

June 25, 2006

The Honorable Judge Rodney Melville
Superior Court
312-M East Cook Street
Santa Maria CA 93455-5165

Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury
Attention: Foreman
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Board of Directors' Response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report on
'Flood Control and Water Conservation District – Prepared for Winter Storms?'**

The 2005-06 Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury recently released its report entitled '**Flood Control And Water Conservation District – Prepared for Winter Storms?**' The report requires that both the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, as the affected agency and the Board of Directors, as the governing body, provide responses to the relevant findings and recommendations. The response from the Public Works Department is attached to this report. The Board's response follows.

Grand Jury Finding 5: The deterioration of the rock facing on the Santa Maria Levee exposes the City of Santa Maria to the risk of widespread flooding.

Board of Directors' Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1: Now that a comprehensive engineering study of the Santa Maria Levee is available, the funding to reinforce the levee should be secured and applied to the solutions in the study report.

Board of Directors' Response: The Board agrees with this recommendation and is pursuing federal and State funding through our legislators. In early April, officials from the County and the Cities of Santa Maria and Guadalupe went to Washington, D.C., to meet with Federal Legislators and the Corps of Engineers. Currently, funding is being sought in the Federal Budget for the Corps of Engineers to prepare a feasibility report on the Levee (estimated cost \$1.5 Million) which is required to secure Federal funds for construction. Separately, the City of Santa Maria has retained a firm to pursue Federal funds for the Corps of Engineers to prepare a feasibility report and the County will consider sharing these costs with the City.

The Board thanks the Grand Jury for its work on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joni Gray,
Chair, Board of Directors, Flood Control District and Water Conservation District