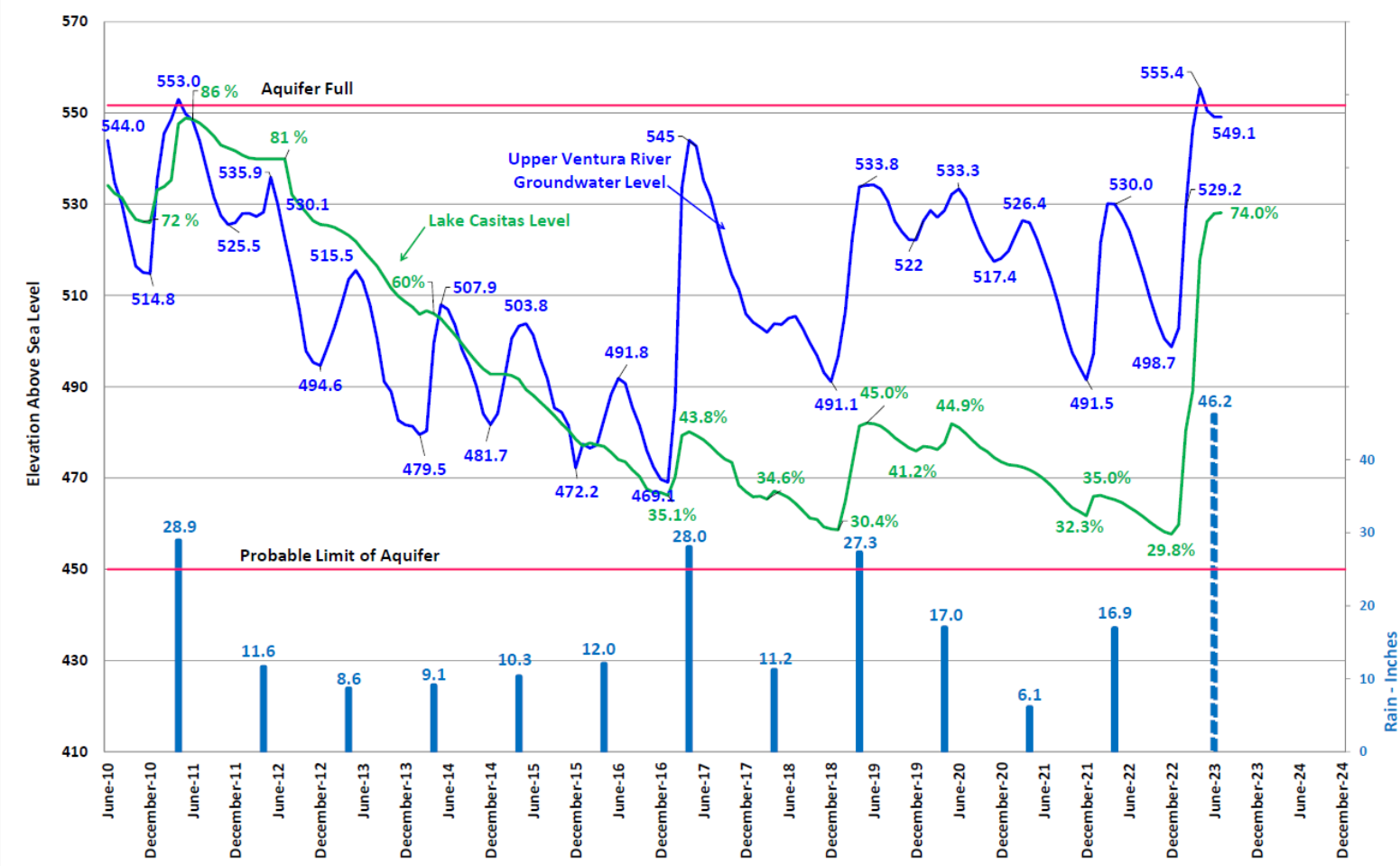


Water Supply Status

The Upper Ventura Groundwater Basin filled to the top along with the Ojai Basin. Our aquifer level has remained steady at 549.1 feet in elevation since May 1st with no change in storage. This means the aquifer is receiving an equal amount of inflow as there is outflow and is in balance. Lake Casitas topped out at 74% and is now down to 73.8% of capacity as of July 1st. The Robles Diversion is still diverting about 40 acre-feet to the lake on a daily basis. The District is currently in a Stage 1 declaration with 20% voluntary conservation.

VENTURA RIVER UPPER BASIN & LAKE CASITAS LEVELS
JULY 1, 2023

Chart 9



PENDING BOARD VACANCY

Ventura River Water District (VRWD) has upcoming Board of Directors vacancies and will be appointing one or more persons. The VRWD Board seeks to maintain an engaged, forward-thinking board to make decisions about water rates, system maintenance, water quality, fire protection, and water reliability. Engaged Directors need to be familiar with the Board packet materials and attend meeting well prepared. The term of office is 4-years. Board meetings are typically held once a month on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM with periodic committee meetings. The appointment will take effect August 16th and the appointed person would need to run in the November 5, 2024 election.

If you would like to be considered to serve as a Board Director, please send a letter of interest and resume by e-mail to: Office@VenturaRiverWD.com or U.S. Mail to: Board Vacancy, 409 Old Baldwin Rd, Ojai, CA 93023 by July 14, 2023.

Customer Engagement Survey - Board Meeting Time

Your opinion is important to us!

At VRWD, we strive to provide our customers with reliable, quality, responsive and cost-efficient water service. This commitment to high-quality services supports the health and welfare of our customers.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your feedback is helpful in our efforts to determine the optimum Board meeting time to best serve our customers. Follow the link or scan the QR code to take the survey.

weblink: <https://forms.office.com/r/OYTxBw6N4F>

We greatly appreciate your time and thank you for filling out this brief survey!



California Native Corner

Chalk Dudleya (*Dudleya pulverulenta*) is a native succulent with gorgeous solitary rosettes. The fleshy leaves are covered in a heavy coat of chalk powder that can be rubbed off. In spring and summer, it sends out 1-2 foot stems with clusters of reddish flowers that attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. It loves full sun and thrives when watered once a month during the summer.

