



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

Grand Jury

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

This response was given using the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report form. The form should have reflected the Ventura County Grand Jury Report form 2021-2022.

We regret any confusion this may cause.

Sincerely,

Keith Frost
Foreperson
Ventura County Grand Jury (2022-2023)



July 27, 2022

The Honorable Bruce A. Young
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Superior Court of California, Ventura County
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Casitas MWD Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"

Honorable Judge Young:

In accordance with section 933.06 of the California penal code, the responses from the Casitas Municipal Water District to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, referenced above, is hereby submitted as attached.

By way of email, copies of the responses are provided to the Ventura County Clerk, to Superior Court Jury Services, and to the Foreperson of the 2021-2022 Ventura County Grand Jury. We understand that Ventura County will provide copies to the State Archives.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 805-649-2251 ext. 111 or mflood@casitaswater.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Flood", is written over a light blue background.

Michael Flood
General Manager

Attachment: Casitas MWD Responses to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"

Cc: Mark Lunn, County Clerk, clerk.recorder@ventura.org
Richard Boehmer, Foreperson, Grand Jury, Richard.Boehmer@ventura.org
Nan Richardson, Manager, Jury Services, jury-service@ventura.courts.ca.gov



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Response to 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form (Please See California Penal Code Section 933.05)

Report Title: Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County

Responding Entity: Casitas Municipal Water District

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: 1, 7, 8
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered 2 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a summary indicating the timeframe for implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation to include: scope and parameters of the analysis or study and timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion with the agency or department head. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: July 28, 2022

Signed: M. Flood

Title: General Manager

Number of pages attached: 3



**Attachment to Casitas MWD Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury
Report, Entitled “Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County”
July 27, 2022**

Findings:

F-01: The Grand Jury finds that cybersecurity of both IT and SCADA systems is essential to safe and effective delivery of water.

Response: Agree.

F-02: The Grand Jury finds inconsistent levels of cybersecurity for IT systems among the investigated water providers.

Response: Disagree partially. We do not know what levels of security other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have met all standards required.

F-03: The Grand Jury finds inconsistent levels of cybersecurity for SCADA systems among the investigated water providers.

Response: Disagree partially. We do not know what levels of security other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have met all standards required.

F-04: The Grand Jury finds that the level of training on cybersecurity is inconsistent among the investigated water providers.

Response: Disagree partially. We do not know what levels of training other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have monthly cybersecurity training/reminders.

F-05: The Grand Jury finds that the level and frequency of cybersecurity assessments are inconsistent among the investigated water providers.

Response: Disagree partially. We do not know what levels or frequency of cybersecurity assessments other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have bi-weekly CISA scans and reports. In addition to monthly phishing and penetration testing from CISA.

F-06: The Grand Jury finds that knowledge of cyber incident reporting requirements is inadequate among the investigated water providers.

Attachment to Casitas MWD Response to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury Report, Entitled “Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County”

Response: Disagree. We do not know what levels of knowledge of cyber incident reporting other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have met all standards required.

F-07: The Grand Jury finds that there is insufficient information exchange among the interviewed water providers regarding cybersecurity threats, attacks, protections and remedies.

Response: Agree.

F-08: The Grand Jury finds that there is insufficient awareness among public water providers of available government expert cybersecurity services and support for water provider systems.

Response: Agree.

F-09: The Grand Jury finds that not all the investigated water providers' business recovery plans addressed recovery from a cyber incident.

Response: Disagree partially. We do not know what business recovery plans other water providers have. However, we at Casitas Municipal Water District have plans in place in case of ransomware.

Recommendations:

R-01: The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers regularly assess their cybersecurity, addressing both IT and SCADA, consistent with EPA and CISA recommended best practices. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-05)

Response: Already implemented. We at Casitas Municipal Water District regularly assess our cybersecurity infrastructure and practices by doing bi-weekly CISA scans and reports along with monthly phishing and penetration testing. All conducted by CISA.

R-02: The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers regularly share and exchange information regarding cybersecurity threats, attacks, protections and remedies, and provide training, using such forums as the AWAVC. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-06, F-07)

Response: Has not yet been fully implemented but will participate in the implementation in the future. We at Casitas Municipal Water District agree that the regular flow of cybersecurity information between water agencies is imperative to the improvement and upkeep of not only our individual water agencies, but also as a network of agencies.

R-03: The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers use free federal and state expert assistance to enhance cybersecurity. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08)

Response: Already implemented. We at Casitas Municipal Water District regularly assess our cybersecurity infrastructure and practices by doing bi-weekly CISA scans and reports along with monthly phishing and penetration testing. All conducted by CISA.

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R-04: The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers regularly conduct cybersecurity awareness training, (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04)

Response: Already implemented. We at Casitas Municipal Water District have monthly cybersecurity training/reminders.

R-05: The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers address recovery from cybersecurity incidents in their business *recovery* plans. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-09)

Response: Already implemented. We at Casitas Municipal Water District have recovery plans in place in the event of a cybersecurity incidents such as ransomware, virus', etc. The effects of a cybersecurity incident were investigated during our Risk and Resilience Assessment in 2020 and procedures were included in our Emergency Response Plan (ERP) which was updated in June 2021.

R-06: The Grand Jury recommends that each investigated public water provider establish a CISA-compliant internal protocol for reporting cyber incidents. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-06)

Response: Already implemented. We at Casitas Municipal Water District have met all standards required.