



# COUNTY *of* VENTURA

## 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)



**CITY OF SIMI VALLEY**  
*Home of The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library*



RECEIVED

AUG 29 2022

Ventura County  
Grand Jury

August 23, 2022

The Honorable Bruce A. Young  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of California  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93003

SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED *CYBERSECURITY OF WATER PROVIDERS IN VENTURA COUNTY*

The Honorable Bruce A. Young:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury report titled *Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County*. The responses for the City of Simi Valley are attached. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ron Fuchiwaki, Public Works Director, at (805) 583-6808, or [rfuchiwaki@simivalley.org](mailto:rfuchiwaki@simivalley.org).

Sincerely,



Brian Paul Gabler  
City Manager

cc: Ventura County Grand Jury  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009



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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: City of Simi Valley Public Works Department

#### FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-01, F-07  
F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06,
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: F-07, F-08  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed;  
include an explanation of the reasons.)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-02, R-03, R-04, R-05, R-06 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ 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: 8/23/22

Signed: 

Title: Mayor, City of Simi Valley

Number of pages attached: 2

# **Grand Jury Report**

## *Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County*

### **Responses to Findings**

**F-01** and **F-07**, the City of Simi Valley agrees with these Findings.

**F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-08, and F-09**, the City of Simi Valley does not have knowledge of these circumstances for the other "investigated water providers" and cannot agree or disagree with these Findings.

### **Responses to 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** - The City of Simi Valley regularly assesses cybersecurity consistent with EPA and CISA recommended best practices. The City has implemented recommendations from these agencies, including but not limited to, the development of an incident response plan, recovery plan, network penetration testing, risk assessments, incident assistance coordination and enrollment in CIS SecureSuite. The City has budgeted in FY 20223 \$400,000 to evaluate the City's cybersecurity for its water and sewer systems and to implement any recommended actions.

**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 AWAVC. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-06, F-7)

**Response** - The sharing of information regarding cybersecurity was most recently discussed during the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA) - Water Issues Committee Meeting on July 19, 2022. The City does routinely share cybersecurity strategies with other Cities via MISAC and similar forums.

**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** - The City has taken advantage of cybersecurity services and tools from the DHS/CISA since 2018. The City is constantly evaluating the additional resources and tools that CISA offers and have implemented many that are a fit for the organization. This practice began in 2018.

**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** - The City has “phishing” simulations and security awareness training systems in place. The City performs periodic testing and training on at least an annual basis and based upon recommendations from the City’s auditors, will be increasing the frequency.

**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** - The City of Simi Valley Water Division has updated the SCADA backup and recovery procedures as of March 2022. The backup and recovery plans include provisions to address cyber incidents, hardware issues, intentional or unintentional mistakes by system administrators, and catastrophic failures.

**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** - The City has developed a *City of Simi Valley Incident Handling Plan* to address cyber incidents. A copy is available upon request.



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