

OCT 03 2023



City of Camarillo

Department of Public Works

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010
Office: 805.388.5340 - Fax: 805.388.5387

September 27, 2023

The Honorable Kevin G. DeNoce
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report

Grand Jurors,

The City of Camarillo has completed the "Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form" titled Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County. In addition, we have included a letter addressing the findings and recommendations the City has implemented and a plan of action for the recommendations not yet implemented.

If there is further information needed, please contact me at (805) 388-5307.

Respectfully,

Greg Ramirez
City Manager

Attachments: Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form
Letter

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



COUNTY of VENTURA

Grand Jury

OCT 03

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

Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report Form (Please See California Penal Code Section 933.05)

Report Title: Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County

Responding Entity: City of Camarillo, Public Works Department

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered: F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08, F-09, F-10, F-12, F-13, and F-14.
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered: See attached.
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the Findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R-02, R-03, R-05, R-07, and R-08 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01, R-06, and R-07 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: 09 / 27 / 2023

Signed: 

Title: City Manager

Number of pages attached: 3



City of Camarillo

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Office of the City Manager
(805) 388-5307
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September 27, 2023

The Honorable Kevin G. DeNoce
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Response to 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report

Report Title: Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County

Report Date: August 23, 2023

Response By: City of Camarillo

Grand Jurors,

In response to the 2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury Report titled, "Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County" dated June 12, 2023, and in compliance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the City of Camarillo provides the following responses.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

The City disagrees partially with the finding numbered: F-01.

F-01. The Grand Jury finds that an adequate supply of water is essential for successful suppression of wildfires. (SF-01, SF-02, SF-03, SF-04)

City Response: The City Water Division's potable water reservoirs serve a crucial role in maintaining a steady water supply for various needs, although they are not designed to combat wildfires. Their purpose is to regulate water demand fluctuations, ensuring consistent pressure and supply for tasks such as structural firefighting and maintaining supply during power outages. In the unfortunate event of a wildfire affecting a community and causing destruction to structures and on-site plumbing, this leads to unmanageable water loss and significant pressure drops. Attempting to isolate water in

these circumstances poses safety risks due to a variety of potential hazards. While these reservoirs may partially fulfill the demands of a wildfire depending on its extent, their design and intended use is primarily for water system stability rather than a solution for suppressing wildfires.

The City agrees with the findings numbered: F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-07, F-08, F-09, F-10, F-12, F-13, and F-14.

The City does not have actual knowledge of these facts with respect to the other water purveyors in Ventura County; however, City agrees that it is possible that there are inconsistencies among purveyors. Not all findings are applicable to the City of Camarillo, as described in the response to the recommendations below.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The City has carefully reviewed the Recommendations in the Grand Jury Report and has the following responses to the Recommendations. The Grand Jury Report statement of the Recommendation is presented first, followed by the City's response.

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors establish written operational procedures and training to provide for increased water supply for fire flow during FWWs, RFWs, active fires, and PSPS. (F-01, F-02, F-03, F-04, F-05, F-06, F-07)

City Response: The City Water Division is currently in the process of developing a Standard Operating Procedure for system operations in the event of a wildfire.

R-02. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors have emergency power on site for all critical water infrastructure including Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems. (F-08, F-09)

City Response: The City Water Division has power generation onsite at all wells and pumping facilities and for SCADA.

R-03. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors establish common communication protocols with adjoining water purveyors to coordinate needed actions, including water transfers during active fires. (F-10)

City Response: The City Water Division currently has one interconnection tie with Crestview Water. Common communication protocols for emergency use are in written procedures.

- R-05. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll their employees in the FCC Wireless Priority Service (WPS) providing cell phone priority in emergencies. (F-12)**

City Response: The City Water Division currently has wireless priority service for all standby cell phones, in the event of an emergency.

- R-06. The Grand Jury recommends that water purveyors enroll in the Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS) providing landline phone priority in emergencies. (F-12)**

City Response: The City Water Division is currently working with its communication provider to create an Emergency Telecommunication System.

- R-07. The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors enroll in Cal-WARN, a network of water and wastewater agencies that can provide emergency resources. (F-13)**

City Response: The City Water Division is currently enrolled in the Cal-WARN network.

- R-08. The Grand Jury recommends that all water purveyors provide brush clearance around water tanks, water supply pumps, pump houses and related infrastructure. (F-14)**

City Response: The City Water Division currently provides brush clearing as standard maintenance biannually.

SUMMARY

The City of Camarillo wishes to thank the Grand Jury for its comprehensive evaluation of existing protocols and procedures pertaining to the availability of water for wildfires in Ventura County. The City appreciates and welcomes the efforts of the Grand Jury in their review of City protocols and procedures in relation to this issue.

If there is further information needed, please contact me at (805) 388-5307.

Sincerely,



Greg Ramirez
City Manager

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