



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.

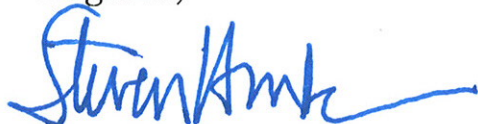
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Budget money would be spent on ISD charges to put the information on the website. The fact is, my budget is so fully allocated that I have not been able to put my own photograph and personal information on the website.

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,



STEVEN HINTZ

Cc: Judge Vincent J. O'Neill