



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Robert F. Clark, City Manager

P.O. Box 1570, Ojai, CA 93024

May 15, 2014

Kenneth J. Peterson
Coastal District Manager
Golden State Water Company
2330 A Street, Suite A
Santa Monica, CA 93455

Re: Ojai Fire Flow

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The City of Ojai is concerned about its preparedness as a community for the upcoming fire season in view of the sustained drought and its potential impact on water availability. I am therefore writing to request the following documentation as it related to the Golden State Water System in Ojai:

1. The results of all fire flow tests conducted within the last five years.
2. A list of fire hydrants that have not been tested within the last five years.
3. A report on the status of all water wells, and their ability to deliver water on a routine basis, and well as, for the high demand fire season conditions.

Since we are already in the fire season, I am requesting that the information be provided within two weeks.

I appreciate your help in responding to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Clark", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Robert Clark,
City Manager

Cc: City Council

May 7, 2014

Rob Clark – Ojai City Manager
Cc. City Council Members
Ojai City Hall
401 S. Ventura Street
PO Box 1570
Ojai, CA 93024

Dear Mr. Clark,

Golden State Water Company's main water line brake on El Paseo is reminiscent of last summer's system failure that left a substantial portion of the City without water or fire protection for several days. Drought conditions have created an unusually high fire danger this year in Ojai. Is Golden State's water system capable of protecting Ojai? Is Golden State prepared to respond to an emergency in Ojai?

Golden States' response to last year's catastrophic water system failure and the lengthy water service outage leaves the residents of Ojai in doubt. Golden State did not have sufficient local personnel and resources to effectively respond to last year's emergency. What has been done to improve their emergency response capabilities? What has been done to prevent City-wide water outages?

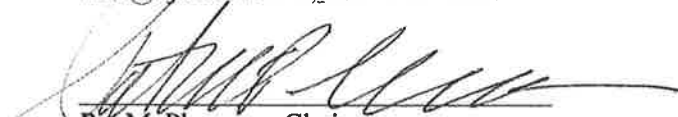
Golden State spent millions of rate payer dollars on a new well to provide a backup water supply. Is the well operational? A new pipeline was constructed to deliver well water to the City from San Antonio Creek. Is the pipeline in service? Why are the fire hydrants on Grand Avenue, near Gridley, covered up?


Ojai Flow has heard these concerns from many of Ojai's residents about the reliability of the Golden State water system. As our representative and the Franchiser to Golden State, we request the City of Ojai to require Golden State to submit to the City the results of all of the most recent fire flow tests conducted in the City, and in neighborhoods where tests have not been conducted in the past five years. Also the City should require Golden State to submit a report on the status of all of their water wells and how that status may impact their ability to deliver water on a routine basis as well as for the high demand fire season conditions.

Since we are in the fire season, we ask that the above be provided within the next 30 days.

Sincerely,

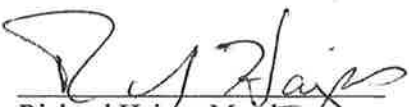
Ojai FLOW steering committee members
info@ojaiiflow.com, 805-895-3537:



Pat McPherson - Chair


Ryan Blatz - Member


Dale Hansen - Member


Stan Greene - Member


Richard Hajas - Member


Lou Torres - Member


Bob Daddi - Member