

# WATER SHORTAGE UPDATE



Dear Valued Customer,

For the past five years the City of Ventura, along with the rest of California, has faced significant water challenges including aging infrastructure, water quality and scarcity caused by persistent drought conditions. While most of California has been relieved of “drought status” after a record breaking year in precipitation levels, Ventura will remain in a Stage 3 Water Shortage Event which means the call for water savings must continue.

Understanding our local water supply provides clarity to the question of why we are still in a drought, or water shortage event, when other areas of the State are not. Ventura is one of the largest cities in California that relies exclusively on local water supplies. The City of Ventura gets its water from three primary sources: the Ventura River, Lake Casitas, and groundwater basins.

The Ventura River watershed is currently 100% dependent on local water resources. Due to environmental challenges including regular cycles of drought, current extended drought conditions and regulatory challenges, the Ventura River has been facing an imbalance in water supply and demand.

In 1958, the Casitas Dam was completed to

create Lake Casitas, the primary surface water supply in the watershed. Lake Casitas stores runoff collected from the lake’s surrounding watershed and diverts water from the Ventura River at the Robles Diversion. The last time Lake Casitas was near full capacity was in 2006. **As of May 2017, Lake Casitas was at 43% of its full capacity.**

Ventura’s water is also pumped from deep groundwater wells located on the east side of town. Water allocations from the Oxnard Plain, Mound, and Santa Paula groundwater basins are shared regionally. Ultimately, the quantity of available water remains limited from local groundwater sources.

All of Ventura’s water sources depend on local rainfall for replenishment. A single, wet winter with above average precipitation will not neutralize the impacts of the past five consecutive years of persistent drought conditions. We will continue protecting our local water resources by investing in the future today! For more water shortage updates, please visit us at [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net)

Sincerely,  
Joe McDermott, Acting General Manager

**Please remember, the best source of available water is the one you conserve today.**

As summer approaches, saving water still matters!  
For more ways to save, please visit Ventura Water at [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net)

## MORE WAYS TO SAVE:



REPLACE YOUR  
LAWN WITH  
WATER WISE  
LANDSCAPING



50% OFF  
RAIN  
BARRELS



FREE  
GARDENING  
CLASSES



HIGH EFFICIENCY  
WASHING  
MACHINE  
\$75 REBATE



FREE  
HIGH  
EFFICIENCY  
SPRINKLER  
NOZZLES



USE RECYCLED  
WATER TO  
IRRIGATE YOUR  
LANDSCAPE

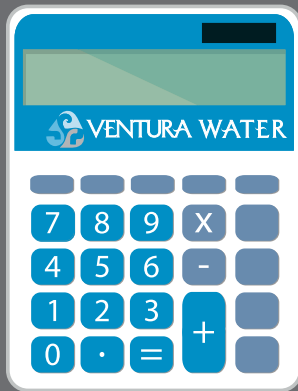


CALL TODAY  
805.677.6500

# NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

As a reminder, Ventura Water customers approved a four year rate increase which became effective July 1, 2014 through June 2018. Stage 3 water shortage rates were implemented in September of 2015. We currently remain in a Stage 3 Water Shortage Event.

A rate increase will become effective July 1, 2017 to account for increased costs to operate and maintain our water and wastewater systems. All bills after July 1, 2017 will reflect the new rates; there will be no proration between the old and new rates. Please visit [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net) and click on the "Rate Calculator" to determine your rate impacts. For more information, reference the January 2014 Cost of Service Study and the May 2015 Water Shortage Rate Study at [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net) and click on the "Library of Reports" button.




## WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE WATER: STAGE 3 WATER SHORTAGE EVENT

Remember, the following activities are prohibited and considered a violation of the City's Water Waste Ordinance as specified in the Municipal Code Section 22.170.010

- Do not allow water to run and be wasted during outdoor use
- Limit the use of potable water irrigation to two days per week
- Do not allow leaks to persist for more than 48 hours
- Do not use a handheld hose without an automatic shutoff nozzle
- Do not operate fountains unless the water is recirculating
- Do not wash or hose down hardscape surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks
- Do not irrigate outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours of measurable rainfall

## NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special needs can be met by calling (805) 667-6500 or the California Relay Service.  De acuerdo con el Acto de Americanos con Incapacidades, en case de que hay necesidades especiales, llamen a (805) 667-6500 o el Servicio de Retransmision de California.

Trusted life source for generations



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