



Ojai FLOW



October 2012

Dear Ojai Golden State Water Company Customer,

By the first half of next year, the Ojai Golden State Water Company rate payers (GS rate payers) are expected to have an opportunity to vote to take over Golden State Water Company (Golden State) operations in Ojai.

As we have seen already, Golden State doesn't want this to happen and will do try to do whatever it takes not to be run out of town. We expect they will spend over a quarter of a million dollars to fight the rate payers with advertisements, guest editorials in the papers, telephone surveys intended to influence voters, and direct mail to our homes. They may try to create "Citizen" groups claiming to represent Ojai residents supporting Golden State. Everyone should be skeptical of any statements and claims made by Golden State. Demand facts, and be cautious of falling for their self-serving rhetoric aimed only at saving Golden State's financial interests in Ojai.

The Our School Board, the Board of Realtors, the City of Ojai, the Ojai Valley Defense Fund, the Surfrider Foundation, most local businesses and thousands of Ojai residents support the purchase of Golden State. This support is based on these eight facts.

#1 Fact Golden State rate payers' water bills will double in about 9 years. Golden State rates have increased over 7.9% per year on average over the past 20 years. Casitas has only increased an average of 4.4%.

#2 Fact If we rate payers don't buy Golden State, we will pay for all capital improvements made by Golden State PLUS pay Golden State 8%-10% interest per year on the money used to fix the water system, but in the end we rate payers will not own the system. Golden State rate payers can save the 8% -10% per year, buy the system, pay for the improvements at less than 5% interest and let Casitas operate the system for them.

#3 Fact Golden State charges close to three times as much for water than Casitas or any other water purveyor in the area.

#4 Fact The difference between today's cost of Golden State's water and Casitas will provide millions of dollars to fund the takeover of the water system and make improvements that have been ignored for decades.

#5 Fact A Water Rescue Bond (paid for only by the Golden State rate payers) will pay for everything: the election, legal expenses, capital improvements to bring the Ojai Golden State system up to Casitas standards, and to buy the system from Golden State. There is no cost to Casitas or its present rate payers.

#6 Fact Golden State rate payers' water bills will drop about 60% the day the rate payers buy Golden State because they will receive water at Casitas rates. The rate payers will no longer be at the mercy of Cal PUC, an unelected bureaucracy in San Francisco that sets rates with no representation from the local community.

#7 Fact Interest on the Water Rescue Bond may qualify as a State & Federal tax deduction, but our Golden State water bill will not.

#8 Fact In 30 years we will own the system and only pay the low Casitas rates for water. The Water Rescue Bond will be paid off.

Join us for a FREE special

Golden State Farewell Party

and fun kickoff event for the Water Rescue Bond Vote

Wednesday November 28, 2012

6:00 PM No host bar

6:30 to 8:00 PM Party & Information

Ojai Valley Inn, main meeting room to the left of the Parking Valet

Donations to Ojai FLOW in lieu of presents!

RSVP please to info@ojaiFLOW.com

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----- For Donations - Cut Here -----

Make your check payable to: **L. Torres, CPA- Treas. Ojai FLOW**

Mail to: **Ojai FLOW, 901 Grand Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023**

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