



CASITAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL

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SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING VENTURA RIVER ADJUDICATION

Casitas Municipal Water District Board Members and Ad-Hoc Adjudication Committee Members Russ Baggerly and Pete Kaiser spoke during the public comment period at the January 27, 2020 Ventura City Council meeting regarding the Ventura River adjudication matter. The Directors requested that the City dismiss its cross-complaint without prejudice and seek an alternative agreement that would provide a solution to the Ventura River watershed issues.

Alex McIntire, City Manager, responded to Casitas Board Members request in letter dated February 4, 2020, stating the City believes the Court process is important, and the City supports a six month time extension for those considering an answer to the City's notices. The City also suggested formation of a 'policy-maker committee' to supervise and oversee the settlement process.

The Casitas Board of Directors concurs that a time extension for answering the lawsuit be provided at the earliest opportunity, in order to bring relief to affected property owners. However, Casitas sees the formation of a 'policy-maker' committee as unnecessary, given that this responsibility belongs to each party involved in the discussions, including the elected bodies of the public agencies involved. Casitas provided a formal response to the City Council in letter from the Board of Directors dated February 14, 2020.

The Casitas Board of Directors is requesting a meeting between appropriate elected officials and staff from Casitas and the City of Ventura to discuss the matter further.

Casitas Municipal Water District is a cross-defendant party in the adjudication case and its constituents can be assured that Casitas is actively defending and protecting its water rights because of its statutory responsibilities and mission.