



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 8/1/06
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimate Time: 30 minutes on 8/8/06
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Jim Laponis, Deputy CEO, 568-3400
SUBJECT: Board of Supervisors' Response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Reports on Water and Cemetery Districts

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

A. Set a hearing on the departmental agenda for August 8, 2006 to discuss and adopt the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Reports on Water and Cemetery Districts.

B. Conduct a hearing on August 8, 2006 (estimated thirty minutes) to:

1. Adopt the responses in the attachment as the Board of Supervisors' responses to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Reports on Disaster Preparedness as specified above.
2. Authorize the Chair to execute the letter included in the attachment forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge.

Summary:

On June 6, 2006, the Civil Grand Jury released a report on Water and Cemetery Districts, which contains nine findings and eleven recommendations. One finding and two recommendations pertain to the County Board of Supervisors as follows:

Finding 4: The Board of Supervisors does not supervise cemetery district board members or timely exercise its power to remove problematic district board members; this results in open-ended terms for cemetery board members, an insular culture, and decision-making based on whim.

Recommendation 3: County Supervisors in whose territory a special district lies should either attend a minimum of two meetings per year of those special districts or send a designee and have the designee brief the Supervisors in writing on the special district meetings.

Recommendation 11: County Supervisors should have a written policy on what constitutes misconduct in, and triggers removal of, board members of independent special districts with appointed boards.

Background:

Per California Penal Code Section 933 (b), the governing body of the agency, the Board of Supervisors, must respond within 90 days after the issuance of the Grand Jury Report. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors' response must be finalized and transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Courts no later than August 31, 2006.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There are no fiscal or facility impacts associated with setting the hearing or responding to the Civil Grand Jury. There are no foreseeable fiscal or facility impacts associated with the finding and recommendations pertaining to the County Board of Supervisors.

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:
0

FTEs:
0

Special Instructions:

The response of the Board of Supervisors must be transmitted to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court no later than August 31, 2006. The Clerk of the Board is requested to return the signed letter to Jennie Esquer, County Executive Office, for distribution to the Superior Court. The signed letter, written responses and a 3 1/2" computer disc with the response in a Microsoft Word file must be forwarded to the grand jury.

Attachments: (list all)

- (1) Letter to the Presiding Judge with Board of Supervisors Responses
- (2) Copy of the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report on Water and Cemetery Districts

Authored by:

Sharon Friedrichsen, County Executive Office, 568-3107

cc: Shane Stark, County Counsel