

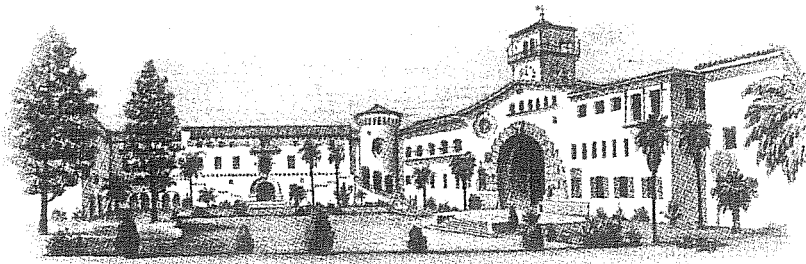
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Second District, Chair

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Third District

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Fourth District, Vice Chair

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July 13, 2010

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Honorable Judge Arthur A. Garcia
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
312 C. East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

**Board of Supervisors' Responses to Fiscal Year 2009-2010
Grand Jury Report on "Currents and Undercurrents in the Santa Ynez Valley"**

Dear Judge Garcia:

During its regular meeting of July 13, 2010, the Board of Supervisors adopted the following as the Board's response to the relevant findings and recommendations in their Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report entitled "Currents and Undercurrents in the Santa Ynez Valley".

The County Supervisors have carefully reviewed the findings and recommendations presented in the Grand Jury Report and provide the following responses:

Finding 1a

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 and Santa Ynez Community Services District, each provide some form of water service and have separate governing boards, administration, staff, and legal counsel.

Response: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees with this finding. The Board of Supervisors agrees that the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 and Santa Ynez Community Services District both have separate governing boards, administration, staff and legal counsel. However, the Board of Supervisors disagrees that each district provides some form of water services. Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 provides potable water services while the Santa Ynez Community Services District provides sewage collection, treatment and disposal services.

A merger of Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 and Santa Ynez Community Services District, establishing a new single publicly accountable

agency to provide both water distribution and sewage collection that shares administrative and field staff, will provide opportunities for economic efficiencies.

Response: California Penal Code Section 933(c) provides that the governing body of a public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations “pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body.” The potential merger of these two independent special districts is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission and is not a matter under the control of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors has no response to this finding.

Recommendation 1

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors convene a Santa Ynez Blue Ribbon Commission or its equivalent; that includes members of the public and elected representatives from Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 and Santa Ynez Community Services District. This commission shall review jurisdictional issues and conduct public meetings to discuss the potential efficiencies and economic benefits to the public to be derived through a merger of these two districts.

Response: California Penal Code Section 933(c) provides that the governing body of a public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations “pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body.” The potential merger of these two independent special districts is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission and is not a matter under the control of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors has no response to this recommendation.

Finding 3

Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 has spent at least \$328,000 of public funds between 2006 and 2008 on the Local Agency Formation Commission jurisdictional issue and the reorganization effort, both of which remain unresolved.

Response: California Penal Code Section 933(c) provides that the governing body of a public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations “pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body.” The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District # 1 is not under the control of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors has no response to this finding.

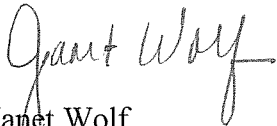
Recommendation 3c

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors ratify County Counsel’s earlier opinions (letter from Alan Seltzer, October 29, 2001; letter from Bill Dillon dated July 19, 2006)

on LAFCO's jurisdiction over Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1.

Response: California Penal Code Section 933(c) provides that the governing body of a public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations "pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body." The Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, Improvement District # 1 and the Local Agency Formation Commission are not under the control of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors has no response to this finding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Wolf". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors