



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

Grand Jury

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
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grandjury.countyofventura.org

October 27, 2023

RE: Grand Jury 2022/2023 Report – Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County
Letter of Clarification from Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County

The Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County was not required to respond to the
aforementioned Grand Jury Report. Please see their attached letter of clarification.

Thank You



Lori Macdonald

Foreperson

Grand Jury 2023 / 2023



ASSOCIATION OF WATER AGENCIES OF VENTURA COUNTY

2022-2023 Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

September 25, 2023

OCT 05 2023

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Janice Parvin, Supervisor
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Musick Peeler Garret LLP
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Rio Farms/Tam Bureau Ventura County
Misty Perez, Mayor Pro Tem
Port Huene Water Agency
Fred Thomas, Mayor
City of Simi Valley
Steve Villegas, Tech. Specialist
Southern California Edison
Kelle L. Pistone
AWA Managing Director

Subject: Final Report Water Availability for Wildfires in Ventura County June 12, 2023
Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County - Letter of Clarification

Dear Honorable Members of the Grand Jury,

This letter of clarification is being forwarded on behalf of the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County (AWA) to address an erroneous listing in the reference section of the above subject report, specifically References Section 25.

Please note explanation below for report listings: page 6, SF-15. "Contact lists used by Ventura County OES, currently supplied by the Association of Water Agencies, are out of date by two years." (Ref-11, Ref 25) and Ref-25 "Association of Water Agencies, Ventura County, Members Directory, County Water Districts <https://www.awavc.org/aboutus/members/20-county-water-districts> retrieved May 19, 2023."

For the record as point of clarification, AWA is a non-profit business organization (non-governmental agency). Although we do promote and encourage general communication and cooperation among water agencies, including communication with the Ventura County Office of Emergency Services (OES) for preparedness and response situations; we do not have authority to command such activity. These efforts are based on voluntary participation only.

Additionally, the "Contact lists" and the https link listed in Reference 25 of the report correlates with AWA's 'About Us / Member Directory' and is not provided as an emergency contact list.

AWA does coordinate with the OES to create ongoing forums for meetings to educate and share information on emergency preparedness. AWA does encourage three major water agencies within Ventura County (Casitas MWD, Calleguas MWD, and United WCD) to stand at the helm and volunteer as a representative "upon call" to the Emergency Operations Center when activated for a related incident. AWA does coordinate a volunteer 'Emergency Preparedness' subcommittee of emergency response coordinators from various agencies to meet periodically and discuss emergency preparedness and response to disasters topics.

Finally, AWA Managing Director and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chairs met with the OES staff following the publication of this report to confirm the aforementioned information, and continue acting in goodwill by offering AWA's ongoing assistance and coordination of communication with AWA members/water community by all means possible and as appropriate.

Thank you for your service to our community. We welcome any questions you may have regarding our organization.

Kelle L. Pistone
Managing Director
Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County