

NEWS

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Golden State Water agrees to return \$1.2 million taken from Ojai customers

Ojai, California – For years, Ojai FLOW and its supporters have complained at public meetings that Golden State Water Company (GSWC) pays too much for contracted services. It appears the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has now come to the same conclusion as a settlement has been reached between GSWC and the PUC for GSWC to return \$1.2 million taken from Ojai customers. GSWC have also let go two senior managers in the matter.

According to Ojai FLOW chair member Pat McPherson, “This is no surprise to Ojai FLOW and we are glad Golden State Water Company practices have been revealed and hope such investigations will continue. When, in just five weeks, over half the number of people that voted in the last Ojai City election signed a petition to get rid of Golden State Water, and the City of Ojai and the School District passed unanimous resolutions to support Ojai FLOW’s takeover proposal, it’s a good bet something is wrong at Golden State Water. I am sure the stock holders of American State’s Water (www.aswater.com), the parent company of Golden State Water Company (www.gswater.com), will not be happy to pay back this money and may change their mind about investing in a company that has such poor ethics and strong opposition by its customers in Ojai. The settlement decision was made public on July 7, 2011 and can be down loaded from Ojai FLOW’s web site www.OjaiFlow.com “

When asked if the recent settlement has any bearing on Ojai FLOW’s move to takeover GSWC, McPherson says “The settlement backs up the words on our signs that say **Stop the Golden State Rip Off** and gives us encouragement that our motives are right. It also makes us more committed which is why we just ordered more signs. Maybe Casitas will be able to use the \$1.2 million to help buy them. We should not forget what Golden State did was seriously wrong. If an individual took 1.2 million dollars from the wallets & purses of the Ojai rate payers, it would be front page news for weeks and the person would go to jail. No one from Golden State will go to jail but us rate payers certainly have the right to run them out of town by taking over their business sooner than later.”

Ojai FLOW is a volunteer organization dedicated to citizen ownership and control of Ojai’s water. They are focused on taking over Golden State Water that charges two to three times as much as public owned water companies in the same area. Ojai FLOW has presented petitions to Casitas Municipal Water District asking them to take over Golden State Water Company. Their feasibility study and newsletter sign up can be found on Ojai FLOW’s web site www.OjaiFlow.com. They can be contacted by e-mail: info@OjaiFlow.com.

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