



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNITED WATER'S LAKE PIRU 73% FULL,
THANKS TO LARGEST-EVER STATE WATER SURPLUS PURCHASE AND
2019 WINTER STORMS**

United Water's Lake Piru rose 65-feet in 2019 and is now 73% full, compared with being only 15% full last October. According to United Water Conservation District water experts, this is five times the amount of water that was previously in the lake.

"The 2019 storm combined with the District's recent Article 21* purchases have allowed United Water to harvest a total of 62,700 acre-feet of water at United's Lake Piru and Freeman Diversion facilities, which is enough to serve 438,700 people in Ventura County for a year," explains Mauricio Guardado, General Manager for United Water Conservation District. "And while this is more rain and purchased water than we have seen in a long while, we would still need 117,000 acre-feet more water to be completely out of the drought," he continued.

Despite the recent rainfall, nearly three-quarters of Ventura County continues to be short on necessary water resources to fully recuperate from the drought. To increase water resources, over the last three weeks, United Water Conservation District has successfully purchased 15,000 acre-feet of Article 21 water from the State Water project. This is the largest amount of water ever brought into the region from outside sources and is enough to serve 105,000 people in Ventura County for one year!

United Water collects stormwater in Lake Piru and strategically releases it into the Santa Clara River to maximize groundwater recharge in the downstream aquifers. Water is also diverted at United's Freeman Diversion facility where it is used to replenish underground aquifers in the Oxnard Plain, and also for surface water delivery to agriculture.

**Article 21 water is surplus water from Northern California that is made available for sale by the Department of Water Resources. It is delivered via the California Aqueduct to Lake Pyramid, which releases it into Lake Piru. If not purchased, the water is released to the ocean.*

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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.**