



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)

**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

Report Date: May 11, 2022 (Delivered June 6, 2022)

Responding Entity: Ventura County Public Works Agency

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-01 and F-07
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-08, and F-09
(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, and 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/or the matter to be prepared/or 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: 6/24/22

Signed: 

Title: Director of Public Works

Number of pages attached: _____

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County

Report Date: May 11, 2022 (Delivered June 6, 2022)

Responding Entity: Ventura County Public Works Agency

Findings

F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-08, F-09. These findings make broad general statements of inconsistencies across water providers in Ventura County. These are not applicable to County of Ventura and the Public Works Agency, as explained in the below responses to the Grand Jury Recommendations.

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 County utilizes the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to perform weekly external vulnerability testing. Results are reviewed and remediated based on report recommendations and upon an assessment of the risk. Penetration testing is performed at least annually by contracted vendors. Additionally, agencies have the capability to run ad-hoc vulnerability scans to further secure their environment. The County is currently working with agencies to incorporate credentialed scanning into their environment which would provide enhanced reporting and identification of vulnerabilities. Additionally, the SCADA system operated by the Public Works Agency Water and Sanitation Department utilizes the County's microwave backbone and VPN

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: County agencies are subscribed to receive vulnerability alerts from the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). This organization provides alerts and information related to threats and vulnerabilities which could impact the IT and SCADA environments within local government. The Public Works Agency is a paying member of the AWAVC and actively participates in sharing of information and best practices relevant to water providers operating in Ventura County.

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: In coordination with CISA, the County is participating in multiple programs including Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, Remote Penetration Test, and Architecture Design Reviews, to name a few. We have made inquiries to add additional services such as the web scanning tools to enhance our functionality and security coverage.

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 County provides biennial security awareness training for employees which provides fundamental concepts in cybersecurity, logical access, and physical security. In addition, users are provided additional training and coaching as part of remediation efforts during a phishing attack where employees click on a link. The County Chief Information Security Officer also provides period training sessions and Countywide distributions to provide employees with education affecting cybersecurity. At least annually, the County also performs simulated, social engineering attacks designed to reinforce cybersecurity concepts and assess the County's overall progress on stopping such attacks.

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 County has established protocols for identifying and reporting cybersecurity incidences within the environment. Depending on the severity and scope of impact, the business continuity plan or disaster recovery plan may be executed as part of a declared disaster.

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: Based upon impact severity and scope, the County has defined reporting protocols during a cyber related incident to include communication with government authorities (e.g., CISA, FBI, DOJ, etc.), local law enforcement, regulatory bodies, insurance companies, County agencies, and the residents we serve.

Central Services
Joan Araujo, Director

Engineering Services
Christopher Cooper, Director

Roads & Transportation
Christopher Kurgan, Director

Water & Sanitation
Joseph Pope, Director

Watershed Protection
Glenn Shephard, Director

June 24, 2022

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

Subject: Response to Ventura County Grand Jury Report: *Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County, May 11, 2022*

Honorable Judge Young:

In accordance with State requirements, the responses from the Ventura County Public Works Agency to the 2020-2021 Ventura County Grand Jury report titled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" is contained herewith.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805) 654-2073

Sincerely,



Jeff Pratt, P.E.
Director

Cc:
Assistant CEO Mike Pettit

Enclosures:
Grand Jury Report Form: Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County





COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD

Interim County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit

Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand

County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin

Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director

Labor Relations

July 26, 2022

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval of Responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Jury Reports, Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that your Board consider and approve, with or without modification, the responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports, entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" (Exhibit 1) and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools," (Exhibit 2) pertaining to County Government under your Board's authority, for submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in accordance with Penal Code section 933(c).

DISCUSSION:

Penal Code §933 and §933.05 require that your Board comment on the Findings and Recommendations of the Grand Jury pertaining to County government under your authority.

The 2021-22 Grand Jury issued a report dated May 11, 2022, entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County." The Grand Jury required a response from your Board and from the Public Works Agency (PWA). The response for your Board was prepared by the PWA and the County Executive Office for your Board's approval and is attached as **Exhibit 1**.

The Grand Jury Report recommends water purveyors within the County take various actions related to cybersecurity to protect water supplies from two primary areas of vulnerability: the systems used to bill customers and record water usage; and the operational systems used to control, monitor, treat, and deliver the water supply to the community. Contained within the Grand Jury Report were six (6) recommended actions

for water purveyors to implement to better mitigate the threat of these vulnerabilities and improve the cybersecurity of their water systems.

As noted in the response from PWA to the Grand Jury Report, findings within the report generally identified inconsistencies with the level of complexity, training, and reporting of cybersecurity across the numerous water purveyors rather than specific deficiencies of an individual water purveyor, including PWA. As a result, PWA determined that the recommendations of the Grand Jury are already in place and meet the standard of the Grand Jury's Report as implemented.

The 2021-22 Grand Jury issued a report dated June 2, 2022, entitled "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools." The Grand Jury required a response from your Board and requested a response from the Health Care Agency's Behavioral Health Department (BHD). The response for your Board was prepared by the

BHD and the County Executive Office for your Board's approval and is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

The Grand Jury Report recommends the BHD, in collaboration with the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE), expand the Wellness Center pilot program into all Ventura County public high schools by June 30, 2024. The Grand Jury Report also recommends the Behavioral Health Department, in collaboration with the VCOE, develop a strategy to expand the Wellness Center pilot program into Ventura County public middle schools by June 30, 2025.

Both recommendations are currently in the process of being implemented. The BHD/Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) team, in partnership with VCOE, have applied for a third round of grant funding with the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) to expand the Wellness Center program to additional high schools in Ventura County. As approved and ratified by your Board on May 24, 2022, BHD directed \$2 million of MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) dollars to the VCOE Wellness Center expansion, which will support the addition of six middle schools to the existing VCOE Wellness Center expansion.

Note that both recommendations to expand Wellness Centers are dependent on two factors: 1) voluntary participation and hosting of Wellness Centers by the school districts, and 2) availability of funding.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Pettit, Assistant County Executive Officer, at (805) 654-2720.

Board of Supervisors
July 26, 2022
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sevet Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
Interim County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1: Response to Grand Jury Report "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"

Exhibit 2: Response to Grand Jury Report "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools."

Exhibit 3: Copy of Grand Jury Reports for Reference



**BOARD MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF VENTURA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUPERVISORS MATT LAVERE, LINDA PARKS,
KELLY LONG, ROBERT O. HUBER AND CARMEN RAMIREZ
July 26, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE - Approval of Responses to the 2021-22 Ventura County Grand Jury Reports, Entitled Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County and Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

- (X) All Board members are present.

- (X) Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Long, and duly carried, the Board hereby approves recommendations as stated in the Board letter.

By: Lori Key
Lori Key
Deputy Clerk of the Board



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

August 8, 2022

Sent via email

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

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

Shawn Atin
ED Assistant County Executive Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

AUG 15 2022

Ventura County
Grand Jury

Subject: Approval of Responses to the 2021-2022 Ventura County Jury Reports, Entitled "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County" and "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools" for Submittal to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Honorable Judge Young:

In accordance with State requirements, the responses from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to the 2021-2022 Ventura Grand Jury reports referenced above are hereby submitted, along with copies of the board letter and minute order.

By way of this email, copies of the responses to the subject reports (Exhibits 1 and 2); copy of Grand Jury reports for reference (Exhibit 3); Minute Order; and the July 26, 2022 board letter were provided to the Ventura County Clerk, to Superior Court Jury Services, and to the Foreperson of the 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury. As has been the usual practice in past years, Jury Services will provide copies of the responses to the State Archives.

Should you have any questions, please call me at 654-2864.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1: Response to Grand Jury Report "Cybersecurity of Water Providers in Ventura County"
- Exhibit 2: Response to Grand Jury Report "Mental Health Services and Wellness Centers in Ventura County Schools."
- Exhibit 3: Copy of Grand Jury Reports for Reference
- Minute Order
- Board Letter dated July 26, 2022

Copies:

- County Executive Officer, Sevet Johnson, PsyD
- County Clerk, Mark Lunn
- Foreperson, Keith Frost
- Jury Services, Nan Richardson, Manager