



***Surfrider Foundation***  
Ventura County Chapter – Matilija Coalition  
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November 11, 2011

Pat McPherson  
Ojai FLOW

Dear Pat,

I am writing in support of the efforts of Ojai FLOW (**F**riends of **L**ocally **O**wned **W**ater) to secure local control of the water supply in the Ojai area. This is a critical step in the ongoing efforts to develop a holistic watershed management plan for the Ventura River watershed.

Your efforts to bring the community together demonstrate that the Ojai Valley is aware of the threat to our ecosystem when outside corporate interests control a water supply. There are many examples from around the world and in the United States in which corporations have drastically impacted local communities through profit-motivated actions that overdraft local water supplies.

Recent actions by Golden State and the PUC demonstrate that they do not answer to the community. In contrast, Casitas Municipal Water District, as well as the other water districts in the valley, are controlled by a locally elected board which gives the community some control over water management practices.

We all depend on the responsible management of our water supply. With ever increasing pressure on this limited supply, it is crucial that the community is able to work together in a cooperative manner to ensure future sustainability. Please let us know how else we can assist in this important issue.

Sincerely,

A. Paul Jenkin, M.S.

Coordinator, Matilija Coalition  
Co-chair, Friends of the Ventura River  
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