



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Paul Blatz, Mayor

P.O. Box 1570, Ojai, CA 93024

February 20, 2013

President Word and Members of the Board of Directors
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Ave.
Oak View, CA 93022

Re: Acquisition of the Golden State Water System

Dear President Word and Members of the Board:

The City Council of the City of Ojai is very grateful to the Board of Directors for its diligent review of the ratepayer petition regarding the potential acquisition of the Golden State Water System in its Ojai service area. In particular we applaud the actions of the Board at its special meeting on January 29 initiating the formation of a Community Facilities District to fund the acquisition and necessary upgrades.

At its February 12 meeting, the City Council of the City of Ojai unanimously voted to direct me to send a letter to the Board conveying the Council's support for submitting the special tax to the qualified voters. It is absolutely essential and appropriate that the voters have the ability to control their destiny by having an opportunity to vote on this matter.

Over the years the City Council has heard ratepayers again and again testify about the inequity of the current structure and their frustration in seeking relief. Under the current private ownership scheme the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has regulatory and ratemaking authority for the Golden State System. City officials have appeared before the CPUC and participated in the regulatory process on numerous occasions in response to the requests of our citizens. Unfortunately, this has had little effect.

We believe that the ratepayers should have the right to vote for the actions that could bring the system into public ownership, which we strongly believe is more transparent and responsive than private ownership under the regulatory control of the CPUC.

We thank you again for your ongoing efforts to bring this matter to a public vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Blatz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Blatz, Mayor

Cc: City Council
City Clerk
City Manager
City Attorney
General Manager, CMWD