

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Independent Special Districts

Report Date: April 26, 2018

Response by: Christy Ramirez Title: Executive Coordinator

FINDINGS / CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the findings / conclusions numbered: C-02, C-03
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings / Conclusions numbered:

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings / Conclusions that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-04 (#1 & #4-7) have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions and date completed.)
- Recommendations number R-04 (#2 & #3) 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: 7-15-18

Signed: C. Ramirez

Number of pages attached: 2

United Water Conservation District Response to
Ventura County Grand Jury 2017-2018 Final Report
Independent Special Districts

We agree with the finding/conclusion numbered:

C-02 *The Grand Jury concluded that the absence of publicly available reserve policies and practices does not serve the public interest. (FA-04, FA-08)*

RESPONSE: The District agrees with conclusion C-02. The District adopts a Reserve Policy along with the budget in June of each year.

C-03 *The Grand Jury concluded the independent special districts should better articulate the need for and the size of their reserves by adopting explicit policies for reserve funds. These policies should be readily available for public review. (FA-04, FA-08)*

RESPONSE: The District agrees with conclusion C-03. The District's Reserve Policy articulates the size of reserves required for each fund within its Reserve Policy.

We agree with the recommendation numbered:

R-04 *The Grand Jury recommends every independent special district in the County have a website. Key components should include:*

1. *Name, location, contact information, and services provided*
2. *Governance structure of the district, including election information and the process for constituents to run for board positions*
3. *Compensation details including staff salaries, pensions, and benefits, or a link to this information on the State Controller's website*
4. *Annual revenues and the sources of such revenues, including fees, property taxes and other assessments, bond debt, expenditures, and reserve amounts*
5. *Reserve fund policy*
6. *Geographic area served*
7. *Most recent Municipal Service Review, and the most recent annual financial report provided to the State Controller or a link to this information on the State Controller's website*

RESPONSE: The District's website includes items 1, 4, 5, and 6 listed above in the adopted budget, which is made available immediately upon adoption.

The District will include item #2 by September 2018 at <https://www.unitedwater.org/board-of-directors-2/board-of-directors>.

The District will include item #3 by September 2018 at <https://www.unitedwater.org/about-us-6/staff>.

The District includes item #7 (Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports submitted to the State Controller's Office) at <https://www.unitedwater.org/reports-5/financial-reports>.

Additional Comments

FA-03 *Seventeen independent special districts have not held public competitive board elections since the year indicated.*

RESPONSE: The District holds public competitive board elections every two years via the County of Ventura on a cost reimbursable basis for services performed. On May 15, 2018 the Board adopted Resolution 2018-02 requesting the General Election be held on November 6, 2018, and consolidated with the other elections held on the same day in the same territory.