

CITY OF OJAI

RESOLUTION NO. 21-55

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA SUPPORTING AN APPLICATION TO THE
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
BOARD FOR A GRANT FUNDING REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE WATER
MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, California and the Ojai Valley began experiencing a severe and continuing drought in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Ojai Valley relies on local water sources for its water, principally Lake Casitas and local groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, Lake Casitas fell below 40% full during the summer of 2016; and

WHEREAS, even as some portions of the state have experienced a reduction in drought conditions, the hydrologically separate Ojai Valley continues to experience drought conditions and Lake Casitas' level continues to drop, and is at approximately 33% as of August 2, 2018, and

WHEREAS, as the drought continues, groundwater sources available locally in the Ojai Valley will become depleted and the remaining Lake Casitas water supply will become a primary source of water to supplement uses that otherwise rely on local groundwater sources; and

WHEREAS, sustainable management of the Ojai Valley's groundwater and surface water resources to ensure those resources longevity requires a collaborative, regional effort bringing together all key agencies, including the City and the agencies responsible for groundwater, surface water, environmental water and Lake Casitas; and

WHEREAS, the state Wildlife Conservation Board and United States Bureau of Reclamation has invited applications for collaborative regional grants to multi-agency partnerships working together to sustainably manage regional water resources, enhance instream flows while increasing water security; and

WHEREAS, the City is a partner together with other agencies and stakeholders in the region in studying, developing, and implementing regional, sustainable water management strategies; and

WHEREAS, the City supports and is a partner in the Ojai Valley regional sustainable water management grant application to the state Wildlife Conservation Board and United States Bureau of Reclamation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Ojai that:

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby determines that the foregoing findings are true and correct, and incorporates them herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The City of Ojai agrees to continue to be a partner in the Ventura River Regional Water Management Framework for Instream Flow Enhancement and Water Security application to the state Wildlife Conservation Board and United States Bureau of Reclamation for an approximately \$1.2 and \$14 million grant to fund (planning, implementation respectively) regional water sustainability projects to enhance instream flows and water security, including the City's water coordination and groundwater recharge design projects. The City's agreement to be an applicant and partner in this grant application is a commitment to support the application. The City is not committing to any financial support at this time. The City Council will, if the grant is awarded, evaluate and approve individual grant-funded projects. The City Council hereby directs the City Manager to execute the necessary documents to apply for these state and federal grants.

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PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 14th day of December 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Francina, Haney, Stix, Weirick
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA

Betsy Stix
Betsy Stix, Mayor

Dec 30, 2021
Date signed

ATTEST:

Gail Davis
Gail Davis, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Matthew T. Summers
Matthew Summers, City Attorney