

Progress update since the FCA standing room only water meeting at Hewes Middle School last November.

- 1) The Survey: measuring support for the project; 99.7% of the households responding, support having local control of our water.
- 2) 96.9% of households responding would support the bond.
- 3) 35% of you have returned the survey. If you have not yet returned the survey you can go to:
- 4) <http://www.fcahome.org/> and fill out the survey form there. (This needs to get to 51%)

We continue to have discussions and are excited with the progress of The Cities of Ojai and Claremont efforts to gain local control of their water. We are all in the same boat with Golden State Water. Since they had a head start we are learning by their experience and not get ahead of ourselves.

- 1) Ojai with a population of 7,461, approved bonds of \$65 million for the purchase of GSW by 87% one year ago. (The high bond amount is to ensure sufficient funds for the purchase; the price will be somewhat less).
- 2) Since then, GSW has sued the Ojai project twice to stop the effort and lost twice. GSW has failed to file appeal briefs that were due Aug. 26th.
- 3) The Claremont City council approved \$300,000 last year for a completed financial appraisal of the systems value.
This August by a 5-0 vote to proceed, the council placed on this November's ballot their bond initiative of \$135 million. Population 34,926. The offer for the system is \$56 Million.
- 4) By comparison the Cowan Heights System (Lemon Heights, Cowan Heights, and Rocking Horse Ridge) is comprised of 2428 customers according to GSW last filings with the CPUC.
- 5) Stop the Rip Off signs: Recently there have been 99 requests for these signs. 31 have been delivered and mostly placed on lawns. A variety of volunteers are needed, just reply to this email.
- 6) This community deserves local control of our water. We have positive relations and discussions with local water agencies in this regard. Existing water agencies by law however, are prevented from stepping in and offering funding or actively working on this since the Golden State Water Company has ownership rights.

With adequate funding, FCA intends to have our own initiative on a ballot next June. Discussion with the Registrar of Voters Office has begun. The Feasibility Study is complete. The Financial Analysis is just underway. A general meeting, at Foothill High sometime in November is under discussion.

Placing an initiative on a ballot will be expensive, legal council is necessary and the cost of the Financial Analysis is not known.

At the outset, the reasonable and affordable request of \$100.00 per 2428 households to fund this project, has resulted with perhaps 40% of the GSW customers financially supporting the effort. Less than \$50,000 has been received. With this, we have paid for signs, entertainment book, mailings of the survey, twice, Hewes Middle School rent for two meetings, etc. The

account balance held separately is some \$26,000. Going forward, this amount will not be sufficient.

If you have not mailed your check: Your \$100.00 check can be mailed to: FCA PO Box 261, Tustin, CA 92781 (water project)

JLS for FCA