



# COUNTY *of* VENTURA

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## Grand Jury

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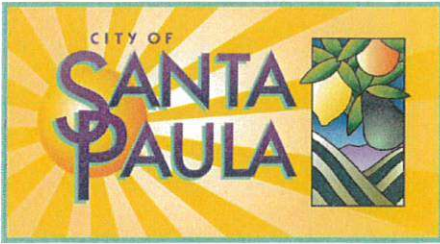
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
Tel (805) 477-1600  
Fax (805) 658-4523  
[grandjury.countyofventura.org](http://grandjury.countyofventura.org)

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)



*"Citrus Capital of the World"*

## City of Santa Paula

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • Phone (805) 525-4478 • Fax (805) 525-6278

October 31, 2022

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

RE: City of Santa Paula Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"

Dear Judge Young:

On August 17, 2022, City Council of the City of Santa Paula approved the "City's Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County". The original letter was mailed out on August 18<sup>th</sup> through the USPS.

We just received a letter from Keith Frost, Foreperson for the 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury, copy attached, indicating their copy of the letter was never received. Therefore, Mayor Crosswhite has resigned the same letter, which is enclosed. A copy will be sent to Keith Frost as well.

We hope this has not caused any disruption in the Grand Jury process. Please accept our apologies for this delay in receipt. If either you or Mr. Frost need anything further, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Latshaw  
City Clerk

Cc: Mayor Crosswhite  
Dan Singer, City Manager  
Clete Saunier, Public Works Director  
Keith Frost, Foreperson 2022-2023



# COUNTY of VENTURA

## Grand Jury

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800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
Tel (805) 477-1600  
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[grandjury.countyofventura.org](http://grandjury.countyofventura.org)

October 26, 2022

Director Clete Saunier  
City of Santa Paula Public Works Department  
903 Corporation Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Director Clete Saunier:

On June 6, 2022, the Ventura County Grand Jury delivered its completed report titled *Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County*. Along with that report was a copy of California Penal Code Section 933.05, which outlines the requirement for a response to the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury. This requirement was to have been met within 90 days after delivery of the report. We have not received your responses to date.

For your convenience, we have included a copy of all information originally delivered to you including a copy of the report that requires response. **You must submit your responses in writing within 30 days** from the date of this letter. Please respond to: The Honorable Bruce A. Young, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93003. Please send a copy of your responses to: Ventura County Grand Jury, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93003.

Should you have any questions please contact the Grand Jury Foreperson at:  
[GrandJuryFAX.POCAO.VCISD@Ventura.org](mailto:GrandJuryFAX.POCAO.VCISD@Ventura.org).

Sincerely,

Keith Frost, Foreperson

2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury



*"Citrus Capital of the World"* **City of Santa Paula**

970 Ventura Street • Santa Paula, California • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 569 • 93061 • (805) 933-4214 • [www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us](http://www.ci.santa-paula.ca.us)

August 17, 2022

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

**SUBJECT: City's Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"**

Dear Judge Young:

On or about June 6, 2022, the Ventura County Grand Jury issued its report entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" (the "Report"). In the Report, the Grand Jury recognized recent cyberattacks around the United States resulting in community water supplies being poisoned or their suppliers' business operations being held hostage by ransomware. In light of these threats, the Grand Jury investigated the cybersecurity of Ventura County ("County") public water providers, which supply 76% of the County's water users.

The Report focused on two primary areas of cyber vulnerability in the water sector: the Information Technology (IT) used to bill consumers and record usage and Operational Technology (OT) used to control and monitor treatment and delivery of the water supply. The Report noted that network vulnerabilities and weak user access controls in either IT or OT may be exploited by bad actors to disrupt business and water service, endangering the public. The most cyber vulnerable component of OT, according to the investigation, is what is called the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

A SCADA system is an industrial control system that remotely accesses and manages the chemical treatment, filtration, storage and distribution of water. SCADA operators manually operate pumps, valves, and other equipment as backup in the event of a SCADA failure or interruption. As such, without adequate training, security, and preventative measures, attacks on SCADA could cause serious consequences for critical infrastructure and services, the environment, and human life.

The Report recommends that public water providers regularly assess their cybersecurity consistent with federal best practices; exchange information regarding cybersecurity

threats, protections and remedies; conduct regular cybersecurity awareness training; utilize free federal and state expert cybersecurity assistance; develop recover plans; and create internal cyber incident reporting protocols. At the conclusion of the Report, the Grand Jury requested a response from the City to Findings F-01 through F-09 and Recommendations R-01 through R-06.

**Findings:**

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

We agree with Finding F-01.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

*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.*

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

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

We cannot agree or disagree with this finding as it is based on information obtained from other water providers which has not been provided to the City of Santa Paula for evaluation.

### **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.*

We have implemented recommendation R-01. The City regularly assesses IT and SCADA infrastructure security.

*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.*

We have implemented recommendation R-02. The City is a member of AWAVC and participates in cybersecurity discussions and trainings.

*R-03. The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers use free federal and state expert assistance to enhance cybersecurity.*

We have implemented recommendation R-03. The City currently uses free federal and state expert assistance for use in areas where cybersecurity can be enhanced above current levels.

*R-04. The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers regularly conduct cybersecurity awareness training.*

We have implemented recommendation R-04. The City incorporates cybersecurity awareness/training as a topic in weekly meetings.

*R-05. The Grand Jury recommends that the investigated public water providers address recovery from cybersecurity incidents in their business recovery plans.*

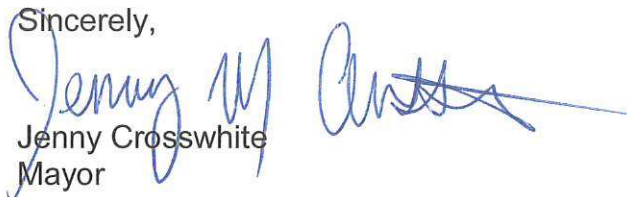
We have implemented recommendation R-05. The City IT Department includes the Water Department in its business recovery plans for cybersecurity incidents.

*R-06. The Grand Jury recommends that each investigated public water provider establish a CISA-compliant internal protocol for reporting cyber incidents.*

We have implemented recommendation R-06. The City's internal protocol for reporting cyber incidents is CISA-compliant.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Report. Should you have any further questions or desire any further information, please contact City Manager, Dan Singer.

Sincerely,



Jenny Crosswhite  
Mayor

cc: Santa Paula City Council  
Dan Singer, City Manager  
Clete Saunier, Public Works Director  
Carrie Landon, Foreperson