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## **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

**February XX, 2022**

Honorable Gustavo Lavayen  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Barbara Superior Court  
312 East Cook Street  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Reference: Response to Santa Barbara Grand Jury report titled, "Cybersecurity for Special Districts And County Service Areas in Santa Barbara County" published December 10, 2021.

Judge Lavayen:

Please find attached the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (Board) response to the above referenced Civil Grand Jury Report. As directed by the Grand Jury, all responses are provided in accordance with Section 933.05 of the California Penal Code.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

CC: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Pamela Olsen, Foreperson, 2021 Santa Barbara Grand Jury

Attachment A

**Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2021 Report  
“Cybersecurity for Special Districts  
And County Service Areas in Santa Barbara County”**

**Finding 1**

**The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors has oversight over all dependent special districts and community service areas and their respective cybersecurity operations.**

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. As a point of clarification, the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (SBMTD) was erroneously listed as a *dependent* special district on Appendix II of the Grand Jury’s report. The SBMTD is an *independent* special district governed by a separate seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the cities of Carpinteria, Goleta and Santa Barbara, and the County of Santa Barbara, and therefore not under the authority of the Board of Supervisors.

**Recommendation 1**

**That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors review and adopt, as appropriate, the “Best Practices” listed in the report for its dependent special districts and community service areas.**

The recommendation has been implemented. The County has developed cybersecurity policies and standards that were adopted by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on September 21, 2021([County of Santa Barbara - File #: 21-00847 \(legistar.com\)](#)). The adopted policies apply to County departments as well as each dependent district and community service area under the authority of the Board. The County’s cybersecurity policies are based on National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 800-53 version 4, a nationally recognized cybersecurity framework used to organize and improve cybersecurity programs. All “best practices” listed in the Grand Jury report have been addressed in the adopted policies.