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## Mid-Pacific Region, Ventura River Project

### Background

The Ventura River Project, authorized on March 1, 1956, is one of three large-scale federal water projects in the Southwest California region; the other two are the Santa Maria and the Cachuma Projects. These “seacoast projects” capture seasonal floodwaters for beneficial use. The project is located on the Pacific coast, about 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles, covering 90,000 acres. The Ventura River and its tributaries are the main water sources for the project. The Ventura River bisects the lower, southern portion of this area, and flows to the Pacific Ocean.



Casitas Dam and Reservoir

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Casitas Dam and Reservoir are on Coyote Creek about two miles above its junction with the Ventura River. Casitas Reservoir regulates flows along the lower reaches of Coyote Creek. It has a storage capacity of 254,000 acre-feet and provides irrigation and municipal and industrial water to urban and suburban areas in the Casitas Municipal

Water District. Casitas Dam is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, however, the water rights and water stored in the reservoir are held by the Casitas Municipal Water District which also operates the project.

### Robles Diversion Dam and Fish Passage Facility

Robles Diversion Dam is on the Ventura River about 1.5 miles downstream from the river's formation, diverting some of the higher flow into Casitas Reservoir. The dam diverts water into the headworks of the Robles-Casitas Canal. In 2005, a fish passage facility was added to the project to provide protection for steelhead trout.

### Robles-Casitas Canal

Robles-Casitas Canal conveys the diverted flow of the Ventura River into the Santa Ana Creek where Santa Ana Creek enters Casitas Reservoir.

### Main Conveyance System

The Ventura River Project's original, Reclamation-constructed, distribution system included many miles of pressure pipeline and five pumping plants. Since much of the service area lies at a higher elevation than the Casitas Reservoir, six steel tank balancing reservoirs provide for peak and emergency storage. Casitas Municipal Water District has added additional reservoirs and pumping plants since the original construction and there are now 15 steel reservoirs and 10 pumping plants.

## **Construction**

Construction of the Casitas Dam was completed in March 1959; the Robles Diversion Dam and the five original pumping plants were completed in 1958; other distribution works were started in 1957 and completed in 1959.

## **Benefits**

### **Irrigation and Municipal and Industrial Deliveries**

The principal products of the project area are citrus and other fruits. In addition, avocados, and berries contribute substantially to the agricultural produce of the area. The project supplies water to about 7,000 acres of agricultural lands and serves 60,000 municipal customers.