

AUG 15 2017

Ventura County
Grand Jury**county of ventura**Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 477-1600
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grandjury.countyofventura.org

Response to Grand Jury Report FormReport Title: Water Considerations for CitiesReport Date: May 8, 2017 (transmitted May 17, 2017)Response by: Erik Nasarenko Title: Mayor**FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS**

- I (we) agree with the findings / conclusions numbered: C-02
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings / Conclusions numbered:
C-01, C-03, C-04, C-05, C-06 and C-07
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings / Conclusions that are
disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-03, and R-04 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number R-05 have not yet been implemented, but will be
implemented in the future.
(Attach a time frame for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R-02 require further analysis.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are
not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: August 8, 2017 Signed: Erik NasarenkoNumber of pages attached: 5

August 7, 2017

Pamela Riss, Foreperson
2016-2017 Ventura County Grand Jury
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: City of San Buenaventura – Water Considerations for Cities

Dear Ms. Riss:

The City of San Buenaventura (City) received the 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report “Water Considerations for Cities”. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933.05, we submit this response to the Grand Jury findings and recommendations.

The City Council appreciates and welcomes the efforts of the Grand Jury’s review of countywide long-term water needs.

The Grand Jury requires a response to conclusions C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, C-05, C-06, C-07 and recommendations R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, and R-05.

Conclusions

C-01: *Cities’ water plans are based on historic water availability patterns which may no longer be applicable. Over the last 100 years, water availability from precipitation has been trending downward and may never return to what was considered average. (FA-04, FA-06, FA-14, FA-15)*

Response to C-01: *Partially disagree.* The City agrees that water plans are based on historic water availability patterns which may no longer be applicable due to climate change projections and increased regulatory requirements. However, the City’s Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and Comprehensive Water Resources Reports (CWRRs) take into account not only the historical water availability patterns from precipitation but also water supply agreements, existing and anticipated regulatory and environmental issues, and drought conditions.

C-02: *Cities' plans address the minimum, state-required, three-year drought scenarios. None of the UWMPs address a long-term drought, even though the current drought has lasted over five years. (FA-04, FA-05, FA-06, FA-07)*

Response to C-02: *Agree.* The City's 2015 UWMP meets the minimum, state-required, three-year drought scenario. The City's future CWRR will evaluate a long-term drought scenario.

C-03: *Long term city plans are based on the optimistic view there will be as much water available in 2035 or 2040, as there was in 2010. Additional future water resources are not well-defined other than being described as imported water or coming from recycling and conservations efforts. (FA-01, FA-04, FA-06, FA-09)*

Response to C-03: *Disagree.* The City's 2015 UWMP identifies planned long-term water supply projects including the Foster Park Wellfield Production Restoration, Expansion of Recycled Water/Advanced Treatment Potable Reuse, Pure Water Pipelines, Ocean Desalination, and Brine Line Ocean Outfall projects (see pages 3-11 and 3-12 of the 2015 UWMP).

C-04: *Current and future ratepayers will bear the burden of the cost of building water purification facilities, desalination plants, desalters, recycling plants, additional pipelines, and storage facilities needed to ensure there is an adequate water supply system in the future. (FA-04, FA-13)*

Response to C-04: *Partially disagree.* Current and future ratepayers will not bear the entire cost of future water supply and associated infrastructure. In 2016, the City adopted the Water Rights Dedication and Water Resource Net Zero Fee Requirements for new or intensified development. The ordinance requires subject projects to offset new or intensified water demand through one or more compliance options, including dedication of water rights, extraordinary conservation requirements, and/or payment of a fee. The fee proceeds shall be used to acquire and/or develop additional water resources or water rights for new potable supplies for use by the City.

C-05: *Since many of the cities in the County rely on MWD wholesale water, Cities should base UWMPs on the wholesalers' prediction that retail water demand will outstrip total reliable water resources by 2040. (FA-03)*

Response to C-05: *Partially Disagree*. While many cities have connections to the State water system and rely on MWD for importing State water, the City of San Buenaventura does not. The City is working to ensure that retail water demand does not outstrip total reliable water resources at any time. If and when the City of San Buenaventura connects to the State water system, we agree that future UWMPs should consider MWD's and any other wholesalers' predictions.

C-06: *The UWMPs use different sources for analyzing past and future populations. The inconsistency makes it difficult to compare plans, especially when cities have multiple retail water providers. Some UWMPs even use different population sources within the same report. (FA-02, FA-08)*

Response to C-06: *Partially Disagree*. The City's 2015 UWMP analyzes population based on the California Department of Finance Data (CDFD), years 2000 to 2015. We are not aware of all possible sources used by other cities. However, the CDFD has been, by all accounts, as reliable a source for predicting population growth as any other source for the City of San Buenaventura. We suspect that other cities may use different sources that have given more accurate predictions for them, depending on their own demographics, land-use policies, and other factors that differ between cities.

C-07: *Cities' water plans do not appear to adequately address catastrophic failures or interruptions within the system, such as:*

- *Infrastructure failures (dams)*
- *Major earthquake destruction*
- *Damage to the groundwater*
 - *Saltwater intrusion*
 - *Environmental disasters (oil or chemical spills)*

(FA-10, FA-11, FA-12)

Response to C-07: *Disagree*. The City adopted the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan (WSECP) in March 2015 which identifies restrictions to be enacted in the event of interruptions within the system due to earthquake, fire, toxic spill or flood, etc. (see pages 11 and 27 of the WSECP available on the City's website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov). In addition, responses to a catastrophic interruption in water supply are part of the City's Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

Recommendations

R-01: *The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils collaborate with all the County water purveyors to develop long term plans to respond to catastrophic disruptions of water supplies.*

Response to R-01: *Implemented (partially).* The City actively collaborates with several meeting groups including Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board and Committee meetings, Las Posas Basin Users Group, Ventura River Watershed, Santa Clara River Watershed, United Water Conservation District Board and Committee meetings, and the Santa Paula Basin Technical Advisory Committee. In addition, the City is a member of the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and Mound Basin GSA, and a participant in Oxnard Plain Basin GSA. Collaboration with these groups includes discussions on supply reliability and the ability to attain additional supply from one or more sources when there is a catastrophic disruption to another supply source. The City is also collaborating with Calleguas Municipal Water District (CMWD) for a direct connection to their water system. This connection will provide an additional source of supply from the State system for the western portion of the County and conversely to provide a backup supply for CMWD in the event of a catastrophic disruption. The City has and will continue to collaborate with water purveyors in the region where direct or indirect connections can be made between different water systems to enhance reliability during catastrophic disruptions.

R-02: *The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils use the same data source when making population projections.*

Response to R-02: *Requires further analysis.* The City utilizes the California Department of Finance Data for population projections and is not aware of sources used by other city councils.

R-03: *The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils develop drought plans that extend at least 5 years.*

Response to R-03: *Implemented.* The WSECP remains in effect at all times. The Ordinance (Resolution No. 2015-031) is in effect and shall remain in effect. Additionally, the City's future CWRRs will evaluate a long-term drought scenario.

R-04: *The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils extend drought conservation measures during non-drought years.*

Response to R-04: *Implemented.* The Water Conservation requirements (Chapter 22.170 of the City's Municipal Code) are in effect and are permanent. Additionally, the City will continue to monitor State efforts to make conservation a California Way of Life, per the Governor's Executive Orders B-37-16 and B-40-17.

R-05: *The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils ensure all future water availability plans clearly identify any potential water sources that are based on unfunded or unpermitted infrastructure.*

Response to R-05: *Not yet implemented.* The City's 2015 UWMP and the 2017 CWRR identify planned long-term water supply projects which are currently unpermitted. The City plans to implement the Grand Jury's recommendation by providing footnotes or further explanation of potential water sources which are unfunded or unpermitted in future reports (2018 CWRR and 2020 UWMP).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Nasarenko". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "N".

Erik Nasarenko
Mayor