

JOSEPH CENTENO
Fifth District Supervisor
(805) 346-8401
jcenteno@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

ROBERT L. ROYSTER
Executive Assistant
(805) 346-8400
broyster@co.santa-barbara.ca.us



County of Santa Barbara
California

GILBERT ARMIJO
Administrative Assistant
(805) 346-8400
garmijo@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

JOYCE K. CHRISMAN
Office Manager
(805) 346-8400
jchrism@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

April 18, 2005

California Public Utilities Commission
Administrative Law Judge John Thorson
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Honorable Mr. Thorson :

It is my understanding that Casmite, a local water purveyor in the Santa Maria Valley has petitioned the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to become a water distribution company.

Casmite, a company owned by UNOCAL, has been providing water to the Casmalia Community Services District (CSD) for many years. Casmalia is a small community in northern Santa Barbara County with a population of approximately 150 inhabitants.

I have been meeting with the CSD to discuss Casmite's proposal to transfer title of their water distribution system to the CSD at no cost to the district. Because the CSD does not have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the system, Casmite has discussed with them the possibility of a one time grant to help eliminate operational and management concerns.

The CSD also wants assurances the easement's on lands over which the water lines traverse can be legally transferred, at no cost, to the CSD.

These are some of the more critical issues being discussed between the parties. I am hopeful that continued negotiations will produce a viable solution within the next two months thereby, eliminating the need for PUC involvement.

I trust that the enclosed information will be of some value in your deliberation.

Respectfully Yours,



Joseph Centeno

cc: Bob Hall, Casmite Company
Terri Strickland, Casmalia Community Services District

511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Suite 141, Santa Maria, CA 93455-1341
(805) 346-8400 • Fax (805) 346-8404
www.countyofsb.org