

Board Meeting Agenda

Russ Baggerly, Director
Mary Bergen, Director
Bill Hicks, Director

Pete Kaiser, Director
James Word, Director

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
April 27, 2011
3:00 P.M. – DISTRICT OFFICE

Right to be heard: Members of the public have a right to address the Board directly on any item of interest to the public which is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. The request to be heard should be made immediately before the Board's consideration of the item. No action shall be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda unless the action is otherwise authorized by subdivision (b) of ¶54954.2 of the Government Code and except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under section 54954.3 of the Government Code.

1. Public comments.
2. General Manager comments.
3. Board of Director comments.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes of the April 13, 2011 Board Meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Consent Agenda
5. Bills
6. Committee/Manager Reports
 - a. Finance Committee Minutes
 - b. Executive Committee Minutes
 - c. Water Resources Committee Minutes
7. Request for Consideration of Fee Waiver for space use by the Lake Casitas Rowing Association.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Direction to Staff

8. Recommend approval of the creation of a full-time Water Conservation position.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion approving recommendation

9. Information Items:

- a. Lake Casitas Recreation Area Report for March, 2011
- b. Lake Casitas Storage Volume Comparison
- c. Casitas Reservoir Water Inventory Summary 2010/11 Water Year.
- d. Legislative Outreach to Support Special Districts Tax Allocations.
- e. News Articles.
- f. Investment Report

10. Closed Session

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel -- Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9, Government Code). Name of Case: Klein v. Casitas Municipal Water District.
- b. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Govt. Code Sec. 54957)
Title: General Manager

11. Adjournment

If you require special accommodations for attendance at or participation in this meeting, please notify our office 24 hours in advance at (805) 649-2251, ext. 113. (Govt. Code Section 54954.1 and 54954.2(a).

Minutes of the Casitas Municipal Water District
Board Meeting Held
April 13 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held April 13, 2011 at Casitas' Office, Oak View, California. Directors Kaiser, Baggerly, Word, Hicks and Bergen were present. Also present were Steve Wickstrum, General Manager, Rebekah Vieira, Clerk of the Board, and Attorney, Bob Krimmer. There were two staff members and nine members of the public in attendance. President Kaiser led the group in the flag salute.

1. Public comments.

Pat McPherson, representing Ojai Flow, addressed the board regarding the efforts of Ojai Flow in investigating alternatives to Golden State Water in the Ojai area. After ten months of weekly meetings, their plan calls for reduced cost of water and offers Casitas a significant overall customer base for a benefit to the Casitas district.

Richard Hajas provided a report to Mr. Wickstrum which is available on Ojaiflow.com. Mr. Hajas explained that his rates have increased 65% in the last three years and are much higher than the surrounding area. He added that their pleas to the PUC have gone unanswered and the community is ready to act. The next steps will be the circulation of a petition requesting the Casitas board to form a revenue improvement district and proceed in holding an election. The desired outcome is to replace Golden State with Casitas as Ojai Valley's water purveyor.

Bob Daddi also expressed his support of Ojai Flow. He added that they are a part of Casitas now as they pay property tax to Casitas. We have always been your constituents. He asked the board to consider strongly and allow them to have the opportunity to vote through a ballot initiative to go through these steps.

2. General Manager comments.

Mr. Wickstrum informed the board of two scheduled shutdowns in the coming weeks. The first one is Monday on the Rincon Main. The second one is April 26th on the Ojai Valley Main. Mr. Wickstrum provided a status update on the renovations to the reservations office and the coatings on the Lazy River. Closed session item 12 a is being pulled from the agenda.

3. Board of Director comments.

Director Word asked for the status of the removal of water service in CRW lands. Mr. Wickstrum explained it can be removed. Director Hicks complimented the Recreation staff for Kids Fishing Day. Director Kaiser also appreciated the

efforts of staff and enjoyed seeing the various agencies that provided demonstrations.

4. Consent Agenda ADOPTED

- a. Minutes of the March 23, 2011 Board Meeting.

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Consent Agenda was approved.

5. Bills APPROVED

Director Hicks questioned the cost for the turbidity meter? Mr. Wickstrum explained that we have many of these meters in the plant and they provide critical measurements for the control and reporting at the treatment plant.

Director Bergen questioned the payment to Kennedy Jenks. Mr. Wickstrum explained this is for working with Mary Lou Cotton and state water issues. This is being done jointly with the City of Ventura.

Director Word questioned #8553 for bank fees. Are these the last ones we have been working through? Ms. Collin replied yes.

On the motion of Director Hicks, seconded by Director Word and passed, the bills were approved.

6. Committee/Manager Reports APPROVED FOR FILING

- a. Recreation Committee Minutes

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the Committee/Manager Reports were approved for filing.

7. Recommend approval of a purchase order in the amount of \$24,479.14 to Downtown Ford Sales for the purchase of a 2011 Ford F-250.

APPROVED

On the motion of Director Baggerly, seconded by Director Bergen and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

8. Recommend rejection of all bids for the construction of Upper Ojai Pump Plant Electrical Upgrades, Specification 10-343 and re-advertising the project. APPROVED

On the motion of Director Word, seconded by Director Baggerly and passed, the above recommendation was approved.

9. Resolution approving a grant from the Department of Boating and Waterways for the reimbursement of operation and maintenance costs of three floating restrooms for two years at Lake Casitas Recreation Area.

ADOPTED

The resolution was offered by Director Word, seconded by Director Bergen and passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Bergen, Hicks, Word, Baggerly, Kaiser
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None

Resolution is numbered 11-09.

10. Matilija Dam Fine Sediment Meeting Update

Mr. Wickstrum and Director Baggerly provided an update on the Matilija Dam Fine Sediment Meetings they attended

11. Information Items:

- a. Monthly Cost Analysis for operation of Robles, fisheries and fish passage.
- b. Report on Fishery Management at Lake Casitas.
- c. Letter from City of Ventura regarding their Urban Water Management Plan.
- d. News Articles.
- e. Investment Report

President Kaiser moved the meeting to closed session at 3:37 p.m. and called for a brief recess. At 3:42 p.m. he called the meeting back into closed session.

12. Closed Session

- a. Conference with Legal Counsel -- Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9, Government Code). Name of Case: Ortiz v. Casitas Municipal Water District.
- b. (Govt. Code Sec. 54957.6)
Conference with Labor Negotiators:
Agency Designated Representatives: Rebekah Vieira, Draza Mrvichin
Employee Organization: Supervisory & Professional, General Unit and Recreation Unit.

President Kaiser moved the meeting back to open session at 4:46 p.m. stating that no action was taken.

13. Adjournment

President Kaiser adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

Secretary

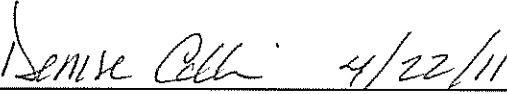
A/P Fund

Publication of check register is in compliance with Section 53065.6 of the Government Code which requires the District to disclose reimbursements to employees and/or directors.

000244	A/P Checks:	008669-008686
	A/P Draft to P.E.R.S.	
	A/P Draft to State of CA	
	A/P Draft to I.R.S.	
	Void:	

000246	A/P Checks:	008687-008780
	A/P Draft to P.E.R.S.	042113
	A/P Draft to State of CA	042112
	A/P Draft to I.R.S.	042111
	Void:	008735-008737

The above numbered checks, have been duly audited are hereby certified as correct.

 4/22/11

Denise Collin, Accounting Manager

Signature

Signature

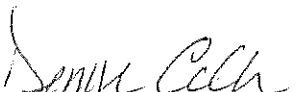
Signature

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Payable Fund Check Authorization
Checks Dated 04/06/11-04/21/11
Presented to the Board of Directors For Approval April 27, 2011

Check	Payee			Description	Amount
000244	Payables Fund Account	#	9759651478	Accounts Payable Batch 041311	\$360,385.15
000246	Payables Fund Account	#	9759651478	Accounts Payable Batch 042111	\$349,386.67
					\$709,771.82
000245	Payroll Fund Account	#	9469730919	Special Payroll Requirements	\$20,000.00
000247	Payroll Fund Account	#	9469730919	Estimated Payroll 5/5/11	\$130,000.00
					\$150,000.00
Total					\$859,771.82

Publication of check register is in compliance with Section 53065.6 of the Government Code which requires the District to disclose reimbursements to employees and/or directors.

The above numbered checks, 000244-000247 have been duly audited is hereby certified as correct.

 4/22/11

 Denise Collin, Accounting Manager

 Signature

 Signature

 Signature

CERTIFICATION

Payroll disbursements for the pay period ending 04/16/11

Pay Date of 04/21/11

have been duly audited and are
hereby certified as correct.

Signed: Denise Collin 4/18/11
Denise Collin

Signed: _____
Signature

Signed: _____
Signature

Signed: _____
Signature

CERTIFICATION

Payroll disbursements for the pay period ending 03/19/11
Pay Date of 03/24/11
have been duly audited and are
hereby certified as correct.

Signed: Rebekah Vieira
Rebekah Vieira

Signed: _____
Signature

Signed: _____
Signature

Signed: _____
Signature

4/21/2011 11:50 AM
 VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: * ALL BANKS
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

A/P HISTORY CHECK REPORT

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
C-CHECK	VOID CHECK	V	4/21/2011			008735		
C-CHECK	VOID CHECK	V	4/21/2011			008736		
C-CHECK	VOID CHECK	V	4/21/2011			008737		

* * T O T A L S * *		NO	CHECK AMOUNT	DISCOUNTS	TOTAL APPLIED	
REGULAR CHECKS:		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
HAND CHECKS:		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
DRAFTS:		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
EFT:		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
NON CHECKS:		0	0.00	0.00	0.00	
VOID CHECKS:		3	0.00			
	VOID DEBITS		0.00			
	VOID CREDITS		0.00			
TOTAL ERRORS:	0					
VENDOR SET: 01	BANK:	TOTALS:	3	0.00	0.00	0.00
BANK:	TOTALS:		3	0.00	0.00	0.00

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: AP ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
01055	Neil Cole							
I-Feb 11	Reimburse Mileage 2/11	R	4/06/2011	84.15		008669		
I-Mar 11	Reimburse Mileage 3/11	R	4/06/2011	58.65		008669		142.80
00673	DOROTHY FORTNER							
I-040111	Renew G2 Water Dist Cert	R	4/06/2011	60.00		008670		
I-040511	Renew Water Use Efficiency Crt	R	4/06/2011	70.00		008670		130.00
00756	STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION							
I-040611	Use Tax Return 1/11-3/11	R	4/06/2011	1,325.00		008671		1,325.00
00048	STATE OF CALIFORNIA							
I-040611	State Water Plan Payment	R	4/06/2011	197,418.00		008672		197,418.00
00489	STEVE WICKSTRUM							
I-Mar 11	Reimburse Mileage 3/11	R	4/06/2011	241.74		008673		241.74
01703	ARNOLD, BLEUEL, LAROCHELLE,							
I-31617	Matter No: 5088-001 Mar Srvcs	R	4/13/2011	2,328.00		008674		2,328.00
00021	AWA OF VENTURA COUNTY							
I-040711	2011 Annual Water Symposium	R	4/13/2011	150.00		008675		150.00
00821	BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP							
I-649945	Matter #82356.00001 Mar Srvcs	R	4/13/2011	4,343.00		008676		
I-649946	Matter # 82356.00002 Mar Srvcs	R	4/13/2011	4,251.50		008676		8,594.50
01616	FRED BRENEMAN							
I-041111	PD 4/3/11-4/16/11	R	4/13/2011	391.00		008677		391.00
01061	Goleta Sports							
I-24290	Water Aerobics Equip, WP	R	4/13/2011	973.17		008678		973.17
01270	SCOTT LEWIS							
I-Mar 11	Reimburse Expenses 3/11	R	4/13/2011	3,367.40		008679		3,367.40
02128	Olympus & Associates, Inc.							
I-041111	OV Tank #2 Int Recoat	R	4/13/2011	19,902.61		008680		
I-041111A	OV #2 Tank, Railing	R	4/13/2011	72,136.78		008680		92,039.39
00188	PETTY CASH							
I-041111	Replenish Petty Cash	R	4/13/2011	380.27		008681		380.27

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
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 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
00215	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON							
I-040211B	Acct#2210502480	R	4/13/2011	36,536.15		008682		
I-040211C	Acct#2210505426	R	4/13/2011	1,501.81		008682		38,037.96
00226	UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE							
I-040811	Replenish Postage Meter	R	4/13/2011	250.00		008683		250.00
00234	UNITED WATER CONSERVATION							
I-040711	State Water Plan Payment	R	4/13/2011	7,829.47		008684		7,829.47
01967	Robert Vasquez							
I-031811	D2 & 3 Review Course	R	4/13/2011	175.00		008685		175.00
00949	CITY OF VENTURA							
I-040711	State Water Plan Payment	R	4/13/2011	6,611.45		008686		6,611.45
00021	AWA OF VENTURA COUNTY							
I-041811	Technology Workshop 4/21/11	R	4/18/2011	605.00		008687		605.00
00548	Lisa Barbee							
I-041811	Advance for Incode Connect	R	4/18/2011	1,078.00		008688		1,078.00
02190	Chelbi Kelley							
I-041811	Advance for Incode Connect	R	4/18/2011	1,128.32		008689		1,128.32
02191	Debra Lisa Adair							
I-041111	Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	322.56		008690		322.56
00006	ADAMSON'S AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR							
I-000255	Tow #16 to Rocks, OEM Cst Svc	R	4/21/2011	150.00		008691		150.00
01441	ADVANTAGE TELECOM, INC							
I-32211	LCRA Monthly Phone Charges	R	4/21/2011	679.80		008692		679.80
01985	AFLAC/FLEX ONE							
I-042111	Reimburse Medical 2011	R	4/21/2011	60.00		008693		60.00
00022	AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOC.							
C-7000337744A	Accrue Use Tax	R	4/21/2011	42.90CR		008694		
D-7000337744A	Accrue Use Tax	R	4/21/2011	42.90		008694		
I-7000337744	Standard Revisions for Engin	R	4/21/2011	520.00		008694		520.00
00014	AQUA-FLO SUPPLY							
I-175220	Clamp for Break, Chumash Rd	R	4/21/2011	261.24		008695		
I-180033	PVC Parts for Leak, Maint	R	4/21/2011	35.39		008695		296.63

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: AP ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
01666	AT & T I-000002257749 Acct#8310001729783	R	4/21/2011	357.32		008696		357.32
00018	AT & T MOBILITY I-829434088X04142011 PT Wildlife Biologist Cell	R	4/21/2011	8.92		008697		8.92
00030	B&R TOOL AND SUPPLY CO I-1227074000101 Wet/Dry Vac, Filter, Pipeline I-1227350000101 Cord for Grinder, Dist Maint I-1227636000101 Footswitch, Auger, LCRA Maint I-1227755000101 Tap, Ojai Valley Main Manhole I-1227785000101 Wraparound Tape for Dist Maint	R R R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	194.23 31.37 60.70 64.95 34.60		008698 008698 008698 008698 008698		385.85
00032	BIOVIR LABORATORIES, INC I-110483 Giardia/Crypto 3/17/11	R	4/21/2011	390.00		008699		390.00
00463	Farm Plan I-03679018 Mower Blades, A Camp	R	4/21/2011	49.43		008700		49.43
00054	CA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH I-1150725 Water System Fees 7/10-12/10	R	4/21/2011	111.60		008701		111.60
09983	CALIFORNIA URBAN WATER I-2011G1-013 Membership Renewal 2011	R	4/21/2011	1,398.39		008702		1,398.39
00490	Cardno ENTRIX I-0066215 Professional Srvcs	R	4/21/2011	8,707.90		008703		8,707.90
00055	CASITAS BOAT RENTALS I-001287 Gas for Boats at LCRA I-001297 Gas for Boats at LCRA I-Mar 11 Cafe Pass Reimbursment 3/11	R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	557.50 623.72 1,782.49		008704 008704 008704		2,963.71
02199	Scott Chasse I-041911 Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	350.00		008705		350.00
01384	CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SE I-6W1185701 Waste Disposal Services	R	4/21/2011	217.70		008706		217.70
01843	COASTAL COPY I-340071 Copier Usage 3/23/11-4/22/11	R	4/21/2011	112.21		008707		112.21

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
00059	COASTAL PIPCO I-S1675254001 PVC Valves for Casitas 1	R	4/21/2011	713.54		008708		713.54
00511	Community Memorial Hospital I-ST2110900014IN Drug Tests	R	4/21/2011	90.00		008709		90.00
00062	CONSOLIDATED ELECTRICAL I-9009637674 Heater Elements for Operations	R	4/21/2011	118.00		008710		
	I-9009638182 Input Module, Treatment Plant	R	4/21/2011	314.50		008710		432.50
00719	CORELOGIC INFORMATION SOLUTION I-80167735 Realquest Subscription	R	4/21/2011	125.00		008711		125.00
00296	CUMMINS CAL PACIFIC, LLC I-00632208 Emergency Generator Repair, TP	R	4/21/2011	1,310.35		008712		1,310.35
00272	ERS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, INC I-032811 Int Repair & Coating, Filter #7	R	4/21/2011	65,442.55		008713		65,442.55
00095	FAMCON PIPE & SUPPLY C-C133078 Credit on Inv#132646	R	4/21/2011	638.68CR		008714		
	I-133047 Angle Meter Stops for WH	R	4/21/2011	292.28		008714		
	I-133050 Restock Bolts in Warehouse	R	4/21/2011	740.43		008714		
	I-133053 20" Flagged, See CM#C133078	R	4/21/2011	637.59		008714		1,031.62
	Exchanged 24" Flange from Inv#132646							
00099	FGL ENVIRONMENTAL I-102212A Inorganics, Nutrients Watershed	R	4/21/2011	645.00		008715		
	I-102421A OV Reservoir VOC Testing	R	4/21/2011	445.00		008715		
	I-103396A Wet Chemistry	R	4/21/2011	43.00		008715		1,133.00
00101	FISHER SCIENTIFIC I-0144298 Biohazard Caution Sign, Lab	R	4/21/2011	18.31		008716		18.31
00104	FRED'S TIRE MAN I-157616 Frontend Repairs, #36, PL Truck	R	4/21/2011	1,237.80		008717		
	I-158085 Tires for #42, Pipeline Truck	R	4/21/2011	1,168.93		008717		2,406.73
002192	Halina Garbacz I-040811 Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	350.00		008718		350.00
00115	GRAINGER, INC I-9507275536 Container for Lab	R	4/21/2011	75.27		008719		75.27

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
10746	GREEN THUMB INTERNATIONAL							
I-442748	Plants, Fred Hall Show Booth	R	4/21/2011	194.61		008720		
I-443603	Plants for LCRA Fountain	R	4/21/2011	75.70		008720		270.31
11052	HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS USA, INC							
I-0200463680	Bungee Cords, Ties, Dist Maint	R	4/21/2011	48.66		008721		48.66
11594	HIGHWAY TECHNOLOGIES, INC.							
I-65076042001	Pump Plant ID Signs	R	4/21/2011	181.56		008722		
I-65076043001	"Authorized Vehicle" Signs Dst	R	4/21/2011	280.94		008722		462.50
10785	HydroScientific West							
I-1434	Perform Brush Testing, Robles	R	4/21/2011	10,085.20		008723		10,085.20
10125	IDEXX DISTRIBUTION CORP							
I-250417734	Comparator for Lab	R	4/21/2011	24.04		008724		24.04
10127	INDUSTRIAL BOLT & SUPPLY							
C-00118736	Credit Inv#00118199	R	4/21/2011	25.79CR		008725		
I-00118658	Bolts for Reclaim at TP	R	4/21/2011	44.47		008725		18.68
12182	Industrial Coating and Restora							
I-041811	Lazy River Repairs	R	4/21/2011	35,030.00		008726		35,030.00
10872	Irrisoft, Inc.							
I-3537	Weather Station Signal 4/11	R	4/21/2011	79.00		008727		79.00
12009	Keyence Corp. of America							
I-1000496577	Spare Optical Switches, Robles	R	4/21/2011	935.95		008728		935.95
12200	Elaine Krankl							
I-041911	Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	350.00		008729		350.00
10140	LAB SAFETY SUPPLY, INC							
I-1017080535	Safety Vests for Lab	R	4/21/2011	53.18		008730		53.18
12133	Lightning Fence Co., Inc.							
I-041311	Fence Upgrade, LCRA, Reten	R	4/21/2011	10,790.40		008731		10,790.40
1359	LINDSAY ENGINEERING							
I-166	Vibration AnalysisHQ Well Pump	R	4/21/2011	250.00		008732		
I-184	Create Pump Database, PP	R	4/21/2011	395.00		008732		645.00

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: AP ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
10329	MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY CO. Padlock Latch for Robles	R	4/21/2011	123.40		008733		123.40
10151	MEINERS OAKS ACE HARDWARE							
I-428957	Cement, Gloves for Pipelines	R	4/21/2011	10.59		008734		
I-429015	Paint, Gas Hose for Dst Maint	R	4/21/2011	32.98		008734		
I-429230	Faucet for Garage RR	R	4/21/2011	68.35		008734		
I-429421	Wood for Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	17.93		008734		
I-429533	Extn Cord, Hex Key Set, WP	R	4/21/2011	53.08		008734		
I-429534	Wood for Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	25.17		008734		
I-429586	Socket Holders for Pipelines	R	4/21/2011	6.47		008734		
I-429598	PVC for Irrigation, WP	R	4/21/2011	11.81		008734		
I-429605	Exchanged Extn Cord, WP	R	4/21/2011	2.66		008734		
I-429724	Replace Broken Lock, M Camp	R	4/21/2011	37.91		008734		
I-429737	Hudson Sprayer for #81	R	4/21/2011	24.62		008734		
I-429739	Tools for Telemetry	R	4/21/2011	16.53		008734		
I-429884	Glue, Caulkgun for WP	R	4/21/2011	7.01		008734		
I-429948	Duct Tape, Glue, Flatbar	R	4/21/2011	10.47		008734		
	For Fish Biologists							
I-429976	U Bolts for Treatment Plant	R	4/21/2011	24.33		008734		
I-429989	Poly Film, Duct Tape, PP	R	4/21/2011	31.60		008734		
I-430007	Parts for Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	18.02		008734		
I-430010	Armor all Wipes for Vehicles	R	4/21/2011	16.22		008734		
I-430057	Chlorine for Garage RR	R	4/21/2011	11.77		008734		
I-430126	Parts for Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	20.24		008734		
I-430134	Pliers, Power Cord for PL	R	4/21/2011	45.01		008734		
I-430273	Putty Knife, Sanding Sponge, WP	R	4/21/2011	18.15		008734		
I-430335	TP Holder, Threshold, Garage RR	R	4/21/2011	13.61		008734		
I-430415	Wood for Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	38.14		008734		
I-430511	Siding for Maint Truck, #55	R	4/21/2011	18.41		008734		
I-430666	Wood, Glue, Waterpark Cabinets	R	4/21/2011	8.64		008734		
I-430673	Ball Valves for Dist Maint	R	4/21/2011	20.65		008734		
I-430878	Supplies for LCRA Office	R	4/21/2011	38.13		008734		
I-430881	Owl Ornaments, Deter Birds, TP	R	4/21/2011	31.15		008734		
I-431033	Paint for J Showers	R	4/21/2011	22.94		008734		
I-431041	Supplies for District Maint	R	4/21/2011	48.56		008734		
I-431216	Electrical Outlets for LCRA	R	4/21/2011	41.06		008734		
I-431224	Fuse Kit, Bolts, Screws, Dst M	R	4/21/2011	8.54		008734		
I-431240	Bolts, Screws for Waterpark	R	4/21/2011	2.49		008734		
I-431414	Wood for Waterpark Shelves	R	4/21/2011	16.21		008734		
I-431421	Rakes for LCRA Maintenance	R	4/21/2011	31.89		008734		
I-566283	Silicone Caulking for TP	R	4/21/2011	155.49		008734		1,006.83

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
01138	RONALD E. MERCKLING Reimburse Expenses 4/11	R	4/21/2011	494.74		008738		494.74
02193	Erik Moya Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	350.00		008739		350.00
02194	Draza Mrvichin March 2011 Services	R	4/21/2011	875.00		008740		875.00
02201	Rudolph Neidhardt Refund Ordinance Violation Fee	R	4/21/2011	150.00		008741		150.00
00158	NEWARK ELECTRONICS LED Lamps, Switches Telemetry	R	4/21/2011	64.29		008742		64.29
00163	OFFICE DEPOT Office Supplies	R	4/21/2011	49.99		008743		49.99
01570	Ojai Auto Supply LLC Oil, Air Compressor, Matilija2 Lubricant for Flange Bolts, WP Adhesive for Gaskets, WP	R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	3.67 12.98 10.81		008744 008744 008744		27.46
00912	OJAI BUSINESS CENTER, INC Price Lists for Fred Hall Show	R	4/21/2011	117.72		008745		117.72
00607	OJAI ELECTRIC Electrical Work in Rec Office	R	4/21/2011	458.97		008746		458.97
00166	OJAI PRINTING & PUBLISHING "Application for Leave" Slips Business Cards, Generic, O & M	R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011	144.41 118.80		008747 008747		263.21
01051	OJAI VALLEY CARD & GIFT Ink Cartridge for LCRA	R	4/21/2011	43.29		008748		43.29
00473	OJAI VALLEY GLASS Window Repair, Garage RR	R	4/21/2011	18.13		008749		18.13
00169	OJAI VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT Cust#20594 Cust#52921 Cust#99991 11/1/10-2/28/11	R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	150.63 50.21 6,320.72		008750 008750 008750		6,521.56

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: AP ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
0734 I-S3492231001	ONESOURCE DISTRIBUTORS Lockout/Tagout Stations	R	4/21/2011	327.48		008751		327.48
1381 I-7090340	ONTRAC Refrigerated Sample to Biovir	R	4/21/2011	3.62		008752		3.62
0170 I-111661 I-111877	OXNARD AUTO ELECTRIC COMPANY Repair Pressure Washer, Dist Weed Trimmers for Dist Maint	R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011	288.95 1,043.91		008753 008753		1,332.86
1515 I-0411111	PASO ROBLES TANK, INC Ojai 4M Tank #1, Roof, Recoat	R	4/21/2011	72,225.00		008754		72,225.00
0072 I-264102	PERMACOLOR, INC Ojai 4M Ladder Powder Coat	R	4/21/2011	550.00		008755		550.00
1334 I-E62923 I-E62938 I-E62950 I-W28991 I-W29180 I-W29181	POWER MACHINERY CENTER Club Car Lease, Y13360 Club Car Lease Y13634 Club Car Lease Y13864 Repairs to Think J, Pipeline PM Service, Club Car A PM Service, Club Car B	R R R R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	1,009.15 1,009.15 760.92 2,359.69 49.73 49.73		008756 008756 008756 008756 008756 008756		5,238.37
1439 I-1556	PRECISION POWER EQUIPMENT Oil, Chains, Line for Stihl Eq	R	4/21/2011	205.11		008757		205.11
0131 C-0331115477520INA D-0331115477520INA I-0331115477520IN	RESOURCE ACTION PROGRAMS Accrue Use Tax Accrue Use Tax Waterwise Kits for Schools	R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	366.30CR 366.30 4,736.00		008758 008758 008758		4,736.00
2195 I-0411111	Richard Robinett Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	350.00		008759		350.00
0313 I-1855	ROCK LONG'S AUTOMOTIVE Repair Door Hinges, #28, Maint	R	4/21/2011	228.70		008760		228.70
2196 I-040711	Steven Romero Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	305.94		008761		305.94
1105 I-T197745	SEARS COMMERCIAL ONE Filters, Shop Vac, Dist Maint	R	4/21/2011	36.78		008762		36.78

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
02197 I-040711	William Shields Irrigation Controller Rebate	R	4/21/2011	266.17		008763		266.17
02003 I-1513 I-1541	Sostre & Associates Website Lake Level Change Website CMS Fee 5/11	R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011	125.00 149.00		008764 008764		274.00
02223 I-4558718800	STOCK BUILDING SUPPLY Keyless Locks, District Facil	R	4/21/2011	7,098.50		008765		7,098.50
01662 I-12355	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. UB Online Fees 4/11	R	4/21/2011	153.00		008766		153.00
02225 I-040111	UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT 123 New Tickets	R	4/21/2011	184.50		008767		184.50
02152 I-14183	United Paving Co., Inc. Camps F & H Road Repairs	R	4/21/2011	5,380.13		008768		5,380.13
0247 I-040411	County of Ventura Encroachment Permit	R	4/21/2011	200.00		008769		200.00
0250 I-IN0086468 FA0004931 I-IN0086476	COUNTY OF VENTURA Underground Tank Permit, DO Hazardous Material Fee Casitas #1 Chlorination Station FA0005154	R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011	2,340.13 2,797.63		008770 008770		5,137.76
01283 I-0964842802	Verizon Wireless Dist Ofc Monthly Cell Phones	R	4/21/2011	1,431.26		008771		1,431.26
01516 I-264042	VISTA FORD OF OXNARD Bumper for #42, Pipeline Truck	R	4/21/2011	558.21		008772		558.21
01830 I-400650302	WATERTRAX USA Annual Subscription 4/11-4/12	R	4/21/2011	3,673.75		008773		3,673.75
02186 I-040611	Weinerth and Sons Bee Removal Relocate Bees, LCRA	R	4/21/2011	575.00		008774		575.00
0124 I-CUI201104180414 I-DCI201104180414 I-DI%201104180414	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST - 457 457 CATCH UP DEFERRED COMP FLAT DEFERRED COMP PERCENT	R R R	4/21/2011 4/21/2011 4/21/2011	423.08 2,203.86 128.30		008775 008775 008775		2,755.24

VENDOR SET: 01 Casitas Municipal Water D
 BANK: AP ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 DATE RANGE: 4/06/2011 THRU 4/21/2011

VENDOR I.D.	NAME	STATUS	CHECK DATE	INVOICE AMOUNT	DISCOUNT	CHECK NO	CHECK STATUS	CHECK AMOUNT
01960	Moringa Community PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS	R	4/21/2011	16.75		008776		16.75
00985	NATIONWIDE RETIREMENT SOLUTION 457 CATCH UP	R	4/21/2011	211.54		008777		
	I-DCN201104180414 DEFERRED COMP FLAT	R	4/21/2011	3,906.78		008777		4,118.32
00180	S.E.I.U. - LOCAL 721 UNION DUES	R	4/21/2011	593.75		008778		593.75
00230	UNITED WAY PAYROLL CONTRIBUTIONS	R	4/21/2011	45.00		008779		45.00
	I-000201104060413 LOPEZ, SERGIO Refund AR REFUND	R	4/21/2011	13.50		008780		13.50
00128	INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE Federal Withholding	D	4/21/2011	20,355.97		042111		
	I-T3 201104180414 FICA Withholding	D	4/21/2011	17,543.86		042111		
	I-T4 201104180414 Medicare Withholding	D	4/21/2011	4,891.90		042111		42,791.73
00049	STATE OF CALIFORNIA State Withholding	D	4/21/2011	6,758.38		042112		6,758.38
00187	CALPERS PERS EMPLOYEE PORTION	D	4/21/2011	9,416.36		042113		
	I-PRR201104180414 PERS EMPLOYER PORTION	D	4/21/2011	10,025.78		042113		19,442.14

* * T O T A L S * *

	NO	CHECK AMOUNT	DISCOUNTS	TOTAL APPLIED
REGULAR CHECKS:	109	640,779.57	0.00	640,779.57
HAND CHECKS:	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
DRAFTS:	3	68,992.25	0.00	68,992.25
EFT:	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
NON CHECKS:	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
VOID CHECKS:	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
VOID DEBITS:		0.00		
VOID CREDITS:		0.00		

TOTAL ERRORS: 0

VENDOR SET: 01	BANK: AP	TOTALS:	112	709,771.82	0.00	709,771.82
BANK: AP	TOTALS:		112	709,771.82	0.00	709,771.82
REPORT TOTALS:			115	709,771.82	0.00	709,771.82

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 15, 2011
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager, Steve Wickstrum
Re: Finance Committee Meeting of April 15, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

1. **Roll Call.**
Director Bergen and Director Word
Staff – Steve Wickstrum and Denise Collin
Consultants – Jack and Mattie Oehmke, MorganStanley/SmithBarney
2. **Public comments.**
None.
3. **Board/Management comments.**
None.
4. **Update on Investments.**
The Committee reviewed the current status of investments. Jack Oehmke presented the review in a report format. The Committee was pleased with the progress of the investments. Additional copies will be provided to all Directors at the next Board meeting.
5. **Review of the Financial Statement for March 2011.**
The Committee reviewed the March 2011 financial statement. It was noted that FY 2010-11 water sales revenue lagged the 2009-10 by approximately \$876,000. The Committee also reviewed rainfall records and noted a correlation between rainfall events and reduced water sales. It was also noted that FY 2010-11 Recreation revenues lagged FY 2009-10 by approximately \$233,000. The economy and weather are likely to have been the two main influences to this lag in revenues. (Rainfall totals for FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11 are 28.48 and 34.53 inches, respectively, and a notable difference in the rainfall pattern in during each of the years.)
6. **Review of the Water Consumption Report for March 2011.**
It was recognized that the agricultural and pumped resale classifications are behind last year's pace due to the rainfall The Committee discussed projections and basis for development of the 2011-12 budget revenue. Water consumption projections (Collin) are

for 13,500 acre-feet in FY 2010-11.

7. **Review of Preliminary Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.**

The Committee reviewed the FY 2011-12 draft budget in the Manager Recommended form. One no-cost change was requested by the Electrical/Mechanical section in order to address the Ventura Avenue No. 2 Pump Plant electrical before it become a major emergency, transferring \$100,000 from the Upper Ojai Pump Plant electrical project. Staff has also asked to consider an additional \$70,000 for replacement of the baffle plate in the Fish Passage Facility, noting a new problem discovered during the March 2011 storm event caused by baffle plate holes being extremely small and restricting flows.

At this time, the Committee is not recommending any changes to water rates. The Committee did discuss the impending need to fund the expense for the Safety of Dam project and reflect that impending expense in the audit as an estimated expense. Casitas is still awaiting a determination on the final cost for the SOD project.

The Committee discussed the schedule for the budget process. The draft budget will be provided to the Board on April 27th, followed by a workshop during the regular meeting of the Board of Directors on May 22, a final review and opportunity for any changes on June 8th, and final adoption of the FY 2011-12 Budget on June 22nd.

8. **Review of Oak View Water Availability Schedule.**

The Committee reviewed the schedule for posting the Oak View Water Availability charge. Further discussion concerned whether there was justification to continue the charge which bring approximately \$7,500 annually to the District. Staff will review the justification for the charge and determine if this charge should continue.

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 15, 2011
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager, Steve Wickstrum

Re: Executive Committee Meeting of April 11, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this report.

MEETING:

1. Roll Call. Director Kaiser, Director Baggerly, and Ron Merckling
2. Public Comments. None.
3. Board/Manager comments. None.
4. Legislative Outreach Update.
The Committee discussed future meetings with local State legislators concerning the importance of the 1% taxes received by the District, and issues related to the transfer of the 1% tax away from the District. Meetings are set with Assemblymembers Das Williams and Tony Strickland's offices.
5. Update on interactions with Other Water Companies.
The General Manager updated the Committee on recent discussion with the United Water Conservation District and City of Ventura concerning preliminary ideas to bring more State Water into Ventura County and the Oxnard Basin via the UWCD's facilities.

The General Manager also discussed a recent meeting with a committee from Senior Canyon Mutual Water Company and financial representatives C.M.de Crinis & Co., Inc. regarding the various formulation of assessments related to a merger with Casitas and subsequent water system improvements.
5. California Special District Association Board Nominations.
The Committee suggested sharing the request for Board nominations with the Board of Directors.

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 21, 2011
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager, Steve Wickstrum
Re: Water Resources Committee Meeting of April 18, 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

1. **Roll Call.** Director Baggerly and Director Hicks. Staff – Ron Merckling.
2. **Public Comments.** None.
3. **Board Comments.**
Director Hicks noted that Lake Casitas appears to have risen over the past month. The General Manager stated that the lake has risen to a level that is approximately 13 feet from spill condition.
4. **Manager Comments.** None.
5. **Discussion regarding the Urban Water Management Plan.**
It is expected that a draft plan will be made available to the Committee during its regular meeting in May and that a public hearing and adoption of the plan will occur on June 22, 2011.

Mr. Merckling reported on the progress in developing the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan. Mr. Merckling has just received a new database from California Urban Water Council that needs to be completed as a part of the UWMP.

It was noted that more coordination is needed with the City of Ventura and Golden State Water Company, which Mr. Merckling is aware of and will pursue. The Committee reviewed water use numbers from the City of Ventura, noting that an estimate of 6,000 acre-feet for 2010 is not correct. Mr. Merckling will address this inaccuracy with the City. An additional change to the plan should include discussion on the in-district use of water limitations that the City must achieve, in compliance with Water Code.

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Interdepartmental Memo

DATE: April 22, 2011

TO: Steve Wickstrum, General Manger

FROM: Carol Belser, Park Services Manager

SUBJECT: **Board Consideration of Fee Waiver for Space Use By The Lake Casitas Rowing Association**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by staff that the request by the Lake Casitas Rowing Association (Rowing Club) to waive the monthly fee of \$200 for exclusive use of a designated space adjacent to trailer storage be denied.

BACKGROUND

The attached letter dated February 23, 2011 outlining the Club's request was brought before the Recreation Committee at the April 4, 2011 meeting and was forwarded to the Board for review and consideration.

Rowing Club, a non profit 501(c) (3) entity, first entered into an agreement with the District in 2008 to allow the Club to utilize District facilities at the Lake Casitas Recreation Area for Club purposes. The agreement is standard to other agreements, but included a payment of \$200 per month for use of a specially created, exclusive area to store the Club's equipment. It appears the justification for payment was in exchange for fees the Club would have paid if their equipment had been stored in the designated trailer storage area. The approximately 4,900 square foot area was created for the Club's use and was fenced and secured with Rowing Club funds.

ANALYSIS

The Lake Casitas Recreation Area officially (via contract) supports three clubs, the Ventura County Comets - Radio Controlled Model Airplane Club, the Ventura Disc Golf Club and the Lake Casitas Rowing Association. The Comets have been in the Recreation Area since 1974, the Disc Golf entered into an agreement in 2005, and the Rowing Club entered into an agreement in 2008. Each Club brings positive attention, additional customers and is an added amenity to the Recreation Area.

Each club has a similar contract agreement, yet there are slight differences. The Ventura Disc Golf Club is responsible for maintenance of the course and equipment. It is of note that in 2010 the Disc Golf Course was rated as the #1 course in California by Disc Golf Course Review. The Comets use a small storage shed exclusively and are responsible for the maintenance of the landing strip and adjacent areas, and neither pay a monthly fee. The Disc Golf Course and the Comets landing strip are useable by, and available to the general public. The Rowing Club storage area is not.

The Rowing Club requests consideration of a waiver of the \$200 monthly fee due to financial hardship and has suggested that the "waived" fee be redirected into their youth scholarship fund. Staff recommend that the fee continue because the original purpose of the fee was to recuperate revenue that could/would have been collected in trailer storage. The Rowing Club collects a fee from the public for storing rowing shells in their exclusive area. The Rowing Club's justification for providing storage is that it is a necessity because Casitas trailer storage cannot accommodate the long lengths of the rowing shells. The Lake Casitas Recreation Area receives revenue totaling \$2,400 for the Rowing Club storage. If the fee waiver is approved, that equates to a reduction of revenue to the Recreation Area.



CasitasRowing.org
PO Box 74
Oak View, California 93022
Phone 805-642-2288
Director@CasitasRowing.org

LAKE CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

February 23rd, 2011

Lake Casitas Recreation Area
Attn: Carol Belser
11311 Santa Ana Road
Ventura, CA. 93001

RE: Rowing Club Monthly Use Fee

Dear Carol,

Our rowing program is so very appreciative of the support the Water District / Recreation Area has given our programs, and are forever thankful for the opportunity to row at Lake Casitas. We understand that this is a luxury for us, and we will continue to cherish it.

As our program grows, and the expenses of running the rowing club continue to expand, we are constantly looking at ways our nonprofit organization can reel in costs so we are better able to service our community, and be self-sustaining in this challenging economy.

Originally, our club offered in the contract with Park Services Manager Brian to pay a \$200 per month usage fee for our organization to operate in the Recreation Area. Since that time, we have incurred additional expenses such as trailer storage fees, boat inspection fees, plus we have needed more rowing shells than we expected to support events like Ventura Corporate Games and our community Learn to Row events, and so are paying for the annual permits on over 30 boats now. As our finances are becoming more challenging to organize, we brought on a very experienced Club Treasurer and have been able to better track our cash flow and expenses, and can report that we have spent over \$38,000 to date with Casitas Recreation Area since our club inception in 2008 for our lake usage fee, trailer storage, permits, camping site rentals, and parking passes (daily and annual). Being one of our larger expenses, we are hoping to find a way to streamline our expenses with the LCRA and at the same time continue to support our mission of providing the benefits of rowing to the youth of our community.



CasitasRowing.org
PO Box 74
Oak View, California 93022
Phone 805-642-2288
Director@CasitasRowing.org

We are hoping to open a discussion with you on how we might be able to do this, and a great idea that was presented was taking the \$200 per month usage fee that is paid to the Casitas Recreation Area and somehow redirect it into our Junior Scholarship program (Our "1984 Fund") to help provide support for families who are unable to afford the cost of rowing. Currently we charge kids for the cost of items such as uniforms, hotel stays / food at away regattas, regatta entry fees, coaching, and fleet / equipment maintenance.

Currently over 25% of our junior team is on full scholarship, and each year Wendy has to go out into the community to various private donors and organizations like Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptimist, etc. and solicit support for this scholarship program. We are expecting future years to have even a greater need because of the difficult economy, and we hope to be able to continue providing our "no questions asked" policy for this program, where all families do is express a need and the expenses are taken care of.

We look forward to working with the Recreation Area in 2011, and are again volunteering to help with the Kids Fishing Day, Chili Festival, Wine Festival, Lake Clean Up days, and any other events that we can support. We recognize that Lake Casitas provides a wonderful service to our community not only in the way of being a pristine drinking water source, but a valuable recreation facility. Thank you for your consideration and allowing us to be a part of the Casitas family.

Appreciatively,

Eric Gillett
Executive Director
Lake Casitas Rowing Association

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 22, 2011

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Ron Merckling, Water Conservation and Public Affairs Manager

RE: Establishment of a Dedicated Water Conservation Position

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors support the creation of a full-time water conservation position.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

Present staffing levels are not adequate to meet increasing state regulatory demands and ever higher industry standards in water conservation. The Water Conservation Act of 2009 became law with the passage of SB 7xx and the California Urban Water Conservation Council adopted more rigorous water conservation best management practices. Furthermore, water conservation staffing levels continue to be burdened by growing responsibilities related to regional water conservation coordination to include shared water programs with the Ventura Watershed Coalition, Association of Ventura County Water Agencies, and the Ventura County Water Efficiency Committee. Water conservation is a critical core responsibility of the District that will only continue to increase in importance in the future. Furthermore, an additional staff person will help to adequately address new wholesale water conservation best management practices such as greater coordination and assistance to Casitas' resale agencies. And, this person will take on the responsibilities of the cross-connection control program.

It is anticipated that a full-time water conservation position will initially cost in total in compensation and benefits approximately \$75,000 per year. The value added benefits for such an expenditure include:

- Additional supplemental water supplies through increased water conservation.
- Allow Casitas to meet all of the water conservation best management practices as described by the DWR and CUWCC.
- Increased water savings will help lower risks of Lake Casitas from going dry in a long-term drought.
- Potentially defer purchases of supplemental water supplies in a long-term drought.
- Improve customer service with a greater level of water conservation assistance being provided to customers and constituents.

- Allow Casitas to take on a greater leadership role in water conservation in the watershed and in the region.
- The Water Conservation/Public Affairs Manager will be more effective in addressing core job responsibilities of water conservation, public information, legislative, and grant writing programs with reduced cross-connection responsibilities.
- The Water Conservation/Public Affairs Manager could more effectively address the increasing reporting requirements to the California Department of Water Resources and to the CUWCC.

The value and need for enhanced water conservation programs should be considered in the larger context of overall water resource management. While it can't solve all of Casitas' water resource challenges, water conservation can create positive effects for residential, agricultural and commercial customers within the district and in the region. And, water conservation will play a critical role to ensure a stable future water supply.

To efficiently achieve Casitas' water conservation goals, it will be essential to fund and fill a dedicated full-timer water conservation staff position to work on and coordinate Casitas' water conservation efforts with direction from the Water Conservation Manager. The Water Conservation Manager will be responsible for measuring success of water conservation programs being implemented.

Proposal: Establish a dedicated full-time staff person as a water conservation and cross-connection specialist. Specific goals to include:

Education and Outreach Programs

The Water Conservation Manager will implement timelines and measurable benchmarks. Education and public outreach efforts can go a long way toward reaching water conservation goals, even though expenditures for such efforts may be relatively inexpensive.

- Assist with water survey program to ensure that Casitas meets best management practices, which are not currently being met with existing resources.
- Utilize existing educational programs and groups to improve education foundational best management practices in water conservation (e.g. Project WET, Water Use it Wisely, County Agricultural Extension Office, Ventura County Regional Conservation District, Water Wise Consulting, and Ojai Rotary program).
- Establish new programs to fill identified gaps in existing water conservation programs or specifically tailor projects to meet Casitas' needs. This could include contacting local school districts on how to increase water conservation awareness.
- Initiate a public awareness campaign for water conservation.
- Form a local water conservation committee with resale agency representatives.
- Assist with getting four newsletters out each year, a best management requirement.

- Participate in Casitas' Speakers Bureau

Establish When Appropriate Incentive Based Programs - Investigate and initiate incentive programs.

- Vegetation (xeric landscaping)
- Rain barrels
- Turf removal
- Gray water systems
- Water efficiency assistance programs

Manage Casitas' Cross-connection Program

- Get qualified training.
- Customer service representative
- Investigate, analyze, and recommend/resolve outstanding issues.
- Over see device testing requests and responses.

Casitas is considered a wholesale water agency, a direct retail water agency, and an agricultural water agency; each of these designations places additional requirements for reporting and for more water conservation best management practices to be met. The Water Conservation Coordinator position will assist Casitas in meeting these requirements.

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
LAKE CASITAS RECREATION AREA

DATE: April 17, 2011
TO: Steve Wickstrum, General Manager
FROM: Carol Belser, Park Services Manager
SUBJECT: Recreation Area Monthly Report March 2011

Visitation Numbers and Methodology

The following is a comparison of visitations for March 2011:

	March 2010	March 2011	Feb 2011
Visitor Days	44,960	30,724	18,216
Camps	3,592	2,298	1,758
Cars	11,240	7,681	4,554
Boats	861	586	326
Kayaks & Canoes	18	4	5

Fiscal Year to Date Visitation	
2009/2010	433760
2010/2011	439040
% Change	1.217

Administration

BOR gave approval for a month to month agreement in February and the Board approved Gary Wolfe to operate the Park Store this upcoming season. Improvements and plans for the store were made in March and it opened in April 2011.

Boating/Fishing March

There were 32 cables sold for new inspections, 28 vessel re-inspections, and 1,128 boats were retagged. Eighteen boats failed the first inspection. Shoreline fishing at night was held March 18 and 19. There was a Western Outdoor News day tournament on March 19. Twenty-four boats (teams) participated.

APSO Geoff Mosdale attended an invasive species workshop at Lake Cachuma on March 24, to discuss the various types of aquatic muscles and plants that could infect a body of water. In attendance were people from the various lakes interested in learning how to detect, inspect and protect their respective lakes or reservoirs from these invasive species. The group discussion included various methods we are all using to prevent the contamination of our waterways. Lake Casitas has been, and remains the benchmark in demonstrating best practices in our boating inspection process. Casitas is recognized state wide for our polices and procedures which are supported and endorsed by other agencies including the CA. Dept. of Fish and Game.

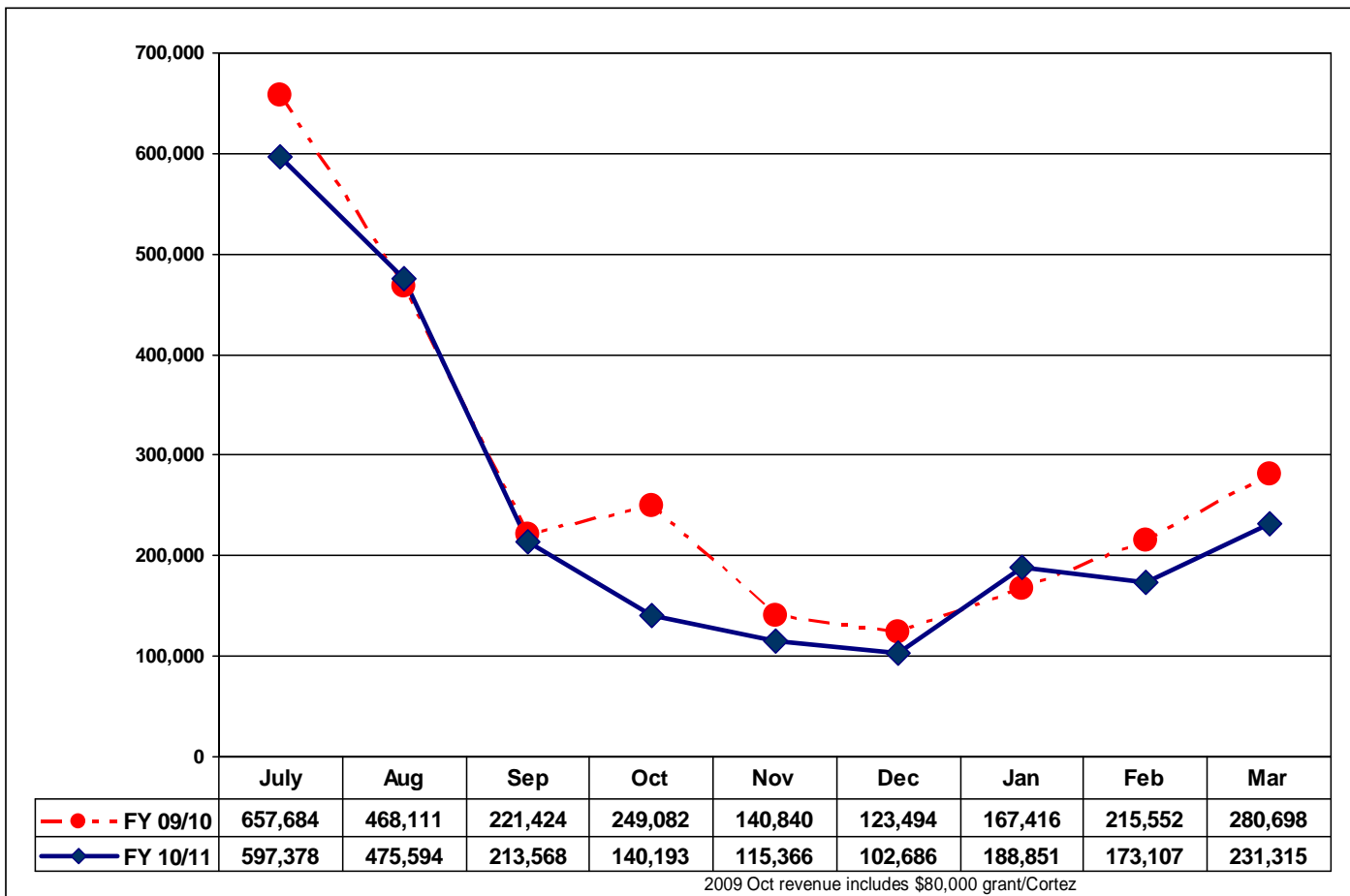
The LCIF funded 2011 Kids Fishing Day was held on Saturday, March 26. It was estimated that over 2,000 people attended the event. The planted fish were from Chaulk Mound Trout Ranch and were well received due to their large size.

PSO and APSO staff are continuing to collect data for the creel survey and an opinion survey. The majority of the data has been collected and now data is collected during the first week of each month. The District Biologist and his staff will analyze the data and present a preliminary report to the Recreation Committee at the April meeting.

Revenue Reporting

The figures below illustrate all Lake Casitas Recreation Area’s revenue collected in the respective month (operations, concessions, Water Adventure, etc.) per the District’s Financial Summary generated by the Finance Manager.

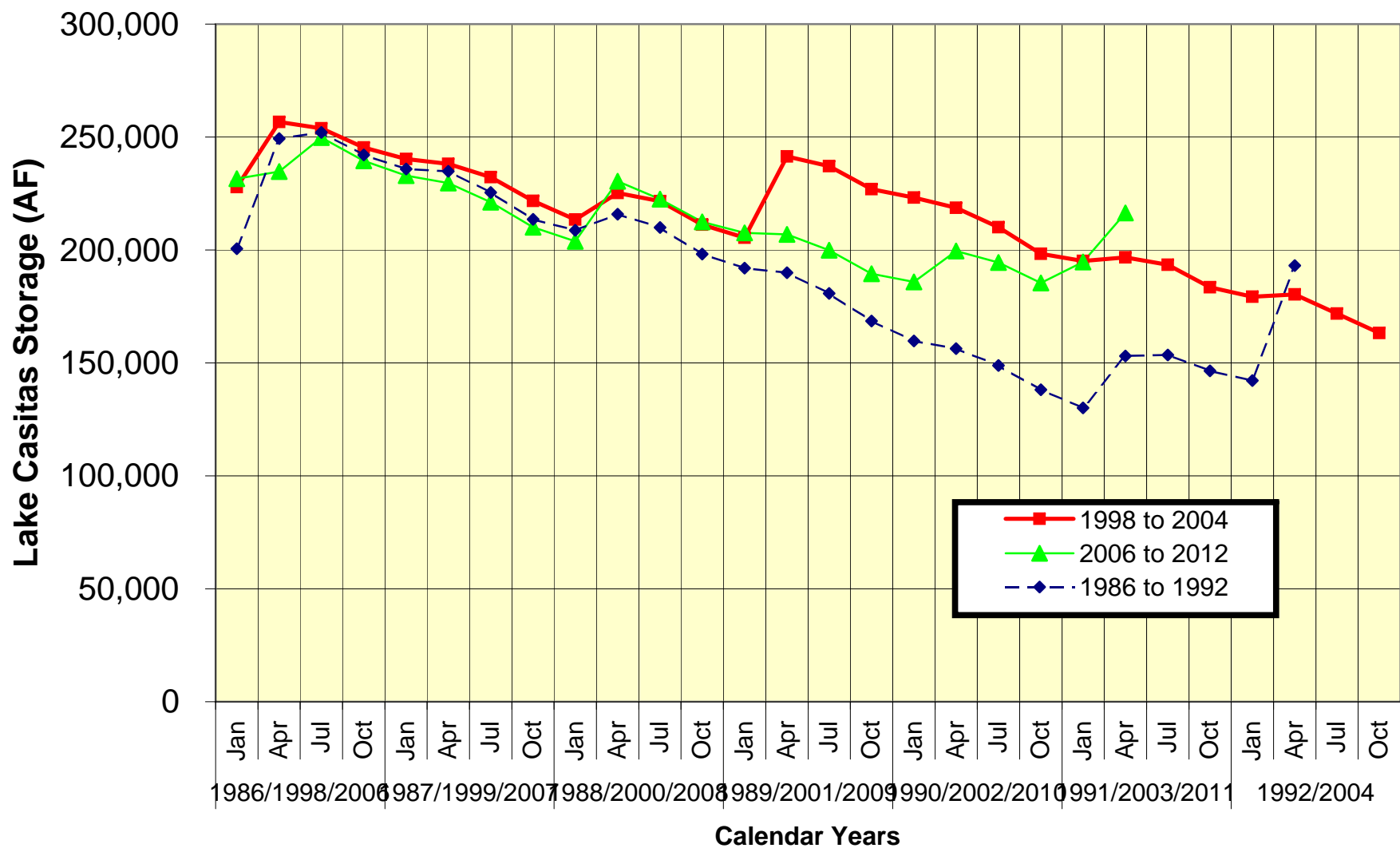
LCRA TOTAL REVENUE



Incidents

Two reportable incidents occurred in the Recreation Area that involved calls to the CHP for suspected under the influence of alcohol. Subsequent arrests were made in each incident.

Lake Casitas Storage Volume Comparison



**CASITAS RESERVOIR WATER INVENTORY SUMMARY
2010/11 WATER YEAR**

(All Volumes in Acre-feet)

MONTH	RESERVOIR (last of previous month)		RESERVOIR INFLOW				RESERVOIR RELEASES			
	ELEV (ft)	STORAGE	DIRECT	VENTURA RIVER DIVERS'N	TOTAL	PRECIP	EVAP	TO MAIN SYSTEM	SPILL	CHANGE IN STORAGE
OCT '10	539.40	185453	-209	0	-209	411	590	915	0	-1303
NOV '10	538.82	184150	-460	0	-460	356	338	1012	0	-1455
DEC '10	538.17	182695	7949	2252	10201	2716	150	732	0	12036
JAN '11	543.46	194731	988	1739	2727	164	203	570	0	2118
FEB '11	544.37	196849	1258	714	1972	1045	277	680	0	2060
MAR '11	545.25	198909	8544	8151	16695	1780	468	520	0	17487
APR '11	552.50	216395								
MAY '11										
JUN '11										
JUL '11										
AUG '11										
SEP '11										
OCT '11			N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL			18071	12855	30926	6471	2027	4429	0	30942

reservoir capacity = 254,000 a.f. @ 567 ft.

g:\engr.wks\hydrology\casitasdam\annual\casitasreservoir2011

CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 21, 2011
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager, Steve Wickstrum

Re: Legislative Outreach to Support Special Districts Tax Allcoations

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board receive this progress report as information, no action is to be taken at this time.

Background:

During the last month, staff and Directors Kaiser and Baggerly have met with local state legislators to ask for support maintaining the distribution of property taxes to special districts. To date, we have met with the following legislators or their staff:

- Ernie Villegas, District Director for Assemblyman Jeff Gorell
- Assemblyman Das Williams
- Chris Wansaporn, Chief of Staff for Senator Tony Strickland

The District presented its concerns on California Forward' proposal to redistribute tax funds in such a manner that would leave special districts, such as the Casitas Municipal Water District, with financial shortfalls and with no other recourse but to raise water rates or defer maintenance of infrastructure. It was pointed out to each elected official that an increase in water costs and/or deferred maintenance would be acceptable to our water customers. Casitas cannot furlough water deliveries to gap budget shortfalls.

From each elected official, it appears that the State is searching for solutions to the budget deficit with hard choices needing to be made by all. The Casitas contingency asked that each representative remember the impacts to our water district and our community should this topic come before a vote opportunity.

Ron Merckling will continue to keep posted on any actions of this nature and coordinate with the California Special Districts Association and the Association of California Water Agencies.

Attached for your information are the Casitas information summary entitled "Why is a special district property tax grab a bad idea?" and letters from CSDA regarding the California Forward proposal. Also, if there is interest, I have a copy of the CSDA Governance magazine in which the Executive Director of California Forward provides an interview to CSDA.



Why is a special district property tax grab a bad idea?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The issue as to whether enterprise public agencies, those that are allowed to raise rates, should continue to receive property tax revenues has been around for decades. When the state or other local public agencies are searching for additional dollars during difficult economic times they revisit this suggestion. To take dollars away from enterprise agencies may initially sound like a good idea, however, the fact is that many agencies are simply not able to raise rates to make-up for the lost property tax revenues; the unintended consequence is a further deterioration of California's aging utility infrastructure as maintenance is inadequately funded. Here is why –

- California's water and sewer districts currently struggle to maintain their aging systems, balancing expenses with the combination of rates and tax funding. The loss of tax funding and public resistance to an increase in service rates will further challenge agencies ability to maintain reliable public services such as water and sewer.
- Agricultural and business customers will be hampered further during these difficult economic times with higher utility rates. Special districts will raise rates in an attempt to make up the lost property tax dollars. Water customers that continue to pay for their property tax will no longer get the water service benefit of those dollars as they will be shifted to some other service that will no longer directly benefit them. The benefit of special districts are that they are accountable to the public for providing a specific service with the dollars they receive unlike other government agencies that comingle funds for a multitude of services.
- The economic elasticity of water pricing is diminishing due to the recent trend across the state to significantly increase water rates to encourage water conservation. This means that when water rates are further increased it will result in less revenue rather than more because less water will be sold. How is this possible?
 1. High cost of water will cause more agricultural land to go fallow, resulting in a loss of water revenue.
 2. More water dependent businesses will leave the state and/or change production processes or products, resulting in a los of water revenue.
 3. More residential customers will further change behaviors or make additional sacrifices such as removing lawns, resulting in a loss of water revenue.
 4. Greater efficiencies will be introduced by all customer groups and in some cases this could result in less economic activity, at a time when unemployment still remains high throughout the state.

The Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) currently receives \$1.8 million in property taxes. The majority of this revenue is used as a part of the annual \$3.7 million maintenance budget on 50 year old infrastructure that is critical to sustaining life in western Ventura County. CMWD is experiencing the change in water use that is caused by increased water rates – the result is less revenue as customers use less water or have sought alternative groundwater supplies. Like other enterprise districts, CMWD is unlikely to recover its \$1.8 million dollars in property tax losses through a rate increase. CMWD's water demand has a high price elasticity. Nearly fifty percent of Casitas' water demand is from agricultural customers, who received a 35% increase in water rates a couple of years ago. Many of these agricultural customers already curtail water demand by drilling more wells and/or letting land go fallow. It is anticipated that another large rate increase will extend this trend. With a shrunken budget, CMWD will not have sufficient revenues needed to maintain critical water infrastructure and effectively meet its mandated responsibilities.

SPECIAL DISTRICT RESERVES CANNOT REPLACE PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS

Special districts such as CMWD have reserve funds set aside for emergency response and repairs, variations in annual revenue from customers, and planned infrastructure replacement projects. Each and every special district must take extreme care to justify the amount of reserves it holds and to balance expenditures with rates on the direct beneficiaries of the service. Reserve funds are not sufficient to replace a permanent loss of a property tax revenue stream. Without reserve funds, special districts will find themselves financially incapable to provide critical life support services to the public for which it is intended to serve

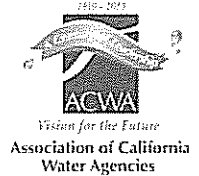
Fluctuating weather patterns cause significant changes in water demand and revenues for the CMWD, water revenues can vary as much as 100% from one fiscal year as compared to another. CMWD's agricultural customers' water demand is correlated with changes in weather, so budget reserves act as a hedge against this volatile market. A water rate stabilization fund prevents large spikes in rates from having to be implemented. Reserve funds are also allocated for storm damage and for specific large future capital projects.

WATER IS A PROPERTY RELATED SERVICE

Some argue water services should not be related to property taxes. However, the California Supreme Court in Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency v. Beringson ruled water rate charges are a property-related service, whether the charge is calculated on the basis of consumption or is imposed as a monthly fee. CMWD's water system is spread across a large geographic area in western Ventura County, serving as the primary and drought contingency water source for the region. The property owners in this area receive a direct benefit from the CMWD water system, which allows for the residential, business, and agricultural communities to thrive. The taking of the property tax funds from CMWD for some other purpose will have a direct economic impact on all those that live and work here.

SAVE CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE – STOP THE PROPERTY TAX GRAB

Special district property taxes help local economies and people prosper. A grab for these dollars is an attempt to indirectly raise taxes for state or county services by trying to get special districts to raise rates to pay for these services. The consequence of this grab for special district funding will be higher utility rates that will cause further hardships on local economies and it will diminish local utilities ability to maintain their systems for the benefit of California's agricultural, business, and residential communities in the long-term.



April 8, 2011

Mr. Jim Mayer
Executive Director, California Forward
1107 9th Street, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 96814

RE: California Forward Draft Framework

Dear Mr. Mayer:

On behalf of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA), California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC), Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC), Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC) and Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), we would like to respond to California Forward's draft framework, "Making California Work Again: Restructuring State-Local Relationships." Together, our members represent the 2,189 independent special districts that provide core local services to tens of millions of Californians. We appreciate your consideration of our comments, and look forward to participating in the ongoing discussion regarding state-local reform.

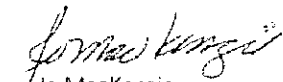
Special districts provide water and treat wastewater for more than 30 million people. We're the fire department for 11 million Californians. We're the ride to work for the millions of people who use mass transit every day to get to and from their jobs. We operate 46 public hospitals and provide vital health care services to over 2 million people. If government can provide a service—trash collection, flood protection, parks and recreation, mosquito and vector control, etc—the odds are it's being provided by a special district.

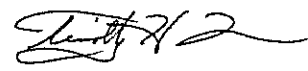
California Forward should be commended for taking on the complicated issue of state and local government reform. However, we respectfully submit that the draft framework does not properly account for special districts as an equal arm of local government, and ask that California Forward revise its framework to reflect the proper role of special districts. We are prepared to work together to make that happen.


Special districts exist because voters have repeatedly said that they want it that way. They want a focused set of services performed well and without distractions. They want the ability to serve regions and neighborhoods based on need and without regard to arbitrary city or county boundaries. And they want urgently needed infrastructure that can be built and operated without straining city, state or county balance sheets.


We are happy to elaborate further on the details of our concerns, and we look forward to providing additional input on this important issue.

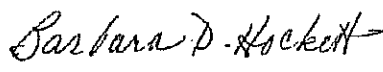
Sincerely,



Jo MacKenzie
President, CSDA

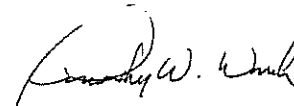

Tim Quinn
Executive Director, ACWA


Legislative Advocate, ACHD


President, FDAC


Barbara D. Hockett
President, CASA


Robert Gay
President, MVCAC


Timothy W. Unruh
President, CAPC



March 15, 2011

Mr. Jim Mayer
Executive Director, California Forward
1107 9th Street, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 96814

RE: California Forward Draft Framework

Dear Mr. Mayer: *Jim*

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer a short presentation as part of your March 11 meeting concerning California Forward's draft framework, "Making California Work Again: Restructuring State-Local Relationships." As I mentioned at the meeting, we appreciate the chance to comment on the report and look forward to participating in the ongoing discussion regarding state-local reform.

One of the first impressions we had in going over the draft report was that it seemed there was a fundamental misunderstanding concerning the role of special districts as a provider of local government services. Special districts provide water and treat wastewater for more than 30 million people. We're the fire department for 11 million Californians. We're the ride to work for the millions of people who use mass transit every day to get to and from their jobs. If government can provide a service—trash collection, flood protection, mosquito and vector control, etc—the odds are it's being provided by a special district.

Special districts exist because voters have repeatedly said that they want it that way. They want a focused set of services performed well and without distractions. They want the ability to serve regions and neighborhoods without regard to arbitrary city or county boundaries. And they want urgently needed infrastructure that can be built and operated without straining city, state or county balance sheets.

The reality is, if we didn't have special districts, we would probably have to invent them.

To that end, I would like to offer some observations on major concerns that we have identified within the draft California Forward framework as I reviewed in-part last week:

PRINCIPLE #2

CSDA agrees with California Forward's principle that the level of government responsible for delivering services should have control of its funding and have it constitutionally guaranteed. In fact, special districts are the level of government responsible for delivering core services throughout much of California, and we believe that it is critical that they have control of the revenues that funds those services. For this reason, we propose that California Forward add special districts to the list of local agencies that should be granted control of funding, programming and decision-making for locally delivered services in draft Recommendation #2.

California Special Districts Association

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Sacramento, CA 95814
toll-free: 877.924.CSDA (2732)
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A proud California Special Districts Alliance partner

Special District Risk Management Authority
1112 I Street, Suite 300
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toll-free: 800.537.7790
f: 916.231.4111

CSDA Finance Corporation
1112 I Street, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814
toll-free: 877.924.CSDA (2732)
f: 916.442.7889

PRINCIPLE #3

CSDA believes in regional collaboration. One of the basic advantages special districts provide to their constituents is the fact that special districts are the only form of local government that can be organized regionally based on need and without regard to more arbitrary city or county boundaries. For this reason, we propose that California Forward consider an alternative to Recommendation #3, which currently relies upon Councils of Government (COGs) for regional collaboration. Not every region is represented by a COG, they do not typically include special districts, and they primarily focus on transportation issues and federal funding. Regardless of the form that a collaborative planning group of local government stakeholders within a region would take, it is essential that special districts have an equal role along with other local government partners.

PRINCIPLE #4

Consolidation has never been an issue feared by special districts—in fact, most consolidations are proposed by districts. Consolidations that promote the best use of taxpayer and ratepayer dollars, local choice, and a data-driven process are worth pursuing. However, consolidations just for the sake of arbitrarily reducing numbers don't help any of the people and families we serve. Similar to Recommendation #3, CSDA proposes that California Forward consider an alternative to Recommendation #4 that does not rely upon COGs as currently composed.

In addition to the suggestions above, CSDA would like to provide California Forward with a list of special district collaboration examples that can be added to pages four and five of the draft framework. We would also ask that the number of special districts on page 15 of the framework be adjusted to more accurately represent the government landscape. It would be more appropriate to list the number as 2,189 independent special districts, since the number currently listed, 3,294, includes almost 900 county service areas.

While this letter does not capture every agreement and disagreement that CSDA may have with California Forward's draft framework, we thought it would be beneficial to summarize some of the key issues that we have identified for your consideration. Primarily, CSDA seeks to inform this process and facilitate inclusion of special districts, where appropriate, as a valuable tool in local governance. CSDA is prepared to work with California Forward to make that happen.

California Forward should be commended for taking on state and local government reform. I thank you, once again, for your invitation to comment on California Forward's draft framework. Should you have any questions regarding this letter or my testimony, or should you wish to obtain any additional information from CSDA, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,



Neil McCormick
Executive Director

on Edwards & Assoc.
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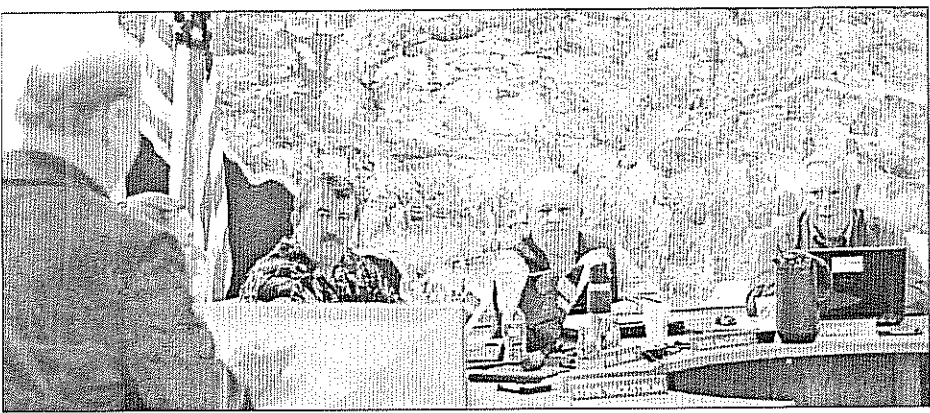


Photo by Logan Hall

Bob Daddi, left, advocate of the organization Friends of Locally Owned Water, presents part of F.L.O.W.'s plan to Casitas Municipal Water District's board of directors Pete Kaiser, Russ Baggerly and Jim Word on Wednesday afternoon. Also present at the meeting were F.L.O.W. advocates Pat and Julie McPherson, Lou Torres and Richard Hajas.

Locals push to oust Golden State

Ojai F.L.O.W. fed up with rising water rates, seeks petition signatures

Logan Hall
logan@ojaivalleynews.com

A group of concerned citizens claim that a takeover of Golden State Water Company by Casitas Municipal Water District could save local consumers \$1 million in the first year alone.

Due to the continuous increase in Golden State's water rates in recent years, the group, known as Friends of Locally Owned Water (F.L.O.W.), will focus on convincing Casitas' board of directors to hold an election among registered voters of the affected area to issue a bond not exceeding \$33 million. The bond would cover the cost of the buy-out as well as repairs to Golden State's infrastructure.

According to F.L.O.W. representatives, the bond would be repaid over 30 years or less by a \$2.50 surcharge per Ccf (1 Ccf=748 gallons) tacked on to the Casitas water bill for those who are now customers of Golden State. "Your bill will still be much lower even with the surcharge," said F.L.O.W. spokesman and member Ryan Blatz, addressing Golden State customers at a special meeting on Monday.

Golden State customers are currently categorized by the size of their water meter. Golden State records show that the average Golden State customer has the smallest meter at 5/8 inch and uses about 13 Ccf a month. The company says that the average monthly bill for those customers in 2010 was \$59.23. In 2011, the average bill for the same users jumped to \$75.57 — a 27.46 percent increase. F.L.O.W. projects that Casitas customers with similar service, would have a monthly bill of \$63.75 that would include

the \$2.50 surcharge.

"Golden State customers pay over twice as much for water as the surrounding communities," said Blatz.

Golden State claims that rate increases are required for the company to make repairs to the aging infrastructure including water pipelines. Documents published by the California Public Utilities Commission Division of Ratepayer Advocates, however, show that Golden State accumulated \$100 million in debt between 2008 and 2010. According to the CPUC — which is responsible for approving rate increases for companies like Golden State — under California state law, those companies have to provide documentation of where they spend the money from said increases. "We very carefully do full audits on allocated money and how they spend that money," said Rami Kahlon, CPUC's director of the division of water and audits.

F.L.O.W. representatives are not so sure that Golden State has put the money back into the system properly. "Golden State is a corporation that has a duty to its shareholders to make them money," said Blatz, who is also a local attorney. "They know how to play the game."

When asked to comment on F.L.O.W.'s efforts to essentially oust Golden State from Ojai, Ken Petersen, Golden State's coastal district manager, responded to the OVN with an e-mail statement that read, "Golden State Water Company has been serving the Ojai community for more than 80 years and it is our desire to serve Ojai in the future." The company refused to answer any further questions.

Some concerns were raised as to

whether or not the city of Ojai would have a say in the matter. Golden State currently pays an annual franchise fee — which, according to city records, equaled \$42,128 for the 2010 calendar year. However, projections show that the city, which is a Golden State customer, could potentially save thousands of dollars each year. Ojai city manager Rob Clark says the council is concerned about Golden State's increasing rates, but hasn't taken a stance yet. "The city doesn't have any formal position right now," said Clark, "but we're not worried about the franchise fee."

In order for the effort to be a success, F.L.O.W. says they will need to show Casitas that an overwhelming number of Golden State customers in the Ojai area, who are also registered voters, are on board with the idea. For this, F.L.O.W. plans on canvassing the Ojai Valley with petitioners. Their goal is to get 2,500 signatures in 30 to 60 days.

On Wednesday afternoon, representatives from F.L.O.W. presented their proposal to Casitas' board of directors at the board's regular meeting. Because the topic was presented as public comment, and was not an agenda item, board members and Casitas staff could not discuss the issue. "There isn't anything that we can take action on at this time," said Casitas general manager Steve Wickstrum. "This is their effort to move forward."

There are certain advantages for F.L.O.W. presenting the proposal to Casitas. By federal law, if Casitas accepted the proposal, Golden State wouldn't have

ojaivalleynews.com

F.L.O.W.:

Continued from Page A1

a choice in the matter. Eminent domain laws say that if a government, whether federal, state or local, needs to acquire something for public use, the government entity, in this case Casitas (a public utility), would have a legal right to buy out Golden State.

Casitas would have to, by the same law, pay fair market value for the company.

The community of Ojai also has a representative, Russ Baggerly, on the Casitas board of directors who could take the concerns of the community directly to the board. Furthermore, Casitas already has pipelines running through Ojai that could be connected to existing Golden State pipelines, essentially making the transition to

Casitas much smoother for the utility and the community itself.

Many current Golden State customers in the Ojai Valley seem to be eager to be involved with the plan. "I'm a huge supporter of this," said Golden State customer Christine Golden. "My water bill has literally doubled since they did their increases a few years ago."

Golden, who is a former principal of Matilija Junior High School, and is on the advisory board for the Ojai Education Foundation, says she has an acre of land in Ojai with a few citrus trees, apricots and avocados, among others. "It's getting really hard to keep it all going," she said. "At some point you realize you just can't do it any more. I think that their (F.L.O.W.) effort is really important. This is true democracy at its finest." Presenting their plan to Casitas was a big step for

"My water bill has literally doubled since they did their increases a few years ago."

— Christine Golden
GSWC customer

the organization and has essentially brought the group's plan to the public. The group says that anyone interested in finding more information can visit their website at ojaiflow.com. "This is the right time, for the right reason and in the right place for us to act," said local State Farm branch owner Bob Daddi, who has helped spearhead F.L.O.W.'s efforts. "Golden State will keep trying to raise their rates. When does it stop?"

Ojai group wants to buy out Golden State Water

By Anne Kallas

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Some Ojai residents have formed a group to try to create a special public district to buy out their water provider, Golden State Water Co.

Residents have been complaining regularly at Ojai City Council meetings about what they see as exorbitant rate increases and poor service offered by the private company. Some recently formed a group they call Ojai FLOW, or Friends of Locally Owned Water.

"Instead of being a bunch of bellyachers, we looked into it to see if we can do something. We didn't have preconceived ideas. We just continued on and on until we figured out a way to save people money," Ojai FLOW Chairman Pat McPherson said. "The whole thing is just citizen involvement. There is no outside money."

The group submitted a proposal to Golden State and the Casitas Municipal Water District this past week. It proposes to hold an election to create a public improvement district that could issue revenue bonds not to exceed \$33 million. The money would be used to purchase the Golden State water system in Ojai and make improvements. Casitas would manage the system, the group says.

The proposal calls for a water-use surcharge of \$2.50 per 100 cubic feet for a period not to exceed 30 years to pay off the bonds and fund needed improvements. The group says that even with the surcharge, water bills for customers currently served by Golden State would drop significantly.

Golden State representatives said they have seen the proposal, and they issued the following email statement from District Manager Ken Petersen: "Golden State Water Co. has been serving the Ojai community for more than 80 years and it is our desire to serve Ojai in the future."

Casitas General Manager Steve Wickstrom said the district's board just received the proposal and was looking it over.

"We're not behind it and have no comment at this time," Wickstrom said. "This is a grassroots effort by the public. This has been something that has been brought up from time to time for the past 40 years. This is the newest proposal."

The city of Ojai has no official stance on the issue, according to City Manager Robert

Clark.

"I think first of all, it's clear to the council that the community is very unhappy with (Golden State's) quality of service," Clark said. "The council hasn't made a formal decision, but as individuals I know they all want to see something happen to figure out this problem."

The city sent a letter last month to the California Public Utilities Commission objecting to Golden State's latest proposed rate increase and maintenance of the water system. Golden State received PUC approval in December for a 27.5 percent increase, raising the average residential bill from about \$59 a month to \$75. Now, it is seeking an additional, temporary surcharge of 11.5 percent.

The PUC has suspended its review of that proposal until August, asking for more information.

"To summarize, the proposed rate surcharge is not justified," the city letter reads while calling for a thorough review of Golden State's operational costs. "In these difficult times, the impact of the proposed exorbitant rate increase on struggling businesses and homeowners in the city of Ojai would be crippling."

Casitas, the Ventura River County Water District and Golden State serve various parts of Ojai. "Over the past several years, the PUC has continued to allow increases in rates, charging people in that (Golden State) area twice as much as what people in the Casitas and Ventura water districts would be charged," McPherson said.

The entire Ojai Valley could benefit from a Golden State buyout if the group succeeds, McPherson said.

"Ojai ratepayers could save \$1 million a year. The Ojai school district alone would save \$22,000 a year," he said.

The group hopes to get more than half of registered voters in the proposed improvement area to sign petitions asking Casitas to help initiate the plan.

On the Net: <http://www.ojaiflow.com>



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Ojai water providers

Staff Reports

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

There is a simple reason why Ojai residents need a different water provider. The current one, Golden State, charges much too much. Golden State also has plans to charge more and more.

There are very good reasons why Ojai residents will benefit if Casitas Municipal Water District takes over as water provider. It will cost Ojai residents less, and the savings will grow year by year. Even factoring in the change-over costs, legal expenses included, residents will save real money. In the first year, Casitas ownership will likely mean savings of \$1,000,000. Those savings will grow to 10 times that amount by 2025.

Also important, the plan to accomplish this is grounded in hard facts. Costs and savings are based on known rates and revenues for both Casitas and Golden State. The role of the Public Utilities Commission, an agency that has confounded so many of us, is also taken into account.

Beyond this, Casitas is well positioned to make the transition smooth as they have been a water delivery system for decades and have pipes in many parts of Ojai that link into the existing Golden State pipe array.

You may have seen or heard about Ojai Flow, the group that did the groundwork for water service change. Ojai Flow is local citizens who have devoted time, energy and money to get this project moving.

Every registered voter in the Ojai area who is served by Golden State can help this effort. Sign the petition circulating around town. You'll be glad you did.

- Sholom Joshua,

Ojai



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Weekly fish report: April 21, 2011

Staff Reports

Wednesday, April 20, 2011

This is definitely the time to put fish on your menu.

No matter if you're headed out on the ocean or in toward the lakes, there's a lot to choose from.

SALTWATER REPORT

Rockfish is primarily what you'll find with limits being brought in, mostly on red snapper.

"Rockfishing is having its best year in several years, in size, quality and quantity," said Channel Islands Sportfishing owner Doug Vernand.

Vernand said along with red snapper, anglers are also finding lingcod, white seabass and halibut.

Ventura County angler Mike Warpack caught a 46-pound halibut at Santa Rosa Island on Tuesday aboard the Mirage. Sam Lee of Orange County caught a 43-pound white seabass also at Santa Rosa aboard the Mirage. Bob McCord of Simi Valley brought in a 16-pound lingcod on Saturday aboard the Gentleman at Anacapa Island. Tony Ranallo of Oxnard brought in a 38-pound white seabass on Friday aboard the Sea Jay at Santa Cruz Island.

The white seabass and halibut are showing up primarily on the overnight trips to Santa Rosa Island and on the early-morning trips to Santa Cruz Island.

Ventura Sportfishing reported three white seabass whoppers aboard the Pacific Dawn from Santa Rosa Island on Saturday: a 27-pounder by Aaron Aber of Wilmington, a 26-pounder by Cook Ahn of Gardena and a 25-pounder by Howard Takata of Gardena. There was also a 13-pound lingcod caught by Kevin Martin of Woodland Hills aboard the Island Spirit on April 10 on a coastal trip.

Hook's Landing reported a 10-pound lingcod caught by Dean Dhain from the South Bay area on Friday aboard the Coroloma at Anacapa.

FRESHWATER REPORT

Lake Casitas: Variety is abundant. "We're having very good fishing with trout highlighting," said Adam Casey of the Casitas Bait Shop. "Redear, bluegill and a few catfish are popping up as well."

Bass are biting on nightcrawlers and plastic worms; trout on nightcrawlers and Powerbait; crappie, redear and bluegill on nightcrawlers and catfish on nightcrawlers and stink baits, Casey reported.

Shaun Flaherty of Oak View caught a 12-pound catfish on a nightcrawler. Zack Baird of Ventura brought in two crappie, weighing 2 and 2 pounds, and two catfish, weighing 8 and 10 pounds, on nightcrawlers. Three-year-old Marley Zask of El Segundo caught a 3 -pound trout using a Kastmaster. Jenna Thormodsgaard of Huntington Beach reeled in a 6-pound trout with a nightcrawler.

Lake hours: 6 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Castaic Lake: The Department of Fish and Game will stock the upper lake with rainbow trout this week. Striped trout are beginning to be more prevalent. Most anglers are going for the largemouth bass with nightcrawlers at the upper lake and the lower lagoon and 2-4-pound stripers are also being brought up.

By using nightcrawlers at the lagoon, fishermen can also get carp and catfish to bite. The pan-fish bite is good and much better in this mid to late evening.

Lake hours: 6:15 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

Compiled by Jim Carlisle



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Printer-friendly story
Read more at vcstar.com

1 airlifted after Lake Casitas boat crash

By From staff reports

Originally published 01:20 p.m., April 21, 2011

Updated 02:18 p.m., April 21, 2011

One person was airlifted from Lake Casitas this morning after a collision involving two boats, authorities said.

The collision was reported at 11:50 a.m., according to the Ventura County Fire Department.

The injured person was taken to Ventura County Medical Center, fire department officials said.

Rangers were investigating the incident.



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GSWC good, at making money

BOB DADDI, OJAI

Why have we become one of the most expensive areas in California for water rates? Golden State Water Company serves one out of every 31 Californians. Those Ojai residents actually within the boundaries of Ojai are served by three water companies. Two that are nonprofit and one for profit. GSWC has a rate more than double the others.

This movement is not about the people who work for GSWC, they are good neighbors I know and respect. It is about selling water through an inefficient system and maximizing profits. GSWC is very good at that! I believe health insurance, hospitals and water companies should be nonprofit. Ojai has only one hospital, it needs to be a nonprofit.

That was changed in Ojai by like-minded people, for more affordable care for the residents. Yes, it can be done!

Ojai E.L.O.W. seeks to replace GSWC with Casitas Municipal Water District, a nonprofit supplier. We pay property taxes to Casitas, are in their water district and have an elected member of the board, Russ Baggerly. Ojai E.L.O.W. has presented a workable and, most importantly, affordable plan to CMWD and the public of Ojai.

We need to show the executive board of Casitas that this is popular and has overwhelming support. To do this we need 2,500 signatures on petitions. We need feet on the ground getting signatures and donations to help with costs. To make this happen this was initially financed by less than a dozen volunteers.

More information is available at www.OjaiFlow.com.

Thank you to the hundreds of people who have given their time, signatures and donations.

**CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT OF INVESTMENTS
04/21/11**

Type of Invest	Institution	CUSIP	Date of Maturity	Amount of Deposit	Current Mkt Value	Rate of Interest	Date of Deposit	% of Portfolio	Days to Maturity	Weighed Average Days to Maturity
*TB	Federal Home Loan Bank	3133XS4S40	09/16/11	\$726,316	\$710,248	3.625%	07/01/10	5.73%	145	8
*TB	Federal Home Loan Bank	3133XSP930	12/13/13	\$743,750	\$735,224	3.125%	07/01/10	5.93%	952	56
*TB	Federal Home Loan Bank	3133XWNB10	06/12/15	\$729,603	\$731,535	2.875%	07/01/10	5.90%	1491	88
*TB	Federal Home Loan Bank	3133XWW470	03/09/12	\$707,315	\$705,215	1.125%	06/30/10	5.69%	318	18
*TB	Federal Home Loan Bank	3134A4VG60	11/17/15	\$807,683	\$779,114	4.750%	07/19/10	6.28%	1646	103
*TB	Federal Home Loan MTG Corp	3137EABS70	09/27/13	\$766,605	\$753,046	4.125%	07/01/10	6.07%	876	53
*TB	Federal Home Loan MTG Corp	3137EACD90	07/28/14	\$739,907	\$733,985	3.000%	07/01/10	5.92%	1177	70
*TB	Federal Home Loan MTG Corp	3137EACE70	09/21/12	\$723,646	\$716,695	2.125%	06/30/10	5.78%	510	29
*TB	Federal Home Loan MTG Corp	3137EACF40	12/15/11	\$706,398	\$703,892	1.125%	06/30/10	5.68%	234	13
*TB	Federal Natl MTG Assn	31398AYY20	09/16/14	\$739,123	\$735,056	3.000%	07/01/10	5.93%	1225	73
*TB	US Treasury Inflation Index NTS	912828JE10	07/15/18	\$1,055,030	\$1,103,353	1.375%	07/06/10	8.90%	2604	232
*TB	US Treasury Notes	912828JW10	12/31/13	\$709,352	\$708,967	1.500%	04/01/10	5.72%	970	55
*TB	US Treasury Notes	912828LZ10	11/30/14	\$718,129	\$715,911	2.125%	07/01/10	5.77%	1299	75
*TB	US Treasury Notes	912828MB30	12/15/12	\$709,707	\$706,755	1.125%	06/30/10	5.70%	594	34
*TB	US Treasury Inflation Index NTS	912828MF40	01/15/20	\$1,041,021	\$1,087,339	1.375%	07/01/10	8.77%	3144	276
*TB	US Treasury Notes	912828ML10	12/31/11	\$707,191	\$703,885	1.000%	06/30/10	5.68%	250	14
	Accrued Interest			\$58,062	\$66,780					
	Total in Gov't Sec. (11-00-1055-00&1065)			\$12,388,838	\$12,396,999			85.29%		
*CD	CD -			\$0	\$0	0.000%		0.00%		
	Total Certificates of Deposit: (11.13506)			\$0	\$0			0.00%		
**	LAIF as of: (11-00-1050-00)		N/A	\$0	\$0	0.46%	Estimated	0.00%		
***	COVI as of: (11-00-1060-00)		N/A	\$2,137,397	\$2,137,397	0.89%	Estimated	14.71%		
	TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED			\$14,526,236	\$14,534,396			100.00%		
	Total Funds Invested last report			\$14,526,236	\$14,464,923					
	Total Funds Invested 1 Yr. Ago			\$16,552,777	\$16,552,777					
****	CASH IN BANK (11-00-1000-00) EST			\$1,875,055	\$1,875,055					
	CASH IN Western Asset Money Marke			\$31	\$31	0.470%				
	TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS			\$16,401,322	\$16,409,483					
	TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS 1 YR AGO			\$16,582,195	\$16,582,195					

- *CD CD - Certificate of Deposit
- *TB TB - Federal Treasury Bonds or Bills
- ** Local Agency Investment Fund
- *** County of Ventura Investment Fund
- Estimated interest rate, actual not due at present time.
- **** Cash in bank

No investments were made pursuant to subdivision (i) of Section 53601, Section 53601.1 and subdivision (i) Section 53635 of the Government Code.
All investments were made in accordance with the Treasurer's annual statement of investment policy.