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## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

August 22, 2017

Honorable Patricia Kelly  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Barbara Superior Court  
312 East Cook Street, Building G  
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5165

Reference: Response to FY 2016-17 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report titled, "Managing Regional Water Supplies",  
(Published June 13, 2017, Grand Jury Website <http://www.sbcgj.org>).

Judge Kelly:

Please find attached the Santa Barbara County Water Agency's Board of Directors (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.

The Board appreciates the work conducted by the Public Works Department/County Water Agency and their assistance in responding to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joan Hartmann, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Water Agency

CC: Santa Barbara County Water Agency Board of Directors  
Mary Tighe, Foreperson, 2017-18 Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury

Attachment B

Santa Barbara County Water Agency Board of Directors  
Response to the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury 2016-2017 Report  
**Managing Regional Water Supplies**

**Finding 1**

No single entity has decision or enforcement power within Santa Barbara County to lead regional planning.

The Water Agency Board agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 1**

That the Santa Barbara County Water Agency be designated as the permanent lead agency of the Santa Barbara County Cooperating Partners and granted enforcement power to ensure reliability of Santa Barbara County water supplies.

The recommendation will not be implemented. Organizationally, the County Water Agency has no statutory authority over the various water purveyors in the County, unless and until the authority were to change, this recommendation is not feasible. To have the powers recommended, either Legislation at the State level would be needed, or the purveyors would have to agree in writing to grant the Agency this authority which currently has a low likelihood of occurring. While each purveyor does have authority over certain water sources that they own and control, there are other sources that are more regionally operated. For example, the State Water Project is controlled by the State of California, and the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) delivers the water to the participants.

However, as noted in the Grand Jury's 2015-16 Report "Lake Cachuma, Protecting a Valuable Resource, You can't Drink Paper Water", the County Water Agency is pursuing the Contract renewal for the Cachuma Project as approved by the Board of Directors of the County Water Agency on May 2, 2017. As responded by the County Water Agency Board, the County Water Agency strongly believes a scientifically based yield curve is needed for Lake Cachuma to ensure that a stable supply is available for the design drought in concert with the parameters and principles that the Cachuma Project was based on. In doing so, the other various supplies can be used to make up the differences in the supplies, perhaps in conjunction with demand management be each purveyor if needed.

**Finding 5**

Critical pipeline infrastructure, including redundancy, has not been developed throughout southern Santa Barbara County.

The Water Agency Board agrees with this finding.

**Recommendation 5**

That critical pipeline infrastructure, including redundancy, be developed throughout southern Santa Barbara County.

The recommendation will not be implemented. The Board understands and agrees with the Recommendation of the Grand Jury, but the County Water Agency is not the entity to undertake this action. The Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) is a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) consisting of the South Coast Cachuma Purveyors and is the entity that operates and maintains the South Coast Conduit. The Board also

recognizes that this project would be extremely costly, however, through a concerted planning effort, the County Water Agency can partner with COMB and its member agencies to be in a position to assist with grants, either directly through a new Water Service Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation or through the IRWMP process.

**Finding 6**

Funding under Propositions 50, 84, and 1E has not yet been granted to the County of Santa Barbara for the Cooperating Partners of Santa Barbara Integrated Regional Water Management’s prioritized list of water supply projects.

The Water Agency Board agrees with the finding. While the County and the County Water Agency has received funding under these Propositions in the past, the most recent list of prioritized water supply / drought projects has not yet been funded. Past funding for water, wastewater, and flood control funding is listed below.

**PROPOSITION 50**

<b>Project Proponent</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
COMB	Modified SCC Upper Reach Project	\$3,200,000
Carpinteria Sanitary District	Bluffs Sewer Relocation	\$1,250,000
Carpinteria Valley Water District	Central Zone Pipeline Improvements & Demonstration Aquifer Storage & Recovery Well	\$2,000,000
Casmalia Community Services District	Water System Retrofit Project	\$631,700
City of Guadalupe	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project	\$4,750,000
Santa Barbara Flood Control District / City of Santa Barbara	Lower Mission Creek Flood Control & Restoration Project	\$1,000,000
City of Santa Maria	Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project, Phase 2	\$4,800,000
Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Santa Ynez River Arundo Removal Project	\$100,000
Cuyama Community Services District	Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Disinfection Project	\$279,800
Cuyama Community Services District	Water Supply Improvement Project	\$363,500
Goleta Sanitary District	Fairview Avenue/San Pedro Creek Sewer Line Relocation Project	\$1,500,000
Goleta Water District	Aquifer Storage & Recovery - San Ricardo Well Rehabilitation Project	\$400,000
Laguna Sanitary District	Recycled Water Tank & System Improvement Project	\$525,000
Vandenberg Village Community Services District	Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant Upgrade Project	\$4,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$24,800,000</b>

<b>PROPOSITION 84</b>		
<b>Round 1 - Planning</b>		
<b>Project Proponent</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
Santa Barbara County	IRWM Plan Update	\$357,807
Carpinteria Water & Sanitation Districts, Montecito Sanitation District, Goleta Water & Sanitation Districts, Goleta West Sanitation District, City of Santa Barbara, Heal The Ocean	Santa Barbara County/South Coast Sub-Region Recycled Water Development Plan	\$98,770
City of Santa Maria, City of Guadalupe, Laguna County Sanitation District	Groundwater Basin Assessment in Support of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan	\$99,160
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$555,737</b>

<b>PROPOSITION 84</b>		
<b>Round 1 – Implementation</b>		
<b>Project Proponent</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
City of Lompoc	Lompoc Valley Leak Detection & Repair Project	\$171,428
City of Santa Maria	Untreated Water Landscape Irrigation Project	\$521,428
City of Santa Maria	LeakWatch Project	\$191,428
City of Goleta	San Jose Creek Capacity Improvement & Fish Passage Project	\$1,202,428
Central Coast Water Authority	Water Supply Reliability & Infrastructure Improvement Project	\$321,428
Goleta Sanitary District	Wastewater Treatment Plan Upgrade	\$521,428
City of Guadalupe	Recycled Water Feasibility Study	\$71,428
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,000,996</b>

<b>PROPOSITION 84</b>		
<b>Drought Round</b>		
<b>Project Proponent</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>
City of Santa Barbara	Recycled Water Enhancement Project	\$1,045,222
COMB	Lake Cachuma Drought Pumping Facility Project	\$1,037,842
Santa Barbara County Water Agency	Grant Administration	\$41,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,124,564</b>

**Recommendation 6**

That the funding applied for by the County of Santa Barbara on behalf of the Cooperating Partners of Santa Barbara County Integrated Regional Water Management is actively pursued.

The recommendation has been implemented. The County Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, Assemblywoman Monique Limon, the State Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), and the County Water Agency held a series of meetings on this issue to work together to deliver the State a list of projects for better water reliability. That action, along with an on-going process within the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) to apply for funding continues. The next IRWMP funding round is expected in 2018.

**Finding 9**

None of the Santa Barbara County south coast water purveyors has established capital replacement accounts.

The Water Agency Board lacks the information necessary to agree or disagree with this finding, therefore, pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05(a), the Board responds to this finding by partially agreeing and partially disagreeing. The Board does not have the financial information from each of the south coast water purveyors to determine if any purveyors have established a capital replacement account and is not aware of any separately established accounts.

**Recommendation 9**

That each Santa Barbara County south coast water purveyor establish and fund a restricted capital replacement account.

The recommendation will not be implemented. The Board understands and agrees with the Recommendation of the Grand Jury, but the County Water Agency is not the entity to undertake this action. Pursuant to Penal Code section 933.05(c) the recommendation addresses budgetary matters over which the Board has no decision-making authority. Therefore, while the Board agrees with the Recommendation, it will not be able to implement the Recommendation, but will encourage the purveyors to implement the Recommendation.