

**WaterSMART
Drought Response Program:
Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022**

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. R22AS00020



Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project

Casitas Municipal Water District

1055 N. Ventura Avenue
Oak View, CA 93022



Applicant:
Michael Flood
General Manager
mflood@casitaswater.com
(805) 649-2251 ext 111

Project Manager:
Julia Aranda, P.E.
Engineering Manager
jaranda@casitaswater.com
(805) 649-2251 ext 107

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Tables	ii
List of Figures	ii
List of Appendices.....	ii
List of Acronyms.....	iv
Section 1: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria	1
1.1 Executive Summary	1
1.2 Project Location	3
1.3 Technical Project Description	3
1.3.1 Project Components	3
1.3.2 Project Tasks	5
1.4 Performance Measures	6
1.5 Evaluation Criteria	7
1.5.1 Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits.....	7
1.5.2 Evaluation Criterion B – Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits.....	10
1.5.3 Evaluation Criterion C – Drought Planning and Preparedness ..	13
1.5.4 Evaluation Criterion D – Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project	15
1.5.5 Evaluation Criterion E – Project Implementation	19
1.5.6 Evaluation Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation	20
Section 2: Project Budget	21
2.1 Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment	21
2.2 Budget Proposal	22
2.3 Budget Narrative	23

Table of Contents (cont d)

Section 3:	Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance	25
Section 4:	Required Permits or Approvals	28
Section 5:	Existing Drought Contingency Plan	29
Section 6:	Letters of Project Support.....	30
Section 7:	Official Resolution	31
Section 8:	References	32

List of Tables

Table 1-1	Benefits and Related Performance Measures	6
Table 1-2	Proposed Project Schedule.....	19
Table 2-1	Total Project Cost Table	22
Table 2-2	Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources.....	22
Table 2-3	Budget Proposal	23
Table 4-1	Required Permits and Approvals	28

List of Figures

Figure 1-1	Project Location and Vicinity Map.....	2
Figure 1-2	Drought Timeseries for Ventura County in Percent Area	18
Figure 1-3	Drought Across California 2014 to 2021	18

Table of Contents (cont d)

List of Appendices

- A. Official Resolution
- B. Letters of Funding Commitment
- C. Letters of Project Support
- D. Drought Planning Documentation
- E. Disadvantaged Communities Map

List of Acronyms

AF	Acre-feet
AFY	Acre-feet per year
BOD	Basis of Design Report
CalTrans	California Department of Transportation
Casitas	Casitas Municipal Water District
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMU	Concrete Masonry Unit
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVWD	Carpinteria Valley Water District
cfs	cubic feet per second
Delta	Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
E.O.	Executive Order
gpm	gallons per minute
hp	horsepower
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
IS/MND	Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Levels
MHI	Median Household Income
MWFPF	Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PDR	Preliminary Design Report
Psi	pounds per square inch
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
RFP	Request for Proposals
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VFD	Variable Frequency Drive
WEAP	Water Efficiency Allocation Plan

Section 1: Technical Proposal and Evaluation Criteria

1.1 Executive Summary

Date: October 5, 2021
Applicant: Casitas Municipal Water District
Applicant City, County, State: Oak View, Ventura County, California
Applicant Category: Category A
Project Name: Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project
Unique Entity Identifier: HH11HKVGMKA7
ASAP/SAM Account Status: Active; SAM CAGE Code: 4DVM5

Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) is seeking funding for the implementation of the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project (Project). Casitas and the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) have partnered to implement the Project which includes a 1.5 mile, 16-inch pipeline and two new pump stations to connect two independent water systems in neighboring counties. The Project will allow Casitas to receive a portion of its State Water Project (SWP) allocation from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to supply drinking water during drought periods or other emergencies. Casitas has had a SWP contract for 5,000 acre-feet-per-year (AFY) of water since 1973. However, due to a lack of infrastructure connecting to the SWP, Casitas has previously not had the ability to access this water supply source. The connecting intertie will allow Casitas to use water from the SWP to directly serve customers and to supply Lake Casitas, which is a primary drinking water source for many neighboring disadvantaged communities, and the cities of Ojai and Ventura in western Ventura County. Without the ability to access this drinking water, Casitas does not have a backup supply of water during drought emergencies, leaving many communities vulnerable to severe water use restrictions as outlined in Casitas' Water Efficiency Allocation Plan (WEAP). At the same time, recent multi-year drought conditions and increasing demands have resulted in declining water levels at Lake Casitas, currently at 33% capacity, making this local surface water supply increasingly unreliable and susceptible to water quality issues. Implementation of this Project would make over 2,000 AFY available at Lake Casitas to improve the long-term reliability of the reservoir and improve local water supply security and drought resiliency. This Project is supported by the Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, the WEAP, and Casitas' 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, among other planning documents. All of these reports promote surface water management projects to increase local water supply reliability and drought resiliency.

The proposed project will be completed within approximately 3 years of award of the grant, with construction anticipated to begin by February 2024 and be complete by February 2025.

The proposed project is not located in a federal facility or on federal land.

Figure 1-1 provides a project location and vicinity map.

Figure 1-1 Project Location and Vicinity Map



1.2 Project Location

The proposed Project will be implemented in the vicinity of where the western Ventura County and southeastern Santa Barbara County borders meet, primarily in unincorporated Ventura County. The project will include infrastructure with a westernmost extent located 2 miles east of the City of Carpinteria and with an easternmost extent located 6 miles northwest of the City of Ventura, with various project components in between. The intertie pipeline will be constructed between Casitas' transmission pipeline, known as the "Rincon Main", and CVWD service lines east of the City of Carpinteria. The pipeline will run westward along Highway 192 and in private easements.

Pump Station A will be located on a parcel on Casitas Pass Road (Highway 150) approximately 5.5 miles west of Lake Casitas and east of Rincon Hill Road on the westernmost edge of Ventura County. Pump Station B is located on a parcel south of Highway 150 and west of Casitas Pass.

Additional system modifications will occur along the Casitas Rincon Main, as pictured in Figure 1-1.

1.3 Technical Project Description

Casitas is a Municipal Water District providing wholesale and retail potable water to western Ventura County including 6,130 agricultural, commercial, and residential customers. Casitas' water supplies are 100 percent local, consisting primarily of surface water stored in Lake Casitas and a smaller amount of groundwater. As such, its supplies are limited, and its system is highly vulnerable to drought conditions which are becoming more severe and prolonged.

The proposed Project consists of the installation of an intertie pipeline and other infrastructure that will allow the bi-directional conveyance of water supplies between Casitas and CVWD, as needed in times of drought or other emergencies when local supplies are unavailable or severely diminished. Most importantly, the Project will allow delivery of SWP water from the SWP Coastal Branch to Casitas, via the CVWD system. Casitas has had a SWP contract for 5,000 AFY of water since 1973. However, due to a lack of infrastructure, Casitas has previously not had the ability to access this water supply source. Currently, CVWD has access to SWP supplies from Lake Cachuma in the Santa Ynez Valley. However, there is no connection with that system to allow delivery of SWP supplies to the Casitas system. The Project would allow Casitas to utilize unused capacity within the South Coast Conduit of the SWP to deliver approximately 2,000 AFY of its allocation into its service area to enhance its local supplies during an extended drought.

1.3.1 Project Components

Project components will include the installation of the intertie pipeline, two bi-directional booster pump stations, and various improvements along Casitas' water transmission lines.

Intertie Pipeline

Approximately 7,400-lineal feet of 16-inch pipe will be installed over 1.5 miles at the western end of Casitas' water service area. The pipeline will connect Casitas' Rincon Main southeast of

the intersection of Highway 192 and Highway 150 (Casitas Pass Road) in Ventura County to the southernmost CVWD main on Casitas Pass Road in Santa Barbara County.

The system will be treated with chlorine residual in Casitas' system as necessary. The pipeline will be installed in twelve segments at varying lengths between 130 and 2,000 feet via open cut and trenchless construction. The pipeline will be installed in CalTrans and private rights-of-way.

Booster Pump Stations

Bi-directional Pump Station A includes: three 600-horsepower (hp) vertical turbine pumps w/Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs), Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) blockwall building, chlorine and ammonia addition facilities including chemical storage, chemical pumps, and analyzers, Motor Control Center, and medium voltage power supply.

Bi-directional Pump Station B includes: Three 250-hp vertical turbine pumps w/ VFDs, CMU blockwall building, and Motor Control Center and medium voltage power supply.

Rincon Main Improvements

The existing Rincon Main pipeline was installed in 1958 and is a bar-wrapped concrete cylinder pipe. Water currently flows east to west from the Rincon Pump Plant through the Rincon Main. When the flow is reversed when water is taken from CVWD to Casitas (west to east), the working pressure in the pipeline will be higher than originally designed. Portions of the existing pipeline will be sliplined to increase the pipe pressure rating.

Modifications to Existing Facilities

Several existing facilities will need to be modified as part of the project including: Installation of balancing tanks at Rincon Main; mechanical improvements of bypass, vent, and surge facilities at Rincon Vent; bypass, vent, and surge facilities improvements at the Rincon Control Reservoir; bypass and pressure reducing facilities improvements at the Rincon Pumping Plant; intake improvements at Casitas Dam; and a new dechlorination facility at the Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant (MWFPF) as shown in Figure 1-1.

Land Requirements

The pipeline and pump station components require acquisition of temporary and permanent easements as well as the acquisition of land. Casitas is not including land acquisition in the project scope or budget.

Design and Final Plans and Specifications

Design is underway for the project. A Preliminary Design Report (PDR) was completed in 2019. Thirty percent design drawings were completed in 2021. The design will include drawings and technical specifications necessary for public bid, include the following major components of the project: General sheets, hydraulic profile and process schematics, civil engineering, structural/mechanical design of pipe, pump station, and chlorination facilities, electrical and instrumentation, any "special" crossings, pipeline trench and bedding, surface rehabilitation and

restoration, permit and environmental compliance mitigation, cost estimates, and a detailed construction schedule.

1.3.2 Project Tasks

Task 1 Project Management, Administration and Reporting

Project management will be provided by Casitas staff for successful project implementation. Activities will include administrative project oversight, securing contracts, managing contractors, and conducting progress meetings to verify appropriate progress and completion within budget and on schedule. Upon receipt of the grant award and for the duration of the grant agreement, grant administration will also be performed including activities to execute the grant agreement, ensure compliance with grant requirements, preparation and submittal of regular invoice and progress report materials, and regular coordination with the grant manager, as necessary. A grant administration consultant will be considered for assisting with this task. Casitas has not included projects costs for staff time and administrative costs for this task.

Task 2 Design and Engineering

A PDR was completed in 2019. Casitas has selected a design engineer to conduct final design, including the preparation of plans and specifications for the pipeline, bi-directional pump stations, and system improvements. Final Design will be completed in October 2023. Casitas has not included design costs incurred prior to July 1, 2021.

Task 3 Environmental Documentation

Casitas selected a consultant to prepare the appropriate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for this project. Casitas prepared an Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) that was completed in February 2021; however, certain projects elements have changed since then, and the IS/MND is currently being revised. Details of project elements to be included in the revised IS/MND are captured in the proposal amendment from August 26, 2021. It is anticipated that the document will be complete in December 2021. NEPA compliance is complete. Casitas has not included project costs for environmental documentation incurred prior to July 1, 2021.

Task 4: Permitting

This task includes acquisition of necessary permits for implementation of the project, which will be acquired prior to the start of construction by the selected contractor. Permitting is anticipated to be minimal and will be identified more specifically during final design. Potential permits that may be required are outlined in Section 4.

Permitting costs have not been incurred prior to July 1, 2021.

Task 5: Construction

Upon completion of final design, Casitas will prepare bid documents and conduct a competitive bidding process for the selection of the Project construction contractor, in accordance with the Public Contracts Code and Casitas' standard procedures. The selected contractor will perform construction according to the bid documents and final design plans and specifications.

Construction will include the 1.5-mile pipeline, bypass, vent, and surge facilities, and other improvements at Casitas facilities including the Rincon Control Reservoir, Vent, and Pumping Plant. Balancing tanks will be installed for mechanical improvements. Construction will also include two bi-directional pump stations, Station A and Station B. Construction is expected to take one year and will be completed by February 2025.

Project Deliverables will include:

- Final Design documents
- CEQA/NEPA documentation
- Permits
- Progress Reports
- Final Completion Report

1.4 Performance Measures

The proposed project enables Casitas to increase reliability of Lake Casitas, improve local water security, and provide drought resiliency. The specific anticipated benefits and their related methods for measuring performance are detailed in the following table.

Table 1-1 Benefits and Related Performance Measures

Benefit Type	Description	Method of Performance Measurement
Water Supply	The Project will enable Casitas to deliver up to 2,000 AFY of SWP water to Lake Casitas during drought periods or emergencies.	SWP water volumes will be metered at specific locations at both Casitas and CVWD tie-ins at both ends of the service areas.
Supply Reliability/ Drought Resiliency	By constructing the intertie, Casitas can make a new source of drinking water available to help maintain water levels at Lake Casitas, increase reliability of the Reservoir as a source of local potable water, and increase drought resiliency.	Improved supply reliability will be based on the additional amount of water that can be delivered with the new pipeline. Pre- and post-project supply data will be compared using meter data.
Redundancy/Emergency Water Supplies	The intertie will allow the transfer of drinking water between Casitas and CVWD and other Santa Barbara County water agencies, if emergency supplies are needed.	Improved system redundancy during emergencies, if Casitas, CVWD, or other Santa Barbara County agency supplies are unavailable. Water transfers will be accounted for using meter data.

1.5 Evaluation Criteria

1.5.1 Evaluation Criterion A – Project Benefits

- *How will the project build long-term resilience to drought? How many years will the project continue to provide benefits?*

The proposed Project will enable the use of Casitas' existing SWP allocation to deliver drinking water directly to customers or to Lake Casitas in order to help maintain surface water levels and improve long-term reliability of this local surface water source. Improving the ability to augment local supply infrastructure with a new drinking water supply is essential for maintaining a diverse water supply portfolio and creating drought resiliency.

Lake Casitas is a critical source of local surface water and supplies drinking water to 64,000 residents in western Ventura County, including the City of Ventura and communities in the Ojai Valley. Lake Casitas makes up approximately 88 percent of Casitas' total retail and wholesale water supply. However, recent drought conditions and increasing demands have impacted surface water levels, thereby making this source of water increasingly less reliable. Losing the reliability of this local surface water supply creates water supply challenges and reduces Casitas' resiliency to drought. Currently, Lake Casitas storage is at 33% capacity due to extensive drought conditions.

The project area has received less than 25 percent of normal precipitation over the last twelve months¹, leaving water levels at historical lows and the local water supply vulnerable to worsening drought. Casitas has had a SWP allocation since 1973, however, Casitas has been unable to utilize the allocation due to a lack of infrastructure and connection to the SWP.

Implementation of the proposed Project would enable this otherwise unused supply source to be delivered to Casitas' service area and supply water either directly to customers or to Lake Casitas during drought periods when levels at the reservoir are low. The connection to the SWP will enable Casitas to meet customer needs during drought periods and also provide a backup emergency water supply to the CVWD and other Santa Barbara County agencies. By utilizing existing water supply sources, the proposed project will improve the reliability of Lake Casitas as a vital local surface water source and reduce Casitas' risk to water supply shortages. This increased supply reliability would help build long-term drought resilience for the region.

The Project is anticipated to have a useful life of 30 to 100 years thereby enabling long-term water supply resilience for Lake Casitas over that time period. Engineering reports indicate the pipeline will have a useful life of 100 years. The pump station equipment and structure will have a useful life of 30, and 50 years, respectively. In addition, Lake Casitas is expected to be sustainably maintained for the long-term.

- *Will the project make additional water supplies available?*

¹ Ventura County Watershed Protection District. 2021. Rainfall to date. <https://www.vcwatershed.net/fws/gmap.html>

Yes, see responses below.

- *If so, what is the estimated quantity of additional supply the project will provide and how was this estimate calculated?*

The Project will enable delivery of 2,000 AFY of SWP water on average, which is especially critical when local water supplies are otherwise at risk of shortage or unavailable during drought periods. By enabling the connection to the SWP system through this intertie, the proposed Project will create a new usable water supply to augment local potable water supplies.

The 2,000 AFY of available water supply is based on calculations conducted by Carpinteria Valley Water District, based on SWP infrastructure and anticipated unused capacity. Casitas' contract with DWR allows up to 5,000 AFY of SWP water; however, it is anticipated the amount available throughout normal, single-dry years, and multiple dry-years will be about 2,000 AFY, on average.

- *What percentage of the total water supply does the additional water supply represent? How was this estimate calculated?*

Currently, Casitas has 12,664 AFY (2020) in available supplies to meet its retail and wholesale water demands during normal water years. Of that amount, Casitas uses 11,185 AFY from Lake Casitas and the other amount from local groundwater basins. The additional water that would become available with this Project, 2,000 AFY, would therefore make up approximately 16% of Casitas' total annual water supplies.

- *Provide a brief qualitative description of the degree/significance of the benefits associated with the additional water supplies.*

The benefits of this additional water supply are substantial for the following reasons. By making this new supply available to Casitas and connecting the Casitas and CVWD systems, this Project helps improve the long-term reliability of Lake Casitas, and also contributes to improved water supply reliability on a regional basis. The Project will not only facilitate provision of drinking water to the Casitas service area but will also provide a backup emergency water supply to the CVWD, and other Santa Barbara County water purveyors. In the case of drought conditions when local water supplies are extremely limited in the Casitas service area, this Project will provide substantial resiliency to Casitas' water supply system. In the case of potential supply disruption caused by natural disasters, climate change, or other catastrophic failures that may impact the CVWD supplies, this Project could provide emergency supplies between the Casitas and CVWD systems. Overall, the Project would improve drinking water security to communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

This project would allow Casitas to extend its local water supply during the earliest stages of a drought emergency. Casitas' Water Efficiency Allocation Plan outlines practices for Casitas and Casitas customers to follow during stages of drought emergencies. In response to an anticipated drought-related water shortage, the WEAP applies a reduction of allocations to customers dependent on water levels in Lake Casitas. If Lake Casitas water levels reach critical shortage levels, the associated response would include severe restrictions for all water uses. With new SWP supplies, Casitas could enhance critical water supply availability and limit the most severe restrictions on its customers.

Lake Casitas is also an important recreational area for the region. The Lake Casitas Recreational Area has over 700,000 visitors per year and provides recreational boating and fishing benefits. To provide public access to these activities, Lake Casitas levels need to be at an operational level. This project would increase supply at Lake Casitas during drought conditions to better maintain critical lake levels so Lake Casitas can continue to provide recreational benefits.

- *Will the project improve the management of water supplies?*

This Project directly improves the management of Casitas water supplies by facilitating two critical management strategies at once: increasing water supply and providing emergency supplies during disasters. By collaborating with other regional agencies on water wheeling projects, Casitas increases system redundancy and improves water supply reliability for its customers and the region.

- *How will the project increase efficiency or operational flexibility?*

Without the Project, Casitas does not have any existing emergency water supplies for its surface water reservoir. This Project will help Casitas maintain critical water levels and therefore increase operational efficiency to avoid critical water shortage response actions. It will improve operational flexibility by providing an additional water source that could help improve Casitas' ability to deliver water during drought emergencies. Additionally, the Project will not only facilitate delivery of drinking water to the Casitas service area but will also provide a backup emergency water supply to CVWD and other Santa Barbara County agencies to provide resiliency to both systems.

- *What is the estimated quantity of water that will be better managed as a result of this project? How was this estimate calculated?*

Lake Casitas has a storage capacity of 238,000 AFY and supplies 11,185 AFY on average to retail and wholesale customers. Casitas anticipates approximately 2,000 AFY of SWP supply will be available on average over the next ten years from the Project. Therefore, at a minimum, approximately 2,000 AFY of supplies will be better managed and put to beneficial use by enhancing Casitas system supplies with SWP supplies. In addition, as the SWP supplies will contribute to the long-term reliability of Lake Casitas and may contribute to improved water quality at Lake Casitas, the Project is considered to help better manage the full amount of supplies delivered from the reservoir, i.e., 11,185 AFY.

- *What percentage of the total water supply does the water better managed represent? How was this estimate calculated?*

Casitas supplies up to 11,185 AFY from Lake Casitas to meet its retail and wholesale water demands, which makes up 88% of its total annual supplies (based on 2020 data). Therefore, the total amount of water better managed makes up about 88% of Casitas' total supplies.

- *Provide a brief qualitative description of the degree/significance of anticipated water management benefits.*

The improved management of water supplies that this Project enables is significant for Casitas' overall water supply reliability and drought resiliency. As noted above, the Project is critical for addressing water supply challenges, including long-term drought, and in particular for a service area that meets the needs of 64,000 people and several disadvantaged communities. Effective

water resource management depends on optimizing available resources and utilizing multiple sources. This Project achieves that goal by facilitating use of SWP water to supply customers directly or to Lake Casitas in times of drought. Maintaining the reliability of this local surface water reservoir with available supplies is a critical management strategy to improve long-term reliability and water security in the region.

- *Will the project make new information available to water managers? If so, what is that information and how will it improve water management?*

The implementation of this Project will provide valuable information for other water managers considering this type of project. This water wheeling effort is particularly relevant at the moment due to the importance of collaboration between regional agencies and redundancy for risk resilience. As such, this project could serve as a useful example for effective water resource management for water supply reliability and drought resiliency.

1.5.2 Evaluation Criterion B – Sustainability and Supplemental Benefits

1. Climate Change:

- *In addition to drought resiliency measures, does the proposed project include other natural hazard risk reductions for hazards such as wildfires or floods?*

The Project enables Casitas and CVWD to provide water to each other in times of emergency including drought, flooding, wildfires, debris flow, landslides, and earthquakes when other supplies are unavailable. This Project may be particularly important for reducing wildfire risks and damages. Lake Casitas' service area is composed of hillsides and mountainous areas that have been impacted by various wildfires in recent years, including one of the largest wildfires in California history, the 2017/2018 Thomas Fire. During that fire, Lake Casitas served as a critical source of water supply for aerial water drops across the region.

With access to additional water supplies to maintain water levels at Lake Casitas, the Project would help provide a critical local, accessible source of water to combat wildfires.

- *Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience such as, but not limited to, reducing the urban heat island effect, lowering building energy demands, or reducing the energy needed to manage water? Does this infrastructure complement other green solutions being implemented throughout the region or watershed?*

The Project will attempt to reduce the energy needed to manage water, where possible. Casitas will provide gravity-fed water to coastal communities downhill of the Rincon Main, to reduce energy demands associated with pumping uphill. In addition, the booster pump stations will include VFDs, which could help reduce energy consumption associated with the project.

- *Will the proposed project establish and use a renewable energy source?*

The proposed project will not establish or use a renewable energy source.

- *Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollutions such as air or water pollution?*

The proposed Project could help reduce negative water quality impacts associated with lower water levels at Lake Casitas. Lower lake levels contribute to concentration of nutrients, increased potential for algae blooms and fewer intake levels to choose from to send water to the treatment plant.

- *Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation?*

The proposed Project will not reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- *Does the proposed project have a conservation or management component that will promote healthy lands and soils or serve to protect water supplies and its associated uses?*

Increased storage can result in less soil erosion and nutrient loading to lakes. The SWP water will provide a critical source of drinking water, and will also be a sustained flow of clean, safe, reliable potable water to replenish surface water at Lake Casitas and therefore sustain healthy ecosystem habitat.

- *Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?*

The overall Project is considered an adaptation to ongoing drought and climate change. The proposed Project connects water systems across Ventura and Santa Barbara County boundaries, resulting in a more reliable ‘water grid’. The Project would diversify water supplies, reduce reliance on the Ventura River watershed, and increase opportunities for regional water transfers; all of which help to address the impacts of climate change on local water supplies.

2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

- *Will the proposed project serve or benefit a disadvantaged or historically underserved community? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities.*

Yes. The proposed Project will benefit several disadvantaged census tracts, block groups, and census places in Casitas’ service area by improving water supply reliability. A map showing disadvantaged areas within Casitas’ service area is included in Appendix E.

- *If the proposed project is providing benefits to a disadvantaged community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the applicable state criteria or meets the definition in Section 1015 of the Cooperative Watershed Act.*

The Project is located within a disadvantaged community, as defined by the State of California, as having a median household income of 100% or less of the State’s Median Household Income MHI . A map showing disadvantaged areas within Casitas’ service area is included in Appendix E.

- *If the proposed project is providing benefits to an underserved community, provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the community meets the underserved definition in E.O. 13985.*

The Project does not provide benefits for an “underserved community” meeting the definition in E.O. 13985.

3. Tribal Benefits

- *Does the proposed project support tribal resilience to climate change and drought impacts or provide other tribal benefits such as improved public health and safety through water quality improvements, new water supplies, or economic growth opportunities?*

The proposed Project does not provide any tribal benefits.

- *Does the proposed project support Reclamation’s tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?*

The proposed Project does not support Reclamation’s tribal trust responsibilities.

4. Ecological Value

- *Does the project seek to improve ecological climate change resiliency of a wetland, river, or stream to benefit wildlife, fisheries, or habitats? Do these benefits support an endangered or threatened species?*

When full, Lake Casitas has 2,700 acres of surface area, 238,000 acre-feet of capacity, and approximately 35 miles of shoreline. While Lake Casitas provides a multi-year water supply, lake levels become diminished during extended drought periods when little precipitation occurs. This reduces not only the amount of water supply available for municipal and agricultural use, but also the amount of habitat available, and can result in water quality impairments to the detriment of wildlife and habitats dependent on the lake and shorelines. The Lake has ecological value, including providing fishery habitat and important bird habitats. The Lake Casitas Recreation Area is identified as supporting nearly threatened and vulnerable species such as Bald Eagle, Loggerhead Shrike, and Osprey, among other species. If additional water is available, Lake Casitas can continue to provide habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species.

- *What are the types and quantities of environmental benefits provided, such as the type of species and the numbers benefited, acreage of habitat improved, restored, or protected, or the amount of additional stream flow added? How were these benefits calculated?*

Lake Casitas has been named a Globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy. Since the construction of Casitas Dam in the 1950s, many birds have come to depend on the lake’s open water, protected bays, vegetated shallows, and freshwater marsh habitats. As the largest inland body of water in Ventura County, it hosts many bird species including some species that occur nowhere else inland in the county. Changing lake levels can affect the locations and concentrations of birds. For example, a higher lake level will increase the amount of open water and freshwater marsh habitat available. A higher lake level results in more shoreline habitat, while some reedy marsh areas will dry up when the lake level is low. The Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project provides an alternative water supply, which could help to prevent Lake Casitas water levels from getting too low during extended drought periods, providing water supply and ecological habitat benefits.

- *Will the proposed project reduce the likelihood of a species listing or otherwise improve the species status?*

The proposed project is not expected to reduce the likelihood of a species listing. However, Lake Casitas supports a variety of habitats and species, that may be listed as a federally threatened or endangered species.

5. Other Benefits. *Will the project address water sustainability in other ways not described above?*

Yes. See responses below.

- *Will the project assist states and water users in complying with interstate compacts?*

The Project does not assist states and water users in complying with interstate compacts.

- *Will the project benefit multiple sectors and/or users?*

Casitas' water users include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and irrigation users. This Project will benefit users in multiple sectors by implementing a collaborative, cost-efficient, and multi-benefit water management solution to address water supply issues to meet the needs of many, especially under drought conditions.

- *Will the project benefit a larger initiative to address sustainability of water supplies?*

With the uncertainty of climate impacts on water supplies, reliance on only local water supplies and a limited supply portfolio increases the vulnerability of a system to meet future demands of its customers. Currently, Casitas is 100% reliant on local supplies, which are increasingly threatened by drought and could become unreliable during emergencies. This project will address sustainability of water supplies by diversifying Casitas' water supply portfolio during drought periods and improving its supply reliability over the long-term.

1.5.3 Evaluation Criterion C – Drought Planning and Preparedness

- *Attach a copy of the applicable drought plan, or sections of the plan, as an appendix to your application.*

Excerpts of the following plans are included in Appendix D:

1. Casitas Water Efficiency Allocation Plan (WEAP)
2. Casitas 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)
3. Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Update 2019

- *Explain how the applicable plan addresses drought.*

See responses below.

- *Explain whether the drought plan was developed with input from multiple stakeholders. Was the drought plan developed through a collaborative process?*

In response to water demands and declining water storage in Lake Casitas during the 1987-1991 drought period, Casitas prepared a Water Efficiency Allocation Plan (WEAP). The WEAP provides guidance on water supply and demand strategies to conserve water supply and allocate water use under all water storage conditions in Lake Casitas. The WEAP is a collaborative effort between Casitas and regional agencies to provide water demand reduction strategies and mitigation measures during drought periods.

The Casitas 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) was prepared in coordination with Casitas' wholesale customers, neighboring agencies, land use and planning agencies, groundwater management agencies, agriculture associations, watershed protection districts, and other local agencies with common interests in Casitas' water resources. The Cities of Ventura and Ojai and County of Ventura were also invited to collaborate on the 2020 UWMP. The UWMP defines Casitas' Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project as a future water supply project to meet water demands during normal, single-dry, and multiple dry-year events for the next 25 years.

IRWM is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions on a regional scale that increase regional self-reliance, reduce conflict, and manage water to concurrently achieve social, environmental, and economic objectives. The Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was prepared in coordination with regional partners such as: Santa Barbara County, cities, local water and sanitary districts, non-governmental organizations (NGO), community services districts, and other special districts. This Project supports the goals of the IRWMP and is identified as a regional project by the IRWMP stakeholder group.

- *Does the drought plan include consideration of climate change impacts to water resources or drought?*

Yes. Several drought plans that include the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project include consideration of climate impacts to drought. The WEAP notes that watersheds in the Ventura River region are subject to an extreme variation in climate conditions, ranging from multiple years of extreme drought, which adds uncertainty to the availability of local water supplies. Considering this variation, and the likelihood of future and more extreme drought conditions in Ventura County, the WEAP notes that the availability of Lake Casitas supply can be directly influenced by long-term droughts, changes to diversion and storage conditions, and subsequent changes to lake water quality as water levels fluctuate.

Casitas considers the safe yield and annual water availability as a result of climate change, differing from historical conditions. In 2020, Casitas re-evaluated the safe yield of Lake Casitas to 18,420 AF and applied a supply safety factor -15 percent and a climate change adjustment of -4.3 percent for planning purposes.

Casitas' UWMP is a highly important water resources planning document that analyzes water supply reliability. As required by California State Water Code 10603 and 10635(b), the analysis considers climate change and multi-year droughts to develop water demand and supply projections and identify potential future projects needed to improve supply reliability. The UWMP describes climate change vulnerabilities identified to be applicable to Casitas' service area. Since Casitas relies on local surface water supplies for 100% of all retail and wholesale supplies, the impacts of climate change are magnified when rainfall is scarce or limited. In the *Projected Changes in Ventura County Climate* report, referenced in the UWMP, it is estimated that climate change may lead to higher water demands due to more extreme heat events, dryer periods, and increased evapotranspiration rates, which may lead to declining lake storage levels over time without the availability of additional supplies. This Project ensures a safe and reliable water supply source, which will help mitigate against the effects of climate change.

The Santa Barbara County IRWMP describes climate change in Santa Barbara County, including Carpinteria Valley Water District and its service area, who will also benefit from the Project. Through the IRWMP stakeholder collaboration process, climate change vulnerabilities are identified and prioritized based on stakeholder discussion. One of the main vulnerabilities identified in the plan includes a decrease in local water supply and increased drought potential.

- *Describe how your proposed drought resiliency project is supported by an existing drought plan.*
 - *Does the drought plan identify the proposed project as a potential mitigation or response action?*

Strategies specified in the UWMP, based on the WEAP, to mitigate against climate changes impacts in the Casitas service area include regional collaboration and water wheeling projects, such as the proposed Project. The UWMP states that Casitas plans to improve supply reliability and implement the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project to meet future customer demands in normal, single-dry, and multiple-dry years. The Project was planned with the purpose of providing drinking water supplies and maintaining water levels at Lake Casitas during drought periods. The Santa Barbara County IRWMP identifies planning and implementation projects that could mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

Overall, the proposed Project directly addresses identified strategies in multiple drought plans by using available emergency water supplies and improving long-term water supply reliability.

- *Does the proposed project implement a goal or need identified in the drought plan?*

Increasing water supplies are specific needs and strategies identified in the WEAP and UWMP and will be directly addressed and implemented with the proposed Project. The IRWMP identified the need for implementation projects that could mitigate against impacts of climate change, which this Project does. As such, the project will help increase water supply reliability under climate change conditions, including prolonged droughts.

- *Describe how the proposed project is prioritized in the referenced drought plan?*

In the plans, water supply projects are a high priority to improve overall water supply reliability. As stated in the UWMP “the Project would allow Casitas to access its SWP allocation and other supplemental water through a wheeling agreement with Santa Barbara County agencies. This project provides physical delivery of water to Casitas’ system to mitigate droughts and emergencies.” (Page 67). Additionally, this Project is one of the primary means identified in the UWMP to provide water security.

1.5.4 Evaluation Criterion D – Severity of Actual or Potential Drought Impacts to be addressed by the Project

- *What are the ongoing or potential drought impacts to specific sectors in the project area if no action is taken, and how severe are those impacts?*

Without the proposed project, and projects like it, Casitas and its wholesale customers will experience growing challenges in fully meeting demands and maintaining sustainable surface water levels, especially under drought conditions with below-normal precipitation and higher evapotranspiration rates.

Surface water is the primary local source of Casitas' water supply, but that resource is becoming increasingly stressed by drought. Over the last several years, Lake Casitas has seen a decline in water levels due to ongoing drought conditions. Lake Casitas, located within the western portion of Casitas' service area, provides a critical local source of drinking water, making up approximately 88 percent of Casitas' total supply.² Casitas provides Lake Casitas water to portions of the cities of Ojai, Ventura, communities in the Ojai Valley, and coastal regions of unincorporated Ventura County. To use surface water from Lake Casitas, Casitas has operated the Marion Walker Pressure Filtration Plant since 1995. The MWPPF sits at the base of Casitas Dam and uses a pressure filtration to treat water and a chloramination facility to meet drinking water standards before it is distributed into Casitas' water system. Lake Casitas receives direct inflow from Coyote Creek and Santa Ana Creek tributaries, and diversions from the Ventura River via the Robles-Casitas Canal from the upstream Robles Diversion and Fish Passage Facility.

Over the last 45 years, the annual safe yield of Lake Casitas has declined by 25 percent.³ These impacts have reduced the reliability of Lake Casitas and created challenges for surface water management. Casitas has been seeking additional options for increasing the availability and reliability of its water supplies in an effort to improve local water security and drought resiliency.

The proposed project is particularly important for expanding Casitas' water supply portfolio for reliability of water supplies during droughts. Without the project, Casitas would be reliant only on local supplies to meet the needs of 64,000 people. In the face of more frequent and severe droughts, Lake Casitas is vulnerable to decreased water levels, despite growing needs for local water supplies.

In addition, without the project and the opportunity for increasing water supplies, lake levels will continue to be impacted by growing water demands and the reservoir will become increasingly less reliable as a source of local water supply. This would exacerbate water supply challenges due to the absence of alternative supplies.

Under conditions of curtailed imported supplies and supply shortages, Casitas' wholesale customer, the City of Ventura, would enact mandatory water use reductions to address water shortages and Casitas would enact similar measures for its retail customers. Without the project, it could be expected that the stage of action in the WEAP would reach more restrictive levels sooner, whereas increasing emergency water supplies with the project would help mitigate the unavailability of local surface water to reduce the severity of water shortage contingency actions to be implemented.

- *Whether there are public health concerns or social concerns associated with current or potential drought conditions.*

The primary concern to be addressed with the project is drinking water availability and reliability, which is a public health issue. By increasing its supply reliability and expanding its

² Casitas Municipal Water District. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Section 6.2.9.

³ Casitas Municipal Water District. Water Efficiency Allocation Plan. Section 1.2

water supply portfolio, Casitas can mitigate source-specific shortages and improve its ability to continue to reliably meet customer water needs.

- *Whether there are ongoing or potential environmental impacts.*

Drought conditions can impact fish and wildlife viability, reduce quality and quantity of habitat, and reduce resiliency to disease or other changes in the environment. It is unknown to what extent the project could contribute to improved environmental conditions. However, it is anticipated that improved surface water levels will improve habitat conditions for birds, fish, and plant species. As such, the project could contribute to locally improved environmental conditions, especially during droughts when surface waters are most impacted.

- *Whether there are ongoing, past, or potential, local, or economic losses associated with current drought conditions (e.g., business, agriculture, reduced real estate values).*

Potential supply shortages under drought conditions could result in economic burdens to Casitas' customers due to Casitas' reliance on local water supplies. The Casitas Board of Directors annually considers the setting of water rates to reflect the cost of water service. If a water shortage occurs due to drought, customers could face a conservation penalty that will be applied to individual customer billing for each unit of water that is in excess of their allocation imposed at a certain stage of drought.

Agricultural customers make up approximately 55 percent of Casitas' retail demands⁴. Supply shortages and restrictions can have severe impacts to agricultural production and could result in substantial economic losses.

- *Whether there are other drought-related impacts not identified above.*

Drought conditions can increase competition over supplies and require necessary, sometimes drastic, water reduction measures in order to stretch available supplies. Depending on the volume of storage available in Lake Casitas, Casitas' customers could face 20 to 50 percent allocation reductions for certain uses. By improving water supply reliability and drought resiliency, Casitas can reduce the likelihood of water-related conflicts and the need for implementing strict water use reduction measures.

- *Describe existing or potential drought conditions in the project area*

See responses below.

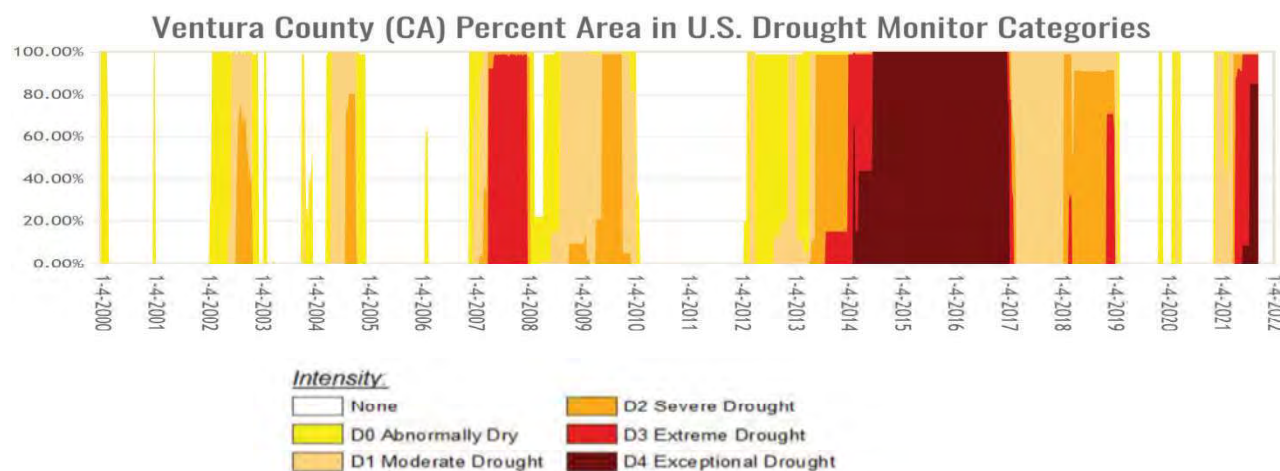
- *Is the project in an area that is currently suffering from drought or which has recently suffered from drought?*

Casitas' service area and the project site are located within western Ventura County, which has experienced among the most severe and prolonged drought conditions, both, statewide and nationwide. Starting in 2014 through the end of 2021, the County experienced abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions, with the majority of the County experiencing at least extreme drought for a majority of those years. The western portion of the County experienced the most

⁴ Casitas Municipal Water District. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Section 2.4.2.

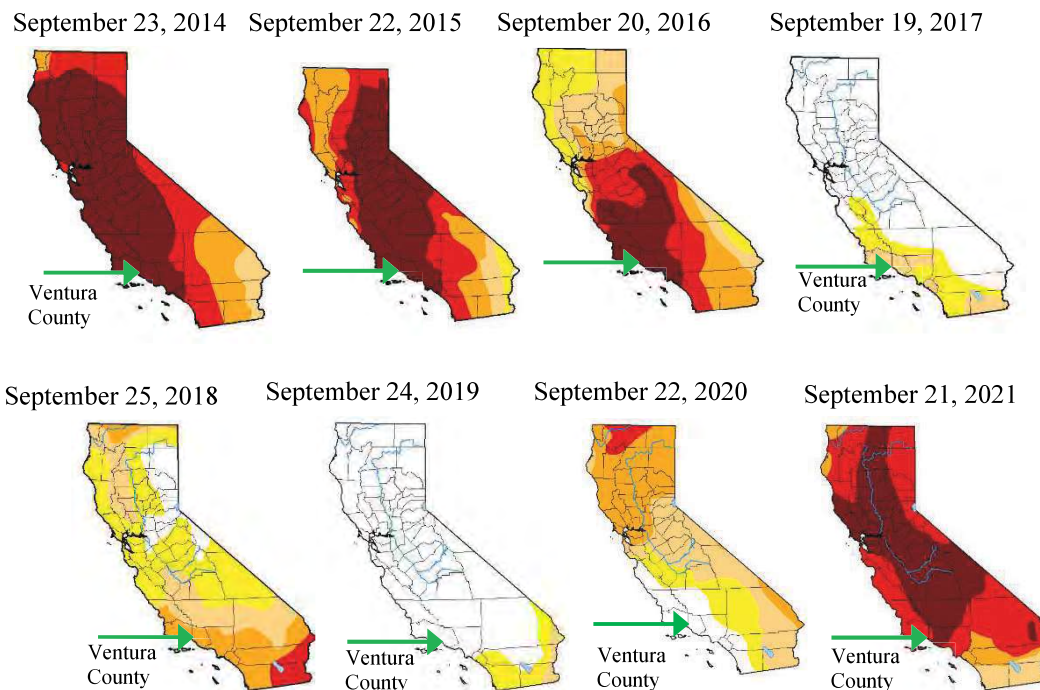
prolonged drought and generally most severe conditions during that timeframe, which due to the reliance on local surface water supplies, decreased precipitation, increased demand, and a lack of access to SWP water for drought resiliency made this area extremely vulnerable. See Figures 1-2 and 1-3, above. Surface water supplies were particularly hard hit by recent drought conditions. By January 2019, Lake Casitas, which is fed solely by local runoff, had reached a historic low of 30% of its capacity and has barely increased to 33% at the time of this application.

Figure 1-2 Drought Timeseries for Ventura County in Percent Area



Source: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>

Figure 1-3 Drought Across California 2014 to 2021



Source: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/MapArchive.aspx>

- *Describe any projected increases to the severity or duration of drought in the project area resulting from climate change.*

Among the climate change impacts projected for the region are droughts of higher frequency, longer duration, and greater intensity. These conditions are in part due to projected increase in average temperatures of 2-3° F, increase in evapotranspiration on the order of 5-10%, and an increase in the number of dry days throughout the rainy season. These findings are discussed in the *Projected Changes in Ventura County Climate Report* developed by the Ventura County Watersheds Coalition and other partners. The climate change considerations are also summarized in Casitas' 2020 UWMP.

Ventura County has experienced recent extreme and persistent drought periods. While the drought period between 2012 and 2019 was among the most intense and long-lasting in the recent past, based on historic occurrences and climate change projections, these conditions are highly likely to impact the project area again in the near future, with increasing frequency and increasing intensity.

1.5.5 Evaluation Criterion E – Project Implementation

- *Describe the implementation plan of the proposed project.*

A detailed description of activities by task and expected deliverables is included in Section 1.3. The schedule for project implementation with duration and milestones is shown below.

Table 1-2 Proposed Project Schedule

Task/Activity Name	Start	Finish
Grant Award Notification (Assumed Date)	February 2022	February 2022
Task 1. Project Management, Administration and Reporting	February 2022	March 2025
Task 2. Design and Engineering		
Feasibility Study		Complete
Preliminary Design		Complete
Final Design	July 2021	October 2023
Task 3. Environmental Documentation		
CEQA Documentation	July 2021	December 2021
NEPA Documentation		Complete
Task 4. Permitting	July 2021	October 2023
Task 5. Construction		
Construction Contracting and Bidding	November 2023	January 2024
Construction	February 2024	February 2025

- *Describe any permits that will be required, along with the process for obtaining such permits.*

All necessary permits will be obtained by Casitas prior to construction. Required permits are listed and described in Section 4.

- *Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.*

A PDR was completed in December 2019 to evaluate a SWP intertie to transfer water between CVWD and Casitas during drought emergencies. The PDR identified, assessed, developed, and recommended site and design criteria for the pump stations, alignment and design criteria for the pipeline, and design of chlorine and ammonia addition facilities. In addition to the PDR, 30 percent design was completed during this time. The Project is currently in the Final Design stage. A Basis of Design Report and Final Design documents will be completed by October 2023.

- *Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.*

Implementation of the proposed project would not require any new policies or administrative actions. The project is part of Casitas' overarching effort to improve water supply management to meet demands for the region and adapt to climate change. The effort is also supported by stakeholders that would benefit from the project, as indicated in the attached support letters.

1.5.6 Evaluation Criterion F – Nexus to Reclamation

- *Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation?*

Yes. Lake Casitas reservoir is part of the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Ventura River development project, which includes Casitas Dam, and a canal and conduit system. While Reclamation owns Lake Casitas, the reservoir is operated and maintained by Casitas Municipal Water District under a permanent repayment contract with Reclamation.

- *If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor, or by any other contractual means?*

Casitas is a Reclamation contractor. SWP water that will be used during drought emergencies will come from the southern end of the Delta. It will not include water from any other Reclamation projects or facilities, including Central Valley Project (CVP) water.

- *Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?*

Casitas Dam and Reservoir (Lake Casitas) were built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the 1950s to supply water to retail and agricultural customers in the Ojai Valley. Since then, Lake Casitas has been managed and operated by Casitas, formerly known as the Ventura River Municipal Water District. This Project will benefit Reclamation infrastructure by ensuring that the reservoir can continue to provide long-term water supplies and recreational opportunities for the region.

- *Is the applicant a Tribe?*

The applicant is not a tribe.

Section 2: Project Budget

2.1 Funding Plan and Letters of Commitment

- *Describe how the non-Federal share of project costs will be obtained. Please identify the sources of the non-Federal cost share contribution for the project, including:*
 - *Any monetary contributions by the applicant towards the cost-share requirement and source of funds (e.g., reserve account, tax revenue, and/or assessments).*
 - *Any costs that will be contributed by the applicant.*
 - *Any third-party in-kind costs (i.e., goods and services provided by a third party).*
 - *Any cash requested or received from other non-Federal entities.*
 - *Any pending funding requests (i.e., grants or loans) that have not yet been approved and explain how the project will be affected if such funding is denied.*

The estimated total allowable project cost for the proposed Project is \$15,444,723. With this application, Casitas is requesting less than 12.95 percent of the total project costs, or \$2,000,000. Casitas will fund the remaining project costs using internal funds from Casitas' rate structure. Casitas has a pending funding request for a \$15,520,270 loan from the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The loan has not yet been approved or funded; however, a notice of receipt of a complete application is included in Appendix B. In the event that the loan is not approved, either fully or partially, any remaining costs would be paid for by water revenues. Therefore, the project will not be affected if such funding is denied. The Project is included in Casitas' Approved Budget for FY 20/21.

No other cash funds or in-kind costs have been requested from a third-party funding source. There are no other outstanding funding requests.

The SF 424 budget form indicates a federal cost share amount of 13%, however, the more precise percentage of 12.949 was not compatible with the federal form restrictions. Casitas is requesting a federal cost share amount of \$2,000,000.00

- *Identify whether the budget proposal includes any project costs that have been or may be incurred prior to award. For each cost, describe:*
 - *The project expenditure and amount*
 - *The date of cost incurrence*
 - *How the expenditure benefits the project*

The budget proposal includes project costs that have been or are anticipated to be incurred prior to award. Casitas intends to provide these costs as part of the non-federal cost share. Final Design is currently underway. Project costs will be incurred prior to and after the award date. The current amount expected to be spent until October 2023 is \$2,236,058. This expenditure benefits the project by providing final design documents to be used for the construction phase.

Casitas' cost share will be applied towards design costs spent after July 1, 2021 and prior to award.

CEQA documentation is currently being amended and will be complete by December 2021. Casitas is providing project costs for CEQA documentation incurred between July 1, 2021 and December 2021. Complete CEQA documentation will help Casitas meet state environmental requirements and provide appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented during construction. Casitas' cost share will be applied towards CEQA costs.

Permitting activities have not yet commenced, however, the project schedule indicates a task start date of July 2021. Approval of all construction permits will help Casitas meet construction timelines. Casitas does not anticipate incurring permitting costs prior to award; however, Casitas will not seek grant reimbursement for any costs incurred prior to award.

Casitas does not anticipate requesting reimbursement for any project costs for equipment, construction management, construction, and other allowable costs prior to award.

2.2 Budget Proposal

The following tables (Tables 2-1 and 2-2) summarize total costs and funding sources for the proposed Project. The total eligible cost of the proposed Project is \$15,444,723. Funding sources for the project include funding from Casitas and requested funding from Reclamation. No other Federal funding has been requested or received for the proposed project.

Table 2-1 Total Project Cost Table

Source	Amount
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$2,000,000
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$13,444,723
Value of third-party contributions	\$0
Total Project Cost	\$15,444,723

Table 2-2 Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

Funding Sources	Amount
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Casitas Municipal Water District/DWSRF loan*	\$13,444,723
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$13,444,723
Requested Reclamation Funding	\$15,444,723

* Since the DWSRF loan is still outstanding, it is not included in the SF-424 form.

The budget proposal consists of costs associated with implementation of the proposed Project which fall under the Contractual/Implementation and Other categories. The budget proposal is provided in Table 2-3 and is described in more detail in the following Budget Narrative.

Table 2-3 Budget Proposal

Budget Item Description	Computation		Quantity Type	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages (a)				
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits				
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
Travel				
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
Equipment				
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
Supplies and Materials				
Not Applicable	-	-	-	-
Contractual/Implementation				
Design & Engineering	Contractual Agreement		Amendment dated	\$2,236,058
			9/16/21	
Construction Management			Proposal	\$664,476
Construction	Engineer’s Estimate from Preliminary Design		Report	\$12,313,200
Other – Environmental and Regulatory Compliance				
CEQA/NEPA	Contractual Agreement		Amendment dated	\$53,555
			8/26/21	
Permitting	Contractual Agreement		Amendment dated	\$177,434
			9/16/21	
Indirect Costs				
Not Applicable				-
Total Estimated Project Costs				\$15,444,723

2.3 Budget Narrative

Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits

Project implementation will primarily be conducted by specialized contractors whose costs are further detailed below. Casitas will not seek reimbursement for staff time spent on the Project, such as project management activities. Fringe benefits are not included in the overall project budget.

Travel

Casitas does not anticipate any travel costs.

Equipment

Equipment costs associated with the construction of the pipeline, booster pump stations, and Rincon Main improvements, are included in the construction cost estimate.

Materials, and Supplies

No materials or supplies are anticipated to be directly purchased for this Project.

Contractual

Contractual/Construction work to be performed for this Project includes design and engineering and construction, including the installation of the pipeline, pump stations, improvements at the Rincon Main, and construction management. Design costs include all Final Design costs to be incurred after July 1, 2021. The design and engineering firm was selected using a competitive procurement method. Design costs were estimated based on the original contractor agreement and subsequent proposal amendment dated September 16, 2021. Construction costs were estimated based on engineer's cost estimates in the PDR, based on experience with similar projects. Additional costs include costs for an independent construction manager who would also have responsibility for labor compliance during construction. All procurements with an anticipated aggregate value that exceeds the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (currently \$10,000) will use a competitive procurement method.

All estimates are considered fair and reasonable.

Third-Party In-Kind Contributions

No work proposed for this Project will be accomplished by third-party contributions.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

CEQA costs are based on an original contractor agreement and amendment dated August 26, 2021. The contractor was selected using a competitive-procurement method. The CEQA costs are based on the anticipated need of a CEQA IS/MND for this Project and only include costs incurred after July 1, 2021. Permitting costs were estimated based on an existing proposal from the selected design and engineering contractor. Costs are based on estimates from similar projects. No permitting costs have been incurred to date.

Other Expenses

No other expenses are anticipated that are not captured under the above categories.

Indirect Costs

Casitas does not anticipate indirect costs.

Section 3: Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

- *Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.*

The proposed Project consists of the installation of a pipeline, two booster pump stations, and improvements at the Rincon Pumping Plant and associated facilities. These activities have the potential to result in soil disturbance which also has the potential to temporarily impact water quality and biological resources. It is determined that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, however, there will be a less than significant effect due to mitigation measures included in the IS-MND.

The Project has the potential to impact biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology, and water quality. Steps to mitigate any potential impacts would include the implementation of a Worker Environmental Awareness Program to assist workers in recognizing special status biological resources during construction. Additionally, if nesting birds are found on site during construction, sensitive habitat fencing will be installed and care will be taken to minimize construction disturbance, including limited staging and laydown areas to unvegetated sites. To avoid and minimize potential impacts to waters and water quality, all work within the Rincon Creek area will be clearly delineated with highly visible material. Street sweeping may be used to prevent off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials. To prevent the discharge of pollutants to waters, silt barriers or other materials will be used as appropriate. Site washout areas will be located at least 100 feet away from an open water source. Additional mitigation measures may include restoring temporary disturbance to jurisdictional waters and conducting an arborist study to prevent impacts to protected trees of significance. Construction activities will be conducted in compliance with local and state stormwater laws and, if found necessary, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will specify best management practices to reduce and prevent related water quality impacts. Mitigation measures are outlined in the Project IS/MND.

- *Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?*

No threatened or endangered species were found during biological surveys. Eight special status wildlife species were determined to have the potential to occur within the project area. Impacts may result in temporary impacts to species. Implementation of mitigation measures would reduce direct and indirect impacts to special status wildlife species to less than significant.

- *Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States?" If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.*

The project does not impact any wetlands or other surface waters under CWA jurisdiction.

- *When was the water delivery system constructed?*

In 1952, the Bureau of Reclamation completed reconnaissance-level studies of western Ventura County's water supply and water requirements, which led to the development of Casitas Dam and Reservoir and water distribution system (Lake Casitas) in 1959. Presently, Casitas manages Lake Casitas, 14 tanks totaling 30 million gallons of storage, nine pump stations, and approximately 160 miles of pipelines. Casitas acquired the Ojai Water System (OWS) from Golden State Water Company in 2017. The OWS obtains its water supplies from local wells in the Ojai Valley Basin and from Lake Casitas. The Ojai Water System includes 32 miles of pipelines, five tanks totaling 1.544 million gallons of storage, five booster pump stations, five active groundwater wells, and an iron and manganese treatment facility. The components of the OWS were constructed as early as the 1930s. Casitas is currently implementing a pipeline replacement program to upgrade the OWS to meet current standards for fire flow.

- *Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.*

The proposed project will not result in any modifications of or effects to any irrigation system.

- *Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.*

There are no buildings, structures, or features within the project site boundaries that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Abbott Ranch, located on Highway 150 in Carpinteria, while not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR, is eligible for local designation as a Ventura County Site of Merit. While the proposed project involves the installation of underground piping through a section of Abbott Ranch, the proposed construction and operation of the pipeline would not result in a substantial adverse change to the historical resource as defined by CEQA. The property would continue to retain the physical characteristics conveying its local historical significance.

- *Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?*

There are no known archeological sites located within the proposed project area.

- *Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?*

The project will not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect on low income or minority populations. The proposed project would allow the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD. The project would have a long-term benefit of increasing the resiliency of the local

water distribution and improving regional water supply reliability. These benefits would serve all residents in the project area regardless of race, ethnicity, or income level.

- *Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?*

No, the project is not anticipated to access to or ceremonial use of Native sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands.

- *Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?*

No, the Project is not intended to contribute to spread of noxious weeds. Any earth-disturbing work would have limited potential to contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of, noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

Section 4: Required Permits or Approvals

Necessary permits will be acquired prior to the start of construction and will be identified more specifically during final design. The selected contractor will be required to obtain all necessary permits. Anticipated permits and approvals are listed in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Required Permits and Approvals

Agency	Potential Permit/Approval	Reason for Permit/Approval
State Water Resources Control Board/Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board/Central	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Construction General Permit or Discharges of Groundwater from Construction; Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Construction activities resulting in ground disturbance exceeding one acre; discharge of groundwater encountered during construction
CalTrans	Encroachment Permit	Pipeline construction within CalTrans right-of-way in Highways 192 and 150
County of Ventura	Coastal Development Permit Discretionary Tree Permit	Project implementation in Coastal Zone; project may impact protected trees
County of Santa Barbara	Coastal Development Permit	Project implementation in Coastal Zone
US Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit	Potential disturbance of jurisdictional wetlands/waters
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Streambed Alteration Agreement	Potential disturbance of riparian habitat

Section 5: Existing Drought Contingency Plan

Casitas Municipal Water District relies on local drinking water supplies, including groundwater and surface water to deliver water to retail and wholesale customers. Water stored at the Lake Casitas reservoir provides a majority of Casitas' supplies, which makes the reservoir particularly vulnerable to drought. Casitas manages water supply planning primarily through the Water Efficiency and Allocation Program to ensure allocations of water and conservation targets are in line with drought conditions.

Casitas actively manages existing local water resources using the best available practices. Climate change considerations are taken into consideration during the development of water supply and demand projections. The UWMP requires that urban water suppliers develop projections for potential short and extended drought periods over the next 20 years. These projections inform planning of future supply actions for future water supply reliability. Additionally, Casitas' UWMP encompasses a detailed Drought Contingency Plan which identifies this as a potential future emergency supply.

The Santa Barbara County IRWMP identifies the lack of redundancy and capacity in supply and distribution systems as a key challenge for the region. This leaves communities vulnerable to water supply shortages during times of drought and emergencies. The IRWMP prioritizes projects that address drought resiliency. This Project meets the goals of the IRWMP by promoting interagency collaboration to create a reliable, cost-effective emergency water supply for the future.

As such, the following relevant drought contingency planning documents are included in Appendix D:

1. Casitas Water Efficiency Allocation Plan (WEAP)
2. Casitas 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP)
3. Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update 2019 (IRWMP)

Section 6: Letters of Project Support

Letters of support from the following agencies are included in Appendix C:

- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- United States Senator Dianne Feinstein
- City of Santa Barbara
- Montecito Water District
- Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce

Section 7: Official Resolution

An electronically signed official resolution authorizing Casitas' Board of Directors to submit this grant application, commit to the financial and legal obligations, and negotiate and execute the grant agreement is provided in Appendix A.

The resolution was approved by the Board of Directors on September 8, 2021.

Section 8: References

California Department of Water Resources. 2020. State Water Project Delivery Capability Report 2019. August.

Casitas Municipal Water District. 2021. 2020 Urban Water Management Plan Update.

Casitas Municipal Water District. 2021. Water Efficiency Allocation Plan. June.

Dudek. 2019. Santa Barbara County IRWM Region IRWM Plan Update 2019. January.

National Drought Mitigation Center. 2021. United States Drought Monitor. September. Available at: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Rincon Consultants. 2021. Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project Public Review Draft Initial Study- Mitigated Negative Declaration. February.

Ventura Watershed Protection District. 2021. Current Rainfall Map Interface. September.

Waterworks Engineering. 2019. Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project Preliminary Design Report. July.

Western Regional Climate Center, Desert Research Institute, Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County. 2019. Projected Changes in Ventura County Climate. June.

APPENDIX A

Official Resolution

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-22

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT'S APPLICATION, AND APPROVING
NEGOTIATION AND EXECUTION OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR A WATERSMART DROUGHT
RESILIENCY GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NO. 22AS00020) FOR THE
VENTURA-SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES INTERTIE**

WHEREAS, the Casitas Municipal Water District "Casitas") is organized and operates pursuant to the Municipal Water District Act of 1911 commencing with Section 71000 of the California Water Code; and

WHEREAS, Casitas seeks to match local funds with federal funds provided by the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation to increase drought resiliency of Casitas and its customers; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Casitas has reviewed and approves of the application to the Reclamation WaterSMART Drought Response Program; and

WHEREAS, Casitas agrees to the administration and cost sharing requirements of the WaterSMART Grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, determined and ordered by the Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District, as follows:

Section 1. Casitas is hereby authorized to receive, if awarded, the WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects Grant funding in the amount of \$2,000,000 and to enter into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for the receipt and administration of said grant funds.

Section 2. If awarded, the General Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized to take any and all action which may be necessary for the completion and execution of the project agreement and to take any and all other action which may be necessary for the receipt and administration of the grant funding in accordance with the requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Section 3. This resolution officially becomes a component part of Casitas' grant application.

Section 4. If any section, subsection, clause or phrase in this Resolution is for any reason held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this Resolution shall not be affected thereby. The Board of Directors hereby declares that it would have passed this Resolution and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases or the application thereof be held invalid.

Resolution Authorizing the District's Application, and Approving Negotiation and Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation For s WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Grant (Funding Opportunity No. 22as00020) for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District held on September 8, 2021.

I, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board of Directors of Casitas Municipal Water District certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2021-22 is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a meeting of said Board of Directors held on September 8, 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Kaiser, Hajas and Brennan
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	Cole

In Witness Whereof, I have signed my name this 20th day of September, 2021.

Rebekah Vieira

Digital Signature of Rebekah Vieira
Date: 2021-09-20 10:00:00 AM
Email: rebekah.vieira@casitaswater.com

Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board of Directors
Casitas Municipal Water District

APPENDIX B

Letters of Funding Commitment

State Water Resources Control Board

December 11, 2020

Mr. Michael Flood
General Manager
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 N. Ventura Avenue
Oak View, CA 93022-9699

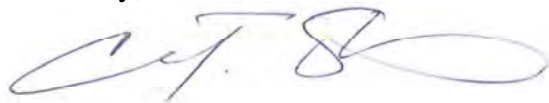
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF) ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACT (ASADRA) FUNDING APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Flood:

Thank you for your interest in the ASADRA funds through the DWSRF program. We have received your application by the first-round deadline of September 30, 2020 and have completed an initial review. Your ASADRA application appears complete. A project manager has been assigned to your application and will be conducting a detailed review. You may be contacted to provide additional documents or information necessary to complete the application or determine your eligibility.

If you have any questions, please contact Maria Pang at
Maria.Pang@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Christopher Stevens
Assistant Deputy Director
Division of Financial Assistance

cc: See next page

cc: Michael Downey
Division of Financial Assistance

Uyen Trinh-Le
Division of Financial Assistance

Maria Pang
Division of Financial Assistance

David Houston
Division of Financial Assistance

Jeff Densmore
Division of Drinking Water

APPENDIX C

Letters of Project Support



Carpinteria Valley Water District

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue • Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-2816

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matthew Roberts
President
Case Van Wingerden
Vice President
Polly Holcombe
Shirley L. Johnson
Kenneth Stendell

September 28, 2021

GENERAL MANAGER

Robert McDonald, P.E. MPA

US Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Amanda Erath, Drought Resiliency Projects NOFO
P.O. Box 250007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**Support for the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project –
WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Program: Drought Resiliency Projects
Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020**

Dear Ms. Erath,

The Carpinteria Valley Water District is pleased to support Casitas Municipal Water District's grant application in response to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020.

Ventura County is experiencing severe drought conditions and has recently become the first county in Southern California to fall under the highest drought category, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought has resulted in extremely low water levels at Lake Casitas, which supplies water to the City of Ventura, Ojai, and unincorporated county and disadvantaged communities.

The Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project will result in improved water supply reliability for Casitas Municipal Water District. The Project will include a 1.5-mile pipeline and two pump stations to connect Casitas' water system with the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) in Santa Barbara County. This pipeline will allow Casitas to receive a portion of its State Water Project (SWP) allocation, which has not been accessible due to a lack of infrastructure. The Project will ensure that each system can receive drinking water supplies during drought periods or other emergencies. The Project is anticipated to supply up to 2000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water to be used when local supplies are limited. This will enable Casitas to meet drinking water supply needs for its customers, ensure high-quality drinking water, and improve its overall water supply reliability.

Support from the Bureau of Reclamation will allow this important project to go forward and greatly benefit the region's drinking water supply. We strongly urge your thoughtful

consideration of the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Robert McDonald, General Manager at 805 640-5147, or by email at Bob@cvwd.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert McDonald", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert McDonald, P.E. MPA
General Manager
Carpinteria Valley Water District

cc: Michael Flood, Casitas Municipal Water District

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 30, 2021

The Honorable Camille Touton
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Commissioner Touton,

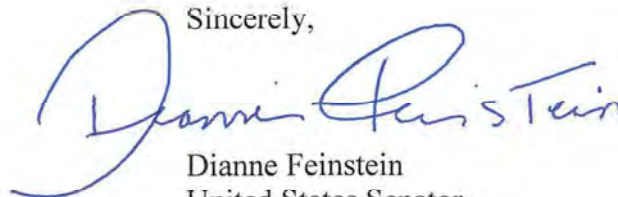
I write in support of Casitas Municipal Water District's application for funding from the WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022, administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Casitas Municipal Water District is requesting funding for its Ventura-Santa Barbara County Interconnection Project, which would help alleviate the region's severe drought conditions. Ventura County recently became the first county in Southern California to be placed in the U.S. Drought Monitor's highest drought category. These conditions have led to record-low water levels at Lake Casitas, a vital water supply to several cities and underserved communities in the County. The project would increase Casitas Municipal Water District's water supply and improve its reliability during periods of drought.

If awarded this grant, the project would connect Casitas Municipal Water District to the Carpinteria Valley Water District in Santa Barbara County. This would allow the former to receive a portion of its State Water Project allocation, which has been unattainable in the absence of the needed infrastructure. A new 1.3-mile pipeline and two water pump stations would create the access and produce more potable water for both districts' service areas in times of drought. When local water supplies are scarce, communities can rely on the 2,000 acre-feet per year of water that would be supplied because of this project. With these upgrades, Casitas Municipal Water District would be better positioned to serve the residents of Ventura County by diversifying its water supply and bolstering its emergency readiness.

I urge you to give Casitas Municipal Water District's application every consideration. Please keep my office informed of the status of this request, and if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my Los Angeles office at (310) 914-7300.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/om



City of Santa Barbara

Public Works Department

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

September 30, 2021

Main Office

630 Garden Street
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

Tel: (805) 564-5377
Fax: (805) 897-2613

Engineering

Tel: (805) 564-5363
Fax: (805) 564-5467

Facilities & Energy Management

Tel: (805) 564-5583
Fax: (805) 897-2577

Fleet Management

Tel: (805) 564-5402
Fax: (805) 897-2515

Streets Operations & Infrastructure Management

Tel: (805) 564-5454

Transportation Planning & Parking

Tel: (805) 564-5385
Fax: (805) 564-5467

Water Resources

Tel: (805) 564-5387
Fax: (805) 897-1991

US Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Amanda Erath, Drought Resiliency Projects NOFO
P.O. Box 250007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

SUBJECT: Support for the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project –
WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Program: Drought Resiliency Projects
Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020

Dear Ms. Erath:

The City of Santa Barbara is pleased to support Casitas Municipal Water District's grant application in response to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020.

Ventura and Santa Barbara County is experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought has resulted in extremely low water levels throughout the Central Coast. The Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project (Project) will result in improved water supply reliability for Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas), and will also serve to more fully utilize existing regional facilities.

This Project fosters a greater regional cooperation and is a benefit to the entire region, and the users that pay for water service. The Project entails the construction of a 1.5-mile pipeline and two pump stations to connect Casitas' water system to the larger State Water project, which includes hundreds of miles of existing infrastructure. This pipeline will allow Casitas to receive a portion of its State Water Project (SWP) allocation, which has not been accessible due to a lack of infrastructure. This Project will provide Casitas with another option for accessing drinking water supplies during drought periods or other emergencies. In an emergency, this pipeline could also provide the ability to move water from Casitas to Southern Santa Barbara County. This was something that was done with a temporary above ground pipeline during the drought of the early 1990s. However, during normal operations, the Project is anticipated to supply Casitas with up to 2,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water to be used when local supplies are limited. This will enable Casitas to meet drinking water supply needs for its customers, ensure high-quality drinking water, and improve its overall water supply reliability.

Support from the Bureau of Reclamation will allow this important project to go forward and will greatly benefit the region's drinking water supply. We strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (805) 564-5393, or by email at JHaggmark@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Haggmark".

Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager

cc: Michael Flood, Casitas Municipal Water District



October 1, 2021

US Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Amanda Erath, Drought Resiliency Projects NOFO
P.O. Box 250007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**Subject: Support for the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project –
WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Program: Drought Resiliency Projects
Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020**

Board of Directors

Tobe Plough
President

Ken Coates
Vice President

Brian Goebel
Director

Cori Hayman
Director

Floyd Wicks
Director

**General Manager
and Board Secretary**
Nick Turner

Dear Ms. Erath,

The Montecito Water District is pleased to support Casitas Municipal Water District's grant application in response to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020.

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties are experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought has significantly reduced the availability of surface water supplies, in particular Lake Cachuma, which supplies water to the South Coast of Santa Barbara County and Lake Casitas, which supplies water to the City of Ventura, Ojai, and portions of the unincorporated county.

The Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project will result in improved water supply reliability for Casitas Municipal Water District as well as parts of Santa Barbara County. The Project involves construction of a 1.5-mile pipeline and two pump stations to connect Casitas' water system with the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD), enabling access to and use of State Water Project (SWP) infrastructure for deliveries of SWP and other regional water supplies. This pipeline will allow Casitas to take receipt of its SWP allocation, which to date it has not been able to do due to a lack of infrastructure. The Project will also provide an alternative means for ensuring available drinking water supplies during drought and other emergencies. The Project is anticipated to supply up to 2,000 acre-feet of water annually to be used when local supplies are limited. This will enable Casitas to meet drinking water supply needs for its customers, ensure high-quality drinking water, and improve its overall water supply reliability.

583 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, CA
931089-2124

Ph 805.969.2271
Fax 805.969.7261

info@montecitowater.com
www.montecitowater.com

Support from the Bureau of Reclamation will allow this important project to go forward and greatly benefit the region's drinking water supply. We strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (805) 969-2271, or by email at nturner@montecitowater.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Turner', is positioned above the printed name.

Nick Turner, General Manager

cc: Michael Flood, Casitas Municipal Water District

September 28, 2021



US Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Support Section
Attn: Amanda Erath, Drought Resiliency Projects NOFO
P.O. Box 250007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**Support for the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project –
WaterSMART: Drought Resiliency Program: Drought Resiliency Projects
Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020**

Dear Ms. Erath,

In this time of severe and sustained drought, the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce supports all reasonable activities to keep our water supplies secure. As with other organizations with a deep concern for the continued flourishing of our community, we support conservation, sequestration, green initiatives, and connections to the state water project as additional support.

The Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce is pleased to support Casitas Municipal Water District's grant application in response to the United States Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00020.

The Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project will result in improved water supply reliability for Casitas Municipal Water District. The Project includes a 1. -mile pipeline and two pump stations to connect Casitas' water system with the Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) in Santa Barbara County. This pipeline will allow Casitas to receive a portion of its State Water Project (SWP) allocation, which has not been accessible due to a lack of infrastructure. The Project will ensure that each system can receive drinking water supplies during drought periods or other emergencies. The Project is anticipated to supply up to 2,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water to be used when local supplies are limited. This will enable Casitas to meet drinking water supply needs for its customers, ensure high-quality drinking water, and improve its overall water supply reliability.

Support from the Bureau of Reclamation will allow this important project to go forward and greatly benefit the region's drinking water supply. We strongly urge your thoughtful consideration of the Ventura-Santa Barbara County Intertie Project.

Sincerely,

Jamie Fleming

OJAI VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

jamie@ojaichamber.org 818.209.0627

cc: Julia Aranda, Casitas Municipal Water District