Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County

15th Annual Water Supply of Ventura County Bus Tour



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Tuesday, November 12, 2026

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Ventura County
Water Tour 2026
CASITAS
Municipal Water District
United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
United Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Underwood
Family farms
CALLEGUAS
MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT
50TH ANNIVERSARY
AWA
1976 - 2026
15TH ANNUAL
BUS TOUR
Good
Farms
Mira Monte
Casitas Springs
Ventura Beach
Santa Paula
Fillmore
Bardsdale
Oxnard
Thousand
Oaks
Santa Rosa
Valley
Freedom Dog Park
Manna Park
Saticoy
Arroyo
Verde Park
Emma Wood
State Beach
Channel
California
State
University
Channel
Lynn Ranch
Conejo Valley
Botanic
Garden
Conejo Creek
North Park
Rustic Canyon
Golf Course
The Teaching Zoo
at Moorpark College
Happy Camp Canyon
Regional Park
Golf N Stuff

WATER SUPPLY BUS TOUR
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026

ITINERARY

START: UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – 1701 N. LOMBARD ST. OXNARD
7:15 a.m. Attendee Arrival/Registration
7:50 a.m. Begin loading bus at United Water Building
8:00 a.m. Bus Departs Promptly.

1. GOOD FARMS 1980 S. Rice Road OXNARD 93033
8:20 –9:00 a.m. Presentation/Tour [30 minutes]

2.CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT - 2100 Olsen Rd., Thousand Oaks 91360
9:40–10:30 a.m. Presentation at Lake Bard

3. UNDERWOOD FAMILY FARMS (Lunch Stop) - 3370 Sunset Valley Rd, Moorpark, CA 93021
10:50–11:10 Presentation [20 minutes]
11:15 –11:45 Free time: Boxed Lunch/Stroll Grounds/Visit Farm Market [30 minutes]
11:50 Bus Depart Underwood Family Farms

4.NORTH PLEASANT VALLEY DESALTER - 2727 Somis Rd, Camarillo, CA 93012
12:25 –1:05 Guided Tour

5.UWCD FREEMAN DIVERSION FACILITY - 2641 W. Los Angeles Ave. Oxnard
1:25 – 2:30 Presentation

6.CASITAS DAM - 11311 Santa Ana Rd., Oak View.
3:00 – 3:30 Presentation/Networking Reception (30 minutes)
3:35 Bus Departs Casitas Dam

END: UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT – 1701 N. LOMBARD ST. OXNARD
4:10 p.m. Arrive UWCD BLDG. OXNARD. FINAL DESTINATION. Tour Conclusion.

15th ANNUAL VENTURA COUNTY WATER SUPPLY BUS TOUR

November 12, 2026

Facilities/Speakers

GOODFARMS located in Oxnard, California, stands as an innovation epicenter of the company which spans from Watsonville, CA to Baja, to Central Mexico, bringing strawberries to customers from San Diego to Newfoundland. In the fields of precision agriculture, GoodFarms is at the forefront, harnessing cutting-edge technology and data-driven strategies to maximize crop yields while minimizing resource consumption. From state-of-the-art soil sensors to on-demand remote valves, this location embodies the future of sustainable farming practices and water conservation. Robotics play a pivotal role at GoodFarms where several entrepreneurs use the fields as their laboratories to design the next generation of farm mechanization including harvest and pest control. Equity in food production is a core mission at GoodFarms. The Equitable Food Initiative, a pioneering initiative, ensures fair wages, safe working conditions, and worker involvement in decision-making processes. The location actively champions the rights and well-being of its employees, emphasizing a holistic approach to food production that benefits everyone involved. Here, the seeds of change are sown, cultivated, and harvested, ensuring a brighter, more equitable future for agriculture and all those it serves.

GOODFARM TOUR SPEAKER:

Maureen McGuire, Founder VICI Agriculture, LLC – As CEO and founder, Maureen provides strategic and project management support to agricultural businesses and organizations navigating complex projects, operational challenges, and new initiatives. Her experience includes agricultural research and field trials, plant breeding and nursery operations, soil health and conservation planning, and operational process improvement spanning across Coastal California, Baja, Florida, and Central Mexico.

CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Roughly three quarters of Ventura County residents use water, purchased by their retail purveyors, from Calleguas' distribution system. Some purveyors have wells and blend water from Calleguas with groundwater. Others rely exclusively on Calleguas' imported State water. Calleguas does not deliver water directly to consumers. Calleguas' primary job is importing and distributing water from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California; water that arrives via the State Water Project from northern California.

Water from Metropolitan that is not immediately distributed to purveyors is stored either at 10,000 acre-foot Lake Bard located at the District's hub in Thousand Oaks or at the District's Las Posas Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Field . When water is drawn from the lake it is treated once more at the Lake Bard Water Filtration Plant. To increase reliability, Calleguas can also pump water from its Las Posas Well Field. Water pumped from the Las Posas Basin is treated at the well field before entering the Calleguas system.

CALLEGUAS MWD TOUR SPEAKERS:

Calleguas MWD

Jennifer Lancaster, Manager of Water Resources & Public Affairs. JLancaster@calleguas.com

Jennifer has been with the District since 2019, when she joined as the Principal Water Resources Specialist. Prior to that, Jennifer spent 13 years working in environmental consulting. She has an MS in Biology from Cal State Northridge and a BS in Biology from UC Riverside.

David Hernandez, Operations Supervisor.

In this position he is responsible for managing daily water treatment operations, ensuring system reliability, and supporting senior leadership in operational decision-making. Mr. Hernandez is recognized for technical expertise, operational excellence, and leadership in maintaining the District's critical water supply infrastructure. In 2025, Mr. Hernandez was unanimously voted the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County's Water Operator or the year for his leadership, professionalism and public service commitment.

UNDERWOOD FAMILY FARMS

"The Underwood's trace their farming roots in Ventura County back to 1867. Craig Underwood's ancestors grew lima beans, walnuts, and lemons, and initiated fresh produce. Today the Underwood's have a retail arm called Underwood Family Farms" which is one of the best gems that Ventura County has to offer. Between their two farm locations: one in Moorpark and the other in Somis, Underwood Family Farms has seen hundreds of thousands of guests come through their doors over the years, educating the public on sustainable agriculture, natural resources, food sources, and encouraging the next generation to continue the stewardship of farming.

UNDERWOOD FARM TOUR SPEAKER

Craig Underwood, Owner. Craig a 4th generation farmer was born and raised in Ventura County and always had a passion for the land and all it provided. He studied agriculture at Cornell before serving as a Lieutenant JG in the Navy and returned home to follow his dream and work with his father in the family business. Today, Craig oversees Underwood Family Farms with his wife Sara Jane at his side. His 2 daughters and their families can also be seen on the farm enjoying every bit it has to offer. Craig has served on numerous boards and organizations, and is continuously "giving back" to our community.

NORTH PLEASANT VALLEY DESALTER

The Desalter, located near the northwest corner of Las Posas Road and Lewis Road, is fully constructed and after undergoing complex testing has obtained the necessary permits from the State to be able to operate and deliver potable water to Camarillo customers.

The facility transforms unusable brackish groundwater into a local source of high-quality and affordable drinking water while also removing damaging salts from the regional watershed. The treated brackish groundwater could produce approximately 3,800 acre-feet per year of potable water. Depending on the condition of the City's groundwater wells, the desalter will provide a large portion of our water supply and allow a decreased reliability on imported State water. The city water system serves roughly two-

thirds of City residents, while the other residents are served by other water districts including Camrosa, Pleasant Valley Mutual, California American, and Crestview Water Districts.

NORTH PLEASANT VALLEY DESALTER SPEAKER

Chris Malejan, PE, PMP, WSC (Water Systems Consulting)
cmalejan@wsc-inc.com

Chris is a provenmanager of complex water, wastewater and recycled water infrastructure programs. He has more than 10 years of civil engineering experience including construction management, program management, design and planning for various water resource, recycled water, and wastewater projects throughout California. He is a certified Project Management Professional and proficient in managing complex infrastructure programs, with experience managing programs with values up to $66 million. His project experience includes design and construction of pipelines, potable water tanks, booster pump stations and water treatment facilities. Chris received his MS, Civil and Environmental Engineering; and BS, Environmental Engineering, from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, CA

UNITED WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (UWCD) – FREEMAN DIVERSION

The Freeman Diversion facility is a critical component of UCWD's mission to manage and enhance the region's natural resources.

UCWD built the Freeman Diversion to redirect water from the Santa Clara River to spreading basins for groundwater recharge. The 25-foot-high Vern Freeman Diversion spans 1,200 feet across the Santa Clara River. The facility includes a fish ladder, which allows unimpeded migration of steelhead trout upstream, and a screened fish bay, which keeps fish out of the canals and recharge basins.

Since its construction in 1991, the facility has diverted an average of 60,000 acre-feet a year for groundwaterrecharge,replenishingtheaquifersbeneaththeOxnardPlainandslowingseawaterintrusion beneath 50,000 acres of productive prime agricultural lands.

The water that UWCD diverts to recharge groundwater also benefits municipal users in the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura, which have wells that draw on those aquifers.

UWCD TOUR SPEAKERS

Bram Sercu, Water Resource Manager, United Water Conservation District

Dr. Sercu leads the District's surface water hydrology monitoring program and performs modeling, data analyses and reporting to assist with water resources acquisition, planning and regulatory compliance. Dr. Sercu also oversees aspects of diversion operations related to maximizing beneficial use of water and complying with regulatory requirements. Dr. Sercu joined United in 2015, after having worked at the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. He has a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences and an M.S. in Bio-engineering.

brams@unitedwater.org 805-525-4431

Evan Lashly, Environmental Scientist, United Water Conservation District

Mr. Lashly has been with United Water since 2014 where his work involves preparing environmental studies, monitoring water quality, guiding conservation projects, and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. He has also been the designated contact for significant planning documents, such as the Freeman Diversion Sediment Management Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration. He

holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science / Resource Management from California State University, Channel Islands.
evanl@unitedwater.org |805-525-4431

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT – LAKE CASITAS DAM

The Casitas Municipal Water District supplies water to 60-70,000 people in Western Ventura County and to hundreds of farms. The District boundaries encompass the City of Ojai, Upper Ojai, the Ventura River Valley area, the City of Ventura to Mills Road, and the Rincon and beach area to the ocean and Santa Barbara County line. In addition, the District operates the Lake Casitas Recreation Area, which has become a popular destination with over 750,000 visitors each year.

Lake Casitas holds over 237,000 acre feet of water - enough water for many years of use for Casitas customers … when it is full. Sources of Water for Lake Casitas: Lake Casitas fills primarily from the natural flow of local creeks and the Robles Diversion. In any given year roughly 1/3 of the Lake's water comes from the Robles Diversion.

Casitas Dam is an earthfill dam across Coyote Creek that forms Lake Casitas in Ventura County, California near Oak View, California. The dam is located two miles above the junction of Coyote Creek and the Ventura River. Water from the Ventura River is diverted to Lake Casitas as well. The 334 ft structure was built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Construction of Casitas Dam began in July 1956 and was completed in March 1959.

CASITAS MWD TOUR SPEAKER

Jordan Switzer, Water Quality Supervisor, Casitas MWD. waterquality@casitaswater.com

Jordan Switzer is the Water Quality Supervisor at Casitas Municipal Water District. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has been a part of the Casitas team since 2009, holding positions in the Fisheries, Engineering and Operations & Maintenance departments over this span. In his current role as Water Quality Supervisor, he serves as the Technical Manager of the District's accredited microbiology laboratory and is responsible for managing the monitoring and reporting of source and treated water quality, ensuring the District's water quality standards are consistently met.

15TH Annual Ventura County Water Tour
November 12, 2026
HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST

United Water Conservation District

Originally formed as the Santa Clara Water Conservation District in 1927, voters approved the formation of the United Water Conservation District in 1950. From the beginning, United has distinguished itself as a leader among water agencies by conserving and enhancing water resources of the Santa Clara River while working to protect the river's natural features.
Over the years, United has constructed numerous facilities, pipelines, and recharge basins – including the Santa Felicia Dam, Lake Piru Reservoir and Freeman Diversion – to enhance the local water system and maintain sustainable water management.

Today, they continue to serve as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore, as well as Naval Base Ventura County and several mutual water districts, farms and individual pumpers. We also provide surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

Calleguas Municipal Water District

Facedwith recurring droughts,arapidly expanding population, and an economy that threatened to exhaust local drinking water supplies, in 1953 civic leaders and residents in southern Ventura County united to form Calleguas MWD with 97% of voters approving the district's creation. The district's purpose was to provide a reliable, high-quality supplemental water supply for the region. Less than 10 years later, in 1960, voters approved annexation of the combined Calleguas and Las Virgenes districts into the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Met), a wholesale provider of imported water. This was supported by a 93% voter approval rate and bonds to fund a pipeline to bring Met's water into the area. The Santa Susana Tunnel, completed in 1962, was a key infrastructure project to connect the district to Met's system in Los Angeles County. In 1965, ***Lake Bard*** was constructed to store imported water for emergency needs.

Today, Calleguas MWD's 366-square-mile service area has seen its population more than quadruple — from 138,000 in 1964 to about 615,000 in 2024 — representing roughly 75% of Ventura County's population. Calleguas Municipal Water District is a wholesale water supplier that provides water to 19 member agencies, cities, and utilities, which then deliver it directly to residents and businesses — Calleguas does not sell or deliver water directly to end users.

Casitas Municipal Water District

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, communities such as Oak View and Rincon faced water shortages. Wells went dry, and residents relied on trucked water for domestic and agricultural use. Local civic leaders, cattlemen, and citrus ranchers recognized the need for a reliable, regionally developed water supply, prompting the formation of the District (originally named Ventura River Municipal Water Dist.). The new district opened its first office in July 1953 in Ventura and immediately sought a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation study of the Ventura River area. The Bureau proposed a 250,000 acre-foot reservoir on Coyote Creek, a 500 cubic-feet-per-second diversion canal from the Ventura River, and a 33-mile pipeline system to distribute water. In March 1956, Congress authorized the Ventura River Project, which included:

- Robles Diversion Facility on the Ventura River
- Robles Canal
- Casitas Dam

The dam was completed in November 1958, and Lake Casitas began filling. The lake now holds about 254,000 acre-feet of water and supplies both municipal and agricultural users in the City of Ojai, Upper Ojai, the Ventura River Valley area, the City of Ventura to Mills Road, and the Rincon and beach area to the ocean and Santa Barbara County line.Beyond. Casitas MWD is actively pursuing innovative projects for future water sustainability including an intertie with Santa Barabara to allow access to State Water supplies.

Today the Casitas Municipal Water District supplies water to 60-70,000 people in Western Ventura County and to hundreds of farms. It serves a critical role in regional water security—having endured prolonged floods and droughts (yet reaching full capacity in 2024 for the first time since 1998 following heavy winter rains), the lake also supports extensive recreational uses including boating, camping, and fishing.

Agriculture in Ventura County

Agriculture in Ventura County has evolved significantly from 1800 to the present day, driven by changes in climate, technology, and market demands.

In the early 1800s, agriculture was dominated by livestock grazing, with cattle and sheep being the primary livestock raised. However, as the population of Ventura County grew, so did the demand for crops. By the mid-1800s, wheat, barley, and oats were the most important crops grown in the county.

The late 1800s saw the introduction of new irrigation technologies, which allowed farmers to cultivate a wider variety of crops. This led to a shift to more specialized crops, such as citrus fruits, avocados, and vegetables.

In the early 20th century, Ventura County became a major producer of strawberries. The county's Mediterranean climate and fertile soils were ideal for growing strawberries, and the crop quickly became a major economic driver for the region.
In the mid-20th century, technological advances such as mechanization and the development of new pesticides and herbicides led to further increases in agricultural production. Ventura County became a major producer of a wide variety of crops, including strawberries, celery, lemons, raspberries, avocados, nursery stock, tomatoes, peppers, cut flowers, cabbage, and kale.

In recent decades, Ventura County agriculture has continued to evolve, with farmers adopting new technologies and practices to improve efficiency and sustainability. For example, many farmers are now using drip irrigation to conserve water and reduce fertilizer runoff. Others are using integrated pest management (IPM) techniques to reduce their reliance on pesticides.

Today, Ventura County is one of the most productive agricultural counties in California. The county's farmers produce a wide variety of high-quality crops, which are shipped to markets all over the world.

Here is a summary of the key trends in the evolution of agriculture in Ventura County from 1800 to the present:

- Shift from livestock grazing to crop production
- Introduction of new irrigation technologies
- Specialization in high-value crops
- Adoption of new technologies and practices to improve efficiency and sustainability

Ventura County agriculture continues to evolve today, as farmers respond to new challenges and opportunities. The county's farmers are committed to producing high-quality crops in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

Ventura County is a place where lemons produce up to five crops a year. Lemons can produce five crops a year in any warm climate with a long growing season, such as Southern California, Arizona, Florida, and the Mediterranean region.

The number of lemon crops produced each year depends on a number of factors, including climate, variety of lemon tree, and cultural practices. In Ventura County, the warm climate and long growing season allow lemon trees to produce multiple crops each year.

According to the County of Ventura 2025 Crop & Livestock Report

The top ten food crops in Ventura County in 2025 were:

Strawberries
$807.85 M (+14%)

Avocados
$241.11 M (-29%)

Nursery Stock
$225.34M (+21%)

Raspberries
$220.13 M (+36%)

Lemons
$181.69 M (+54%)

Celery
$180.00 M (+10%)

Blackberries
$ 84.93 M (+19%)

Peppers
$ 81.14 M (-30%)

Blueberries
$ 61.43 M (+31%)

Cilantro
$ 32.28 M (-5%)





Strawberries remain Ventura County's most important crop, accounting for over $800 million in revenue in 2025. California grows 90% of the nation's strawberries with Oxnard alone supplying about 80% of the state's coastal strawberry crop production.

Strawberry Facts ◊ Strawberries first entered the Crop & Livestock Report in 1929. ◊ Ventura County growers produced almost 25% of the Strawberries grown in California and ranked third in the state in production value. ◊ Strawberries were California's 7th leading crop in value. ◊ California grew 90% of the U.S. Strawberry production. ◊ The US ranked 2nd in Strawberry production worldwide and produced 1.3 million tons of crop

Avocados: Ventura County have ranked number one in California avocado production since 2014.

One of the primary concerns of avocado growers is the continued escalating cost and availability of water. Water is essential for Avocado cultivation. Environmental factors, particularly wildfires, have also posed significant threats to Avocado orchards in Ventura County. For instance, the Mountain Fire in November 2024 devastated several Avocado farms, destroying trees and infrastructure. Such natural disasters not only lead to immediate crop losses but also have long-term effects on soil health and farm viability, posing substantial recovery challenges for affected growers. Despite these obstacles, the industry has demonstrated resilience and adaptability.

Avocado Facts ◊ Avocados first entered the Crop & Livestock Report in 1925. ◊ Ventura County growers produced 44.5% of the Avocados produced in California. ◊ Ventura County ranked first in California Avocado production value. ◊ California held 97% shares of the U.S. Avocado receipts. ◊ The U.S. ranked 16th in Avocado production globally

Nursery Stock: Is one of Ventura County's top commodities.

Nursery stock includes fruit trees, nuts, landscaping, Christmas trees, along with ornamental plants and trees. Due to the increased demand for landscaping around homes and businesses, Nursery Stock entered the top ten commodity crops of the county in 1967. Since 1989, Nursery Stock has competed for its seating in the top five crops along with berries and avocados.

Celery: Ventura County is the number 2 producer of celery in the state. The profitability of Celery farming is subject to market dynamics, including price volatility and competition from other regions. Fluctuations in demand, influenced by consumer preferences and economic conditions can lead to unpredictable income for growers. Additionally, the high costs associated with land, labor and compliance in Ventura County impact the economic viability of Celery production compared to other areas with lower operational expenses.

Fun Fact: Western Celery Mosaic Virus (WCMV) is a plant pathogen that primarily affects Celery, reducing yields and marketability. To disrupt the virus's lifecycle, VCAWM mandates a celery-free period from July 15 to August 4 each year. During this time, planting or maintaining Celery plants is prohibited, reducing the presence of the virus and its aphid vectors.

Rasberries: Ventura County is a top producer in the state in raspberry production. Raspberry cultivation in Ventura County has seen remarkable growth over the past few decades, transitioning from a minor crop to a significant contributor to the region's agricultural economy. Raspberries are highly sensitive to the amount of salts in irrigation water. Managing these issues requires careful monitoring and sustainable practices to ensure both crop health and compliance with environmental standards. The Mountain Fire in November

2024 destroyed hundreds of acres of agricultural land, including Avocado, Citrus and Raspberry fields.

Ventura County Lemons are one of the most important crops, and the largest producer inthe stateof California. However its production ranking in the County continues to fall from the once number one seat, down to number five in 2025.

Lemons have fallen onto hard times recently. There are many pests that growers need to control in the orchard, but none are so feared as the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) which could carry the deadly citrus greening disease Huanglongbing (HLB) that infects trees and eventually kills them. In 2023, residential trees in the surrounding community of Santa Paula tested positive for HLB, triggering a quarantine measure for all Citrus in the area. Certain mitigations to transport fruit outside the quarantine zone are now necessary, adding increased costs to the growers for treating their fruit before shipping. This has led to many growers pulling out their Lemon trees and planting other crops, like Avocados, in their place

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Ventura County's top crops are all water-intensive. Strawberries require about 36 inches of water per year, lemons require about 40 inches of water per year, and avocados require about 60 inches of water per year. Celery and raspberries also require significant amounts of water.

The availability of supply and cost-effective water is a major challenge for Ventura County farmers. The county is located in a semi-arid region, and it experiences frequent droughts. Farmers must carefully manage their water resources to ensure that they have enough water to produce their crops.

Ventura County's record $2.4 billion in agricultural production value in 2025 masked atroublingreality: growers of several major crops spent more to produce them than they earned from their harvests, according to the Farm Bureau of Ventura County.

Strawberries, the county's top crop, generated $807 million in gross revenue in 2025. However, estimated production costs exceeded that amount by $8 million. Lemons also showed negative returns, with production costs of $203.5 million compared with $181.7 million in gross revenue — a difference of $21.8 million.

Using production-cost data included in the county's 2025 Crop & Livestock Report, the Farm Bureau estimates that net returns across Ventura County's major agricultural commodity groups have declined approximately 80% since 2015.

There is an ***increasing concern*** about the number of idle fields and fallow land recently due to the financial viability to plant certain crops from the sheer economic of rising costs of labor, regulatory compliance, land and production expenses including water.

Despite the challenges, Ventura County farmers continue to produce high-quality crops. The county's agriculture industry is a vital part of the local economy, and it provides jobs for thousands of people.

INDUSTRY

Early Industries that brought workers and new farmers in the late 1800s.

"This is a golden opportunity to secure by far the biggest and most important enterprise that has ever been offered to Ventura County, and indeed will be our citizens if all the conditions are not promptly and cheerfully complied with." - THE FREE PRESS PAPER VENTURA, CIRCA LATE 1897

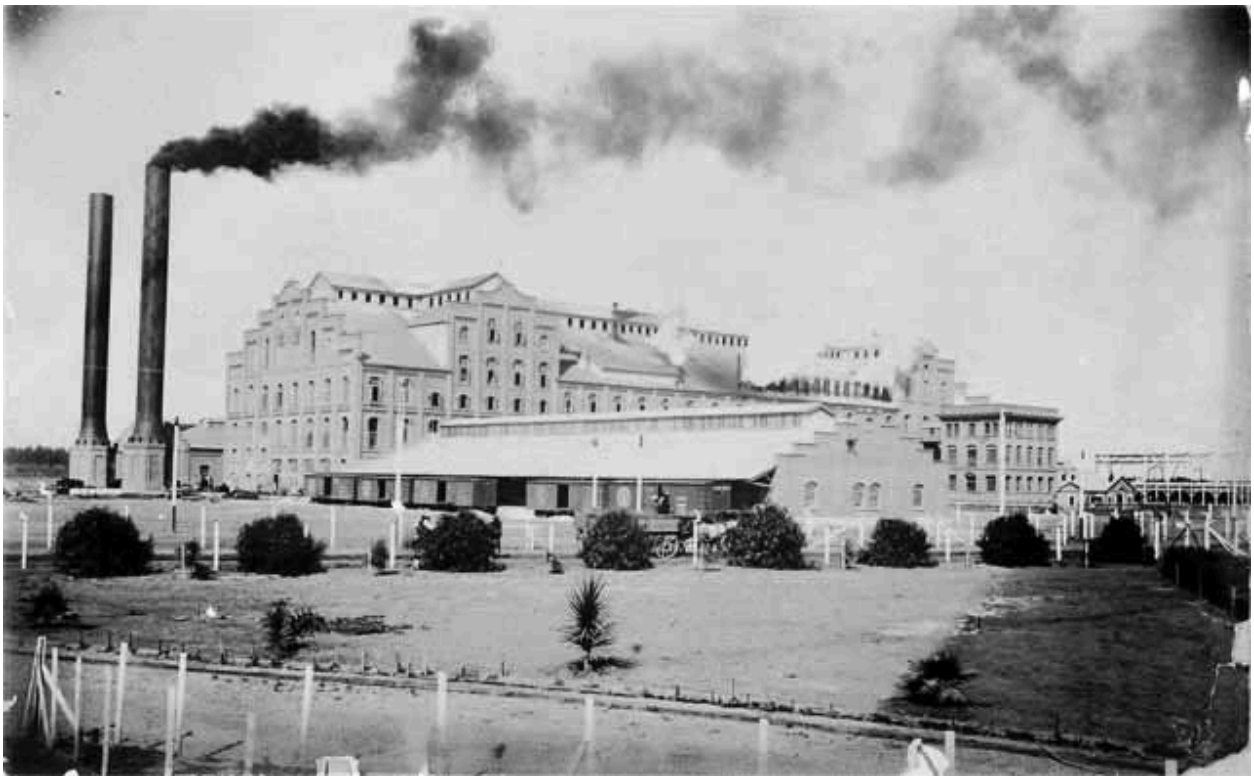
What was this opportunity they were so excited about for our area? Sugar Beets! Sugar beets would become the seeds of change in developing the territory near the Santa Clara River outside of Ventura. This area would later become known as the City of Oxnard.

The Seed of Growing an Idea

In 1897, ranchers Albert Maulhardt and Johannes Borchard believed that sugar beets could be a profitable crop for the area. So they invited sugar mogul Henry Oxnard to come to the area for a meeting at which they shared their idea for building a factory to process the sugar beet crop. Oxnard laid an offer on the table which outlined plans to build a $2-million sugar factory with a capacity to process 2,000 tons of beets daily. In exchange, he asked our local farmers to dedicate 20,000 acres of their land to growing sugar beets over a five-year period.

Excited by the prospect and the agreement from our local farmers to grow the sugar beets, construction began on the factory right in the heart of our rich fields. Believing that the new plans for the future would be successful, even the Southern Pacific Railroad got involved. In the spring of 1898, they built a railroad station right at the factory site so that shipping the processed beets could be accomplished more efficiently. The Oxnard factory operated from August 19, 1899, until October 26, 1959.

American Sugar Beet Factory Historical Plaque at 250 E. 5th Street, Oxnard, CA 93033. The American Sugar Beet Factory was located between 5th Street and Wooley Road. During the 20th century, ASBF was the second largest sugar beet factory in the world.



Oxnard Sugar Beets Plant, circa late 1800s

Oxnard owes its birth to this, then state-of-the-art, turn-of-the-century sugar-beet factory



The construction and operation of the new factory required a large labor force. The availability of jobs and easy access to the area because of the new railroad spur attracted Chinese, Japanese and Mexican workers from all over the country. So, with the rapid growth in population and commerce, it did not take long for a town to spring up near the factory.

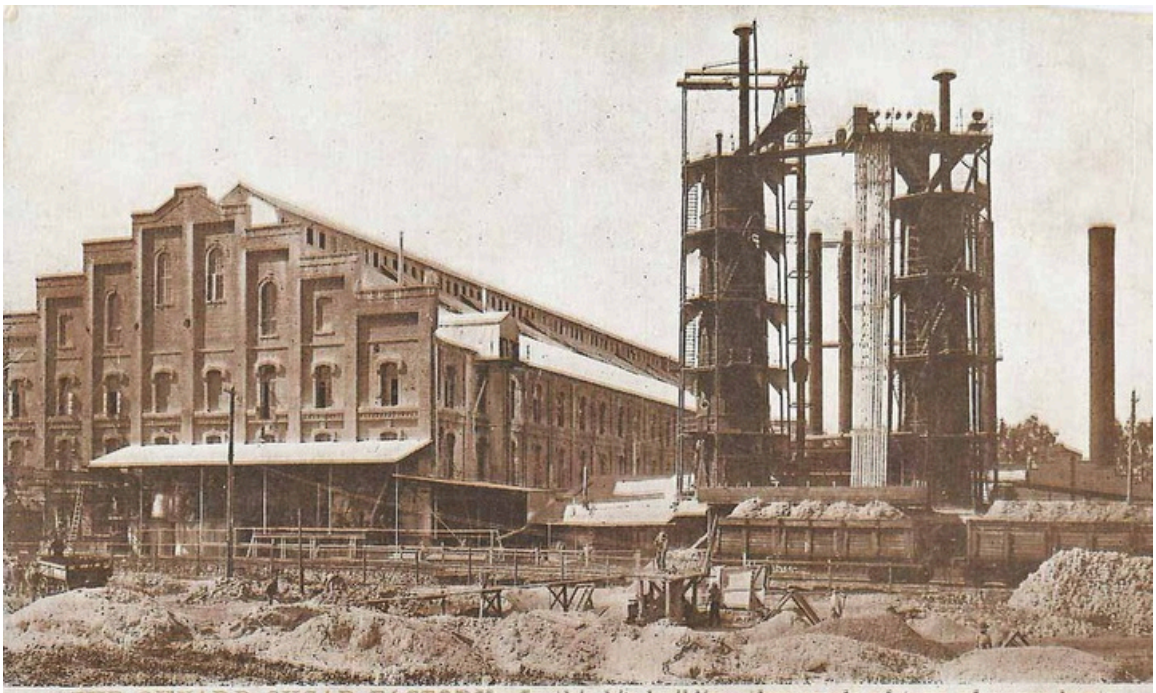
Henry Oxnard intended to name the settlement after the Greek word for “sugar” (zachari) but, frustrated by bureaucracy, he named it after himself! The area continued to grow, fueled by the success of the sugar beet plant. Oxnard was now starting to take its shape as a city and, in 1903, the City of Oxnard was incorporated. Ironically, Henry Oxnard never actually lived in his namesake city,

Today’s Oxnard

Agriculture continues to be the major industry for Oxnard. The amazing fact that there still remains an acre of irrigated farmland in Ventura County for every acre of city is a tribute to our farmers and the area.

The Sugar Beet is no longer a large crop for Oxnard as many of our local farmers have worked to diversify their crops and grow for demand.

Over the years, Oxnard has continued to grow and is now the largest city in Ventura County. With this growth, it has still held true to its rich heritage in farming and the farmers and laborers that contributed in the birth of the city.



THE OXNARD SUGAR FACTORY—In this big building thousands of tons of sugar beets are annually converted into pure white granules of America's great saccharine food-product.

The Ventura Freeway (Highway 101) was built in the 1950s to connect Los Angeles and Ventura. The freeway was one of the first freeways to be built in California.Conejo Grade





View of the Conejo Grade from Camarillo, CA

The Conejo Grade is a 7% incline on a section of US 101 (the Ventura Freeway). Also known as the Camarillo Grade,[1] it links Thousand Oaks and cities of the Conejo Valley, with Camarillo and the cities on the Oxnard Plain. With a summit elevation of 841.1 feet (256.4 m), California Highway Patrol inspection stations for trucks are situated on both sides of the highway at the upper terminus of the grade.

Historically, the mountain was known for its many jackrabbits and prickly pear cacti. The surrounding area was formed by volcanic eruptions millions of years ago, a rare geological formation in Southern California.

Within the traditional lands of the Chumash people, they had a trading trail through the pass, and it later served as a trading route for farmers and their wagons down the Conejo Grade to the Hueneme wharf.

History

Designated as part of the commemorative route of El Camino Real, the steep slope or grade was called the "cuesta del conejo" (slope of the rabbit). Early European settlers in the Conejo Valley, known as the Norwegian Colony, needed a safe way to move bales of hay and sacks of wheat and barley to the Hueneme Wharf on the Oxnard Plain. After

several mishaps while hauling crops down here and at the Potrero grade, they decided to construct a new route into the Santa Rosa Valley. The Norwegian Grade was carved out of a steep canyon hillside by members of the community and their hired help, between 1900 and 1911.

Land for the highway was originally part of the Rancho El Conejo, with contributions from Adolfo Camarillo. A road was in place by no later than 1929, as a re-alignment had been done then.

A young male mountain lion, P-55, left the Santa Monica Mountains in 2017 by crossing the freeway on the grade during the night. The animal was wearing a tracking collar used by the National Park researchers studying the mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

The National Park Service has recorded a dozen mountain lions struck and killed by motorists on this section of freeway since 2002 when they began the study. The proposed Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing is intended to primarily benefit the mountain lion population indigenous to the Santa Monica Mountains, which has declined due to the Ventura Freeway acting as a barrier in the wildlife corridor between the Simi Hills to the north and the Santa Monica Mountains to the south.

The Hill fire temporarily closed the freeway on November 8, 2018 as Santa Ana Winds pushed the fire to the south towards Newbury Park and California State University Channel Islands. The fire was contained with minimal damage on November 16. The Woolsey Fire started the same day, closed the freeway near Oak Park, grew to over 98,362 acres (39,806 hectares), destroyed an estimated 616 structures and killed 3 people.

Jungleland USA

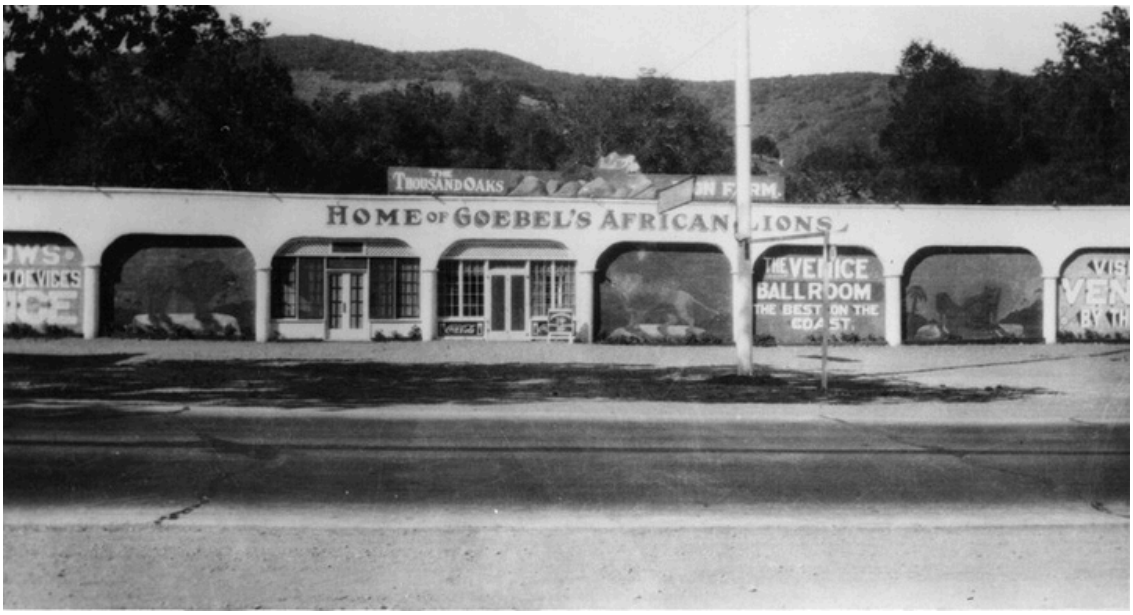


“Slats”, used from 1924 to 1928, was one of five MGM lions who resided at Jungleland USA.

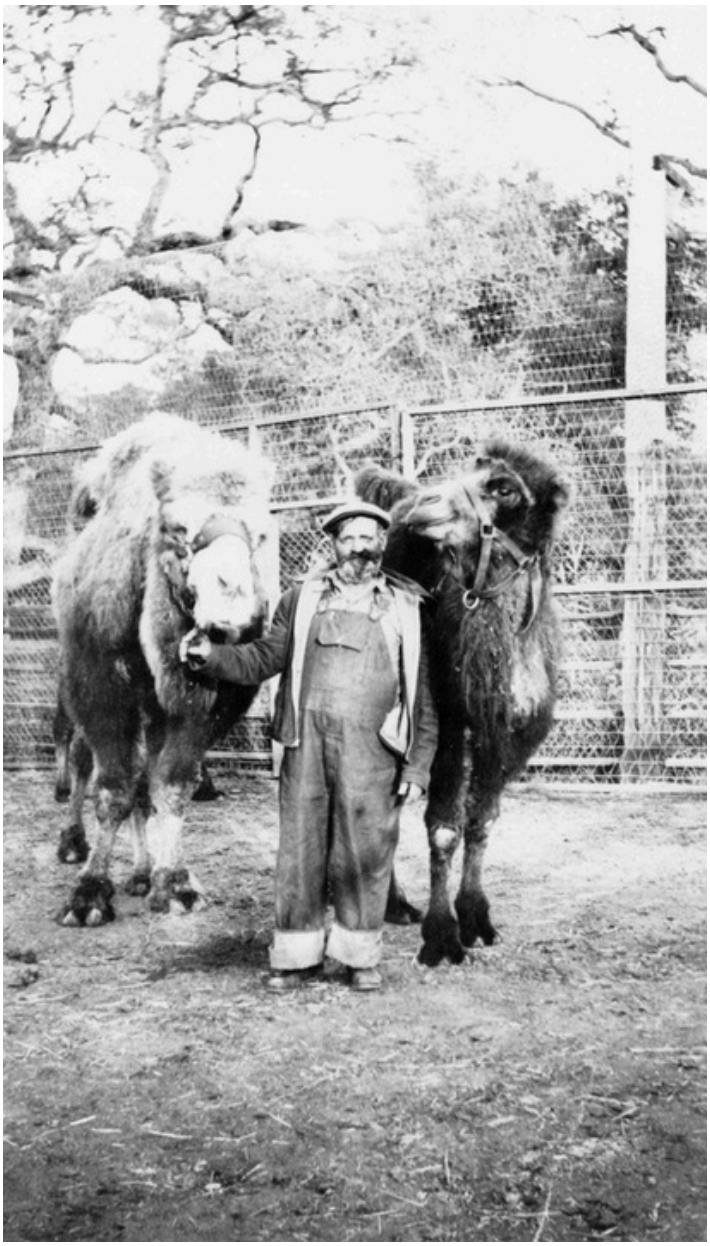
Louis Goebel of New York bought five lots off Ventura Boulevard (today's Thousand Oaks Boulevard) in 1925. He worked for the Universal film studio, and decided to create his own film industry zoo after the closure of Universal Zoo in the mid-1920s. He established Goebel's Lion Farm in 1926, situated where Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza is located today. Goebel began with five lions and seven malamute dogs, but he soon acquired new animals such as giraffes, camels, hippos, monkeys, tigers, gorillas, seals and other exotic animals.

It became home to several animals used for Leo the Lion MGM logo. There were public animal shows, which drew thousands of spectators from throughout California. The animals from the park have been used in many movies and TV series, including many of the Tarzan films; The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938), which used the site as a location, and Doctor Doolittle (1967). Goebel himself camped by the filming site of Tarzan, the Ape Man (1932) by Lake Sherwood to watch his lions during filming.

It became one of Southern California's most popular tourists attractions in the 1940s and 1950s, when the 170-acre park offered shows, lion training, elephant rides, train rides, safari tram buses and more.The park changed name to Jungleland USA in 1956 after Disneyland was established. The park later went bankrupt in May 1969, due to competition from parks such as Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios.



The park's 1,800 animals were sold at a public auction in October 1969



Walter Northrup, with one of Goebel's camels. Walter and his brother Earl were keepers at Louis Goebel's Lion Farm (later Jungleland) during the 1930s.

The MGM lion. Mister Ed. Tarzan’s comic sidekick, Cheeta (the chimpanzee). Dr. Doolittle and The Adventures of Robinhood. Goebel’s Lion Farm trained the animal stars for Hollywood.



R to L: Karen, Jayne, and Brian Robertson on the swan boats at Jungeland, 1965. Photo by Mary Jo Robertson.

Amusement Park

Children could ride in the mechanical swan boats or tour the grounds on a live turtle or elephant. There were guided tram tours, and at one point there was even a sky tram. Chucko the Clown entertained at kids' birthday parties. Exotic animal shows were scheduled throughout the day. Amenities included water fountains shaped as lions and hippos that required you to lower your head into gaping jaws for a drink.



Underwood Family Farms

Known for its nearly three decades of red jalapenos pepper production used in one of America's best-known hot sauces "Sriracha", that later ended with lawsuits, fraud claims, and a multimillion-dollar judgment resulting in a $23.3M award to Underwood Farms.

What began in 1988 as a close commercial relationship, between Underwood Ranches and Huy Fong Foods, became a legal battle over future crops, investment, and whether Huy Fong concealed its plans to end the arrangement.

Craig Underwood's ranch fueled Sriracha's growth, at it's peak producing 100 million pounds of peppers on 2,000 acres, and delivering 50 truck and trailer loads per day.

The partnership ceased after David Tran, the man behind the legendary sriracha, sued Underwood for a debt he wanted paid back. Underwood countersued which resulted in a 2019 court decision ultimately finding that Huy Fong's conduct amounted to breach of contract, concealment, and intentional misrepresentation/fraud, awarding Underwood $23 million.

Jump ahead today, Underwood Family Farms is a family-friendly Ventura County farm offering fresh produce, pick-your-own fields, animal encounters, seasonal events, and educational tours. It has become a premiere destination for families, school field trips and summer camps to teach the younger generation about the importance of sustainable farming, nature, food source, local economy, and future career paths.

Moorpark

The history of Moorpark dates back to the Chumash people, who inhabited the area for thousands of years. The Chumash were hunter-gatherers who lived in harmony with the land. They built villages, developed trade networks, and created a rich culture.

In the early 1800s, Spanish settlers arrived in the area and established Rancho Simi, a large land grant that included Moorpark. The Spanish settlers introduced livestock grazing and agriculture to the area.

In 1887, Robert W. Poindexter acquired the land that is now Moorpark. Poindexter was a real estate developer who named the town after the Moorpark apricot, which was grown in the area. Poindexter laid out the town streets and planted pepper trees in the downtown area.

The town of Moorpark grew slowly in the early years. However, in the early 1900s, the arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad helped to boost the town's economy. The railroad made it easier to transport goods and people to and from Moorpark.

In the mid-20th century, Moorpark began to grow rapidly. This was due to a number of factors, including the expansion of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the development of new housing subdivisions, and the establishment of Moorpark College in 1967.

Today, Moorpark is a thriving community with a population of over 35,000 people. The town is known for its beautiful scenery, its excellent schools, and its strong sense of community.

Here is a summary of the key events in the history of Moorpark:

- Thousands of years ago: The Chumash people inhabited the area.
- 1800s: Spanish settlers arrive and establish Rancho Simi.
- 1887: Robert W. Poindexter acquires the land that is now Moorpark.
- Early 1900s: The Southern Pacific Railroad arrives in Moorpark.
- Mid-20th century: Moorpark begins to grow rapidly due to the expansion of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the development of new housing subdivisions, and the establishment of Moorpark College.
- Today: Moorpark is a thriving community with a population of over 35,000 people.

Currently there is an approved development on Highway 118 just west of Moorpark's city area:

Hitch Ranch Specific Plan

Site Plan



Description

The proposed Specific Plan includes the development of 755 residential units, a six-acre public park, associated roadways and infrastructure, as well as expansive open space, detention basins, and manufactured slopes on approximately 277 acres. Units are provided as a mix of single-family and multi-family. Hitch Ranch is generally located north of Poindexter Avenue, west of Casey Road, and extending approximately 1,700 feet to the west of Gabbert Road.

Details

- 755 Residential Units
- A 23.44-acre parcel dedicated to the City for the future development of affordable housing
- Public park and passive recreation areas
- 4.5 miles of multi-use and equestrian trails
- Extensive open space

Infrastructure, detention areas, and associated improvements

Somis is an unincorporated community in Ventura County, California. It was established in 1892 by Thomas Bard and D.T. Perkins on a portion of the Rancho Las Posas Mexican land grant. Somis is in the Las Posas Valley on the south bank of Fox Barranca,just west of Arroyo Las Posa. For statistical purposes, the United States Census Bureau has defined Somis as a census-designated place (CDP).

The name of this townsite is derived from the Chumash term ś , meaning “water of the scrub oak.” There was a named Somes noted in records from 1795 and 1796.

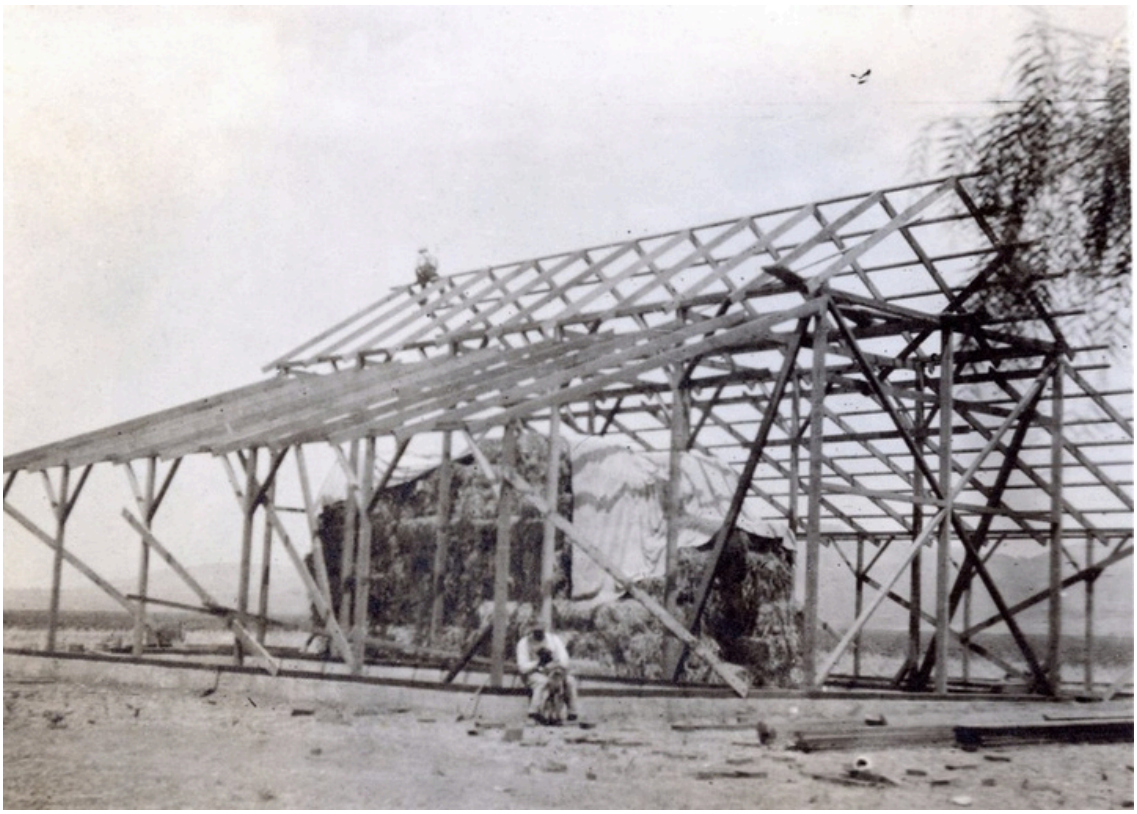
History of Somis

Like many of the farms on the adjacent Oxnard Plain, the crops of corn, wheat and barley grown here were shipped through the wharf that had been constructed in Hueneme in 1871. Agricultural products were able to be shipped by rail when the line from Los Angeles to San Francisco was routed through the valley and a stop was established adjacent to the community. The current spelling of the name was established when the railroad came through.

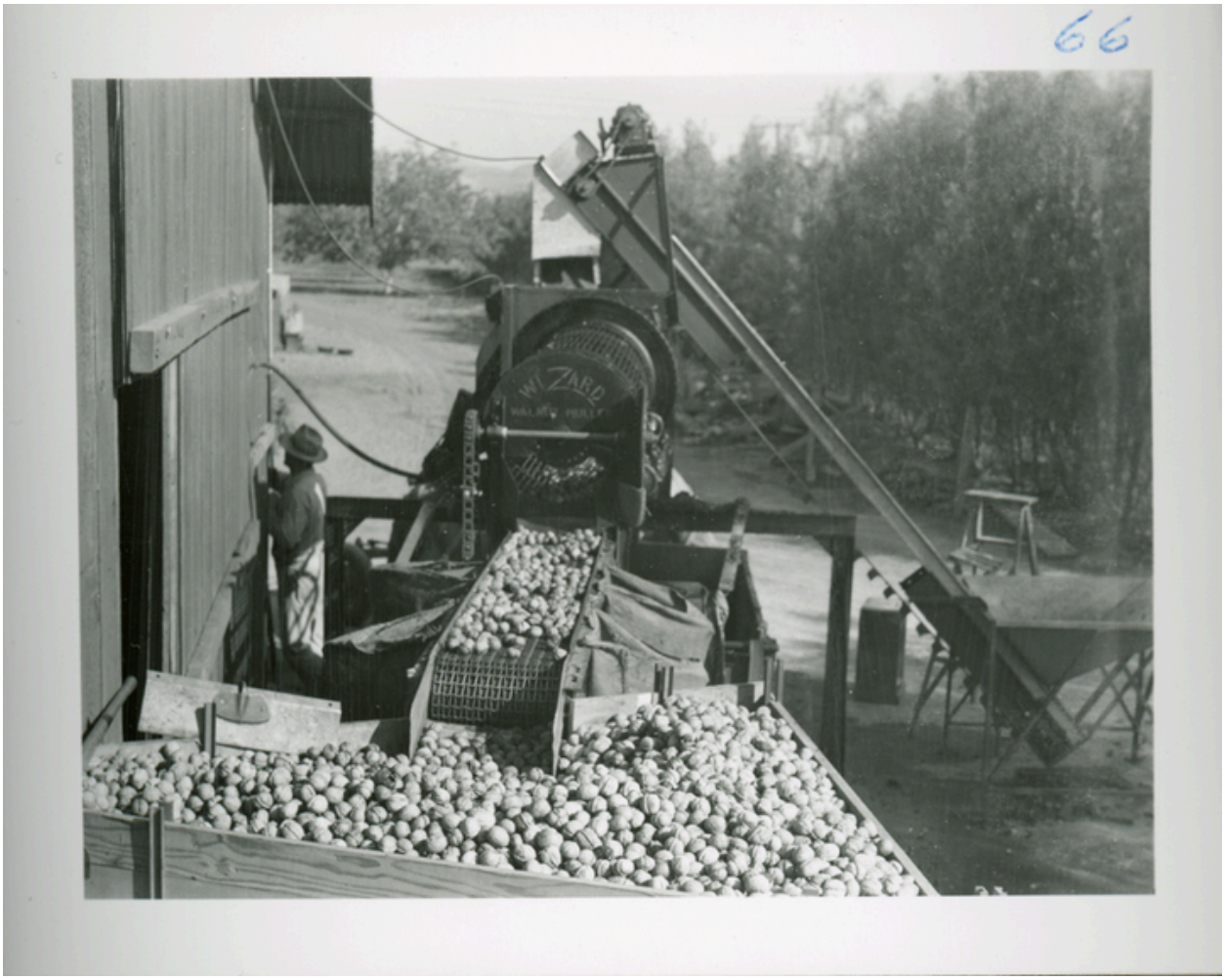
Below are some photos from the Grether Farming Family Archives of visiting the new pipelines, tractor use, barn-raising of the walnut processing barn on Walnut Avenue and Los Angeles Avenue.








65
WIZARD
WALNUT HULLER


66

Taylor Ranch. Ventura, CA.

Originally known as Rancho Canada de San Miguelito, it was founded by Don Ramon Rodriguez, a native of Sonora, Mexico, who was given the original 8,000-acre grant by the Mexican government in 1840. Rodriguez, a community leader, was killed in 1848 while heading a posse looking for bandits who had been terrorizing ranches in the region.



As the story goes, Rodriguez caught one of them from behind. Rather than shoot the bandit in the back, Rodriguez clubbed him with a rifle. The blow only succeeded in breaking the weapon in half, leaving the bandit a clear shot at Rodriguez, who died instantly. His widow, Juana Tico, sold the property later for about a dollar an acre.

The new owner was Green B. Taylor, the ranch's namesake, who had brought his family by covered wagon from Tennessee. Taylor ran sheep on the land until his death near the turn of the century.

On the death of Taylor's widow, Nancy, the property at her request was placed in a trust with the order that any income from the land should be used to teach Greek drama, the arts and cultural courses.

Her daughter, Alice Grubb, however, objected to the strict conditions and successfully challenged the will in court. It proved to be a profitable victory for Grubb. In 1931, oil was discovered on the ranch and the property became one of the most prolific oil fields in the region. More of the oil-rich property was annexed to the ranch, eventually expanding it to 30,000 acres.

When Grubb died in 1936, she willed the ranch to her daughter, Emma Wood, who donated the slice of oceanfront property south of the ranch known as Emma Wood Beach. Wood died in 1944 and left the land to her husband, Adrian Wood.

In more recent times the ranch was considered as the new home for Cal State Channel Islands which, as you can imagine, was a controversial topic around here and was eventually shot down. As were Adrian Wood's plans to sell off portions of the ranch for a large industrial park, which were also not approved by the county.

Fortunately today, the ranch remains much as it has for hundreds of years as a beacon of old California and a glimpse into a world few remember.
-Written by Brooke Kennedy

Oil Industry on Highway 33

The oil industry in Ventura on Highway 33 has evolved significantly over the past century.

In the early 1900s, oil was discovered in the hills north of Ventura. This discovery led to a boom in the oil industry in the area. Many oil companies drilled wells along Highway 33.

In the 1920s, the oil industry in Ventura reached its peak. During this time, there were over 1,000 oil wells in production. The oil industry was a major source of jobs and revenue for the Ventura community.

However, in the 1930s, the oil industry in Ventura began to decline. This was due to a number of factors, including the discovery of new oil fields in other parts of California and the Great Depression.

In the 1940s and 1950s, the oil industry in Ventura experienced a resurgence. This was due to the development of new technologies that allowed oil companies to drill deeper wells and produce more oil.

However, in the 1960s and 1970s, the oil industry in Ventura began to decline again. This was due to a number of factors, including the Arab oil embargo of 1973 and the rising cost of energy.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the oil industry in Ventura experienced a brief revival. However, in the 2000s, the industry began to decline again. This was due to a number of factors, including the depletion of oil reserves and the rising cost of production.

Today, the oil industry in Ventura is a shadow of its former self. There are only a handful of oil wells still in production along Highway 33. The oil industry is no longer a major source of jobs or revenue for the Ventura community.

Johnny Cash

Johnny Cash lived in Oak View, California, from 1961 to 1967. He and his wife, Vivian Liberto, built a ranch-style home on a hilltop overlooking the town. The home is still standing today and is known as the Johnny Cash House.



Johnny Cash House, Oak View, CA

Cash loved living in Oak View. He enjoyed the peace and quiet of the country life, and he often took his daughters for walks in the woods or to the nearby river. He also wrote some of his most famous songs while living in Oak View, including "I Walk the Line" and "Ring of Fire."

Cash's time in Oak View was not without its challenges. He struggled with addiction and depression, and he was arrested several times for drug possession. However, he was also able to achieve great success during this time, and he released some of his most popular albums, including "Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison" and "At San Quentin."

Cash left Oak View in 1967 after his divorce from Vivian Liberto. He moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where he continued his successful music career. However, he always looked back on his time in Oak View with fondness.

The Johnny Cash House is now a private residence, but it is still a popular tourist destination. Fans of Cash often come to Oak View to see the house and to learn more about his life.

Thank you for joining us on the 15TH Annual Ventura County Water Tour - November 12, 2026

Special Thanks to Ann DeMartini for her contributions to this document.



Water is the Earth's most abundant chemical substance and the main component of the hydrosphere. About 71% of the Earths surface is covered by water in the form of oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and streams. Solid water exists in glacier and ice caps, while a small amount also occurs as groundwater. In the atmosphere, water exists as clouds, vapor, and precipitation. When water on the Earth's surface is heated, it evaporates into the atmosphere, where it condenses and falls to the ground again, finding its way to the sea or ocean through surface runoff. This continuous water movement is known as the hydrological cycle.

Glossary of Water Terminology

A

acre-foot- the amount of water needed to cover one acre of land one foot deep; about 326,000 gallons

adjudication - a court determination of water rights for a groundwater basin or a stream; adjudication sets priorities during shortages

aeration - the addition of air to water or to the pores in soil

aquifer - an underground layer of rock, sediment or soil that is filled or saturated with water

aquifer system - a heterogeneous body of introduced permeable and less permeable material that acts as a water-yielding hydraulic unit of regional extent

aqueduct - man-made canal or pipeline used to transport water

AWA Association of Water Agencies (of Ventura County) a nonprofit association formed by citizens in 1976 for the purpose of creating a local forum for WATER Education - Outreach - Cooperation - Collaboration

B

bacteria - any of a number of one-celled organisms, some of which cause disease

basin - a groundwater reservoir defined by the overlying land surface and underlying aquifers that contain water stored in the reservoir

benefit/cost analysis - a process of evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of a proposed purchase or project

BMPs (Best Management Practices) - structural or management practices which are implemented to reduce pollution (e.g., using a permeable material for parking lots to reduce urban runoff)

brackish - water containing too much salt to be useful to people but less salt than ocean water

C

capital cost – all the implements, equipment, machinery and inventory used in the production of goods and services

chloramination- the treatment of a substance, such as drinking water, with chlorine and ammonia (chloramines) in order to kill disease-causing organisms

chlorination- the treatment of a substance, such as drinking water, with chlorine in order to kill disease-causing organisms

coagulation- the process, such as in treatment of drinking water, by which dirt and other suspended particles become chemically "stuck together" so they can be removed from water

condensation - water vapor changing back into liquid

condensation surfaces - small particles of matter, such as dust and salt suspended in the atmosphere, which aid the condensation of water vapor in forming clouds

confined aquifer - an aquifer that is bound above and below by dense layers of rock and contains water under pressure

conjunctive use - the planned use of groundwater in conjunction with surface water to optimize total water resources

conservation - saving; not wasting; using water wisely

constituents - parts of a whole; components

contaminate - to make unfit for use; to pollute

cost-effective - able at least to pay for itself or make a profit

cubic foot of water - the amount of water needed to fill a cube that is one foot on all sides; about 7.5 gallons

erosion - the processes (including soil erosion) of picking up sediments, moving sediments, shaping sediments, and depositing sediments by various agents; erosional agents include streams, glaciers, wind and gravity

evaporation- water changing into vapor and rising into the air

F

filtration - passing water through coal, sand and gravel to remove particles

filtration plant- place where water is cleaned and made safe to drink

fish ladder- a device to help fish swim around a dam

floc - clumps of impurities removed from water during the purification process; formed when alum is added to impure water

flocculation- a step in water filtration in which alum is added to cause particles to clump together

G

gallon- a unit of measure equal to four quarts or 128 fluid ounces

groundwater- water under ground, such as in wells, springs and aquifers

H

habitat- the place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows

hardness- a characteristic of water determined by the levels of calcium and magnesium

hatcheries- a place for hatching fish eggs

hydrology- the scientific study of the behavior of water in the atmosphere, on the Earth's surface and underground

I

impermeable - having a texture that does not permit water to move through quickly

imported water - water brought into an area from a distant source, such as from one part of a state to another via an aqueduct

impurity- any component which causes another substance to become contaminated

infiltration (also called percolation) - the entrance or flow of water into the soil, sediment or rocks of the Earth's surface

irrigation- supplying water to agriculture by artificial means, such as pumping water onto crops in an area where rainfall is insufficient

L

leach - to remove components from the soil by the action of water trickling through

levees - dikes or other embankments which contain water within a given course

local runoff - water running off a local area, such as rainfall draining into a nearby creek

M

member agency- one of 27 member public water providers associated with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, from which it purchases water and o whose board it is represented

microorganism- an organism of microscopic size, such as bacterium

migratory - moving from one area to another on a seasonal basis

mitigation - a way in which an agency may offset negative environmental impacts of a project or make the impacts less serious

municipal water district - a public water provider, owned and operated by more than one city government, which supplies water to its member cities

N

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits - permits issued to point sources for the purpose of limiting pollution in discharges

O

organic- any chemical containing the element carbon

overdraft- condition that occurs in a groundwater basin when pumping exceeds the amount of replenishment over a period of years

P

pathogenic - capable of causing disease

- ***percolation*** - water soaking into the ground
- ***perennial yield***- maximum quantity of water that can be annually withdrawn from a groundwater basin over a long period of time (during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions) without developing an overdraft condition

permeability – the capacity or ability of a porous rock, sediment, or soil to allow the movement of water through its pores

pH - a relative scale of how acidic or basic (alkaline) a material is; the scale goes from 0 to 14; 7 is neutral, acids have pH values less than 7 and bases have pH values higher than 7

pollutant - any inorganic or organic substance that contaminates air, water or soil

point source pollution - pollution which comes from a well-defined source such as sewage treatment plant effluent from industrial dischargers. . .for purposes of the Clean Water Act, agricultural return flows are not regulated as a point source

POTWs (Public Owned Treatment Works) - sewage treatment plants

precipitation - water falling toward the Earth's surface in the form of rain, drizzle, hail, sleet, or snow

pumping lift - distance water must be lifted in a well from the pumping level to the ground surface

pumping plant – facility that lifts water up and over hills

R

reclaimed water- wastewater that has been cleaned so that it can be reused for most purposes except drinking

recharge - increases in groundwater storage from precipitation, infiltration from streams, or human activity (artificial recharge), such as putting surface water into spreading basins

reservoir - a pond or lake where water is collected and stored until it is needed

runoff - liquid water that travels over the surface of the Earth, moving downward due to the law of gravity; runoff is one way in which water that falls as precipitation returns to the ocean

S

saltation - the movement of sand or fine sediment by short jumps above a streambed under the influence of a water current too weak to keep it permanently suspended in the moving water

salinity - saltiness

saturation - the condition of being filled to capacity

section 319 grants - grants for nonpoint source pollution programs

sediments - fragments of material produced by weathering and erosion of rocks

sedimentation - the process of particles in water settling to the bottom of a tank

selenium - a non-metallic element in the same chemical group as sulfur; its compounds are harmful to wildlife or people when found above certain levels in water

septic tank - a sewage disposal tank in which bacteria decompose waste

soil - sediment on or near the Earth's surface that is formed by the chemical and physical weathering of rocks as well as the decay of living matter

soil subsidence - the lowering of the normal level of the ground, usually due to over pumping of water or oil from wells

SRF (State Revolving Fund) - funding, in the form of loans, available for the control of point and nonpoint source pollution

stream - the type of runoff where water flows in a channel downhill because of the pull of gravity

subsidence - sinking of the land surface due to a number of factors, of which groundwater extraction is one

subsurface water - all water - solid, liquid or gaseous - that occurs beneath the Earth's surface; located below the water table in the zone of saturation

surface runoff - water flowing along the ground into rivers, lakes, and oceans

surface water - all water, fresh and salty, on the Earth's surface

suspended - the state of floating in water rather than being dissolved in it

suspension - a method of sediment transport in which air or water turbulence supports the weight of the sediment particles, thereby keeping them from settling out or being deposited

T

trihalomethanes, trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene - organic compounds which may be harmful to health at certain levels in drinking water

turbidity – the state of having sediment or foreign particles suspended or stirred up in water

U

unconfined aquifer- an aquifer that discharges and recharges with an upper surface that is the water table

unsaturated zone- the subsurface zone, usually starting at the land surface and ending at the water table, that includes both water and air in spaces between rocks

usable storage capacity - the quantity of groundwater of acceptable quality that can be economically withdrawn from storage

W

wastewater - water that has waste material in it

wastewater treatment - cleaning wastewater

water cycle - the movement of water from the air to and below the Earth's surface and back into the air

water quality - the condition of water as it relates to impurities

water reclamation - treating wastewater so that it can be used again

water table - (1) the boundary in the ground between where the ground is saturated with water (zone of saturation) and where the ground is filled with water and air (zone of aeration); (2) the upper surface of the saturated zone that determines the water level in a well in an unconfined aquifer

water vapor - the gaseous state of water

watershed - a geographical portion of the Earth's surface from which water drains or runs off to a single place like a river; also called a drainage area

well - a hole or shaft drilled into the earth to get water or other underground substances

X

xeriscape - landscaping that doesn't require a lot of water

Z

zanja - Spanish word for ditch

zone of aeration - the portion of the ground from the Earth's surface down to the water table - the zone of aeration is not saturated with water because its pores are filled partly by air and partly by water

zone of saturation - the portion of the ground below the water table where all the pores in rock, sediment, and soil are filled with water

ASSOCIATION OF WATER AGENCIES OF VENTURA COUNTY

AWA is celebrating 50 years of experience operating as the region's largest water communication association representing Ventura County's ten cities, unincorporated areas, over 156 water systems, agricultural, industrial and water related businesses, and surrounding areas. AWA is the region's "one-stop shop" for disseminating information, providing a forum for communication, emergency and disaster preparedness and educational consortiums for all levels from policy makers to operators. It is dedicated to its mission statement of "promoting and encouraging cooperation among the entities for the development, protection, conservation and improvement of the total water resources for Ventura County." Email: awa@awavc.org Web www.awavc.net

2026 BUS ATTENDEES

AWA 15th Annual Water Bus Tour - Nov 12, 2026

First	Last	Company
Susan	Allen	O Strategies Group
Christina	Awad	BKF
Steven	Bassi	Tanimura & Antle
Kristina	Brewer	Channel Islands Beach CSD
James	Brotherton	Fox Canyon GMA
Luis	Busso	Cannon
Luis	Calderon	United Water Conservation District
Andy	Coradeschi	Las Virgenes MWD
Warner	Curtis	United WCD
Tyler	Deans	City of Simi Valley
Kat	Ehret	Calleguas MWD
Sarah	Fleury	Calleguas MWD
Luis	Garcia	Camrosa WD
Adrian	Gaston-Ford	City of Thousand Oaks
Jesse	Gomez	Fivepoint
Amanda	Gordon	VC Colab
Stephen	Hirashima	Grundfos
Salman	Jaberi	Kennedy Jenks
Brandon	Jones	Fox Canyon GMA
Russ	Layman	City of Thousand Oaks
Brian	MacDonald	Inframark

AWA 15th Annual Water Bus Tour - Nov 12, 2026

First	Last	Company
Damian	Magana	California American Water
Eric	Maple	City of Camarillo
Fermin	Martin	AgWest Farm Credit
Jacque	McMillan	Calleguas MWD
Ramona	Mejia	City of Simi Valley
Noelle	Melzer	Spears Manufacturing
Lamar	Parker	California American Water
Brent	Payne	Cannon
Roland	Pilemalm	Hazen and Sawyer
Kelle	Pistone	Assoc Water Agencies VC
Gerald	Price	AgWest Farm Credit
Brad	Ramirez	Spears Manufacturing
McKenna	Renkenberger	City of Thousand Oaks
Jenny	Sepulveda	California American Water
Merlin	Shockley	Inframark
Myles	Shoemaker	Limoneira
Kim	Singer	Ventura College Water Science Student
Jodi	Switzer	Farm Bureau of Ventura County
Taylor	Tilston	City of Ventura
Jennifer	Tribo	City of Ventura
Camryn	Viveiros	City of Thousand Oaks
Tim	Worley	O Strategies Group
Justin	Young	California American Water
Ryan	Young	Limoneira

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to learn more about our water resources, infrastructure, and the issues involved in our future supplies. Learning about water resources is not just an academic exercise—it is a civic responsibility we all share. ~ AWA

JOIN US FOR THE FINAL BREAKFAST OF THE YEAR!



WATERWISE

AWA WATER INFORMATION BREAKFAST SERIES

"THREE DISTRICTS, ONE GOAL: SECURING VENTURA COUNTY'S WATER FUTURE"

Join the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County for a timely conversation on the region's water future. Ventura County Supervisor Kelly Long will moderate a panel featuring the General Managers of Calleguas Municipal Water District and Casitas Municipal Water District and Assistant General Manager of United Water Conservation District as they discuss shared challenges, collaborative solutions, and innovative strategies for building a more reliable and resilient water supply.

GUEST SPEAKERS



MIKE FLOOD
CASITAS MWD



MARYAM BRAL, PH.D
(FOR MAURICIO GUARDADO)
UNITED WCD



KRISTINE MCCAFFREY
CALLEGUAS MWD



SPECIAL GUEST
SUPERVISOR KELLY LONG



AWA WATERWISE CHAIR
STEVE HUBER
DIRECTOR - UNITED WCD

EVENT DATE

THURSDAY
Nov 19, 2026

7:30 - 9:00 AM

UNITED WATER HEADQUARTERS
1701 N. LOMBARD - OXNARD

DON'T MISS THIS POPULAR
PACKED WITH LOCAL WAT

THIS PROGRAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR ONE (1) CDDW CONTACT HOUR

REMOTE ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE: ZOOM LINK SENT UPON REQUEST FOLLOWING REGISTRATION.



THANK YOU MEETING SPONSOR HAZEN AND SAWYER

IN PERSON: 1701 N LOMBARD ST. OXNARD



BREAKFAST & NETWORKING
7:30 AM

PRESENTATION BEGINS
8:00AM - 9:00AM

REGISTER NOW

$40 MEMBERS. $50 NON-MEMBERS.

$10 SURCHARGE FOR RESERVATIONS AFTER DEADLINE OF TUESDAY NOV 17TH.
NO CANCELLATIONS AFTER DEADLINE.

PRIOR TO START OF PRESENTATION
JOIN US IN-PERSON FOR BREAKFAST BURRITOS, FRESH SQUEEZED OJ AND NETWORKING WITH MEMBERS!

Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WATER:
EDUCATION - OUTREACH - COOPERATION - COLLABORATION

awavc.net
For more information
awa@awavc.org
(805) 644-0922