

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
FOR
DROUGHT ECONOMIC STUDY
OF THE OJAI VALLEY**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Ojai Valley has been experiencing significant drought since 2012. Lake Casitas is the backup water supply for the valley and for about 1/3rd of the City of Ventura but is expected to be at about 30% capacity in late fall 2018. If the drought worsens the residents and water purveyors in the valley will need to make decisions regarding investments in supplemental water supplies. The objective of this study is to determine the magnitude of the financial impact on the Ojai Valley of:

- a. Stage 4
- b. Stage 5
- c. Minimum pool in Lake Casitas (the lake can no longer provide water)

The economic sectors of concern are: real-estate, agriculture and businesses.

The final report shall describe the economic impacts of the various stages of drought and a short summary, provided by the sponsors, of the current efforts augment water supplies.

This RFP has been prepared by the sponsors of the study. It is not a technical document composed by a professional economist. The Sponsors are anticipating that the economists who respond to this request for proposal will provide their professional assessment of the technical effort necessary to achieve the goals of this study. During the selection interviews the sponsors will weigh the proposed scope of work, experience, qualifications and cost when choosing the economist to conduct this study.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

California has experienced 50-year droughts during the last 1,200 years. The Ojai Valley could be in year six of such a long drought. The purpose of this economic study is to inform the residents, business owners, elected officials and agricultural industry of the economic impacts associated continued drought in the Ojai Valley. If the drought continues Ojai valley residents and elected officials will have to make decisions about obtaining supplemental water supplies and/or reducing water usage. These decisions may very likely include applying for grants, raising taxes or water rates and would be greatly aided by an appropriate economic analysis.

Augmenting water supplies can include activities such as modification of existing wells, new wells, increased storm water capture, advanced treatment of non-potable water or importing water. Stretching existing supplies can include reducing water demand through activities such as grey water reuse, recycling water, increasing efficiency of

irrigation and choosing climate appropriate plantings in our landscapes. All of these activities carry a price tag and sometimes a lifestyle change.

Knowing the economic impact of these choices is critical to proper decision making.

Other impacts of the drought and benefits or detriments of augmenting water supplies are the impacts to the environmental quality in the valley and the fire risk reduction provided by green agriculture. These issues may not be quantifiable by an economic analysis but are also important.

BACKGROUND

The small water districts and mutual water companies and many of the agricultural businesses have water wells that experience reduced production as drought intensifies. Some of the wells go dry after a few years of drought and the water user becomes 100% reliant upon Casitas water.

PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS

During Stages 4 and 5 the following are assumed:

The Ojai Basin, Upper Ventura River basins and Casitas Municipal Water District continue to provide water but with a 40% usage reduction for Stage 4 and a 50% usage reduction for Stage 5.

For the scenario of a minimum pool in Lake Casitas the following is assumed:

Extrem Drought Water Production Estimate for the Ojai Valley			
Source	Production - AF		
	High	Medium	Low
Upper Ventura River Basin	250	175	100
Ojai Basin	1,000	500	300
Total Acre Feet	1,250	675	400
HoBos	8,000	4,000	2,000
Total With HoBos	9,250	4,675	2,400
Imported Water through Ventura	3,500	2,500	1,500
Total with HoBos and Imported Water Through Ventura	12,750	7,175	3,900

The geographic limits of the study include the Ojai Valley from Foster Park to the Casitas jurisdiction boundary as shown on the attached exhibit.

PROJECT SCOPE

Consultant:

- a. Determine the economic impact of Stages 4, 5 & minimum pool on the following sectors: real-estate, agriculture and businesses. For minimum pool include single and multi-family residential.
- b. For minimum pool analyze the High, Medium and Low assumptions for the availability of water for the Ojai Valley.

Sponsors:

- a. Provide water usage data for the Fiscal Years 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15 2015/16 and 2016/17. Usage will not be parcel specific. Usage data will show individual customers but there will not be any identifying information for the customer or parcel. Usage data will identify the customer class such as residential, multi-family residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural.

Proposal Submittal

The Proposal shall include:

1. A statement of qualifications for the staff proposed to work on this project.
2. A description of your project approach with a scope of work of how you would conduct the economic analysis.
3. Samples of similar work
4. A list of proposed (not all inclusive) deliverables
5. A list of documents or information needed from the sponsors.
6. A current reference list with contact names and phone numbers.
7. A man hour breakdown for each phase of the work including the cost per hour for each person working on the project.
8. COMPLETED Cost Proposals must be in the VRWD Office at 409 Old Baldwin Road Ojai, California by 4 p.m. on Monday July 30, 2018 to be considered for the project.

THE SPONSORS

This economic study is being sponsored by the following organizations:

Meiners Oaks Water District

Ojai Basin Groundwater Management
Agency

Ojai Board of Realtors

Ojai Valley Inn

Ventura River Water District

Ventura County Farm Bureau

The Thacher School

The lead agency will be the Ventura River Water District (VRWD). The contract with the economist will be with VRWD, All communications between the economist and the sponsors will go through VRWD.

Contact Information

Ventura River Water District
409 Old Baldwin Rd
Ojai, CA 93023

Phone: (805) 646-3403

Office Hours: 7:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday thru Friday

	<u>Primary Contact</u>	<u>Secondary Contact</u>
Name:	Bert Rapp	Peggy Wiles
Title:	General Manager	Director
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Completion Schedule



Pre proposal Meeting (not mandatory)	July 16, 2018
Cost Proposals Due	July 30, 2018
Interviews with short listed economists	August 20, 2018
Award of Professional Services Contract	November 21, 2018
Notice to Proceed with study	November 27, 2018
20% Study Submittal	January 15, 2019
80% Study Submittal	March 1, 2019
100% Study Submittal	April 1, 2019

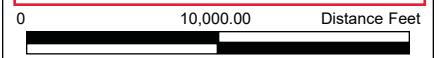
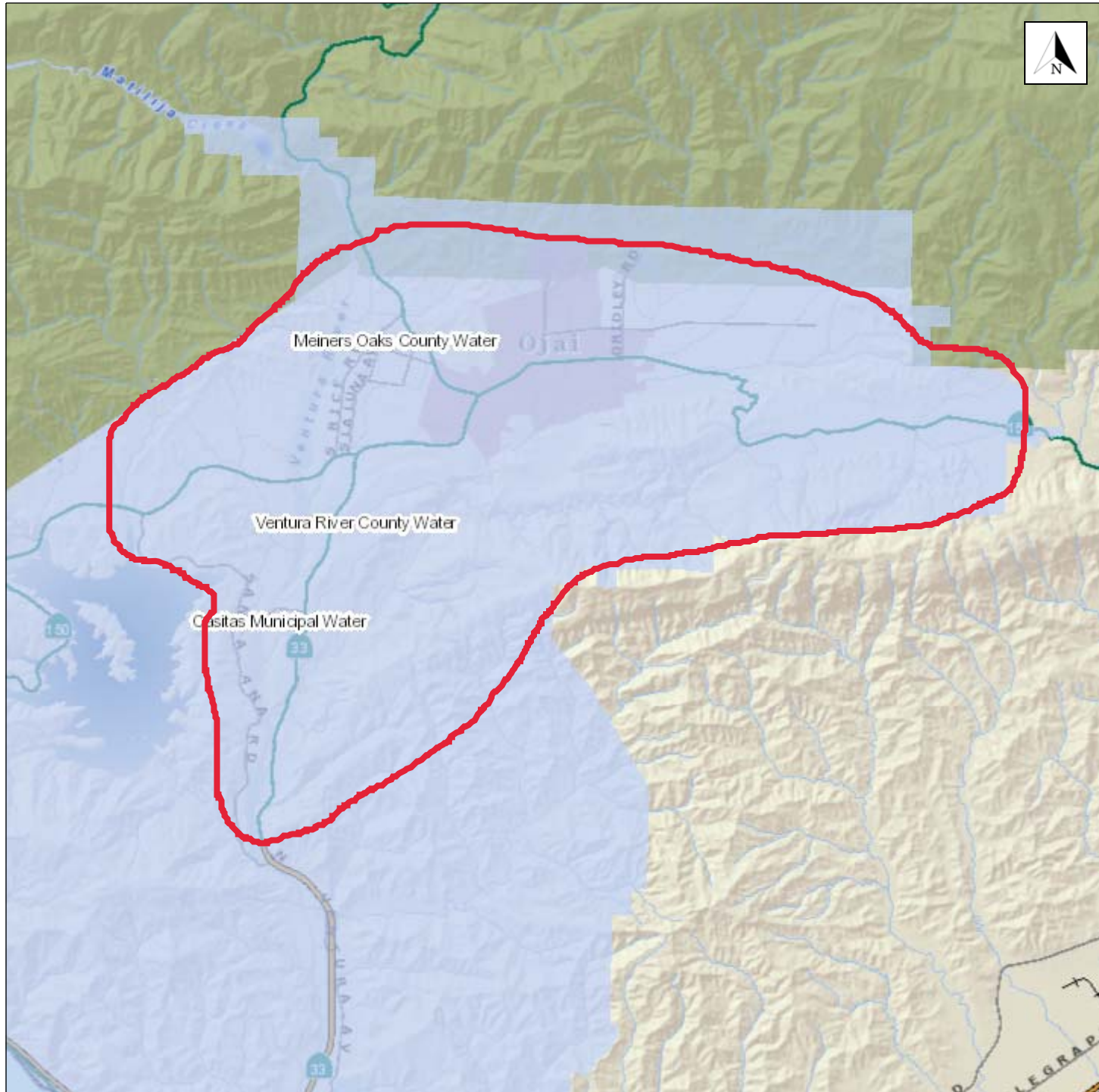
If interested economists cannot attend the Pre-proposal Meeting or have a conflict with the August 20th interview date, new dates may be set or the meeting conducted remotely.



County View

Drought Economic Study

- Study Boundary 
- Casitas Boundary 



1: 120,000

Disclaimer: The information contained on this web site and in this application was created by the Ventura County Geographical Information System (GIS), which is designed and operated solely for the convenience of the County and related contract entities. The County does not warrant the accuracy of this information, and no decision involving a risk of economic loss or physical injury should be made in reliance thereon.