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November 17, 2011

California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
320 West 4th St., Ste. 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013

RE: Request for Local Public Participation Hearing; Golden State Water Company
Application No. A1107017 for Ojai Service Area

Dear Commissioners:

As the County Supervisor for the Ojai Service Area, I have heard from many constituents who wish to personally express their opposition to the subject rate increase before the CPUC. The CPUC has scheduled a number of Public Participation Hearings around Southern California, and I formally request that such a hearing be scheduled in the Ojai Valley.

Currently, the nearest scheduled CPUC hearing is in Carson; a two-hour drive from Ojai. This great distance greatly hampers public input into the CPUC hearing, and compromises the ability of the CPUC to make decisions that have been appropriately informed by the affected ratepayers. A hearing in the Ojai area is needed to properly afford local citizens the ability to participate in the CPUC process, and, so that your Commission may learn about local concerns from the personal testimony of Ojai Valley residents.

Cordially,

Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District