

# Ojai FLOW

Friends of locally owned water

## NEWS

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Page 1 of 2

### **Re: Ojai Schools voted #1 reason for Casitas to buyout Golden State Water in Ojai**

**Ojai, California** – On Ojai Day while Golden State Water Company (Golden State) was passing out water conservation devices and inviting people to come to their 6 PM meeting at the Matilija Auditorium on October 24<sup>th</sup> (all paid for by Ojai rate payers), three booths away local citizen's group Ojai FLOW was thinking of more serious issues like bringing attention to the benefits of the Golden State Water buyout by the Casitas Municipal water District (Casitas).

Ojai FLOW listed seven reasons on a sign in their booth why it would be good for ALL in the Casitas district to buyout Golden State. These were not just reasons for those served by Golden State. According to Ojai FLOW spokesperson Pat McPherson, "Each visitor was given 3 votes. The number one pick, which received 63% of the votes, was .....A projected \$1.2 million saving to our public schools over the next 15 years. Second with 60% was ..... Ventura River watershed finally managed entirely by locals with no more outside financial interests. And third at 45% was ..... \$500K more annual net revenues to reduce future Casitas water rates. The others came in as follows:

4. 42% thought ..... A projected \$30 million more to spend locally over the next 15 years at Ventura County Businesses, and for Charities and Environmental Issues was one of the top three reasons.
5. 39% thought ..... The larger customer base to amortize infrastructure repairs and improvements - including natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods was one of the top 3.
6. 24% thought ..... Doubling the Casitas customer base to provide more predictable revenues was in the top three, and the same amount (24%) thought ..... the larger customer base to amortize fixed costs was equally important.

Community ownership...Community control...Community savings

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According to McPherson, “these were all good reasons and many had a hard time deciding on just three. The practical fact is all of them will become a reality when Casitas creates the improvement district and goes forward with the acquisition that will be paid for entirely by Ojai rate payers served by Golden State.”

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, request for signs and newsletter sign up can be found on Ojai FLOW’s web site [www.OjaiFlow.com](http://www.OjaiFlow.com). They can be contacted by e-mail: [info@OjaiFLOW.com](mailto:info@OjaiFLOW.com).

Page 2 of 2

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