OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2011 FOR: Action

TITLE: RESOLUTION #10-11-36: In Support of the Efforts of Ojai FLOW (Friends of Locally Owned Water)

EXHIBIT: Resolution #10-11-36

EXPLANATION:

Ojai FLOW is a grassroots effort formed to address growing concerns among some customers of Golden State Water Company (GSWC) over its high water usage rates and costly yearly rate increases. Ojai FLOW believes water service of equal or better quality than GSWC can be provided to customers at a significantly lower cost if Casitas Municipal Water District, a publicly owned water provider, were to buy out GSWC.

Ojai FLOW is currently petitioning the Board of Casitas Municipal Water District to consider buying GSWC in Ojai. If successful, Ojai FLOW estimates a collective savings to Ojai's GSWC customers that include three Ojai Unified School District facilities of $3.14 million per year. This estimate is based on Ojai FLOW's comparison of the current rates of GSWC to the Casitas Municipal Water District's rates.

Ojai FLOW analyzed Golden State water bills at Topa Topa Elementary, Matilija Jr. High School, and Chaparral High School. Based on this analysis, Ojai FLOW estimates a first-year savings of approximately $22,000 for the Ojai Unified School District if Casitas Municipal were to become the water provider. Using the past 20-year historical rate increases to project future increases, Ojai FLOW estimates the cumulative savings to OUSD would be $100,000 in three years and approximately $600,000 in ten years.

The Board is asked to support the efforts of Ojai FLOW to find a local, economical solution for Ojai's water resource needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Resolution #10-11-36.

Motion by: P. Mercado Second by: K. Smith Vote: Y 5 N 0 A Ø

Resolution #10-11-36

In Support of

The Efforts of Ojai FLOW (Friends of Locally Owned Water)

Whereas, it is in the Ojai Unified School District's fiscal interest to support Ojai FLOW's efforts to significantly lower the monthly charges for water in the Golden State Water Company (GSWC) service area; and

Whereas, lower water bills at three of its facilities that are served by GSWC will provide significant savings to the Ojai Unified School District not just in the near future but for decades to come; and

Whereas, a local organization known as Ojai FLOW has been organized to find an alternative to the current water supplier, Golden State Water Company; and

Whereas, Ojai FLOW has recently petitioned the Board of the Casitas Municipal Water District to consider Ojai FLOW's proposal that Casitas become the provider to those customers currently served by Golden State Water Company that include three Ojai Unified School District facilities, and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Education of the Ojai Unified School District:

1. That the Board of Education of the Ojai Unified School District supports the efforts of Ojai FLOW to find a local, economical solution for Ojai's water resource needs.

2. That the Board of Education of Ojai Unified School District urges the Board of Directors of the Casitas Municipal Water District to seriously study and give due consideration to the proposal by Ojai FLOW to have Casitas become the provider of water to Golden State's Ojai water customers that include Topa Topa Elementary School, Matilija Jr. High School, and Chaparral High School.

Passed and Adopted by the Governing Board of the Ojai Unified School District this 10th day of May, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: 5 NOES: Ø ABSTAIN: Ø ABSENT: Ø

Rikki Horne

Rikki Horne
Board of Education
Ojai Unified School District