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Ventura County Grand Jury

Grand Jury  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
(805) 477-1600  
Fax: (805) 658-4523  
grandjury.countyofventura.org



### Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Independent Special Districts

Report Date: April 26, 2018

Response by: El Rancho Simi Cemetery District Title: Board Chairman

#### FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

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

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Date: 7/11/18 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached: 1



# *El Rancho Simi Cemetery District*

*A California Recognized Pioneer Cemetery*

*DBA: The Simi Valley Public Cemetery*

*1461 Thompson Lane Simi Valley, California 93065*

*Phone: 805-526-8245*

*www.simipubliccemetery.com*

*Simi Valley's First Store, 1898  
Operated by "Honest John" Sawtelle  
@ Los Angeles Ave & Third Street  
"Honest John" is laid to rest in P2-45*

*June 29, 2018*

*RE: Response to Grand Jury Report Form*

## *Board of Directors*

*Chairman – William Saunders*

*Vice-Chair – Greg Stratton*

*Treasurer – Deborah Burdorf*

*Trustee – Christine Kitchenmaste.*

*Trustee – Paula Ryan-Apuzzo*

## *Cemetery Manager/Secretary*

*Juanice R. Neal*

### ***R-04- Recommendations:***

- The Grand Jury recommends every independent special district in the County have a website.*

***Response:*** *The District implemented a website in May of 2017.*

### ***C-01 – Conclusions – The Grand Jury concluded there is a lack of transparency and accountability when there is:***

- An absence of competitive elections*
- No general publication of elections other than in County election materials*
- An election giving the electoral advantage of incumbency to a person who has been appointed solely to fill out the remaining months of another's term*

***Response:*** *The Board of Directors has found elections too costly for this small District.*

### ***Mission Statement***

*Our mission is to offer cost effective interments consistent with the needs of those we serve  
And to maintain an attractive, safe and peaceful environment for our community, families, and friends.*

El Rancho Simi Cemetery District  
DBA: Simi Valley Public Cemetery  
1461 Thompson Lane  
Simi Valley, CA 93065

GRAND JURY  
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE  
VENTURA, CA 93009-1540  
ATTN: FINANCIAL PLANNING