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May 6, 1999

Honorable Charles Campbell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-2130

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Dear Judge Campbell:

The following is my response to the pertinent recommendations of the 1998-1999 Ventura County Grand Jury report titled: Special Districts.

Recommendation 2:

A Citizens Advisory Commission or Committee should be established to act as an input to LAFCO to increase the level of objectivity for reorganization of special districts. This group could also examine the fairness of the special district portion of the budget in conjunction with the Auditor-Controller.

Response:

I would be pleased to provide LAFCO and the Commission or Committee with any information we have which would be requested in connection with special district budgets.

Recommendation 4:

The County should commit to making it easier for the all taxpayers to understand how their special district taxes are levied and used. One suggestion is to provide an insert mailed with tax bills that would provide some explanation, including description of common acronyms and abbreviations (F1).

Response:

The Treasurer/Tax Collector is responsible for printing and mailing the tax bills. I will be happy to assist him with any additional explanations to be included.

Please contact me at 654-3151 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

THOMAS O. MAHON
Auditor-Controller

TOM:CLC:me:1879

cc: Grand Jury
Honorable Harold S. Pittman, Treasurer Tax-Collector
M. L. "Lin" Koester, Chief Administrative Officer