

September 16, 2011

Honorable Vincent J. O'Neill II
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

J. Matthew Carroll
Assistant County Executive Officer

Paul Derse
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Chief Financial Officer

John K. Nicoll
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director

Catherine Rodriguez
Assistant County Executive Officer/
Chief of Operations & Strategic Development

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SEP 22 2011

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Subject: Board of Supervisors' Consolidated Response to 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge O'Neill:

In accordance with State requirements, the consolidated response from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to the 2010-11 Final Grand Jury report is hereby submitted. The Board approved the response on September 13, 2011.

Should you have any questions, please call Matt Carroll at 654-2864 or Kathleen Van Norman at 654-2566.

Respectfully submitted,



 Michael Powers
County Executive Officer

Enclosure – Board of Supervisors' Consolidated Response to the 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report

copies: County Clerk, Mark A. Lunn
Superior Court Jury Services (3 copies as listed)

- For Jury Services, Peggy Yost, Manager
- For transmittal to State Archives
- For transmittal to Grand Jury

BOARD MINUTES

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SUPERVISORS STEVE BENNETT, LINDA PARKS,
KATHY I. LONG, PETER C. FOY AND JOHN ZARAGOZA
September 13, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.

228.3

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE – Approval of Responses to the 2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports: “Bullying in the Workplace,” “Inmate Processing and Suicide Prevention in the Ventura County Jail,” “Emergency Communications Interoperability,” “Election Process,” and “Under-Enrollment in Proposition 36”

- (X) All board members are present.
- (X) The following person is heard by the Board: Matt Carroll.
- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Bennett, seconded by Supervisor Foy, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves the attached reports and includes an appreciation to the Grand Jury for their service in terms of presenting their reports to us and complements them for the new and higher standards that they follow.

By: 
Deputy Clerk of the Board

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the annexed instrument
is a true and correct copy of the document
which is on file in this office.

MICHAEL POWERS, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,
County of Ventura, State of California.

Dated: 9.14.11

By: 
Deputy Clerk of the Board



Item# 43
09/13/11

DISTRIBUTION: Originating Agency, Auditor, File

county of ventura

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
MICHAEL POWERS
County Executive Officer

September 13, 2011

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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Assistant County Executive Officer

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Human Resources Director

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Chief of Operations & Strategic Development

Subject: Approval of Responses to Five (5) 2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports: "Bullying in the Workplace," "Inmate Processing and Suicide Prevention in the Ventura County Jail," "Emergency Communications Interoperability," "Election Process," and "Under-Enrollment in Proposition 36"

Recommendation:

That your Board approves responses to the five subject Grand Jury reports pertaining to County government under your authority for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with State statute.

Discussion:

Penal Code §933.05 requires that your Board comment on the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to county government under your authority. The 2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury issued 11 individual reports, seven of which pertain to County government.

Responses from the Board of Supervisors were required on four of the seven reports pertaining to County government and were prepared on your behalf by the County Executive Office. Responses from appointed officials were also required for three of the seven reports. These responses have been coordinated through our office and are submitted for your approval.

For your reference, the report titles and respondents listed in the Grand Jury Report are summarized in the table below. The underlined respondents require Board approval.

<p>Special Property Tax Assessments</p> <p>Responses from the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector are for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p>Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector</p>
<p>Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Rangers</p> <p>The RSRPD is an independent entity. Response from the Sheriff is for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p>Sheriff</p>
<p>Bullying in the Workplace</p> <p>Response from the Auditor-Controller is for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p><u>Board of Supervisors</u> Auditor-Controller *<u>Director-Human Resources Division (CEO)</u> (*Response was requested, not required)</p>
<p>Inmate Processing and Suicide Prevention in Ventura County Jail</p> <p>Responses from the Sheriff and the District Attorney are for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p>Sheriff District Attorney <u>Health Care Agency</u></p>
<p>Emergency Communications Interoperability</p> <p>Responses from the Sheriff and the Ventura County Emergency Planning Council are for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p><u>Board of Supervisors</u> Sheriff *<u>Ventura County Emergency Planning Council</u> (*Response was requested, not required)</p>
<p>Election Process</p> <p>Response from the Registrar of Voters (County Clerk and Recorder) is for information only. Approval is not required.</p>	<p>Registrar of Voters <u>Board of Supervisors</u></p>
<p>Under-Enrollment in Proposition 36</p>	<p><u>Board of Supervisors</u> *<u>Behavioral Health (Health Care Agency)</u> (*Response was requested, not required) *<u>Probation</u> (*Response was requested, not required)</p>

The responses that pertain to County government under your control will serve as your Board's response to the subject 2010-2011 Grand Jury Reports to be filed as indicated in the above-recommended action along with any additional comments your Board may wish to make.

If your Board does elect to amend responses submitted from agencies headed by appointed officials or if your Board elects to change a response prepared on your behalf by the County Executive's office, then CEO staff, at your direction, will make such changes or additions prior to submitting the responses to the Presiding Judge.

As you are aware, elected officials submit their Grand Jury responses directly to the Presiding Judge. Although your approval is not required for responses from elected officials, copies of responses from the following elected officials are included here for your information: from the Auditor-Controller and the Treasurer Tax Collector to the report "Special Property Tax Assessments;" from the Sheriff to the report, "Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Rangers;" from the Auditor-Controller to the report, "Bullying in the Workplace;" from the Sheriff and District Attorney to the report, "Inmate Processing and Suicide Prevention in the Ventura County Jail;" from the Sheriff to the report, "Emergency Communications Interoperability," and from the Registrar of Voters to the report, "Election Process."

This letter has been reviewed by County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller and County Counsel. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Matt Carroll at 654-2864 or Kathleen Van Norman at 654-2566.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL POWERS
County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – Response to "Special Property Tax Assessments"
- Exhibit 2 – Response to "Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Rangers"
- Exhibit 3 – Response to "Bullying in the Workplace"
- Exhibit 4 – Response to "Inmate Processing and Suicide Prevention in the VC Jail"
- Exhibit 5 – Response to "Emergency Communications Interoperability"
- Exhibit 6 - Response to "Election Process"
- Exhibit 7 - Response to "Under-Enrollment in Proposition 36"

EXHIBIT 1

FY 2010-2011 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS (FI) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)

Report Number & Date	Report Title	Respondents (with FI and R #)
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REPORT NO. 01. (May 4, 2011)

Title: Special Property Tax Assessments

Required

Respondents: Auditor-Controller (FI-01 & FI-04) and (R-01)
Treasurer-Tax Collector (FI-01 & FI-04) and (R-01 and R-02)

CHRISTINE L. COHEN
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1540



CHIEF DEPUTIES
LOUISE WEBSTER
SANDRA BICKFORD
BARBARA BEATTY
JOANNE McDONALD

June 15, 2011

The Honorable Vincent O'Neill, Jr.
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

Report Title: Special Property Tax Assessments

Report Date: May 3, 2011

Response by: Christine L. Cohen

Title: Auditor-Controller

FINDINGS

- FI-01 states, "Public access to information regarding Special Assessments would be improved if the information were available on the AC and T-TC websites."

I disagree partially with the finding numbered FI-01. While general information about Special Assessments can be included on our website, the detailed information concerning each specific assessment is only available from the district that is levying the assessment.

- FI-04 states, "AC and T-TC would save labor and money by providing the public with internet access to Special Assessments information. Currently, this information is available only by telephone request."

I disagree wholly with the finding number FI-04. Detailed contact information is already provided on the face of the property tax bills, yet taxpayers still call my office. In addition, information concerning the specific calculation of special assessments is voluminous and changes each year with the levy of the assessments; therefore, the costs associated with maintaining such a webpage would more than offset any savings that resulted from fewer calls to my office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R-01 states, "The Grand Jury recommends that the AC and T-TC place a Special Assessment link on their respective websites. This link should point to information that explains the Special Assessment


- process from initiation through placement on the Property Tax Bill, as well as Special Property Tax Bill assessments information."

Recommendation numbered R-01 requires further analysis. While it is possible to develop an information flow chart that explains the special assessment process, it may not be possible to provide detailed information for each special assessment because such information is only available from the special districts. My office will coordinate with the Tax Collector to review options. It is anticipated the review will be completed by October 4, 2011.

- R-02 states, "The Grand Jury recommends that the AC and T-TC website addresses, and the AC Helpline telephone number, be placed on Property Tax Bills."

While not required to respond to recommendation numbered R-02, the recommendation impacts my office, so I choose to provide a comment. Recommendation R-02 requires further analysis. The districts that levy the special assessments have the responsibility for answering taxpayers' questions concerning the calculation of the assessments; therefore, providing additional AC and T-TC contact information may not be helpful to taxpayers. However, we will coordinate with the Tax Collector to evaluate options for providing taxpayers with more dynamic links to special district information. It is anticipated the review will be completed by October 4, 2011.

Date: 06/15/2011

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 0

c: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury



county of ventura

STEVEN HINTZ
TREASURER
TAX COLLECTOR

RECEIVED

June 6, 2011

JUN 08 2011

Don R. Hansen
Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Robert A. Peskay
Foreman of the 2010-2011 Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009-3751

Re: Grand Jury Report on Special Property Tax Assessments

Dear Mr. Peskay:

Thank you for your thoughtful inquiry.

I do not intend at this time to implement the recommendation of the Grand Jury that the Treasurer-Tax Collector website should include information about the Special Assessments.

I do intend to include the Treasurer-Tax Collector website address on the Property Tax Bill, probably in the section that already contains the telephone number for the public service division. I expect this change will be implemented by the preparation of the 2011-2012 bills.

I disagree partially with Finding 01. I do not believe that public access to information will be improved by putting information about the 250 Special Assessments on my website, considering that the tax bill already contains the name and telephone number of the assessing agency. FA-04 states that a simple phone call to the agency resulted in provision of the necessary information. I believe that putting all this information on my website will result in more calls to my office, asking for more information that I cannot provide. Special Assessment Districts are independent entities for whom I lack the authority to speak.

I disagree completely with Finding 04. There can be no labor or money savings for my office resulting from the expenditure of my staff's time and my budget's money in the course of complying with this finding. Significant staff time would be spent on compiling and maintaining the information and responding to the public's inquiries.

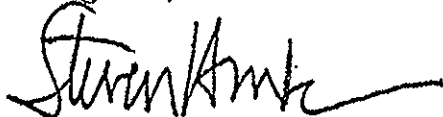
June 6, 2011
Page 2

Budget money would be spent on ISD charges to put the information on the website. The fact is, my budget is so fully allocated that I have not been able to put my own photograph and personal information on the website.

Treasurer-Tax Collector executives, managers, and supervisors all expressed surprise at the statement in your inquiry that any of them had been interviewed by the Grand Jury. Perhaps they simply forgot the conversation. I recommend that the Grand Jury adopt a more formal request for routine information in the future.

Please contact me again if I can provide further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Hintz", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVEN HINTZ

Cc: Judge Vincent J. O'Neill