



Senior Canyon Water System Upgrades Project

Fact Sheet

The **Casitas Municipal Water District** is working with other local water agencies and stakeholders to find viable solutions to a water supply deficit in the Ventura River Watershed. The **Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company**, a retail water agency whose reliance on Casitas' water has increased in recent years, joined forces with Casitas to plan an upgrade of their water system. The goal of this mutual effort is to have Senior Canyon rely more on their own groundwater sources rather than on Casitas' surface water that comes from Lake Casitas. The project will also improve Senior Canyon's water quality and its ability to reliably provide water delivery to their own customers.

Senior Canyon serves between 600-800 people through 247 domestic metered service connections in the **upper Ojai Valley**. In addition, there are 48 irrigation connections that supply water to area farmers. Senior Canyon's water system consists of three sources. A surface water treatment plant that treats surface water supply from two spring/creek diversions, one horizontal tunnel well and a connection to Casitas' treated surface water.

The proposed water system upgrades include the replacement of both agricultural and domestic water supply pipelines that are suspended across the Senior Canyon Creek. The concrete blocks on both sides of the creek show signs of degradation and minor failure to include cable supports that were washed out in 1969. The interior lining of these main pipelines have large amounts of mineral deposits coating them, which dramatically diminishes the amount of water that can flow through them. This project proposes to replace the existing pipe bridge completely. A single support cable is recommended to hang both the new agricultural and domestic pipelines.

The proposed project will turn Senior Canyon Water Company's water supply, distribution, and treatment system from a manual to an automated one. Senior Canyon's existing manual system allows for tanks to overflow if staffing is not available. Installing an automatic control system to include a "level indicator" on distribution storage reservoir tanks will prevent them from overflowing. Furthermore, instrumentation that could measure the fluctuating flows from Senior Canyon's lateral well could more efficiently channel water into the

distribution and storage system. The current manual system can only make adjustments on a periodic basis allowing for possible increased flows to be released downstream as surface water, which then goes into the ocean.

Without this project, Senior Canyon will rely more on Casitas' limited surface water supply. Taking no action now, will compound the existing local water supply issue in the Ventura River Watershed in the future. The Casitas Municipal Water District lacks enough water supplies to meet its customers' water demands should a historic 21-year drought repeat itself. Casitas is a retail and wholesale water agency that is considered the backup water supply source for most of the water agencies found in the Ventura River Watershed. Casitas on average supplies water to approximately 65,000 residents and hundreds of agricultural customers.

Water customers in the Ventura Watershed do not receive any water from the State Water Project so we need to rely on our own local sources. The automatic upgrades will increase the reliability of Senior Canyon Water Company's operations and reduce their reliance on Casitas' water supply. The proposed Senior Canyon upgrades are a critical component of Casitas' Water Conservation Program. This program is necessary to address the imbalance between water supply and demand for the Ventura River Watershed.

Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.