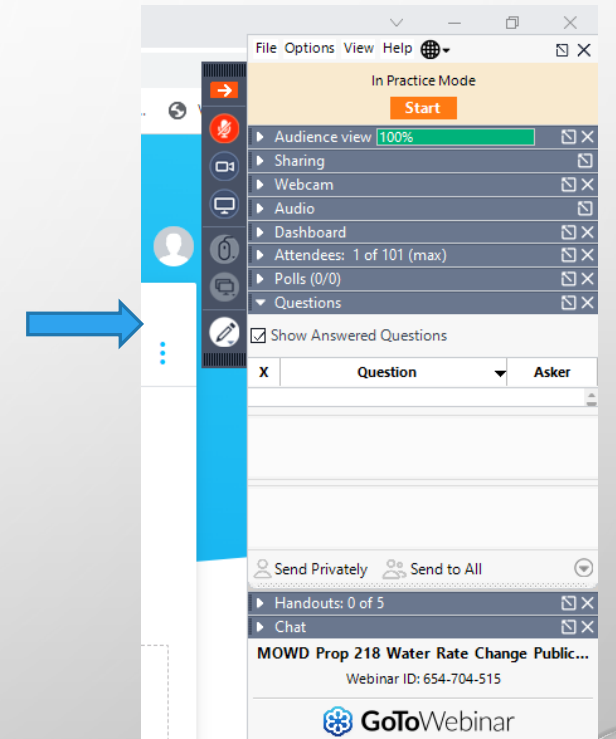




Board of Directors- Special Meeting  
Prop 218 Public Hearing: Water Rates  
Thursday, June 30, 2022  
5:00 pm

# Housekeeping Items...

- First, thank you for attending!
- All participants will be on mute to reduce background noise.
- Have a question? Please use the “questions” section at anytime.



# Agenda

- Roll Call (Ward)
- Public Comments (Etchart)
- What is a Prop 218 Hearing & Why Are We Here? (Etchart)
- Brief Overview of MOWD & Casitas (Etchart)
- Drought Status (Martinez)
- Allocation Program (Ward)
- District Capital Projects, Costs & Funding Sources (Martinez)
- Proposed Water Rates (Kentosh)
- Questions & Comments (Etchart)
- Adjournment (Etchart)

# Public Comments

*Right to be heard: Members of the public have a right to address the Board directly on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, provided that no action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.*

*Please Note: If you have comments on a specific agenda item, please add your comment or question in the “Question” feature on the virtual meeting. The Board President will call on you for your comments at the appropriate time, either before or during the Board’s consideration of that item.*

# What is a Prop 218 Hearing?

- In November 1996, California voters passed Proposition 218, “The Right to Vote on Taxes Act.” This constitutional amendment protects taxpayers by limiting the methods by which local governments can create or increase taxes, fees and charges without taxpayer consent.
- As we propose to raise water rates, this action falls under the jurisdiction of Prop 218.

# Prop 218 Protest Ballot Process

- Prop 218 notices and protest ballots were mailed to parcel owners of record with the Ventura County Assessor's office on May 6, 2022. (Section 6(a)(1) of California constitution art. XIII d )
- Prop 218 notices and protest ballots were made available on the District website May 9, 2022. <http://meinersoakswater.com/water-rates/>
- A total of 1,349 notices were mailed, if 51% protest the rate change, it would not pass.
- Protest ballots were due by end of business June 28, 2022. As of June 29, 2022, a total of 27 (0.02%) protest ballots were submitted.

# About the District

## Mission Statement

*The mission of Meiners Oaks Water District and its staff is to produce and deliver a reliable and sustainable supply of water to meet the needs of the residents and properties and the community within its boundaries.*

## District History

- Since our formation in 1949, Meiners Oaks Water District has gone through some significant changes in demographics, population, housing, and system demand. Meiners Oaks Water District currently serves approximately 4,200 people through 1,280 connections and 19 miles pipelines, including domestic, commercial, and agricultural customers. We achieve this with 4 active wells, just over 1 million gallons of storage, and 2 booster stations to supply water to customers at higher elevations.
- The District delivers an average of 1.75-acre feet of water per day to its customers which is equal to 572,203 gallons or 447 gallons per connection. In the summer months, that number can reach up to 2.5-acre feet per day or 814,628 gallons.

# • Lake Casitas Formation & Relationship to MOWD

- The MOWD, like many in and around the Ojai Valley, relies solely on groundwater extraction.
- Lake Casitas was created in part to be a backup water source for groundwater pumpers in the valley in time of drought. Lake Casitas is a reservoir that accumulates water from diversion and runoff of the Ventura River and other creeks.
- From the formation of the District in 1949 to 2014, MOWD had never needed to pull from the lake to supply water for our customers. Since 2014 we have needed to get water from Casitas every year, typically from mid-Summer to Fall or Winter, depending on rainfall needed to replenish our wells.

# Drought Status

- Board of Directors declared a Stage 3 drought May 2016, due to a lack of rainfall and groundwater depletion.
- Lake Casitas (MOWD backup supplier) remains at less than 40% capacity, currently the Lake is at 32.9%.
- 2020-2021 is the driest year Ojai has had since 1906.
- Casitas anticipates Stage 4 drought conditions within 6 months & Stage 5 conditions this time next year, without a significant amount of rain.

# Drought Status

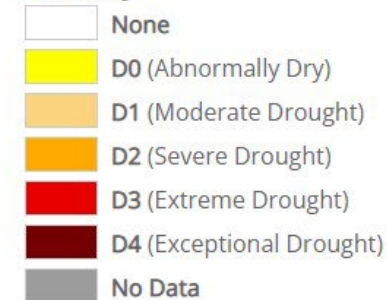
## California

[Home](#) > California

**Map released: Thurs. June 16, 2022**

Data valid: June 14, 2022 at 8 a.m. EDT

### Intensity



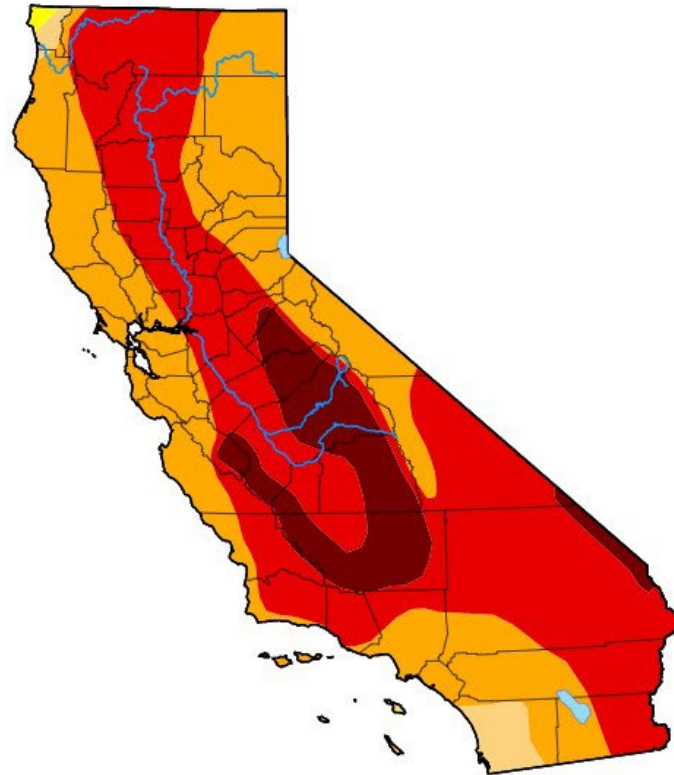
### Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

**Adam Hartman**, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

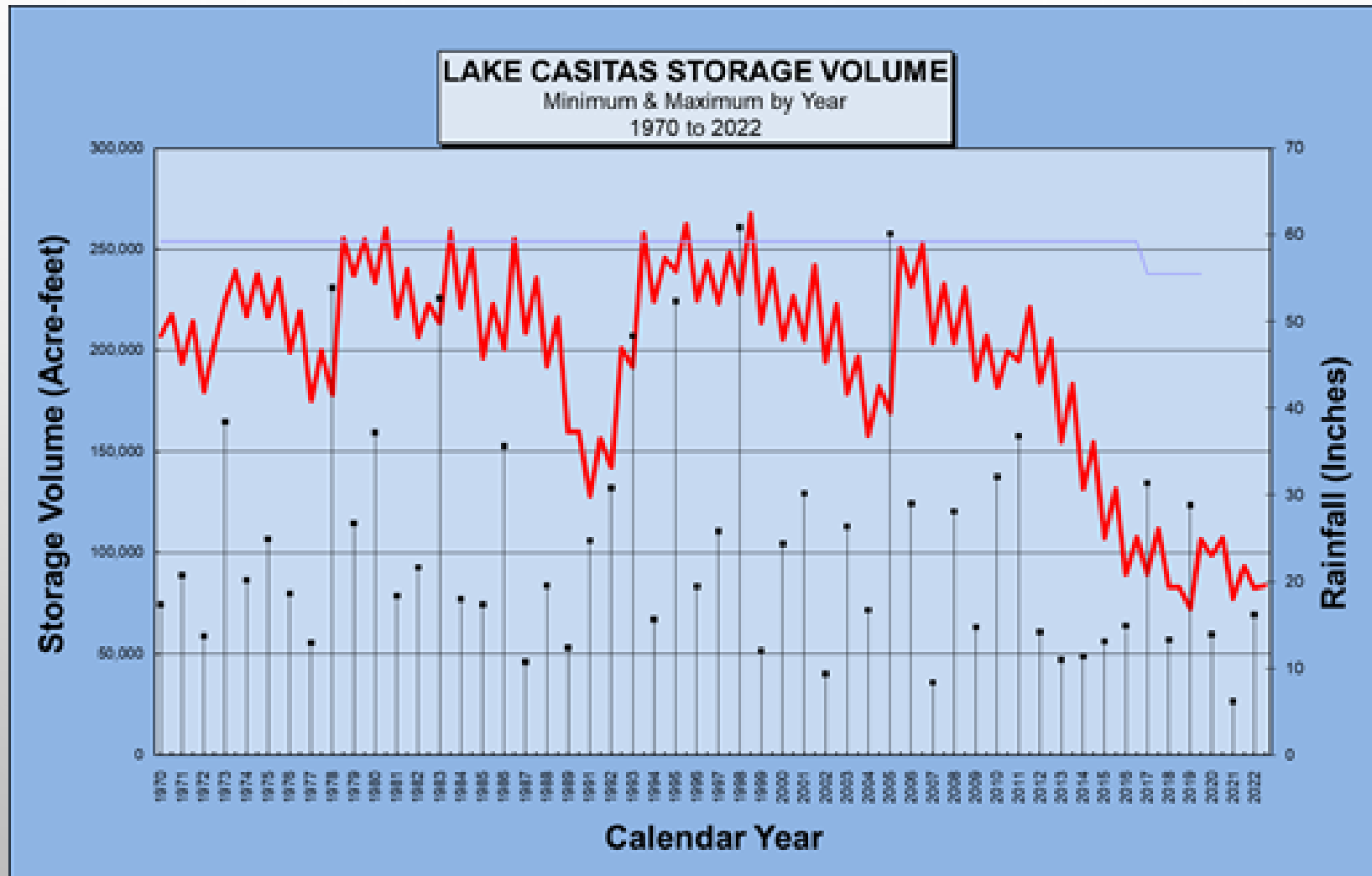
Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

**Brad Rippey**, U.S. Department of Agriculture



*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying **text summary** for forecast statements.*

# Casitas Lake Levels



# Allocation Program

- 2015 water allocations were largely based on historical water use.
- 2016 Eagle Aerial infrared fly-over parcel mapping.
- 2018 MOWD signed an MOU with Casitas (as our backup supplier) and agreed to adopt measures consistent with the Casitas WEAP.
- December 2021 MOWD Allocation Program implemented, posted on District website.
- Classifications: Residential monthly allocations with seasonal variation, Ag & Commercial annual allocations (reset each July 1).
- Online tool to look up allocations: <http://meinersoakswater.Com/customer-information/allocations-rates/>

# District Capital Improvement Projects

- Replacement Treatment Plant
- New source water well
- Meiners Road booster station & backup generation upgrade
- Storage tank replacement
- Well #8 blending station
- Wells # 4 & 7 backup chloramination
- Water main upgrade/replacement
- Advanced meter infrastructure - upgrade
- Office expansion



# Estimated 10-yr Capital Expenses

Fiscal Year	Water Treatment Plant	Meiners Road Zone	Replace Tank No. 2	New Well or Well 8	Replace Mains	Chloramination	Other	Annual Capital Expense
2022-23	\$350,000	\$75,000		\$60,000			\$74,500	\$559,500
2023-24	\$800,000	\$75,000				\$30,000	\$50,000	\$955,000
2024-25	\$700,000						\$50,000	\$750,000
2025-26			\$30,000	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$50,000	\$280,000
2026-27			\$600,000				\$50,000	\$650,000
2027-28			\$600,000				\$50,000	\$650,000
2028-29					\$100,000		\$50,000	\$150,000
2029-30					\$500,000		\$50,000	\$550,000
2030-31					\$500,000		\$50,000	\$550,000
2031-32					\$500,000		\$50,000	\$550,000

# Estimated Fiscal Reserves

Fiscal Year	Annual Operating Budget	Annual Capital Expenses	Total Annual Expenses	Annual Revenue	End-of-Yr Reserves
					\$1,400,000
2022-23	\$1,592,500	\$559,500	\$2,152,000	\$2,060,544	\$1,308,544
2023-24	\$1,656,200	\$955,000	\$2,611,200	\$2,142,966	\$840,310
2024-25	\$1,722,448	\$750,000	\$2,472,448	\$2,228,684	\$596,546
2025-26	\$1,791,346	\$280,000	\$2,071,346	\$2,317,832	\$843,032
2026-27	\$1,863,000	\$650,000	\$2,513,000	\$2,410,545	\$740,577
2027-28	\$1,937,520	\$650,000	\$2,587,520	\$2,506,967	\$660,024
2028-29	\$2,015,021	\$150,000	\$2,165,021	\$2,607,246	\$1,102,249
2029-30	\$2,095,621	\$550,000	\$2,645,621	\$2,711,535	\$1,168,163
2030-31	\$2,179,446	\$550,000	\$2,729,446	\$2,819,997	\$1,258,714
2031-32	\$2,266,624	\$550,000	\$2,816,624	\$2,932,797	\$1,374,886

# Operating Costs

- Past 5 years:
  - Contractors increased cost 30-50%
  - Materials increased costs 60-70%
- Ways the District is working to control costs:
  - Expanded contractor & vendor networks
  - Minimization of staff overtime
  - Improved inventory management
  - Actively seeking grant funding

# New Sources of Funding

- Partnership agreement with Watershed Progressive (Regina Hirsch) January 2022.
- Ventura County Resource Conservation District & CA Wildlife Conservation Board – Water Resiliency Regional Framework Project – Well 8 Nitrate Removal Feasibility Study (completed March 2022). Grant funding: \$26,700 (MOWD cost-share \$7,060).
- Wildlife Conservation Board VRIF-2 Planning Projects (applied Jan 2022): (3.1a) Waterwise for vulnerable communities & land resilience partnership (requested \$158,000 w/\$17,000 cost-share); (3.1b) Alternative water sourcing for aquatic ecosystem health (requested \$42,000 w/\$5,000 cost-share); (3.1c) AMI metering for evaluation of streamflow enhancement (requested \$57,897.57 w/\$22,000 cost-share). Pending award.
- MOWD Grants Committee is actively monitoring Federal, State and Local grant opportunities.

# Proposed New Water Rates

## 1) Monthly Water Availability Charge (WAC)

Meter size	Current	Proposed		
	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
All	\$35.91	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$36.00

## 2) Monthly Meter Capacity Charge (MCC)

Meter size	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
5/8"&3/4"	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
1"	\$16.00	\$16.00	\$16.80	\$17.60
1.5"	\$36.00	\$36.00	\$37.80	\$39.70
2"	\$104.00	\$104.00	\$109.20	\$114.70
3"	\$256.00	\$256.00	\$268.80	\$282.20
4"	\$776.00	\$776.00	\$814.80	\$855.50
6"	\$1,576.00	\$1,576.00	\$1,654.80	\$1,737.50

Note: In future water bills, the WAC and MCC will be combined into a single "Meter Charge" that will vary with meter size.

## 3) Unit Rate per HCF for all water used

Meter size	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
All	\$2.34	\$3.85	\$3.90	\$3.95

# Proposed New Water Rates

## 4) Over-Allocation Penalty (Additional charge for use exceeding a customer's monthly allocation.)

Meter size	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
All	\$1.00/Unit	The Over-Allocation Penalty will be set at Casitas MWD's Over-Allocation Penalty then in effect (Currently \$5.00/HCF). The amount is additional to the unit rate.		

## 5) Casitas Surcharge

Meter size	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25
All	The cost of purchasing water from Casitas MWD is collected as a "Casitas Surcharge" added to a customer's bill in proportion to the amount of water used that month.			(NO CHANGE)

## 6) Other Fees and Charges

See our website for special rates and conditions.

Note: 1 Unit = 100 cubic feet = 1 HCF = 748 gallons



Public Questions or Comments?

Thank you for attending!

