



***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Wishtoyo files Petition with State Water Board to Mandate that Oxnard GREAT Recycled Water is Used Reasonably**

As part of our campaign to ensure reasonable use of all of California's scarce water resources, including recycled water, Wishtoyo's Water Initiative has filed a petition to appeal a Los Angeles Regional Board decision to issue a Clean Water Act Water Recycling and Waste Discharge Permit that would allow recycled water from the Oxnard Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment ("Oxnard GREAT") program to be used unreasonably and wastefully, and in a manner that does not protect the Santa Clara River's in-stream flows or the Oxnard Plain's depleted groundwater aquifers.

Wishtoyo's Petition for review requests that the State Board requires a reasonable use and public trust analysis as required by law, ensures that Oxnard GREAT recycled water is used reasonably and not wasted, and reduces the amount of Santa Clara River flows that United Water Conservation District diverts at river mile 10.5 by the amount of recycled water Oxnard GREAT delivers to end users. Furthermore, the Petition requests that the State Water Board ensure that recipients of GREAT water implement best available agricultural and municipal efficiency and conservation measures, and use the recycled water for crops that are sustainable for the arid region.

"The California Constitution is clear - all water, even recycled water, must be used reasonably and not wasted," said Jason Weiner, General Counsel and Water Initiative Director for Wishtoyo Foundation in Wishtoyo's Press Release. "When new water is brought into a water scarce region, it should not be utilized to perpetuate decades of unsustainable, unreasonable, and wasteful water practices that have led to the mining of Ventura County's groundwater aquifers and the draining of the public's streams."

"In addition to state wide significance, our Petition has significant local implications because Oxnard GREAT recycled water should be used to help restore the Santa Clara River's in-stream flow dependent natural cultural resources the Chumash depend upon, the Santa Clara's native and endangered fish and wildlife, and the River's recreational opportunities for residents in Oxnard, Ventura, Saticoy, El Rio, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru," said Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder and Wishtoyo Executive Director.

**About the Wishtoyo Foundation:** Founded in 1997, Wishtoyo is a 501(c)(3) non profit grassroots organization with over 700 members consisting of Ventura County's diverse residents and Chumash Native Americans. Wishtoyo's mission is to preserve and protect Chumash culture, the culture of all of Ventura County's diverse communities, and the environment that our current and future generations depend upon. Wishtoyo shares traditional Chumash Native American beliefs, cultural practices, songs, dances, stories, and values with the public in its Chumash Discovery Village and through educational programs in schools to promote environmental awareness and natural resources stewardship. Wishtoyo also protects, preserves, and restores the ecological integrity and water quality of inland and coastal waterbodies in Ventura, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and all throughout the traditional Chumash range through restoration projects, scientific analysis, advocacy, litigation, and community organizing, outreach and empowerment. To learn more about Wishtoyo visit us at [www.wishtoyo.org](http://www.wishtoyo.org).