

# Ojai FLOW

Friends of locally owned water

## NEWS

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### **Ojai FLOW collects over 1,000 signatures to remove Golden State Water**

**Ojai, California** – In just three weeks, Ojai FLOW collects over one thousand petition signatures asking Casitas Municipal Water District to take over Golden State Water Company. Ojai FLOW's goal is to get half the registered voters to sign, about 2,500, by Memorial Day.

Ojai FLOW launched its campaign on April 13<sup>th</sup> and has quickly become recognized for reflecting the will of the people. Even Caltrans was concerned about the stir Ojai FLOW has caused when there were traffic jams along Ojai Avenue when Ojai FLOW opened its drive-through petition site.

According to Ojai FLOW Chairman Pat McPherson, "It seems the entire community is coming out to support what we are doing, and a lot has happened in just three weeks. In addition to collecting over a thousand signatures, The Ojai City Council has voted unanimously to back the efforts of Ojai FLOW and the Ojai Valley School District has agreed to have a similar vote on their next agenda. We have had more than 2,800 unique visitors to our web site [www.OjaiFlow.com](http://www.OjaiFlow.com) where people have learned about the issues and have signed up to help and donate. The Ojai Democratic Club voted unanimously to support Ojai FLOW and donated \$500, over 425 residents and businesses have put up yard signs to show their support, and presentations have been well received by local civic groups such as both Rotary Clubs, the Board Of Realtors, and the Education foundation. Volunteers are now needed to walk the streets to get the remaining signatures."

Ojai FLOW says Golden State Water (Golden State) charges homes, businesses and schools in the Ojai service area twice as much as what Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) and other

Community ownership...Community control...Community savings  
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local publically owned water companies in the valley would charge. In 2011 Golden State will charge \$5.0 million for water service and Casitas would have charged only \$1.89 million for the same service. According to Mr. McPherson, “When Golden State Water rates become so high that Realtors feel they must reveal this to prospective buyers, then you know something is wrong. It’s only going to get worse if we don’t do something about it now”.

Petitions can be signed at the Ojai House, Ojai Valley Real Estate, State Farm Insurance near Vons, and at the Ojai Pool Store in Meiners Oaks. Petitions tables can also be found at various times at the drive through on Ojai Avenue, at Starr Market, Vons, Westridge Market, & the Farmers market on Sundays.

You can get petitions to walk your neighborhood and sign up to volunteer by contacting Christine Fay at [info@ojaiflow.com](mailto:info@ojaiflow.com), phone 798-3442. A single petition is available [www.ojaiflow.com](http://www.ojaiflow.com) which can be downloaded, printed out, signed and mailed in if you don’t have time to help but want your voice counted.

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