



United Water

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNITED WATER AND FOX CANYON GMA WATER RELEASE IN JUNE TO BE LARGEST IN DECADES!

In an effort to recharge the aquifer, dilute nitrates and neutralize sea water intrusion issues for Ventura County, United Water Conservation will initiate an immense water release from its Santa Felicia Dam at Lake Piru on June 3, 2019. Normally, conserved water is released from Santa Felicia Dam in the fall of each year, but, due to the saturated conditions in the Santa Clara River and its tributaries, water release in June will assure maximum regional benefits.

The release of water, the largest amount in decades, will help combat rising nitrate levels such as those recently seen in the El Rio community in May, which forced the shut-down of drinking water wells for 364 residential and business customers of Vineyard Avenue Acres Mutual Water.

“This historical release of water at our Santa Felicia Dam will ultimately result in the diversion of high-quality water at our Freeman Diversion facility, helping to recharge the area’s aquifer still recovering from drought and helping to offset the increasing nitrate levels of wells within the immediate vicinity of El Rio. It will also help with sea water intrusion issues we continue seeing on the Oxnard Plain,” explains Mauricio Guardado, General Manager for United Water Conservation District.

“The timing of the release is crucial in that we want to take advantage of the high saturation level of the Santa Clara River that exists right now with all of the rain we’ve had. This will allow us to make the most of the water release,” added Guardado.

The release of the combination Article 21 and rainwater from Lake Piru is made possible by the Fox Canyon GMA which contributed \$3 million it accrued in fines towards the purchase of the water.

“The contribution by the Fox Canyon GMA is crucial in making this happen. We look forward to more partnerships of this type with agencies that will benefit our region’s water quality and supply,” said Guardado.

Over the course of several days, the water will travel down Piru Creek and merge with the Santa Clara River before making its way to the Freeman Diversion facility.

United Water Conservation District: Who we are, what we do and why it matters:

Since 1927, United Water Conservation District has served as a leader among water agencies by managing, protecting, enhancing and securing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain. The District works to protect the environment’s natural attributes and conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River including Piru, Hopper, Sespe and Santa Paula Creeks.

United Water Conservation District is committed to managing the area’s water supplies through groundwater replenishment and construction and operation of efficient water supply and delivery systems. The District serves as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula and Fillmore, as well as several mutual water districts, farms and individual pumpers. United Water also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. **UnitedWater.org.**

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